



NATIONAL ASSISTANCE SYSTEM FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SEMIANNUAL REVIEW 1 JANUARY – 31 JUNE 2021

Training courses in human trafficking open to all!

First career coaching programme for survivors of trafficking begins in autumn

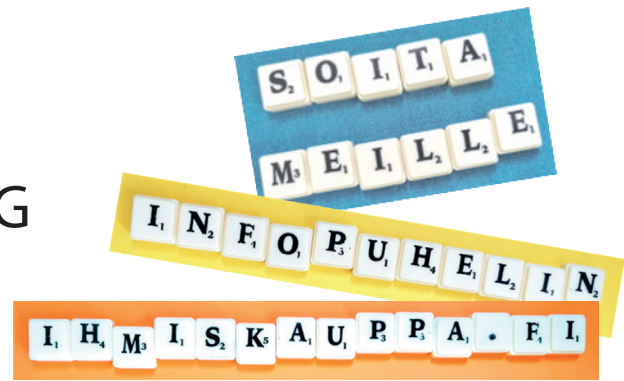
Statistics for the first half of 2021



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword: If you only remember one thing after a training, remember this.....	3
Career coaching for victims of human trafficking begins.....	4
Exploitation continues in risk sectors – statistics from the Assistance System 1 January – 30 June 2021.....	5
Applications and new clients as statistics.....	6
New clients who had been exploited in Finland.....	10
All clients of the Assistance System 30 June 2021.....	10
It never hurts to learn more – training courses in human trafficking to all.....	12
Assistance System personnel.....	14
Contact information.....	14

FOREWORD: IF YOU ONLY REMEMBER ONE THING AFTER A TRAINING, REMEMBER THIS



“I’ve seen this happen – I just didn’t know it was human trafficking!” People who have participated in our trainings on human trafficking often tell us that they had, at work or otherwise, already noticed something that could relate to human trafficking. They just hadn’t identified the link.

The more people are capable of identifying indications to trafficking or other forms of exploitation, the better the chances of victims of such crimes to get out of the situation and get help. And the more likely it is that those guilty of such crimes will be held responsible. In the end, the whole society benefits. Learning about human trafficking is never a wasted effort!

The Assistance System personnel have years of experience in training about human trafficking and victim identification. Helping people identify and assist victims is a part of our everyday work.

We are aware that human trafficking is a complex phenomenon, and sometimes the whole framework of victim assistance

and criminal processes can seem even more complicated. It is something nobody can or even needs to learn during just one training course. That’s why we always say: If you only remember one thing from a training, remember that you can always contact us – we’ll help you forward.

Whether you’re wondering if something you’ve noticed could relate to human trafficking, or want to know how to help someone who could be a victim of trafficking, you can contact the Assistance System team. We may just have the answers you’re looking for – and if we don’t, we’ll find the answers together. Contacting us is confidential, and we will not take any matters forward without the callers or the presumed victim’s consent.

As long as you remember this about human trafficking, you’ll do just fine.

Read more about the training courses on pages 12 – 13.

Many people think that identifying human trafficking is not related to their line of work in any way. After training, they see things differently.

CAREER COACHING FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING BEGINS



The first career coaching programme is targeted to men. At the end of the year, there will be a group for women. The coaching takes 10 weeks.
Stock photo


Leverage from
the EU
2014–2020



Euroopan unioni
Euroopan sosiaalirahasto

In career coaching, the focus is on providing individual support for working life to the victims

The career coaching for trafficking victims will begin at the turn of August and September for a group of men or persons identifying themselves as men. The coaching will be implemented in ten-week modules, during which the focus will be on the working life needs of individuals in particular.

In the organisation of coaching, the Assistance System co-operates with Victim Support Finland and the Monika Multicultural Women's Association. Efforts have also been made to promote early involvement of Employment and Economic

Development Offices and municipal employment operators.

“Career coaching is at a good stage. The content of coaching has been fully planned, and we have been able to attract five to eight participants to the first coaching programme. This is a suitable number for providing participants with as individual guidance and support as possible to improve their working life skills and to get them engaged in a fair working life both during the coaching programme and when the coaching is over,” says Project Manager **Veikko Mäkelä**.

The training also includes group activities, which include supporting the participants' management skills for everyday life, developing their IT

and Finnish language skills, as well as orientation lectures on Finnish working life. The participants will learn about labour rights and searching for a job and get support in building networks. A total of four coaching sessions will be held during the project. The next group will be targeted to women.

The IKUT project is supported by the European Social Fund (ESF). Funding for the project is granted by the Häme Centre for Economic Development, Transport and Environment.

Further information on the project,

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EXPLOITATION CONTINUES IN RISK SECTORS



In Finland, once again, exploitation was observed in the restaurant and cleaning sectors in particular. Stock photo.

During the first half of 2021, the Assistance System admitted 109 new clients assessed to have potentially fallen victim to human trafficking. Of them, 45 may have been subjected to human trafficking or related crimes in Finland, whereas in the case of 64 clients, the exploitation had taken place abroad.

The persons most commonly admitted into the Assistance System had been subjected to forced labour or other forms of labour exploitation (57 persons). Of the new clients, 28 had fallen victim to trafficking related to sexual exploitation and 19 had been forced into marriage. Three persons

had become victims of human trafficking related to coercion into criminal activity.

In addition to the 109 victims of human trafficking, 22 minor children of victims were admitted into the Assistance System.

The same high-risk sectors still highlighted

In Finland, 22 people had fallen victim to forced labour or other forms of labour exploitation.

Exploitation was still observed especially in the already familiar risk sectors, the restaurant and cleaning business. However, individual cases

of exploitation were also observed in other sectors.

Victims of human trafficking related to sexual exploitation in Finland (13 persons) were most commonly exploited in prostitution.

Three persons had been exploited by coercing them into criminal activities in Finland.

Victims identified by various parties

People fallen victim to human trafficking outside Finland were most often referred to the Assistance System by the Finnish Immigration Service. Persons

exploited in Finland, on the other hand, were mostly admitted into the Assistance System through the guidance of Victim Support Finland, or they contacted the system themselves.

A total of 19 different organisations had guided potential victims of human trafficking to seek the services of the Assistance System.

The Assistance System received 147 applications for admitting a person as a client of the Assistance System, which was 16 per cent less than in the previous year.

Without right of residence

During the first half of 2021, the Assistance System gave assistance to eight persons residing in Finland without a legal right of residence who had been subjected to exploitation indicating human trafficking in Finland.

They had been subject to forced labour or exploitation in prostitution in Finland.

In all the cases, the person had originally entered Finland legally. Typically, they had remained in Finland without a right of residence after their residence permit or visa expired or when their application for international protection had not succeeded.

Most of the new clients subjected to exploitation in Finland resided in Finland legally based on a residence permit, visa or citizenship. Furthermore, 11 asylum seekers also fell victim to exploitation in Finland.

In general, the new clients exploited outside Finland had arrived in Finland as asylum seekers.

Almost one thousand clients

On 30 June 2021, the total number of clients included within the scope

of the Assistance System for Victims of Human Trafficking was 992. Of them, 770 are assumed or identified victims of trafficking and 222 their minor children.

The majority of the clients in the Assistance System have been subjected to human trafficking related to forced labour (320 persons). Of the clients, 58% are women and girls, 42% are men and boys. They represent 63 different nationalities. There are also clients who are stateless or of unidentified nationality.

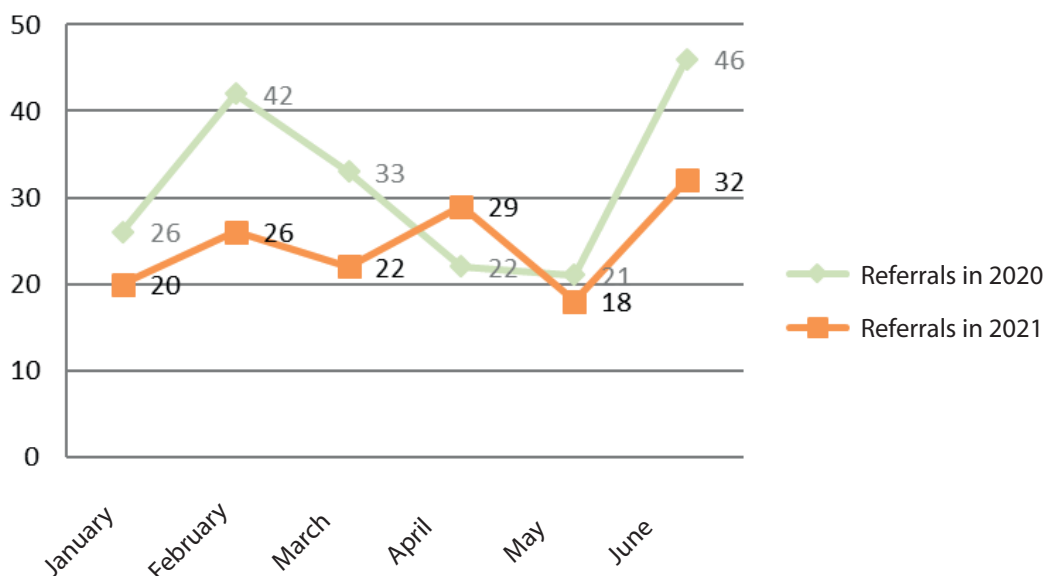
Of the clients, 37 are Finnish citizens.

64 of the clients were admitted to the Assistance System when they were minors. On 30 June 2021, 21 clients were minors.

The statistics presented on the following pages describe the persons proposed or admitted as clients into the Assistance System.

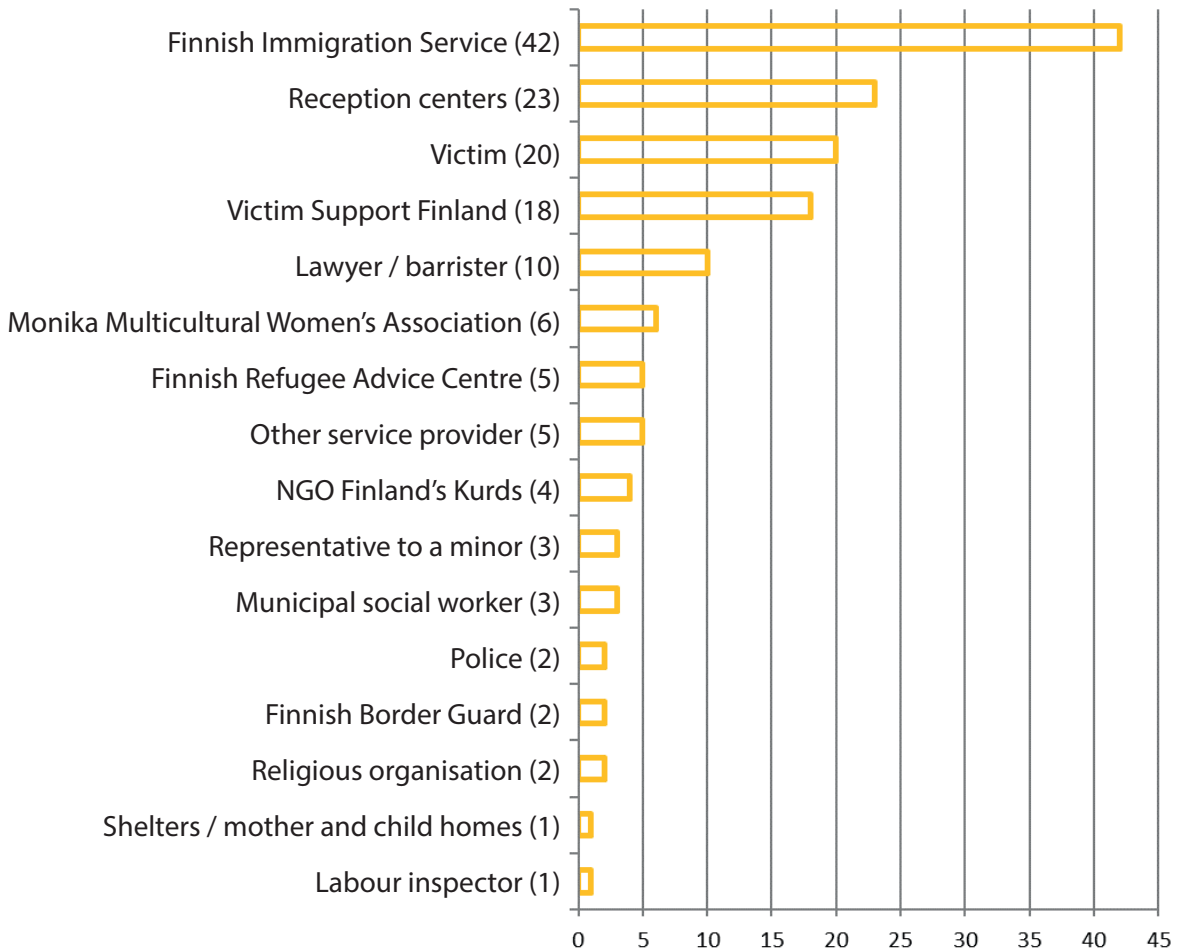
APPLICATIONS AND NEW CLIENTS AS STATISTICS 1 JANUARY – 30 JUNE 2021

Referrals 1.1. - 30.6.



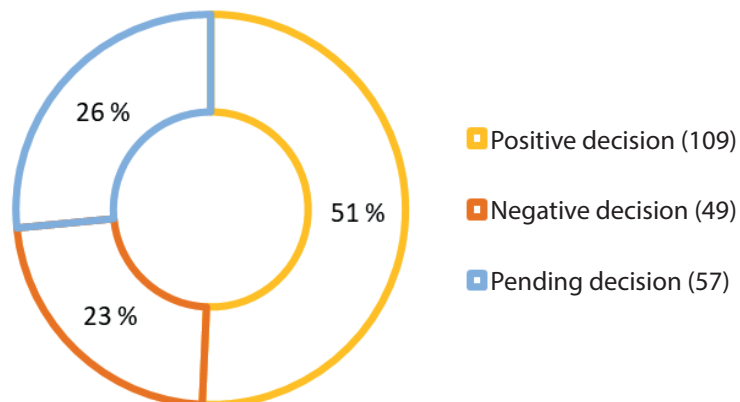
The number of applications, or referrals, during the first half of 2021 was about 16% lower than in the corresponding period last year. A total of 147 proposals for admission into the Assistance System were received, while the figure for the previous year was 176.

**Parties who referred victims to the NAS 1.1.-30-6-2021
(147 referrals)**

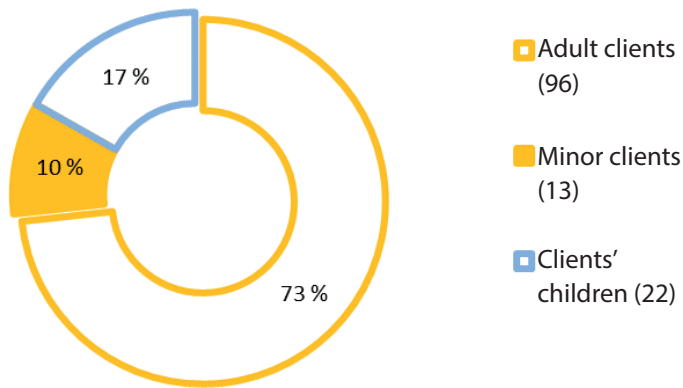


People fallen victim to human trafficking outside Finland were most often referred to the Assistance System by the Finnish Immigration Service. On the other hand, those exploited in Finland often sought services themselves or guided by Victim Support Finland. Legal counsels also identified persons who had been subjected to exploitation in Finland.

**Decisions on entry to the NAS 1.1. - 30.6.2021
(158 decisions)**



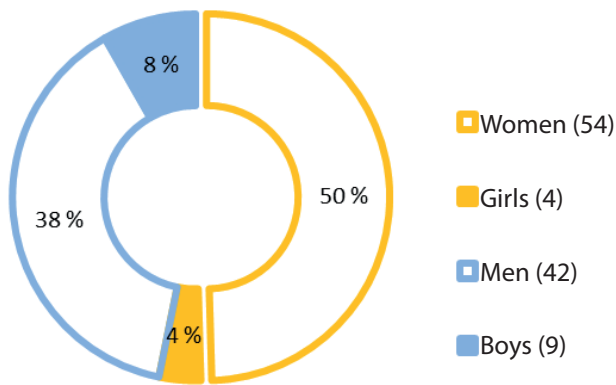
New clients (109 + 22)



Of the new clients, 13 were minors. The person most commonly admitted into the Assistance System was a young adult.

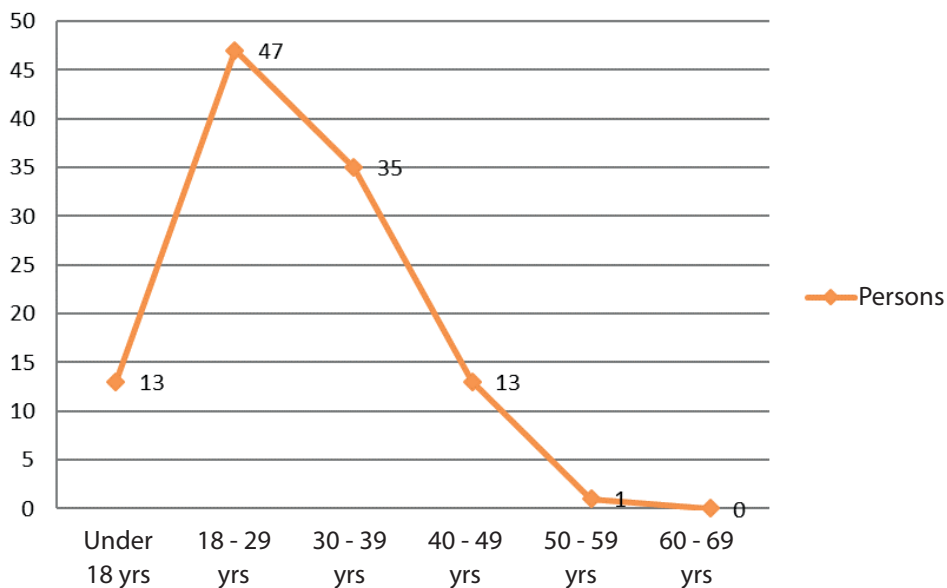
In all, 65 of the new clients had an asylum seeker background. Most of them had become victims of human trafficking outside Finland. In Finland, persons with an asylum seeker background had in most cases been subjected to either forced marriage or conditions indicating forced labour. In the case of female asylum seekers, the forced marriage had usually started in their home country and continued after the family had entered Finland.

New clients: gender distribution (109)

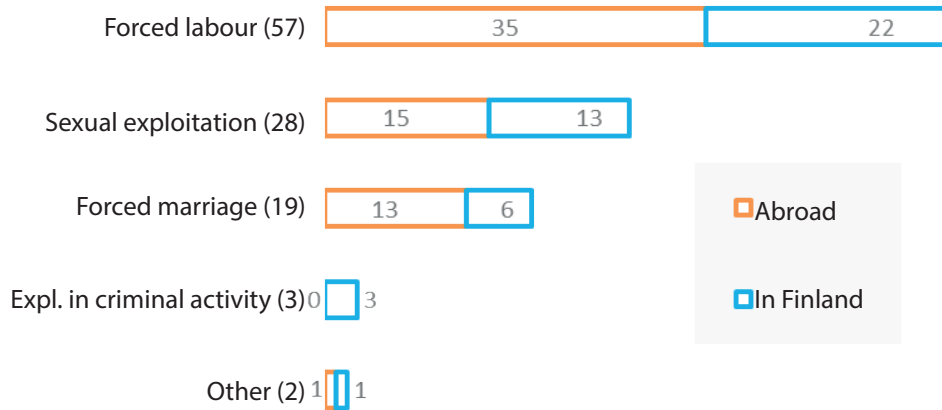


The new clients represent 30 different nationalities, the largest groups being from Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia and Finland.

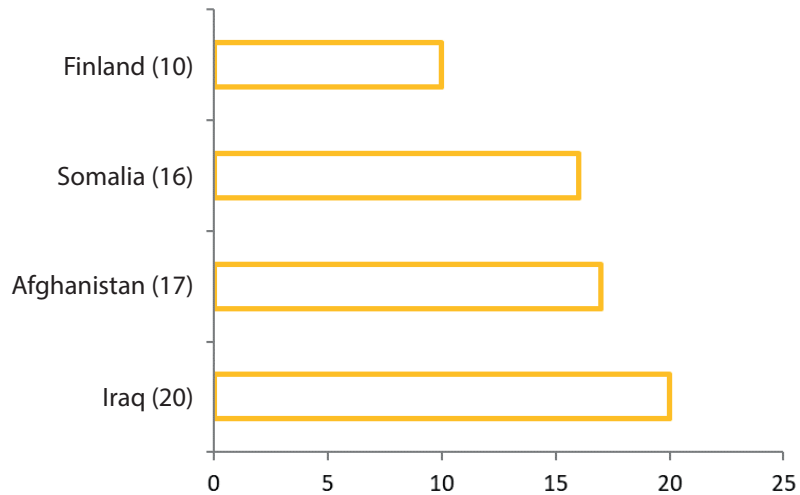
New clients (109) by age group



New clients (109): place and form of exploitation

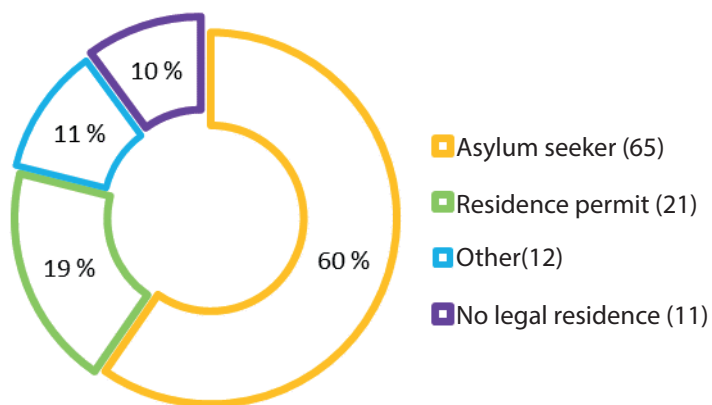


New clients (109): top nationalities*



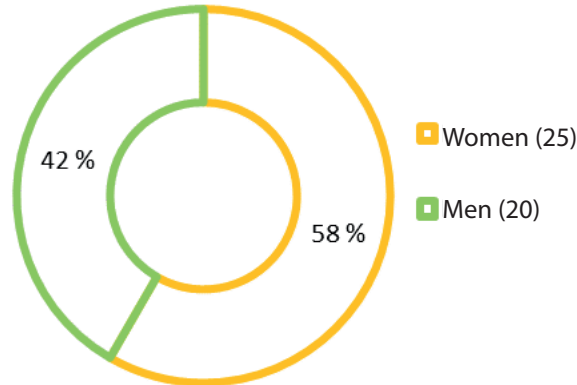
The new clients of the Assistance System represent 30 different nationalities. The table lists the nationalities represented by five or more clients.

New clients (109): residence status

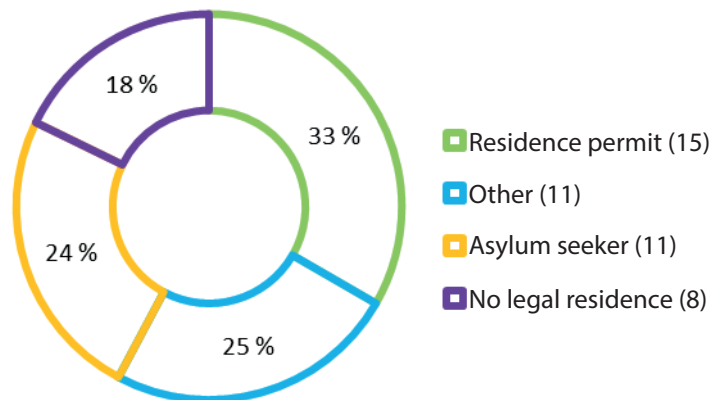


NEW CLIENTS WHO HAD BEEN EXPLOITED IN FINLAND

Victims exploited in Finland (45)

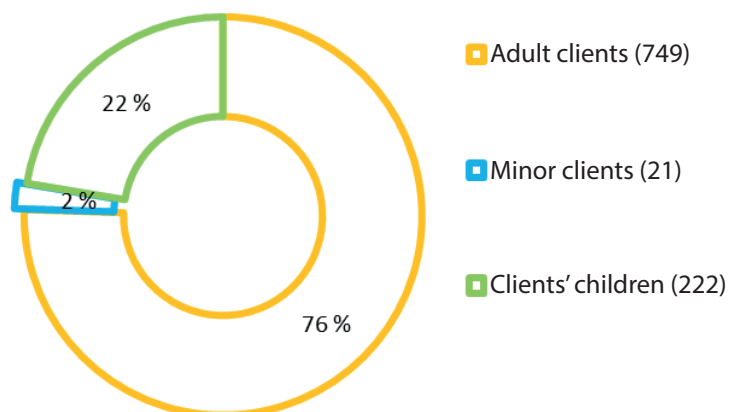


Victims exploited in Finland (45): residence status

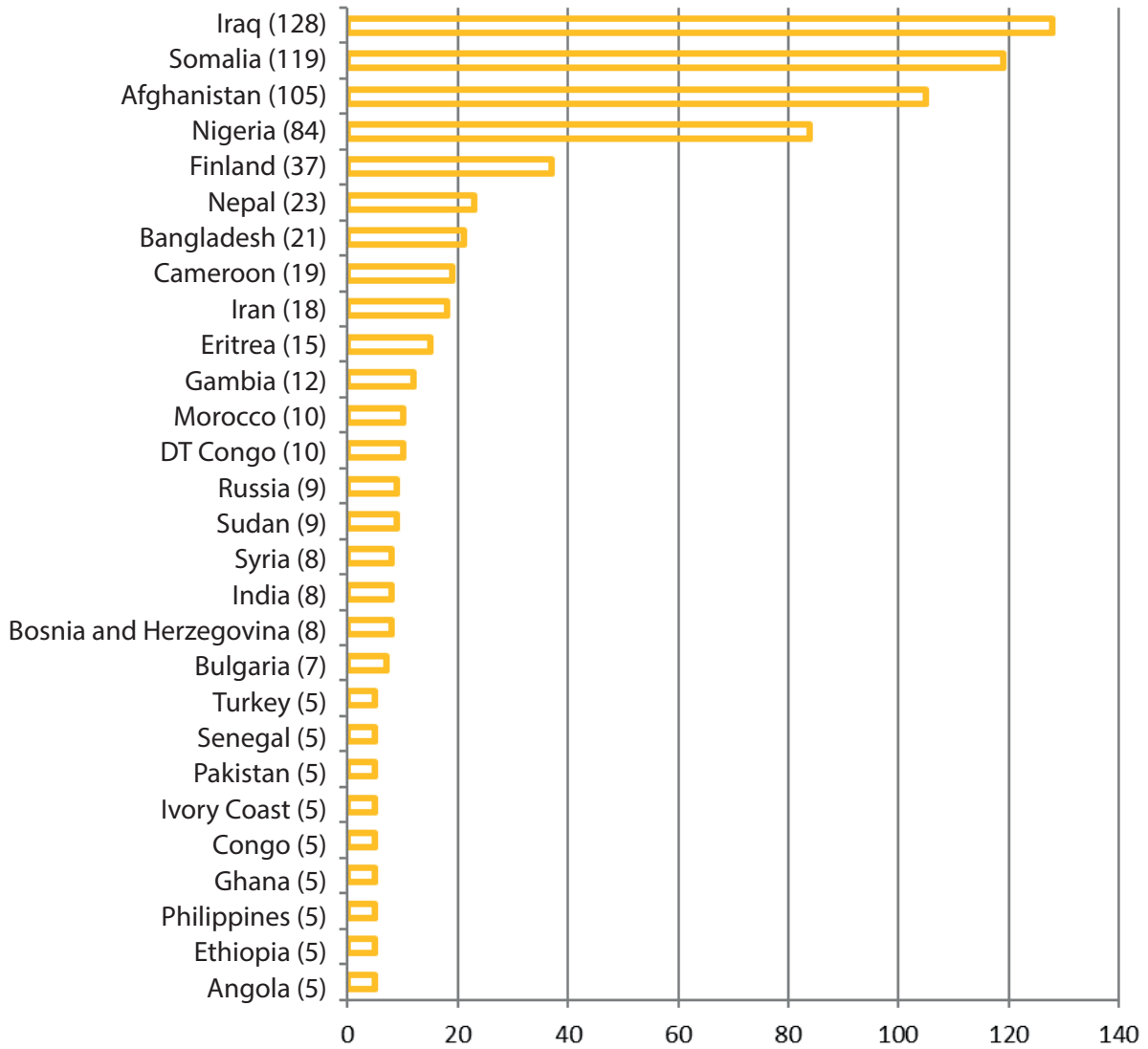


ALL CLIENTS IN THE NAS ON 30.6.2021

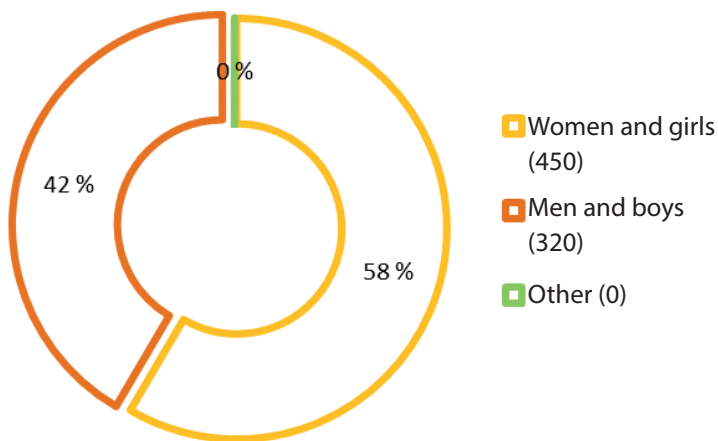
All clients in the NAS on 30.6.2021 (992)



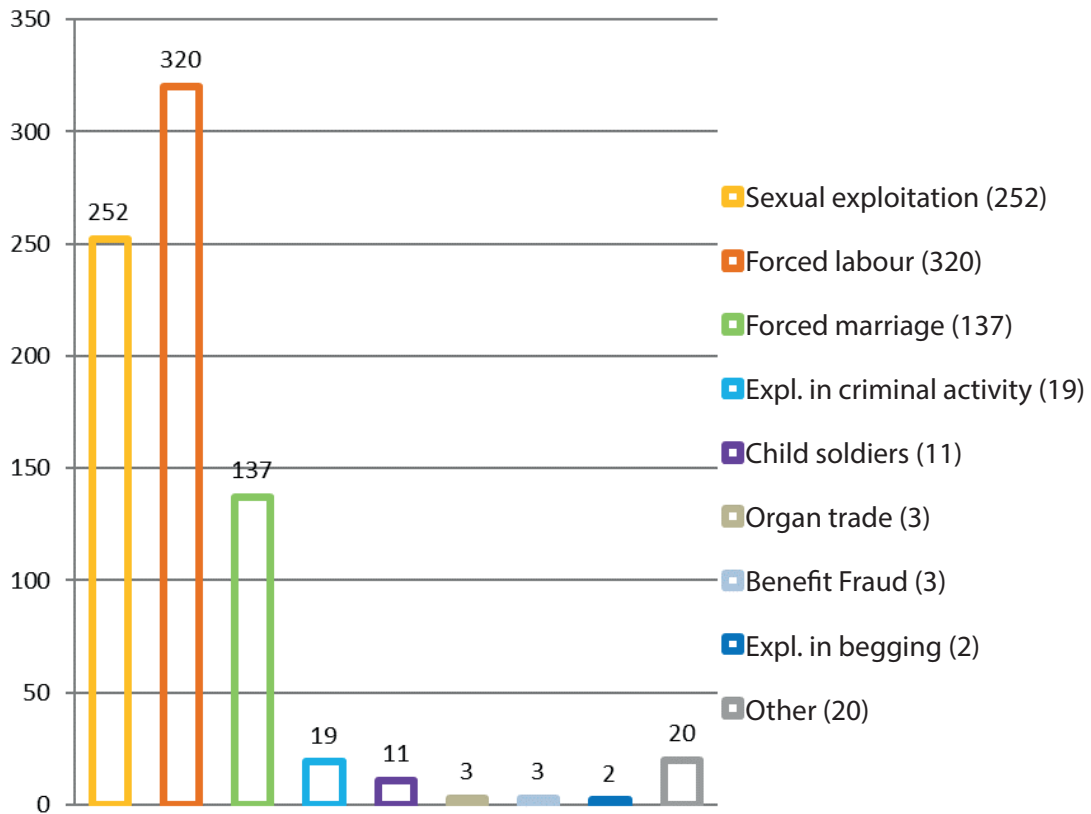
All clients (770): top nationalities



All clients (770): gender distribution



All clients (770): form of exploitation



In addition, three persons acting as witnesses in criminal proceedings related to human trafficking offences have been admitted as clients.

IT NEVER HURTS TO LEARN MORE

Do you want to learn more about human trafficking? On the next page, we present three training courses provided free of charge that are open to all.

The Assistance System for Victims of Human Trafficking team is constantly involved in planning and implementing various forms of training related to human trafficking. The training courses are usually targeted to the authorities or the network combating human trafficking.

However, the three web-based training programmes presented in the following are suitable for anyone. You can follow the free training courses online at your own pace, and you can choose to view only part of them or study the complexities of human trafficking in greater depth and earn two ECTS credits.



For more information on these and future training courses, please contact the Assistance System.

The Assistance System team wishes you effective study sessions!

Identifying human trafficking in the field of security and criminal sanctions

Where? The university of applied sciences course open to all will begin on the Laurea University of Applied Sciences website at laurea.fi in autumn 2021.

Duration: 5 modules, 2 ECTS credits

The Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), intended for students and professionals in the field of security and criminal sanctions, is open and free of charge to anyone wishing to deepen their knowledge of trafficking in persons or to learn at least the basics of the matter.

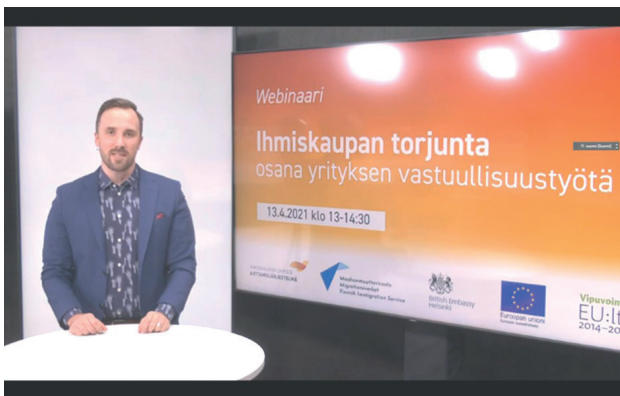
The course is offered both in Finnish and English.

The course includes the modules: 1. Human trafficking as a phenomenon; 2. Forms of human trafficking;



3. Identifying and encountering victims of human trafficking; and 4. The guidance and service system for victims of human trafficking. The fifth module contains written material for deepening the knowledge.

The lecturer is Senior Adviser **Terhi Tafari** (M.L.)



Combating human trafficking as part of corporate responsibility work

Where? YouTube

Duration: 1 h 30 min

In the webinar "Combating human trafficking as part of corporate responsibility work", four experts in the field of accountability and HR from Finland and the UK explain how companies can combat human trafficking in different sectors.

The webinar addresses issues such as how victims of human trafficking have been employed in both the UK and Finland, how technology solutions and innovations can be utilised to combat human trafficking, and what tools companies have at their disposal to prevent human trafficking and to take the risk into account. The webinar is moderated by **Nikodemus Solitander** from Hanken School of Economics.

In the photo, Project Manager **Veikko Mäkelä**.

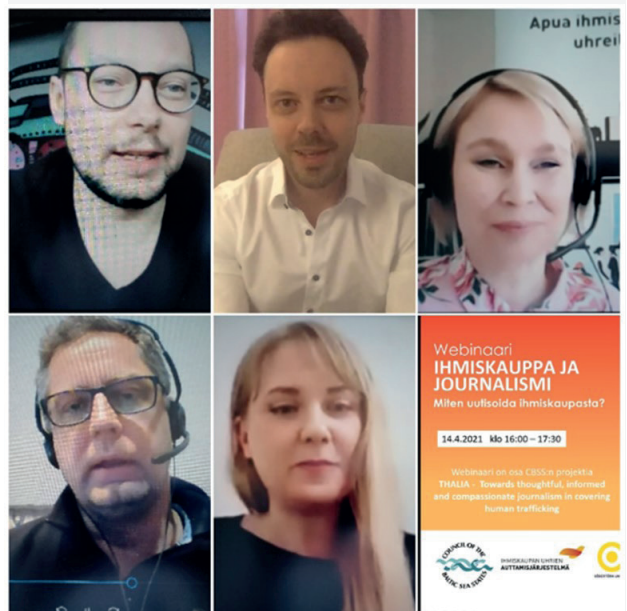
Human trafficking and journalism – how to report about human trafficking?

Where? YouTube

Duration: 1 h 35 min

The panel discussion specifically aimed at journalists and media students discusses what kind of advantages could be achieved and disadvantages caused by reporting on human trafficking. Journalists **Paavo Teittinen** (HS) and **Antti Kuronen** (YLE) talk about, for example, their encounters with trafficking victims. **Pia Marttila** from Victim Support Finland brings the perspective of a person providing support to the victims to the discussion, and **Pekka Hätönen** (Helsinki Police Department) represents the police. Senior Adviser **Terhi Tafari** (Assistance System) acts as the introductory speaker and panel moderator.

A link to the panel is available on request. Please contact: terhi.tafari@migri.fi.



ASSISTANCE SYSTEM PERSONNEL

The Assistance System has four offices in Finland

The **Helsinki office** personnel include a social worker, a social counsellor and two senior advisers.

Personnel working at the **Lappeenranta office** include two social counsellors, a public health nurse, a senior adviser, an adviser, and the Director and Deputy Director of the Joutseno Reception Centre.

One senior adviser works at the **Tampere office** and one social counsellor at the **Oulu office**.

In summer 2021, there are two university trainees working in the Assistance System, one in Helsinki and one in Lappeenranta.

Both the senior advisers and social services professionals do mobile work and travel all around

Finland to attend to clients' affairs, provide training, and take part in various networking events and seminars, where they give talks and discuss phenomena and issues related to human trafficking. Even though the work has been much less mobile due to the coronavirus situation, clients have still been met throughout the spring and summer of 2021, while taking the safety of both parties into account.

The Assistance System team also includes the IKUT project manager and project employee, who are based in Helsinki.

In addition to client work, the Assistance System serves as a centre of excellence for identifying and assisting victims of human trafficking and participates in training and consultation tasks. All employees of the assistance system participate in these tasks.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information, please contact:

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(on holiday from 26 July 2021)

and

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