

**Country report: Afghanistan**  
**Date submitted: 8 July 2016**

UK Legal Position:	Date
<b>Caselaw</b>	
<b>UKBA Operational Guidance notes*</b>	
<b>UKBA Country of Origin Reports *</b>	
<b>US State Department Tier Allocation</b>	
Tier 2 (Watchlist)  <a href="#">US State Department Trafficking in Persons Report - Afghanistan</a>	
<b>1. Groups at risk and types of trafficking</b>	
<p><a href="#">The number of children at the infamous Jungle camp in Calais without parents rises by a THIRD in a month with more than 500 living there now. Daily Mail, 2016</a></p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Calais; children; refugee camps; sexual exploitation; unaccompanied children; recent trends; Afghani refugees; unaccompanied minors; Increase in unaccompanied minors</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Over 80% of refugee children arriving at the refugee 'jungle' at Calais are now unaccompanied. The number of unaccompanied minors that arrived last month has risen by a third. Refugees from Afghanistan are the largest group at the camp: 36% of inhabitants. Border closures are having little effect. Reports of children being raped and border crossings into UK exchanged for sex.</p>	20/06/16
<p><a href="#">Safely in Sweden. Migrant Children can Fall through the Cracks. Human Rights Watch 2016</a></p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Sweden; Afghanistan; unaccompanied minors; girls; rape; asylum; unaccompanied minors; psycho-social and psychological implications of migration; ISIS; Routes through Europe;</p>	09/06/16



<p><b>Summary:</b> Sharp rise in unaccompanied child migrants – many seeking refuge in Sweden. Reports of girls applying for refuge in Sweden: a quarter of all unaccompanied Afghani minors applying for asylum in Sweden now are girls. This marks a significant shift in trends. Late 2015, the consensus was that majority of trafficking victims arriving in the UK were young boys. Discussion of the rape of girls in Turkey and Greece arriving through the Balkan route.</p> <p><b>Utility and reliability:</b> Potentially indicative of shifting trends in UK. Red flags: girls, sexual abuse, shifting trends.</p>	
<p><a href="#"><u>Profiling of Afghan Arrivals on Greek Islands in February 2016. UNHCR 2016</u></a></p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Afghani refugees; common travel routes; demographics; provinces of origin; countries en route; dangers en route; people smugglers</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Profile of Afghani arrivees in Lesbos, Greece. Indicative of common routes out of Afghanistan to Europe. Limited information regarding incidents along the way. However, 14% of respondents indicated that they had lost family members along the way, and this population is in direct contact with people smugglers. It seems inevitable that highly vulnerable refugees may end up being trafficked.</p> <p><b>Utility and reliability:</b> May be useful in corroborating stories of refugees/trafficked persons. Indicative of the influence of people smugglers over refugees. No direct mention of trafficking. Several sources – on Lesbos and surrounding areas – assembled in one place</p>	<p>March 2016</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Human Rights Watch - Afghanistan: Child Recruitment Surges. Human Rights Watch 2016</u></a></p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Children; boys; child soldiers; forced recruitment; Taliban; Chandahara; Kunduz; Takhar; Badakhshan; North Warizistan; Pakistan</p> <p>Article outlining resurgence in the recruitment of child soldiers by Taliban forces, particularly in the Kunduz region of Afghanistan. Boys between 13 and 16 are at particular risk. Boys who have lost their parents, in particular their fathers, are also at an increased risk. First hand accounts, and accounts by family members are included.</p>	<p>February 2016</p>



<p><b>Utility and reliability:</b> Highly useful information regarding a resurgence in the recruitment of boys as soldiers within Afghanistan, particularly in establishing this trend for practitioners in the UK as the belief recently was that child recruitment was on the decline.</p>	
<p><a href="#"><u>National Referral Mechanism Statistics - End of Year Summary 2015, NCA UK Gov 2015</u></a></p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> National Referral Mechanism; statistics; domestic servitude; labour exploitation; sexual exploitation; unknown exploitation; adult referrals; minor referrals; Northumbria Police; Surrey Police</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The majority of victims were male minors, reinforcing the impression that boys are the most at risk group. The statistics point to a significant increase of potential victims belonging to this group from 2014. Furthermore, they suggest that very little is known about the types of forced labour and exploitation that Afghan boys are subject to in the UK, with 35 working in unknown forms of exploitation. While other sources highlight the West Midlands as a key destination for trafficked boys, there were no referrals from the West Midlands Police.</p> <p><b>Utility and reliability:</b> The statistics and have been gathered through the National Referral Mechanism, represents potential number of victims of trafficking.</p>	11/02/16
<p><a href="#"><u>Tilbury Docks: 35 People Found in Shipping Container are Sikhs from Afghanistan, The Independent, 2014</u></a></p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Tilbury Docks; Sikhs; Afghan Sikhs; shipping container Belgium.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The article suggests that it is unlikely that the victims were loaded into the unit in Belgium.</p>	17/08/14
<p><a href="#"><u>Irregular Migration Routes to Europe and Factors Influencing Migrant's Destination Choice, Maastricht School of Governance 2015</u></a></p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Migration; refugees; smuggling routes; Afghanistan; Turkey; Greece</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Detailed and authoritative study on the smuggling routes and habits out of Afghanistan – amongst other source countries – to Europe.</p> <p><b>Utility and reliability:</b> Good source, may be useful in corroborating stories of those who have been smuggled or trafficked.</p>	June 2015

<p><a href="#">National Referral Mechanism - End of Year Summary, NCA UK Gov 2014</a></p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> National Referral Mechanism; statistics; domestic servitude; labour exploitation; sexual exploitation; unknown exploitation; adult referrals; minor referrals; Northumbria Police; Surrey Police</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> As in 2015, the majority of victims were male minors. The 2014 report is less detailed and does not include any information on types of forced labour and exploitation, or the local authorities and NGOs making referrals.</p>	2014
<p><a href="#">Annual Report on Smuggling in Human Beings: Tightening the Links 2015 Report. Myria 2015 ***</a></p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Belgium, trafficking; smuggling; Europe; Afghanis; smuggling routes; destinations; smuggling networks; cost of smuggling; young women and rape; smuggling of families; hawala bankers; Iran; Turkey; Greece; Italy; Dronghen; Ghent; Saint-Omer; West Flanders</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Comprehensive and detailed 2016 report on smuggling and trafficking in Europe. Information sourced from phone tapping. Specific descriptions of methods, practices of gangs, routes etc. Even information regarding the parks in which smugglers meet to plan the smuggling of refugees to the UK [p.79; 84] Detailed information regarding Afghan smuggling network in Brussels [pp. 82 – 88] Source and destinations for traffickers. Abuse en route during smuggling. Case studies [pp 60 – 89] of most use in corroborating victim’s claims.</p> <p><b>Utility and reliability:</b> Exceptional resource. Involvement of traffickers in the movement of victims across Europe. Some UK specific information.</p>	05/01/16

<p><a href="#"><u>Breaking the Mould: Occupational Safety Hazards faced by Children Working in Brick Kilns in Afghanistan, ILO and UNICEF 2015</u></a></p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Children; brick kilns; and: child labour; demographics; education; mobility; health hazards; occupational hazards; abuse.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> In depth report into the physical and social outcomes for children working in brick kilns in Afghanistan. Excellent demographic information. Detailed information regarding health hazards and impacts of kiln work. Some information regarding psychological impacts.</p> <p><b>Utility and reliability:</b> Joint report – International Labour Organisation and UNICEF – reliable and useful with regard to cases involving young people and brick kiln work.</p>	2015
<p><a href="#"><u>'US Soldiers Told to Ignore Sexual Abuse of Boys by Afghan Allies'. New York Times 2015</u></a></p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Sexual Abuse; Afghan Boys; Bacha Bazi; Police Officers; Commanders</p> <p>Highlights the vulnerability of young boys within Afghanistan, specifically in the context of US military bases, where they are abused by allied police officers and local commanders. Suggests that American soldiers and Marines have been instructed to turn a blind eye to the practice of 'bacha bazi'. The American military sees this as 'a matter of domestic Afghan criminal law'.</p> <p><b>Utility and reliability:</b> This source is well researched and based on interviews and court records, however, its utility is somewhat limited by the focus on American military policy.</p>	20/09/15

<p><a href="#">Causes and consequences of Bachabazi in Afghanistan, National Inquiry Report, AIHRC 2014</a></p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Bachabazi; children; boys; sexual exploitation; and: crime; demographics; human rights violations; literacy; rule of law; access to justice; poverty; psychological trauma.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Extensive report detailing prevalence of Bachabazi, and societal attitudes towards the practice. Primarily quantitative analysis, with limited qualitative additions. Interviews conducted with both victims and perpetrators of BB. Analysis of intersection between societal/cultural practices and rule of law/legal issues in Afghanistan.</p> <p><b>Provenance:</b> Report compiled as a result of a national inquiry into Bachabazi including extensive community and judicial engagement. Report compiled by Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission: established with assistance of UNHCR.</p>	18/08/14
<p><a href="#">Tilbury Container Stowaways Included 13 Children, BBC 2014</a></p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Afghan Sikhs; Tilbury Docks; human trafficking; international organised criminals</p> <p>The thirty-five Afghan Sikhs found in a shipping container at Tilbury Docks were said by police to victims of ‘people trafficking’, orchestrated by international criminal gangs. Sikhs are a persecuted minority in Afghanistan, and face verbal harassment and physical abuse, making them more vulnerable to traffickers.</p> <p><b>Utility and reliability:</b> This source is useful as it highlights that certain ethnic/religious groups are more vulnerable to trafficking than others.</p>	17/08/14
<p><a href="#">Tilbury Docks: 35 People Found in Shipping Container are Sikhs from Afghanistan, Independent 2014</a></p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Afghan Sikhs; Jalalabad; Tilbury Docks; human trafficking; Meet Singh Kapoor</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Sikh families in Jalalabad live and work in deplorable conditions, making them particularly vulnerable to human traffickers. Meet Singh Kapoor’s journey to the UK, which ended with his death.</p>	17/08/14



<p><a href="#"><u>Forgotten No More: Child Trafficking in Afghanistan. Hagar International 2013</u></a></p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Boys; Children; trafficking; bacha bazi; demographics; identification; psychological needs; high-risk provinces; at-risk populations; child rights; Kabul; Kunduz; Herat; Nangarhar</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Unique, in-depth qualitative research on the trafficking of boys in Afghanistan. Engagement with victims, focus groups and stakeholders. Information regarding child soldiers, child labour and sexual exploitation. Report covers prevalence, methods, extent and impact of child trafficking within Afghanistan.</p> <p><b>Utility and reliability:</b> Hagar is a small NGO, however, report funded by US Department of State. Reliable and extremely useful in establishing risks to boys and young men in Afghanistan.</p>	<p>October 2013</p>
<p><b>2. Risk on return (e.g. other risks)</b></p>	
<p><a href="#"><u>Five of the worst places for children. Human Rights Watch 2016</u></a></p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Internal risk of abduction; risk of death; risk of recruitment as child soldier</p> <p><b>Issues:</b> New UN report says that Afghanistan is one of the worst places to be child. One in four of all casualties in Afghanistan are now children.</p>	<p>03/06/2016</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Children and armed conflict - Report of the Secretary General. UN 2016</u></a></p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Child victims, Afghanistan; sexual exploitation; child soldiers; armed conflict – child involvement; detention of children; child abduction</p> <p><b>Issues:</b> Page 5 of UN Sec-Gen report. Afghani children represent one in four of all casualties in the ongoing conflict. Up 14% from 2014. Afghani children now represent the greatest number of victims of conflict ever recorded by the UN. Child recruitment by the Taliban and other armed groups is occurring through schools. Sexual abuse of both girls and boys in Afghanistan is pervasive.</p>	<p>20/04/16</p>



<p><a href="#"><u>After Return: Documenting the Experiences of Young People Forcibly Removed to Afghanistan. Refugee Support Network, 2016***</u></a></p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Children; UK, Afghanistan; returned asylum seekers; outcomes; Heart; Helmand; Wardak; Kabul; Samangan; Baghlan; Paktya; Panjshir; Lagman; Security; Suicide Bomb – Risk; insecurity; persecution due to returnee status; education; health, IOM.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Comprehensive study of young Afghani returnees – from the UK - including reportage on the risk of violence to returned persons in Afghanistan, limited support, employment prospects, difficulty integrating and mental health problems.</p>	<p>April 2016</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Afghanistan Annual Report 2015 - Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict. UNAMA 2015</u></a></p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Conflict; safety; civilian targets; violence; IDPs; suicide attacks; Taliban; armed groups; Afghan local police; women and armed conflict; children and armed conflict; suicide bombers; IDPS</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Report extensively details impact of on-going conflict on civilians – including children – throughout Afghanistan. Includes year-by-year reporting of conflict related mortality and morbidity, on a region-by-region basis. Interspersed with interview outtakes and incident reports. Establishes a detailed impression of security and violence in Afghanistan currently.</p>	<p>February 2016</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Forced Gynaecological Exams as Sexual Harassment and Human Rights Violation. AIHRC 2015</u></a></p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Gynaecological exam; virginity; sodomy; honour killings; ‘moral crimes’; human rights violations</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Report on the widespread use of gynaecological exams on Afghani women to establish virginity and/or sodomy to establish ‘guilt’ in so-called moral crimes.</p>	<p>05/12/15</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Inside Kabul Women's Jail. Institute for War and Peace Reporting 2014</u></a></p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Women; prison; conditions in prison; moral crimes; ‘running away’</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Describes the conditions in Kabul Women’s Prison. Women Are freezing. Many trying to care for children under four years old. Many inmates do not have access to healthcare. Many women in the prison are charged with ‘moral crimes’, like attempting to run away from abusive relationships.</p>	<p>27/01/14</p>



<p><b>Utility and reliability:</b> IWPR, solid provenance. May be of use in establishing conditions in Afghanistan, as well as prisons. Considering the high rate of incarceration of women for moral crimes, prison conditions may be pertinent to returnees.</p>	
<p><a href="#">No Longer a Child: from the UK to Afghanistan, Refugee Support Network 2013</a></p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Children; young people; unaccompanied minors; and: return; repatriation; deportation; detention; psychosocial impacts; 'Westernisation'; UK and Afghanistan</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Short report on the psychosocial impact of UK policies impacting Afghani youths on DLRs and the issues they face upon return to Afghanistan. See also: 'Broken Futures' report.</p>	<p>September 2013</p>
<p><a href="#">Broken Futures. Refugee Support Network 2012</a></p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Afghan youth; unaccompanied minors; and: the UK; returning to Afghanistan; absconding; detention; forced return; family; insecurity; poverty; westernization; forced marriage; mental health.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Report utilises qualitative and quantitative methods to determine outcomes for unaccompanied minors returned to Afghanistan upon the expiration of their Discretionary Leave to Remain. Subjects of the report are 18-24 year olds..</p> <p><b>Utility and reliability:</b> Report funded by UNHCR. Published in New Issues in Refugee Research. Reliable and highly useful report outlining key factors affecting potential Afghani returnees</p>	<p>November 2012</p>
<p><b>For Risk on return, see also:</b></p> <p><a href="#">Human Rights Watch - Afghanistan: Child Recruitment Surges</a></p> <p><a href="#">Breaking the Mould: Occupational Safety Hazards faced by Children Working in Brick Kilns in Afghanistan</a></p> <p><a href="#">Hagar International - Forgotten No More: Child Trafficking in Afghanistan</a></p>	
<p><b>3. State protection</b></p>	
<p><a href="#">Women for Afghan Women - Shelters and Safehouses</a></p>	<p><b>Current</b></p>



<p><b>Keywords:</b> Shelters; Safe Houses; Women Afghanistan: Jawzjan; Balkh; Kunduz; Takhar; Badakhshan; Saripul; Samagan; Kapisa; Kunar; Kabul; Nangarhar</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Information on shelters in 11 provinces in Afghanistan. Information relating to women’s rights and resources in Afghanistan. WAW provide 80% of the women’s shelters in Afghanistan.</p>	
<p><a href="#">Afghan Women Skills Centre - Women's Shelters</a></p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Women’s shelters</p> <p><b>Utility and reliability:</b> No information regarding location, but shelter provides: psychological counselling, medical aid, legal aid, rehabilitation, and vocational training.</p> <p><b>NB:</b> Contact details for the centre at:  <a href="https://www.globalgiving.org/donate/25892/afghan-women-skills-development-center-awsdc/info/">https://www.globalgiving.org/donate/25892/afghan-women-skills-development-center-awsdc/info/</a>  +93-700-287587  <a href="http://www.awsdc.org.af/">http://www.awsdc.org.af/</a></p>	<b>Current</b>
<p><a href="#">Legislation and Gender, UN Afghanistan 2015</a></p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Women; risk on return; rule of law; child marriage; sexual violence; rape; zina; adultery; legal systems and gender; Islamic law; sexual violence.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> United nations report on the inadequacy of the current legal system in protecting women in Afghanistan, including mental health outcomes and economic, social and political factors. Includes reports on child marriage, sexual violence; rape; zina; adultery.</p>	2015
<p><a href="#">UNICEF Child Notice - Afghanistan, 2015</a></p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Children; and: demographic data; statistical data; family structure; legal information; human rights; access to legal advice; civil rights; basic rights; trafficking; armed conflict; child labour; homelessness; refugees; IDPs; unaccompanied minors</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Comprehensive report detailing the situation of children in Afghanistan. Wide breadth of information and excellent demographic detail. Primarily quantitative data. Less detailed than other sources. Excellent initial source to seek guidance on issues.</p>	November 2015

<p><a href="#">Despite Harsh Conditions, Places Still Prized at Afghan Orphanages. IWPR 2015</a></p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Orphanages; Kabul; conditions; availability</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Article about orphanages in Afghanistan, outlining poor conditions. However, orphanages are allocated scholarships for some of the children to attend school and university outside of Afghanistan. As such parents are bribing officials to have their children placed in orphanages. True orphans are missing out on places.</p>	07/05/14
<p><a href="#">Afghanistan: 2014 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor. US Department of Labor 2014</a></p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Child labour; and: law; sectors; law enforcement; criminal law enforcement; trafficking; organisational involvement; social programs</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Detailed and incisive report into child labour in Afghanistan. Information regarding government and NG actors, legal frameworks and lack of protection for victims. Excellent overview.</p>	2014
<p><a href="#">Safe As Houses. Afghanistan Today 2013</a></p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Women; shelters; domestic violence; child marriage; House of Hope; Balkh Province; Women for Women; numbers of shelters; honour killings; violence against women</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Article reporting on prevalence and need for shelters for women in Afghanistan. Primarily focused on House of Hope in Balkh Province.</p>	2013 06/06/13
<p><b>For State protection, see also:</b></p> <p><a href="#">Human Rights Watch - Afghanistan: Child Recruitment Surges</a></p> <p><a href="#">Hagar International - Forgotten No More: Child Trafficking in Afghanistan</a></p>	
<p><b>4. Internal relocation</b></p>	
<p><a href="#">Displaced Afghan Women Face Prison Like Conditions. Aljazeera 2015</a></p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Women; internal displacement; refugee camps; child marriage; camp conditions</p>	31/03/15



<p><b>Summary:</b> Article outlining the conditions in IDP camps in Afghanistan. Women often ‘kept’ in tents in which they cannot stand up, and not able to leave for extended periods of time.</p>	
<p><a href="#">Afghanistan's Displaced People: 2014 and Beyond. Forced Migration Review 2014</a></p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Displacement; conflict; IDPs; policy; security; disabled persons; diaspora; violence against women; sexual violence; youth.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> A special issue of Forced Migration Review, detailing concerns that pertain to Afghani displaced persons in 21 short reports. Excellent and accessible initial source for gathering information regarding niche areas of investigation. Good source of scholars working in Afghani displacement.</p> <p><b>Utility and reliability:</b> University of Oxford Refugee Studies Centre. Useful as starting point for further investigation and/or sourcing relevant experts.</p>	<p>May 2014</p>
<p><b>For internal relocation, see also:</b></p> <p><a href="#">Human Rights Watch - Afghanistan: Child Recruitment Surges</a></p> <p><a href="#">Hagar International - Forgotten No More: Child Trafficking in Afghanistan</a></p> <p><a href="#">Refugee Support Network - After Return: Documenting the Experiences of Young People Forcibly Removed to Afghanistan***</a></p> <p><a href="#">UNAMA - Afghanistan Annual Report 2015 - Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict</a></p> <p><a href="#">UNICEF Child Notice - Afghanistan</a></p>	

\*\*\*Exceptional resources