

Country report: The Philippines
Date submitted: May 2014

UK Legal Position:	Date
Caselaw	
UKBA Operational Guidance notes*	
UKBA Country of Origin Reports *	
US State Department Trafficking in Persons Report, Tier Allocation	
http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/226848.pdf	
1.Groups at risk and types of trafficking	
<p>‘United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre National Referral Mechanism Statistics 2013’ Source: National Crime Agency Keywords: NCA, national referral mechanism, Summary: a set of statistics on the National Referral Mechanism. A total of 18 Filipinos were referred in 2013 – a 22% decrease from the number of referrals in 2012 (pg. 3).</p> <p>‘UKHTC: A Strategic Assessment on the Nature and Scale of Human Trafficking in 2012’ Serious Organised Crime Agency – Source: ECPAT UK Keywords: exploitation, ukhtc, labour, philippines, UK Summary: an analysis of the scale and nature of human trafficking in the UK, by the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre.</p> <p>The Philippines was ranked the 10th most prevalent country of origin of all potential victims of trafficking identified in 2012. 53 potential victims were identified in 2012 – a 1225% increase from 2011.</p> <p>Fifty (94%) of persons from the Philippines were reported to be potential victims of labour exploitation. The remaining three persons (6%) were reported to be potential victims of domestic servitude.</p>	<p>20/01/2014</p> <p>August 2013</p>



<p>‘Second report of the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Human Trafficking’ – Inter Departmental Ministerial Group –</p> <p>Source: GOV.UK</p> <p>Keywords: NRM, philippines, trafficking, home office, referrals, forced labour</p> <p>Summary: a report on trafficking trends in the UK and the UK’s strategic response (see pg. 11, 14, 15, 20 and 22 for Philippines data).</p> <p>The Philippines is identified as a high source country in Scotland and Northern Ireland (pg.11). In 2012, there was a reported increase in the number of victims from the Philippines – i.e. 53 victims. This increase tallies with the information provided by ECPAT (pg. 15).</p> <p>The victims identified from the Philippines were a result of cases of forced labour in the fishing industry. The majority of such cases were connected to a specific fishing company. The company is not specified in the report (pg. 22).</p>	CIRCA 2013
<p>‘Unprotected Work. Invisible Exploitation: Trafficking for the Purpose of Domestic Servitude’</p> <p>Source: Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), via the ‘FTS Blog’ (http://ftsblog.net/)</p> <p>Keywords: domestic, wages, maid, employer, NGO, loan</p> <p>Summary: a research paper on trafficking for domestic servitude (in particular, see Filipino case studies on pgs. 18, 19, and 53).</p>	17-28 May 2010
<p>‘Illegal kidney trade booms as new organ is 'sold every hour'</p> <p>Source: The Guardian</p> <p>Keywords: illegal, trade, Philippines, World Health Organisation, organs</p> <p>Summary: A news article on the scale of the black market trade in organs. It identifies the Philippines was one of the 'centres of transplant tourism', although it has changed its trafficking laws since the Declaration of Istanbul</p>	27/05/2014
<p>‘Gender and Conflict in Mindanao’ –</p> <p>Source: Asia Foundation</p> <p>Keywords: conflict, trafficking, displacement, women, girls</p> <p>Summary: a research report into the impact of the armed conflict in Mindanao, from the perspective of gender. The conflict has created much disruption in the region, and has led to the spread of internally</p>	circa 2012

<p>displaced persons (IDPs). Female IDPs are highly vulnerable to human trafficking and dangerous migrant work (pg.. 12).</p>	
<p>'Poverty hinders fights vs. human trafficking in ARMM [Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao]' Source: Philippine Star/Nation Keywords: poverty, underdevelopment, human trafficking, Summary: news report on challenges to human trafficking in the ARMM. Poverty and underdevelopment are said to be the main hindrances against anti-trafficking measures in the ARMM. The poverty caused by armed conflict in the area created immediate employment needs for locals, which in turn exposed them to human traffickers.</p>	<p>31/10/2013</p>
<p>'Regional GENDER SITUATIONER Eastern Visayas 2013' Source: National Statistical Coordination Board Keywords: women, employment, statistics eastern Visayas Summary: slideshow of statistics of Visayas, according to gender. 2011-2012. There were 2 reported violations of RA 9208 in 2012 (pg.41). The number of trafficked victims in Eastern Visayas declined from 83 in 2011 to 16 in 2012. More than half of trafficked victims in the region in 2012 were aged between 13-17 years old.</p>	<p>CIRCA 2013</p>
<p>'Trafficking in Women and Children in Zamboanga, Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi (ZAMBASULTA)' Source: Ateneo Human Rights Center (via UN Gift Hub) Keywords: trafficking, modes, Zamboanga, recruiters, corruption, low prosecution rates, lack of detection, ineffective law enforcement, routes- Sabah- Malaysia, limited victim protection, Trafficking mode- use of technology. Transportation, private ports, shipping lines, fake island hopping tours. Summary: comprehensive research paper detailing trafficking modes, operations, the experiences of victims and NGO and government efforts to combat trafficking in the 'ZAMBASULTA' region. The research was carried out through interviews, round table discussions, case studies and document analysis (pg.24). There are analyses and diagrams of trafficking routes (pg. 53-57). There are also comments on the corrupt practices and weaknesses in Filipino agencies, such as the Bureau of Immigration, coastguard, legal system and other agencies (pg. 76-82). This information was primarily collated through interviews and roundtable discussions.</p>	<p>CIRCA 2012</p>
<p>'Troubled Waters: Trafficking of Filipino Men into the Long Haul Fishing Industry through Singapore'</p>	<p>Dec 2012</p>

<p>Source: Report Facilitated by the Philippines Embassy in Singapore, Sallie Yea</p> <p>Keywords: Male victims, Long Haul Fishing, NGO, passport, Singapore, Labour exploitation, debt, stigmatisation upon return - failed migrant</p> <p>Summary: This report brings light to the inadequacy of services offered to (Filipino) male victims of trafficking and documents the issues male migrants face upon return, including stigmatisation as a failed migrant. Male victims are often trafficked into labour, such as long haul fishing via migration to Singapore, as the report indicates. Male victims tend to borrow large amounts of money to finance their migration to Singapore. Upon arriving, most of the victims discovered that the salary offered was meagre - upon trying escape their situation, the agencies retained their passports. The case studies and narratives detailed in the report suggest that NGO's are largely responsible for freeing trafficking men from their 'employers'. This report documents the issues male migrants face on return, including the stigmatisation upon return as a failed migrant.</p>	
2. Risk on Return (e.g other risks)	
<p>"I will help as much as I can, but I can't give them everything:" The financial lives of women who were formerly trafficked into sex work in the Philippines"</p> <p>Source: Columbia University Academic Commons</p> <p>Keywords: reintegration, economic, household, DSWD, finance, women</p> <p>Summary: a research paper about the economic challenges that formerly trafficked women face upon reintegration into their communities which are namely vulnerable to abuse, returning to sex work and inability to gain employment.</p>	CIRCA 2014
<p>'Factors of Vulnerability to Human Trafficking and Prospects for Reintegration of Former Victims. Evidence from the Philippines'</p> <p>Source: Bocconi University (Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi)</p> <p>Keywords: trafficking, reintegration, victims, family, shelter, empirical, factors, risk, re-trafficking, family dynamics, education.</p> <p>Summary: This is a useful working paper which aims to detail the risk factors associated with human trafficking, conducted through interviews with former trafficked victims. Research was carried out across 12 shelters in the Cebu area of the Philippines and the authors have</p>	Sept 2010



<p>conducted a truly rigorous empirical study, collecting information from 360 residents. The study looks at a litany of factors that may have affected a victim's propensity to be trafficked, inter alia family dynamics and education. Furthermore, the authors explore factors such as risk aversion, personal values and perceptions of future employments/earnings. The survey questions were designed to understand the mindset of individuals before they left their families (to have a picture of what might have driven them into trafficking), during trafficking period, and their current well-being (to assess their prospects of reintegration in the community). The following conclusions were drawn: trafficked girls were, on average, less well educated than other girls in shelters; trafficking victims came from families with more interpersonal conflicts and physical violence than other families; former victims of trafficking are very risk-averse.</p>	
<p>3.State protection</p>	
<p><u>'The UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Ms. Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, concludes her country visit to the Philippines'</u> Source: United Nations Human Rights – Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Keywords: root causes, prevention initiatives, socio-economic conditions, human trafficking, inadequate state protection, migrant workers Summary: Statement by the Special Rapporteur following her 5 day official visit to the Philippines. According to Ezeilo, the root causes of trafficking, such as poverty and demands for cheap labour are not being effectively addressed. There is a lack of standardised collection of statistics which show the prevalence and trends of human trafficking. She also states that support to victims and civil society organisations from the government is inadequate.</p>	<p>09/11/2012</p>
<p><u>"Philippines Investigates Prostitution Ring Charges"</u> Source: The New York Times Keywords: diplomat, sex, trafficking, Philippine Summary: News report that the Philippine government investigation into allegations that its diplomatic personnel had trafficked Filipino women into the Middle East. Officials had apparently been running a prostitution ring from Philippine embassies in Kuwait and Oman.</p>	<p>24/06/2013</p>

<p><u>'THE SECOND NATIONAL STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS 2012-2016'</u></p> <p>Source: Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT)</p> <p>Keywords: rehabilitation, trafficking, IACAT,</p> <p>Summary: the IACAT's strategic plan on combating human trafficking in the Philippines. IACAT's gains and remaining challenges in combatting trafficking are explained in pgs. 10-15 (pdf). Also contains a summarised SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis of anti-trafficking measures (pg. 15, pdf).</p> <p>According to IACAT, the Philippines strengths are, amongst other things, its increased budget for anti-trafficking activities, established laws and policies, and committed involvement from NGOs, law enforcers and lawyers.</p> <p>The weaknesses involve the lack of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of IACAT programmes, and absence of knowledge based evidence on TIP to support advocacy.</p> <p>A specified threat was the shielding of 'perpetrator-constituents' of political leaders, by political intervention or justified by local autonomy.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the detailed SWOT analysis that is stated to be in the appendix (footnote 2) does not appear to be in the present document.</p>	<p>CIRCA 2012</p>
<p><u>'Corruption and Labor Trafficking in Global Supply Chains (White Paper)'</u></p> <p>Source: Verite (www.verite.org)</p> <p>Keywords: labour, trafficking, migrants, state complicity</p> <p>Summary: a white paper on the links between trafficking activities in the global supply of migrants, and corrupt practices of labor brokers and government officials. For example, the paper notes that Filipino government officials and labor brokers were charged with trafficking 100 Filipino workers in 2011 (see pg. 5).</p>	<p>December 2013</p>
<p><u>'Health and Human Rights in Practice: Sex Trafficking and Health Care in Metro Manila: Identifying Social Determinants To Inform An Effective Health System Response'</u></p> <p>Source: Health and Human Rights in Practice [Journal: Williams et Al]</p>	<p>15/12/2010</p>



Keywords: skills, training, rehabilitation, mental health, healthcare re-trafficking, sexual exploitations, unsafe abortions

Summary: 'This social science case study examines the sex trafficking of women and girls in Metro Manila through a public health lens'. The report details the journey of victims into trafficking and provides an insight into the mind-set of those trapped in the system. It later goes on to outline the exiting responses to trafficking, stating that rehabilitation and health services offered at government rescue homes are intended to help survivors of child abuse, domestic violence, and trafficking. However, it becomes apparent that access to medical attention is subject to several barriers, including the reappearance of pimps and the inadequacy of DSWD healthcare facilities. Many respondents indicated that workers at these centres lack the required technical skills and training to effectively respond to the health and mental health challenges of victims [See page 141 onwards].

['An Act Expanding Republic Act No.9208, Entitled "An Act to Institute Policies to Eliminate Trafficking in Person Especially Women and Children, Establishing the Necessary Institutional Mechanisms For the Protection and Support of Trafficked Persons, Providing Penalties For Its Violations and For Other Purposes"' - Approved 6th February 2013](#)

Source: The LawPhil Project, extracted from the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2012.

Keywords: Article 15, Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2012, services, free temporary shelter, counselling, protection, psychological support, crisis calls

Summary: This websites lists statutory provisions in relation to the basic services to be offered to trafficked individuals. Section 15 of the Act states that DSWD shall implement rehabilitative and protective programs for trafficked persons, including counselling and temporary shelter to trafficked persons and develop a system for accreditation among NGOs for purposes of establishing centres and programs for intervention in various levels of the community. It shall establish free temporary shelters, for the protection and housing of trafficked persons to provide the following basic services to trafficked persons. It will offer temporary housing, food facilities, psychological support and counselling, 24 hour call centre for crisis calls, co-ordination with local law enforcement and DOJ.

['Government Urged to Improve Conditions at Shelters for OFW's'](#)

Source: Inquirer website

06/02/2013

22/06/2013

<p>Keywords: Sex-for-flight, re-trafficking, inadequate shelters, exploitation, repatriation, OFW</p> <p>Summary: This news article brings attention to the sex-for-flight scheme which refers to the racket allegedly perpetrated by Philippine labour and embassy officials in the Middle East - this further victimises distressed OFWs in their custody into prostitution and sexual exploitation in exchange for repatriation ticket to the Philippines. The government has failed provide adequate shelters for overseas victims who have been trafficked and are now vulnerable to re-trafficking and further exploitation.</p>	
<p>‘PHL Making Progress In Fight VS Human Trafficking’ - 16th April 2013</p> <p>Source: PhilStar News Website</p> <p>Keywords: Half Way House, Temporary Sanctuary, Government Shelter</p> <p>Summary: This article highlights some of the steps taken by the government to ensure that trafficking is being combated. It indicates that the government alone operates at least 24 halfway houses or temporary sanctuaries for victims of human trafficking.</p>	16/04/2013
<p>The UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Ms. Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, Concludes her Country Visit to the Philippines’</p> <p>Source: United Nations - Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights</p> <p>Keywords: Male victims, lack of shelters, re-trafficking, assistance</p> <p>Summary: Speech - Gives an overview of the services provided to victims of trafficking by the Philippine Government. The overall conclusion in relation to shelters and accommodation provided was that assistance provided by DSWD to victims remains weak. The lack of separate Government-run shelters and services, including inadequate medical, psychological and legal services suggests a risk of re-trafficking. There is little follow-up after victims have been repatriated or re-settled back home. Lack of shelter facilitates or space for adult males who are victims of trafficking remains also a problem.</p>	09/11/2012
<p>‘Report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children’ - Latest Report</p> <p>Source: United Nations - Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights</p> <p>Keywords: shelters, statistics, victim processing, services, support, special rapporteur</p>	19/04/2013



Summary: The objectives of the visit were to examine prevalent forms of trafficking in persons (“trafficking”) in the country and to assess the effectiveness of measures undertaken by the Government to combat trafficking and to protect the human rights of trafficked persons. The report details some of the shelters that were visited by the Special Rapporteur, the services provided by the shelters and statistics of the number of individuals processed at these shelters (refer to page 14/15 for further details).

[‘DSWD seeks bigger shelter for human trafficking victims in Masbate’](#)

Source: SunStar News website

Keywords: DSWD, Masbate, Temporary Shelter, New Construction, Gender and Development Fund

Summary: States that the DSWD has requested the Provincial Government of Masbate to create new and bigger temporary shelters for victims of trafficking who have been rescued by local authorities. This request was made following the rescue of 36 victims by the Masbate anti-trafficking force whilst being readied for transport to their final destination, Neuva Ecija. The cost of this shelter will be 39m pesos, funded by the Gender and Development Fund. As yet, there is no indication that this has materialised.

26/10/2012

[‘Human trafficking victims get fund, livelihood aid’](#)

Source: PhilStar News website

Keywords: financial assistance, education, support, shelter, regional centre for women.

Summary: This article highlights the efforts made by the Department of Social Welfare and Development to assist victims of human trafficking in Western Visayas. The total amount provided to these women in ‘region 6’ was P423,500 which equates to approximately £5777. The website states that of the total amount released by DSWD, P380,000 was given for livelihood, P21,000 was for support for victims or witnesses; P15,000 was for shelter and transportation and P7,500 for skills training of the victims. Money is also being provided to allow victims to pursue legal claims against their traffickers. Records of the DSWD showed that 26 of the human trafficking cases were about forced labour, 13 were sexual exploitation, six were cyber pornography and two prostitution. Most of them were provided with livelihood assistance in the amount of P10,000 each and those who want to continue their schooling were sent back to school with the help of the SCALA (Sharing Computer Access Locally and Abroad) project. In addition, some of the victims were temporarily sheltered at the Regional

14/01/2014



<p>Centre for Women while the minor girls were housed at the Home for Girls, both operated by the DSWD.</p> <p>[Note on Philstar: no English sources indicate that it is affiliated with the Philippine Government]</p> <p>POEA to prosecute employees involved in human trafficking</p> <p>Source: The Philippine Star</p> <p>Keywords: Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), Collusion, Corruption, Violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act</p> <p>Summary: This article reports that the chief of POEA has promised to prosecute officials and employees of the agency involved in human smuggling. Criminal charges were filed against these state employees by another POEA employee.</p>	<p>21/01/2011</p>
<p>4.Internal relocation</p>	
<p>The Brookings-London School of Economics Project on Internal Displacement [2013]: Gender and Livelihoods among Internally Displaced Persons in Mindanao, Philippines</p> <p>Source: The Brookings – London School of Economics on Internal Displacement</p> <p>Keywords: relocation, conscription, conflict, Muslim, Christian</p> <p>Summary: This report highlights a litany of problems in relocating victims of trafficking. Primarily, the cultural/religious barrier seems to cause the harshest friction between communities. Host communities play a crucial role in making the lives of displaced persons less difficult. But some communities become “hosts” not because they want to, but because they live in safe areas to which the warring parties do not have easy access. Hence, some communities are forced to accept the presence of displaced persons, which can trigger uneasy and strained relationships with the newcomers. This is especially true when the displaced populations are Muslim and the host communities are predominantly Christian.</p> <p>Moreover, it sheds light on the geo-political difficulties with victim relocation, particularly the civil conflicts in the southern Philippines with armed groups including Muslim separatists, communists, clan militias and criminal groups all active in the area. Such instances leave victims vulnerable to re-trafficking.</p>	<p>July 2013</p>



Given that men are the first to disappear from the public sphere (due to conscription into rebel or government groups), young women and children are left to assume the breadwinning role. Such conflict-prone areas are major sources of trafficked victims. Predatory traffickers, including relatives of the women and children, look at them as a “resource” for capital generation, through recruitment to work abroad as domestic helpers or worse, as sex slaves”.

[‘SIREN Report: Thailand and Philippines’](#)

Source: Strategic Information Response Network

Keywords: Skills, cooking, sewing, limitation, reintegration, re-skilling

Summary: This report highlights the limitation in skills training of the reintegration process. It notes that a key limitation is the offering of few traditional gender-stereotyped skills training such as sewing or cooking which are not market-orientated and which do not secure earnings. In addition, programme leaders may not be aware of the fact that some programmes are long winded and do not provide an income for victims in the meantime.

28/08/2009