

UNDERSTANDING MODERN SLAVERY, HUMAN TRAFFICKING & FORCED LABOUR

Sri Lanka

Estimated number of victims of modern slavery, human trafficking & forced labour:

44,000

Gender of victims:



83%



17%

Key Organisations

*IOM Sri Lanka, www.srilanka.iom.int/iom

*EPCAT Sri Lanka, www.ecpatsrilanka.org

*National Child Protection Authority, www.childprotection.gov.lk

*Women in Need Sri Lanka, www.winsl.net

*International Labour Organization, www.ilo.org/colombo

Key Initiatives

In October 2018, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched an electronic training course on identifying & protecting trafficking victims, training officials to use the database & referral mechanisms for officials assigned to overseas diplomatic missions. In partnership with an NGO, the government also ran a television public awareness campaign, featuring a hotline.

Biggest challenges in Sri Lanka:



There is an estimated 1.5 million Sri Lankans working in the Middle East, predominantly in domestic and construction work



Women and children are exploited for commercial sex particularly in coastal areas, including in hotels, beaches and during annual festivals



Orphanage trafficking: where children are taken from vulnerable families into care institutions for the purpose of exploitation

Case study: Sri Lankans Trafficked Abroad

A woman was trafficked by her brother in law from Sri Lanka to South Wales in the UK. Her brother in law paid traffickers to bring her illegally into the country.

She was brought in to be a domestic slave and was instructed to clean her brother in laws petrol station and his house. He threatened her, sometimes beating her with a broomstick or belt and in one instance, kicked her in the nose. He forbade her from talking to anyone. She testified that it felt like being in prison.

Two years ago, UK immigration officials arrested her at the petrol station for working illegally. She is now seeking asylum in the UK and her slavery case is under investigation.