



Forced labour – new forms of exploitation linked to forced criminality

Dr Julia Muraszekiewicz



DR. JULIA MURASZKIEWICZ

Head of Programme for Exploitation and Violence at Trilateral Research

Lecturer at University of Amsterdam

1 PhD

2 books

30+ publications


4 years working at safe houses

Co-designed 3 AI products for fighting TIP

15 large research THB projects

Trainer on TIP issues

Evaluator of national legislation and policy



Sva Toch

5 d · 🌐

Job Vacancy For Indian, Sri Lanka, Africa People,Nepal

Position: Online Customer Services.

Salary: First Month \$800 to 1200s

100\$ on full attendance + commission

Requirement: Good command in English and Computer typing speed 30 WPM

Working hours: 12 hours / meal time 2.5 hours.

Holiday: 2 days in months. Contract 1 year.

Noted: It's freedom. You can go out after duty and day off, company room outside

Company provide Food and Accommodation.

Benefits: Company arrange Visa and Work Permit.

If have visa expire company also can do visa for you but only if you have bussiness visa expire.

Working Location: polpet Province, Cambodia.

Contact:@jassi_leo

👍 2


💬 10 comments

👍 Like

💬 Comment

🔗 Share

View more comments



Emmanuela Endam

I'm interested!


5 d

👍 Like

🗨️ Reply

🔗 Share

👉 View all 2 replies



Shemshat Shemsiyeva

Interested

4 d

👍 Like

🗨️ Reply

🔗 Share

👉 View all 2 replies

👉 View all 2 replies

👍 Like

🗨️ Reply

🔗 Share

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), forced labour is:

“All work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the person has not offered himself or herself voluntarily.”



- Trafficking for forced criminality (or for exploitation in criminal activities) can be understood as trafficking in persons for the purpose of exploitation of victims through forcing or otherwise compelling them to commit criminal acts for economic or other gains of traffickers or exploiters.
- Forced criminal activities can constitute forced labour when they involve coercion or threats and the person has not voluntarily engaged in the activity.
- Examples include:
 - Drug cultivation and trafficking
 - Theft and shoplifting
 - Benefit or welfare fraud
 - Counterfeit goods production
 - Online scams and romance fraud



Case study: Online Scam Centers

The act

- Many victims are initially drawn in by deceptive online job ads or personal invitations from friends.
- Once recruited, victims are transported—sometimes across borders—under false pretences. This movement may be transnational, involving illegal border crossings, or internal, as victims are relocated within the country. For victims recruited from Africa and Europe, Dubai has emerged as a key transit hub for those eventually transported to scam compounds in Southeast Asia.

The means

- Deception and abuse of vulnerability are key. Victims are often drawn in by the promise of high-paying jobs, with traffickers taking advantage of their financial desperation or lack of employment opportunities.
- Once in the centres, victims are isolated, monitored, and subjected to both physical and psychological threats, including violence, if they refuse to participate in the scam operations.
- Coercive measures, such as confining individuals in cramped quarters with barred windows to prevent escapes are common.

The purpose

- The "purpose" of trafficking, as defined by the Palermo Protocol, is exploitation. In this case, the goal is financial profit from the forced labour of the victims.
- Many victims (primarily women) are subjected to additional crimes, including sexual assault and rape

“They provided computer training courses for me and others for a few weeks and during that time I didn’t know what type of business they were doing. Only when they started putting me to work then I realise that it was to scam innocent people.”

An East African survivor who was recruited in Dubai and enslaved in scam centres in Laos and Myanmar

“For those who could not meet their targets, life would become a nightmare. They were beaten, subjected to electric shocks to their genitals, and in some cases even had their nails extracted.”

Who are the victims?

- Expanding to **non-Chinese speakers**
- Using **translation tools** to scam English-speaking victims
- **Prefer basic IT skills**
- Economically disadvantaged **and** affluent

Online Scam Centres: A Dual Criminal Threat

Trafficked individuals inside scam centres:

- Forced to commit fraud under threats and violence
- Suffer debt bondage, physical abuse, torture, and even rape
- Trapped in inhumane conditions — a clear case of forced labour

Global victims targeted by scams

- Investment scams
- Romance fraud
- Cryptocurrency scams

☞ As noted by INTERPOL, scam centres represent both a form of trafficking and a global cy

Importance of the non-punishment principle

‘The criminalization of trafficked persons is commonplace, even in situations where it would appear obvious that the victim was an unwilling participant in the illegal act.’

Thank You