

**Country Report: Albania**  
**Date submitted: 24 July 2014**

UK Legal Position:	Date
<b>Caselaw</b>	
<p><a href="#">AM and BM (Trafficked women) Albania Country Guidance [2010] UKUT 80 (IAC) ('AM &amp; BM')</a></p> <p><b>Key Issues:</b> Difficulties of reintegration; Psychological effects.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This is the Country Guidance case on Albanian victims of trafficking, which sets out the problems with reintegration into Albanian society, including the risks of re-trafficking, ostracisation by the family and society at large and problems in gaining employment. Also outlines serious psychological effects produced by the experience of being trafficked on victims. The case sets new guidance on Albanian victims of trafficking which for the first time began to recognise the serious impact of deporting Albanian victims of trafficking to Albania, concluding that the deportation of AM and BM posed substantial risk to their (and their children's) futures.</p> <p><b>Utility and reliability:</b> This is a very useful case as it sets out the country guidance which judges should follow in assessing Albanian victims of trafficking and whether they should be deported. It also cites a number of useful reports and professional opinions on the effects of human trafficking on victims.</p>	18/02/2010
<b>UKBA Operational Guidance notes*</b>	
<p><a href="#">Home Office Operational Guidance Note Albania</a></p> <p><b>Key Issues:</b> The Albanian authorities' efforts to combat trafficking; Details about IOM.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The Home Office's official policy on Albania. Uses information from the US Trafficking in Persons Report. Details on the IOM assistance package available to victims from November 2013 which apparently provides dedicated assistance for those returning to Albania from the UK, including those with children.</p> <p><b>Utility and reliability:</b> Useful as contains the Home Office official policy on Albania; details of the new IOM assistance package may be relevant as the Home Office is likely to argue this removes some of the dangers to victims of trafficking deported from the UK.</p>	12/12/2013

UKBA Country of Origin Reports*	
<p><a href="#">Home Office UK Border Agency: Albania Country of Origin Information Report</a></p> <p><b>Key Issues:</b> Trafficking routes; Prosecution; Legislation; Implementation; Assistance of victims of trafficking.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This report provides a comprehensive and detailed overview of human trafficking in Albania, with contextual background information on social attitudes towards human trafficking. The report provides an overview of Albania's policy as well as victims' ability to relocate within the country.</p> <p><b>Reliability and utility:</b> This document is useful as it constitutes the official Home Office policy on Albania and Albanian victims of trafficking.</p>	17/07/2014
US State Department Tier Allocation	
<p><a href="#">US Trafficking in Persons Report: Country Narratives: Albania</a></p> <p><b>Key Issues:</b> Governmental actions to combat trafficking; Prevention, protection, prosecution; Recommendations.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Tier 2 Allocation. Report on the Albanian authorities' efforts to combat human trafficking in the country. Highlights positive institutional and procedural improvements but makes criticisms of shortcomings within improvements, such as the need for better training of officials. The report is particularly critical of its practices in criminalising, rather than protecting, victims – usually for prostitution crimes.</p> <p>The report criticises the limited government funding provided to the NGO-run shelters, restrictions on freedom of movement inside the shelters for victims, and a lack of practical access to free healthcare to which they were entitled. In regards to prevention, the government trained a few hundred officials and school personnel but made limited public awareness efforts to decrease demand for commercial sex acts or for forced labour.</p> <p><b>Utility and reliability:</b> This report is very useful as it is from a very reputable source, and highlights some of the key failings of the Albanian government to properly protect victims of trafficking.</p>	20/06/2014
1.Groups at risk and types of trafficking	
<p><a href="#">Annual Report of Different and Equal 2012</a></p>	2012

<p><b>Author(s):</b> Different and Equal Shelter</p> <p><b>Key Issues:</b> Demographic of victims; Trafficking methods; Reintegration programmes; NGOs.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This is the most recent annual report written by one of Albania's main NGOs dealing with human trafficking victims, Different and Equal. It sets out the demographic of victims who visited the Different and Equal shelter during 2012. It also outlines the work of the organisation during 2012 and the services offered, including not only food and shelter but also economic empowerment and skills training programmes and educational awareness.</p> <p><b>Utility and reliability:</b> Might be useful in showing what reintegration assistance is available to victims in Albania, but is predictably positive about the work done by the shelter and may not provide a clear picture on the availability and success of reintegration programmes.</p>	
<p><a href="#"><u>United States Department of Labour - 2012 Report Albania Worst Forms of Child Labour</u></a></p> <p><b>Author(s):</b> United States Department of Labour.</p> <p><b>Key Issues:</b> Child labour; Child trafficking; Forced begging; Roma/ Gypsy children.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Report on the situation of forced child labour in Albania, with some information on child trafficking for these purposes and the efforts of the Office of the National Coordinator for the Fight Against Trafficking in Human Beings to combat this, which has made a 'moderate advancement in efforts to combat the worst forms of child labour'. Identifies Roma and Gypsy children as by far the most vulnerable group, who are often sold into labour by their parents, or accompany them to other areas of Albania and other countries, where they are forced into labour and begging.</p> <p><b>Utility and reliability:</b> As a US Department of Labour report, this is fairly reliable and provides accurate information on child trafficking in Albania, but mainly focuses on Albanian laws, policies and regulations in this area rather than on information about child trafficking itself.</p>	<p><b>2012</b></p>
<p><a href="#"><u>UKHTC: A Strategic Assessment on the Nature and Scale of Human Trafficking in 2012 - 2013</u></a></p> <p><b>Author(s):</b> Serious Organised Crime Agency.</p>	<p><b>08/2013</b></p>

<p><b>Key Issues:</b> UK; Human trafficking; Prevalence; Prevention; Strategy; Domestic servitude; Sexual exploitation; Labour exploitation; Criminal exploitation.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This is a report, prepared by the Serious Organised Crime Agency, on the prevalence of human trafficking through the UK and the patterns of exploitation undergone by victims of trafficking from different countries.</p> <p><b>Utility and reliability:</b> This is a useful and reliable government department report providing detailed statistical information about trafficking victims in the UK, with data about Albania included throughout.</p>	
<p><a href="#"><u>Working Children in the Republic of Albania – The results of the 2010 National Child Labour Survey, International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour</u></a></p> <p><b>Author(s):</b> International Labour Organisation.</p> <p><b>Key Issues:</b> Child Labour.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This report analyses the findings of a 2010 survey which covered around 7,000 Albanian households. The report estimates c. 8.2% of 5-17 year olds are economically active, and around 5.1% are engaged in child labour (defined as occupations which are hazardous or working excessively long hours for children of their age). The report contains detailed analysis of the prominence, type and conditions of child labour in Albania., including the hazards and dangers faced by children forced to work.</p> <p><b>Utility and reliability:</b> The International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour by the ILO is a reputable source. The report does not specifically address human trafficking but provides a detailed evaluation of child employment and child labour in Albania, which may be useful in assessing the prevalence and normality of child labour, as well as the demand for it, which may have an impact on the number of children trafficked for such purposes.</p>	15/05/2013
<p><a href="#"><u>Trafficking of Adult Men in the Europe and Eurasia Region: Final Report, USAID</u></a></p> <p><b>Author(s):</b> Ruth Rosenberg.</p> <p><b>Key Issues:</b> Trafficking of men; Labour trafficking; Labour exploitation; Male underreporting of trafficking; Recruitment methods; Control methods; Lack of prosecution; Male Roma victims.</p>	07/2010

<p><b>Summary:</b> This is a general report on trafficking of men and boys throughout Europe and Eurasia, but does include useful general information as well as specific info on Albania. The report highlights the underreporting of trafficked men as well as the dearth of information available – this is due to several reasons including gender biases which do not view trafficked men as victims, and the lack of identification of male victims of labour trafficking (usually instead being seen as normal labour migrants). Due to this lack of information, the report is based primarily on interviews with migrant workers (162 of which were Albanian, of which 16.9% were victims of forced labour) (p.4). The report also suggests Roma persons are more at risk (comprising 10.8% of Albanian victims, and only representing 2-5% of the general population) (p.12). The report provides detailed information on general trafficking of men throughout the region, including methods used by traffickers, demographic of victims and available support for victims in their countries of origin (which it notes is scarcer than that available for female victims). Information about Albania dispersed throughout the document.</p> <p><b>Utility and reliability:</b> USAID is a reputable and reliable organisation. Although the information is general about male trafficking victims it is useful as providing general trends, and provides detailed information on an aspect of human trafficking for which, as the report itself notes, there is a dearth of such information. The conclusions are based upon migrant interviews almost exclusively.</p>	
<p><b><u>Modern Day Slavery: Sex Trafficking in Albania.</u></b> International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy. <b>(Subscription required)</b></p> <p><b>Author(s):</b> Venera Bekteshi, Eglantina Gjermeni, Mary Van Hook</p> <p><b>Key Issues:</b> Albania; Albanian government; Albanian women; Feminism; Feminist legal lens; Human Rights; Sex-trafficking.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This article identifies Albania as an important source of individuals who are trafficked as well as an entry point from Eastern Europe and Russia into Western Europe. The purpose of this paper is to analyse the nature of this problem and governmental and societal responses. Recommendations are given for a more effective anti-sex trafficking campaign, incorporating socio-economic factors that might be linked to sex trafficking.</p> <p><b>Utility and reliability:</b> Highly useful and highly reliable. Authors are all learned researchers and academics, whose body of work brings pertinent expertise to this article.</p>	<p>02/2012</p>

<p><a href="#"><u>Vulnerable Groups in Albania and Their Protection.</u></a> European Scientific Journal.</p> <p><b>Author(s):</b> Elda Gjergji.</p> <p><b>Key Issues:</b> Poverty; Vulnerable groups; Social protection; Economic support; No funding for domestic violence; Underreporting of sexual abuse.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This article examines the protective social provisions afforded to vulnerable groups in Albania, by synthesising research about the efforts of the state and international organisations. It explains that the Albanian government has identified the following groups as being ‘at risk’: children, women, youth, elderly people and people with disabilities. The article then concludes that there appears to be no social right to social security under the Albanian constitution, but existing social services are not able to meet needs of people.</p> <p><b>Utility and reliability:</b> Highly useful and reliable. This author of this article is a professor of civic education who has previously headed a social services department. The article itself was published in the European Scientific Journal, and through the European Scientific Institute.</p>	<p><b>09/2012</b></p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Committee on the Rights of the Child examines reports of Albania on sale of children and on children involved in armed conflict - 2012</u></a></p> <p><b>Author(s):</b> Committee on the Rights of the Child.</p> <p><b>Key Issues:</b> UN; Rights of the Child; Child trafficking; Limited protection; Child victims.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This is a summary of the 2012 meeting of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, addressing Albania’s reports, which were produced per the Optional Protocols. It details the process and prevalence of the sale of children and the involvement of children in armed conflict.</p> <p><b>Utility and reliability:</b> Useful and highly reliable. Provides an international context for Albania’s child trafficking problem and highlights the measures taken by the country’s government as well as the criticism it faces from the international community. Summary of a UN meeting that is available from the Office for the High Commissioner’s website.</p>	<p><b>26/09/2012</b></p>

<b>2. Internal relocation</b>	
<p><a href="#"><u>International Organization for Migration – The Causes and Consequences of Re-trafficking: Evidence from the IOM Human Trafficking Database</u></a></p> <p><b>Author(s):</b> A. Jobe.</p> <p><b>Key Issues:</b> Re-trafficking; Reintegration.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This report looks at the causes and risks of re-trafficking across several sources of trafficking countries, including Albania. From various studies cited in the article, statistics of around 40-50% of Albanian victims of trafficking are subsequently re-trafficked (amongst the highest of the source countries studied). The article provides general information on the problems victims face with reintegration, psychological issues and rejection by families which contribute to high re-trafficking rates.</p> <p><b>Utility and reliability:</b> Useful for general information about re-trafficking and some statistical info on Albanian re-trafficking, but a lot of the information is general and not Albania-specific. The IOM is a reputable organisation.</p>	<p>17/02/2011</p>
<b>3. Risk on Return (e.g other risks)</b>	
<p><a href="#"><u>Social and Psychological Trauma of Human Trafficking: An Albanian Case</u></a></p> <p><b>Author(s):</b> Dr. Ferit Baca and M.A Matilda Likaj</p> <p><b>Key Issues:</b> Sexual Exploitation; Psycho traumas of victims; Social pathologies.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This is an academic article written by Albanian professors about the psychological effects of trafficking for sexual exploitation on Albanian women, in the context of Albania's post-communist history.</p> <p><b>Utility and reliability:</b> Useful and reliable. This piece provides a background for the establishment and development of post-communist Albania, and compares the original reasons for such development with reasons for the contemporary prevalence of human trafficking in the country. The content was written by a lecturer and a researcher who both worked in the social and political sciences.</p>	<p>09/04/11</p>



<p><a href="#">Unlocking the Roots of Stigma Towards Victims of Trafficking in Albania</a></p> <p><b>Author(s):</b> Dana L. Maron</p> <p><b>Key Issues:</b> Stigma; Trafficking; Women; Honour; Kanun</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This is a thesis aimed at understanding the social stigmas faced by those who have been trafficked through the social workers who often manage their cases.</p> <p><b>Utility and reliability:</b> Highly useful and highly reliable. This thesis provides a comprehensive, well-substantiated and detailed societal analysis of the stigma surrounding victims of trafficking, making it an invaluable resource. As it is a published thesis it would have gone through several of academic critique and analysis before publication.</p>	<p><b>02/01/12</b></p>
<p><b>4.State protection</b></p>	
<p><a href="#">Organised crime and judicial corruption in the Western Balkans: Are customary norms playing any role? (Subscription required)</a></p> <p><b>Author(s):</b> Fabian Zhilla</p> <p><b>Key Issues:</b> Balkans; Human trafficking routes; Customary norms; Judicial corruption; Jurisdiction; Organised crime.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This article looks at the role of customary norms in forming a link between organised crime and judicial corruption, most notably in human trafficking in Albania.</p>	<p><b>01/11/2011</b></p>
<p><a href="#">Council of Europe - Report submitted by Albanian authorities on measures taken to comply with Committee of the Parties Recommendation CP(2012)</a></p> <p><b>Author(s):</b> Council of Europe; Albanian authorities.</p> <p><b>Key Issues:</b> Albanian efforts to combat human trafficking; Prosecution; Prevention; Protection.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This document includes the Albanian government responses to each of the recommendations set out in the GRETA report on how the government should combat trafficking. This includes apparent awareness raising initiatives, training of police, changes to legislation and improvements to the identification and referral mechanisms.</p>	<p><b>29/01/2014</b></p>



<p><b>Utility and reliability:</b> As written by the Albanian government, this report is predictably positive about the work it has done to combat trafficking, with little descriptions of the practical application or success of any of its implementations. May be useful at outlining recent (up to January 2014) government measures to combat trafficking in Albania.</p>	
<p><a href="#">‘Albania Police Chief Arrested for Corruption’</a>, Balkan Insight</p> <p><b>Author(s):</b> Besar Likmeta</p> <p><b>Key Issues:</b> Police corruption; Public attitudes towards the police.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This article reports on the arrest of the head of the anti-corruption unit in the Gjirokastra police department, indicating high-level police corruption in Albania. Also cites the Transparency International Corruption Perception Index, which ranks Albania as one of the worst corrupt countries in Europe, and a survey by a national institute which found that 66% of the public thought the police were corrupt.</p> <p><b>Utility and reliability:</b> Useful and highly reliable. Although produced by an independent news source this article is not very detailed, but provides a good overview of the lack of faith in the police amongst Albanians.</p>	<p><b>14/11/2012</b></p>
<p><a href="#">Women Against Violence Report - Albania Report 2013</a></p> <p><b>Author(s):</b> Marion Lesur, Barbara Stelmaszek and Iris Golden</p> <p><b>Key Issues:</b> Shelter availability and services; domestic violence; sexual violence towards women.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This is a report on the services available in Albania for victims of domestic violence, with some information on services for trafficking victims included. It reports that based on Council of Europe recommendations, Albania need at least 29% more shelter places for vulnerable women. Also outlines how the shelters are funded: roughly 33% state and 67% foreign donations.</p> <p><b>Utility and reliability:</b> Gives some useful information about shelters and number of places but primarily focussed on victims of domestic violence; seems reasonably reliable as based on other reliable sources.</p>	<p><b>03/2014</b></p>

<p><a href="#"><u>'Whistleblowers protection in Albania: An assessment of the legislation and practice'</u></a>, Institute for Democracy and Mediation</p> <p><b>Author(s):</b> Arjan Dyrmishi, Elira Hroni and Egest Gjokutaj</p> <p><b>Key Issues:</b> Whistleblowing; Witness protection; Corruption.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This article assesses the legal and practical provisions for protection of whistle-blowers in Albanian society and concludes that, although there is some legislation providing for such protection, at a practical level this is not carried out. This is due to problems with legislation, corruption in Albanian society and a lack of trust in the judiciary and police, amongst other things. See p.8 Box 1 for the discussion of a case of a man who published a phone call which demonstrated police corruption, expressed concerns that his life was in danger multiple times publically but was never given the status of a protected witness and was thus not treated as such.</p> <p><b>Utility and reliability:</b> Useful for showing the corruption in Albanian society and the lack of adequate witness protection on a practical level. The Institute for Democracy and Mediation is an Albanian think tank and appears unbiased and reliable.</p>	<p>07/11/2013</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>The Patrimonial Logic of the Police in Eastern Europe</u></a> (Subscription required - PDF available)</p> <p><b>Author(s):</b> Stephen Hensell</p> <p><b>Key Issues:</b> Patrimonialism; Neo-Patrimonialism; Police Corruption; Hybrid Administration.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Pp. 818-822. The article addresses the structure of law enforcement recruitment in Albania and how it is affected by corruption. It concludes that political parties form the main controlling limb in the recruitment and organisation of law enforcement, namely resources such as police stations. Additionally police corruption tends to heavily involve illegal smuggling.</p> <p><b>Utility and reliability:</b> Highly useful and reliable. Author is a senior researcher at the University of Hamburg who has personally conducted field research in Albania. He also specialises in war, post-war and security related studies, as well as political science broadly.</p>	<p>12/06/2012</p>



<p><a href="#"><u>Corruption in the Balkans: An Examination of the Ties Between Government and Crime in Several Southeast European Countries</u></a> (Subscription required - PDF available)</p> <p><b>Author(s):</b> Jonathan D. Heskett</p> <p><b>Key Issues:</b> Corruption; Crime; Organised Crime; Private security companies.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> This thesis traces the current climate of corruption amongst the political elite within the Balkans, with a notable focus on Albania throughout, to the period of civil unrest in the 1990s. As such it highlights an entrenched and systemic permeation of criminality throughout Albanian society. Most notably it points to a high rate of illegal weapons and goods trade as the focus of the corruption. Subsequently the article concludes that it is this corruption that will directly hinder Albania's chances of developing within the EU and international communities; the impact of which would be vastly widespread.</p> <p><b>Utility and reliability:</b> Highly useful and highly reliable. Despite this being a doctoral thesis it has been approved for public release by the Monterey Naval Postgraduate School.</p>	<p>12/2013</p>
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