



*Contribution to UNAFEI 172nd International Training Course, “Criminal Justice Responses to Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants”.*

*Martin Fowke  
Team leader, Normative and Policy,  
Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section (HTMSS)*

**UNODC Session 1:**  
**Global Trends: Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants**

Description:

In 2016, as Chair and coordinator of the UN system-wide *Inter-agency Coordination Group Against Trafficking in Persons* (ICAT), UNODC led the development of a major review of monitoring and evaluation practices by anti-trafficking actors. A major finding of that work was that counter-trafficking programmes do not routinely assess the trafficking they are seeking to address nor draw on the significant amount of knowledge accumulated from multiple responses to date, with the consequences of limiting the potential effectiveness of programmes, as well as the ability of evaluation to identify and report on programme outcomes. Further UNODC-led work focused on trying to improve the design of anti-trafficking actions to more consistently address what we know occurs and what works effectively in response.

Both human trafficking and migrant smuggling are often called hidden crimes. Both present numerous challenges in detection, in detailing their nature and seeking to determine their scale. As a result, responses to these crimes have been greatly limited in impact by these challenges to development of a deep, nuanced and shared understanding of these crimes between States, and the multiple stakeholders who can potentially and positively impact on either or both phenomena.

What then are global trends on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants? This session introduces UNODC’s research and analysis of current, existing information, with a view to focusing discussion on the development of more evidence-based responses to both crimes.

Objectives:

Participants will review global trends regarding:

- Trafficking in persons:
  - Profile of the victims;
  - Forms of exploitation;
  - Trafficking flows;
  - Profile of the traffickers;
  - Estimating non-detected trafficking;
  - Trafficking in the context of armed conflict;
  - Criminal justice case information.
- Smuggling of migrants:
  - Migrant smuggling routes;
  - Scale of migrant smuggling;
  - Migrant smuggling methodology;
  - Smugglers;
  - Smuggled migrants;

- Cross-border data-sharing;
- Criminal justice case information.

Participants will share and discuss characteristics and details of trafficking and smuggling as they occur in their own local setting.

Agenda:

- UNODC presentation – Global overview of trafficking in persons;
- Discussion – trafficking in persons situation, local, national and regional;
- UNODC presentation – Global overview of smuggling of migrants;
- Discussion – smuggling of migrants' situation, local, national and regional.

Exercises:

1. What local, national and regional data and research sources of information are you aware of regarding trafficking and smuggling? How is any resulting information collected, shared and updated?
2. Based on the above and your own knowledge, what patterns of trafficking or smuggling do you believe exist in your communities?
  - a. What factors allow traffickers/smugglers/criminal networks to commit these crimes?
  - b. What factors allow traffickers/smugglers/criminal networks to profit from these crimes?
  - c. What factors allow traffickers/smugglers/criminal networks to mask or escape detection for these crimes?
  - d. What factors allow traffickers/smugglers/criminal networks to avoid prosecution for these crimes?

Key resource material:

- Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, UNODC, 2018
- Global Study on Smuggling of Migrants, UNODC, 2018
- UNODC's Sherlock knowledge management portal, including the Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants Case Law Databases.

For other practitioner-oriented material, please see the ***Catalogue of Materials*** of UNODC's Global Programmes against Trafficking in Persons & Smuggling of Migrants at (please note more than 80 specialized materials, in multiple languages, are hyperlinked through this document):

- [https://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/2019/UNODC\\_Catalogue\\_of\\_Materials\\_May\\_2019.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/2019/UNODC_Catalogue_of_Materials_May_2019.pdf)

Post-session checklist:

- What are UNODC's global trends and patterns regarding trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants?
- What trends, patterns and routes has UNODC analysed regarding your region?
- What is noted in the country profile for your State in UNODC's *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, 2018*?
- What information sources supplement, enhance or deepen the picture regarding trafficking and/or smuggling as it affects your local setting?
- What are the key information gaps regarding trafficking and/or smuggling in your local setting?
- How does the state of knowledge on these crimes impact on responses?