



today's fight for tomorrow's freedom

**Trafficking for forced labour and
labour exploitation of migrant
workers
- Analysis**

Metropolis Conference, Lisbon, 4 October 2006
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- **Study on trafficking for forced labour in the Czech Republic, Ireland, Portugal, UK**
- **Trafficking is the movement of people by various means of coercion for purposes of exploitation**
- **Our dilemma – how severe must exploitation be to qualify as forced labour?**



ILO forced labour indicators

- ⌘ Threats of physical harm**
- ⌘ Restriction of movement**
- ⌘ Debt bondage**
- ⌘ Withholding of wages**
- ⌘ Passport/ID retention**
- ⌘ Threat of denunciation**



Migrant workers

- ⌘ **At-risk of trafficking for forced labour**
- ⌘ **Insecure and vulnerable situation**
- ⌘ **Easy target for exploiters**
- ⌘ **All continents**
- ⌘ **Variety of background**
- ⌘ **Economic need/poverty**
- ⌘ **Majority entered legally**



Factors affecting exploitation and trafficking

- ⌘ **Workers' poverty, isolation and lack of awareness of rights**
- ⌘ **Complexity of migration and labour regulation in the receiving countries**
- ⌘ **Business demands for low cost disposable labour**
- ⌘ **Coercive threat to workers**



Workers' poverty

- ⌘ **Unemployment**
- ⌘ **Underemployment**
- ⌘ **Lack of survival opportunities**
- ⌘ **Social status**
- ⌘ **Access to opportunities to migrate autonomously**
- ⌘ **Discrimination e.g. gender, ethnicity**



Isolation, lack of knowledge of rights and dependency

- ⌘ Isolation – language, social control, confinement**
- ⌘ Multiple dependency**
- ⌘ Lack of awareness about rights permeates vulnerability**
- ⌘ Access to residency, work permits and citizenship**



Coercive threats to migrant workers

- ⌘ Debt bondage
- ⌘ Threats
- ⌘ Deception
- ⌘ Violence (physical, psychological)
- ⌘ Retention of passport/ID
- ⌘ Threats on both sides - in the place of origin and in the place of exploitation



Complexity of migration and labour regulations

- ⌘ Labour laws relates to work conditions, dismissal rules and rights to redress
- ⌘ Immigration law relates to a person's status of stay, right to work and access to social security
- ⌘ Variety of immigration regimes and work entitlements – increased vulnerability and dependence



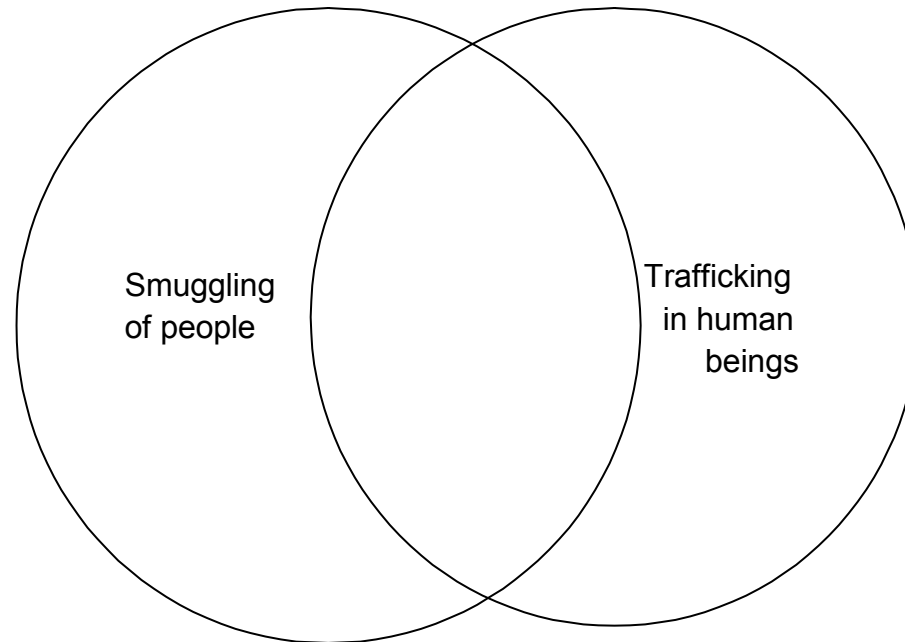
Case study

Two Vietnamese men in their twenties were recruited for job in the UK in Vietnam. They were promised a job at a hotel in the UK. They had to paid to their agent in Vietnam £18,000 for the job arrangement. The men came to the UK under the work permit scheme with a promise to receive £4.95 per hour for their work. After their arrival to the UK, an agent representing an agency that supplies workers to major hotel chains met them at the airport and took their passports away from them. They were put to work in the Holiday Inn hotel. The men worked at the hotel for 2 months without receiving any pay. All that they were provided was food. To protest this, they attempted to strike at the hotel. However, almost immediately after that, their families in Vietnam received threats. They approached CAB via a Vietnamese speaking person they met on the street. They were too frightened to approach the Vietnamese Embassy or police.



Common confusions

Trafficking versus smuggling



Lack of co-ordination and differing interests of state and others

- ⌘ Labour market needs versus migration policy and labour laws**
- ⌘ Workplace inspection versus enforcement of immigration laws**
- ⌘ Scope and focus of anti-trafficking laws versus enforcement of immigration and labour laws**

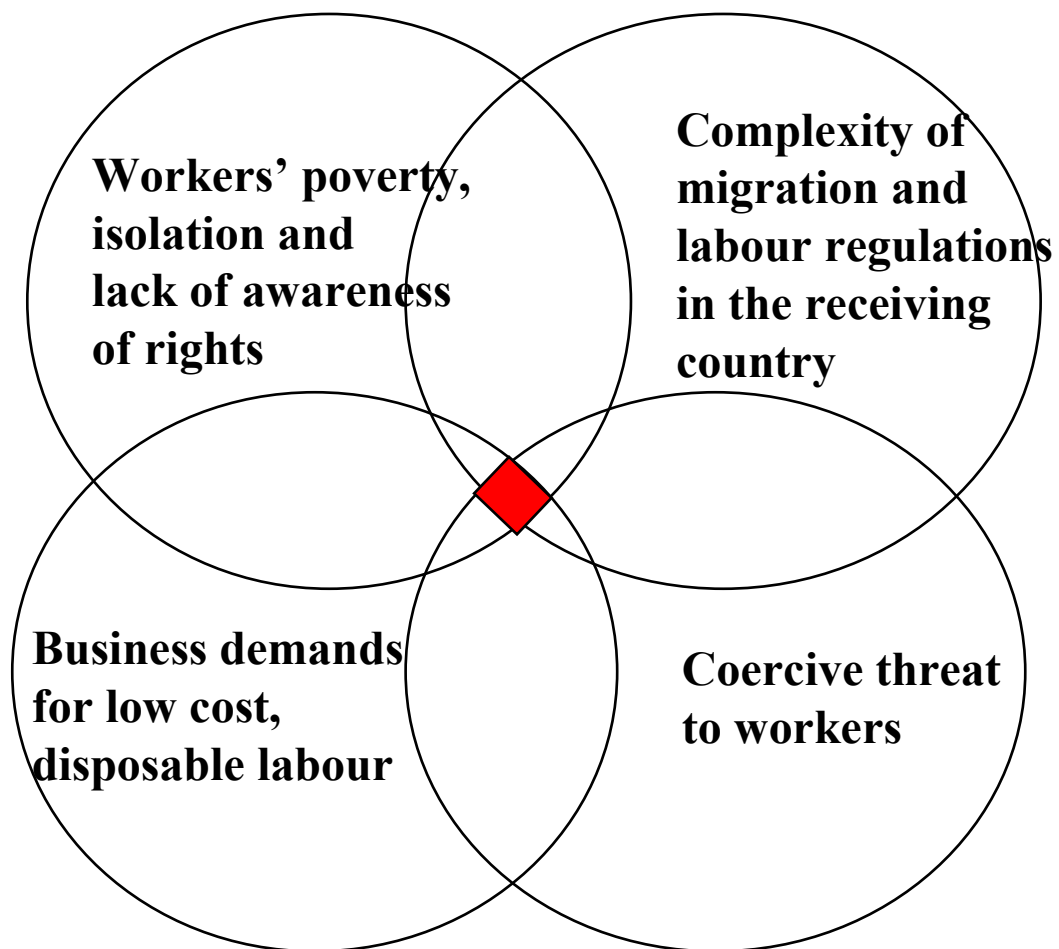


Demand for cheap labour in receiving countries

- ⌘ Industries lobby for more migrant workers**
- ⌘ Governments acknowledge role of migration in economic growth**
- ⌘ Business demands low labour costs**
- ⌘ Consumers demand cheap goods and services**



Factors affecting exploitation and trafficking





anti- slavery

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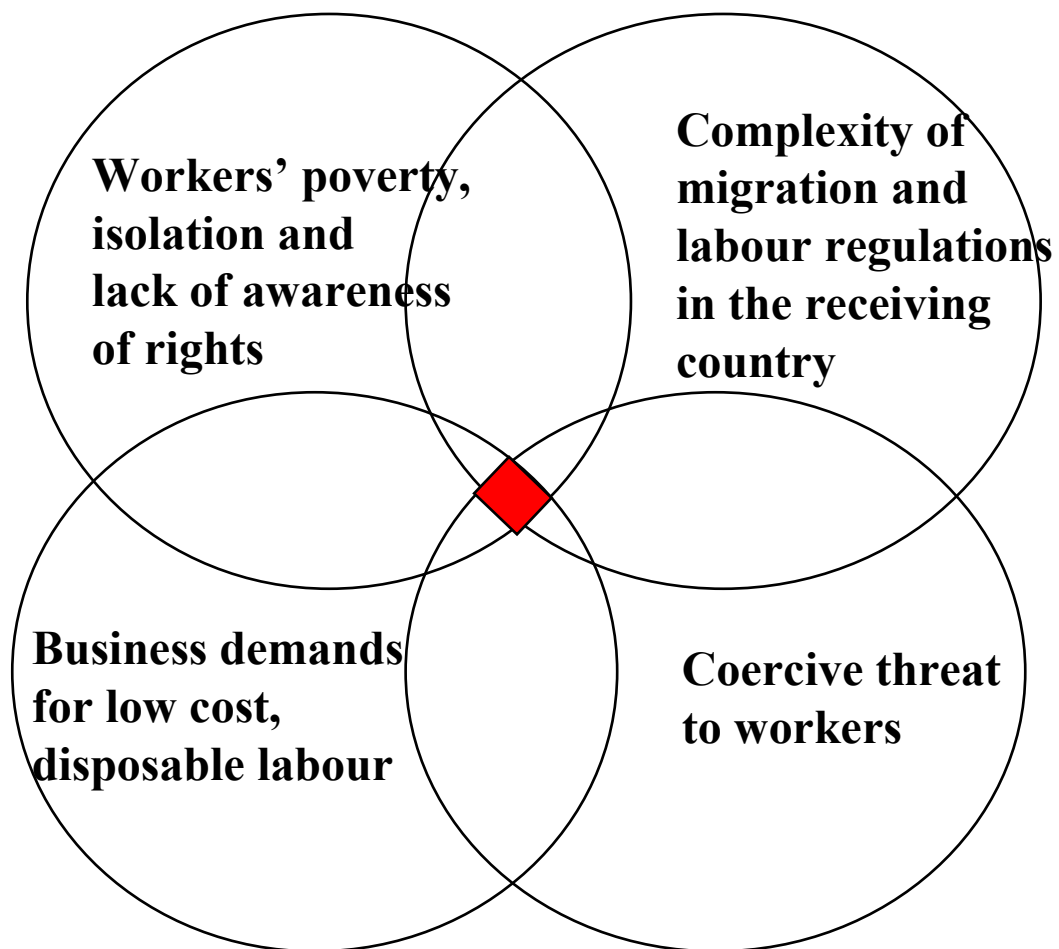
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Recommendations

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Recommendations

⌘ Understanding

⌘ Responding and Protecting

⌘ Prevention



UNDERSTANDING TRAFFICKING

- ⌘ Exploitation is the issue not means of arrival
- ⌘ Needs to be actively targeted by all relevant actors
- ⌘ Further research and exploration is needed
 - ☒ particularly in terms of its effective treatment by governments nationally and globally



RESPONDING + PROTECTING

- ⌘ All States sign up to relevant international conventions including Palermo Protocol and the Council of Europe Convention
- ⌘ Appoint and empower independent National Rapporteurs on Trafficking in Human Beings
- ⌘ Build adequate national and local apparatus to respond
- ⌘ Pilot initiatives needed to develop best practice
- ⌘ Unconditional residency status and access to services for trafficked people



PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING

- ⌘ The UN High Level Dialogue Phase II needs to focus on trafficking for forced labour
- ⌘ Impact assessment with regards to trafficking in human beings needs to be an essential part of national migration policy/legislative development
- ⌘ Awareness raising among consumers of products and services
- ⌘ Companies should take responsibility for forced labour in their total supply chains
- ⌘ Information and advocacy supports need be provided to migrant workers at the earliest possible stage

