

# Trafficking and labor exploitation of migrant children and the Egyptian case in Milan



*Summer School "Economic, social and cultural rights of migrant children in the European Union (A. A 2021)*

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# Definition

A child victim of trafficking is every individual under the age of 18 recruited, transported, transferred, held or received for the purpose of exploitation, either inside or outside a country, with or without coercion, deceit, abuse of power or other forms of abuse.

Article 3 of the Additional Protocol to the United Nations Convention Against Crime transnational organization to prevent, suppress and punish the trafficking in people, especially women and children.



# 1- Forced labor



can be imposed on adults and children, by State authorities, by private enterprises or by individuals In domestic work, construction, agriculture, manufacturing, forced begging etc...

Forced labor and labor exploitation, in general, are all situations where there is no respect for the normal and respectful relationship between employer and employees.

## 2- Sexual exploitation

are all forms of child prostitution, the involvement of the child in sexual activities other, offering or promising money or any remuneration or advantage, also aimed at third parties, but also child pornography.



### 3- Services early marriage



is defined as a marriage of a child before the age of 18 and refers to both formal marriages and informal unions, that affects both girls and boys, but it affects girls disproportionately. Child marriage is never consensual, but it is often decided by the parents of the child. It is the result of the interplay of economic and social forces. In communities where the practice is prevalent, marrying a girl as a child is part of a cluster of social norms and attitudes that reflect the low value accorded to the human rights of girls.

## 4- Practices similar to slavery and servitude

slavery is a condition that limits totally the life of a subject, it consists in exercising over a person powers equal to the right of ownership over objects, while servitude is a condition that limits the life of a subject for shorter performances that can be of a sexual nature, related to work or begging activities.



## 5- Removal of organs and human



trafficking persists around the world, the hotspots include China, India, Pakistan, Turkey, Brazil, Nepal, the Philippines, Kosovo, Iran, and former Soviet states in Eastern Europe. Forced organ harvesting and trafficking are crimes in which organs are taken from victims with coercion or without informed consent and sold illegally, often making their way into the organ transplant market.

# The causes

Children may be driven into work for various reasons, between Causes and conditions of Child Labour, most often, there are:

- Families face financial challenges or uncertainty – whether due to poverty, sudden illness of a caregiver;
- Families face job loss of a primary wage earner;
- Children are migrants or refugees (many of whom have been uprooted by conflict, disaster or poverty), especially if they are migrating alone or taking irregular routes with their families.



# The conditions

The conditions are tragic: Child labor and trafficking situation could result in extreme bodily and mental harm, and even death, can lead to slavery and sexual or economic exploitation, children are often subjected to violence, abuse and other human rights violations, some may be forced to break the law, and in nearly every case, it cuts children off from schooling and health care, restricting their fundamental rights and threatening their futures.

# The consequences

The consequences of the covid 19 pandemic crisis did not lead to a reduction of the phenomenon. In 2020, around the world there were approximately 160 million children and adolescents, 63 million girls and 97 million boys, forced to work (1 minor out of 10), which is 8.9 million more than in 2016. The same was true for other forms of exploitation, the pandemic crisis and the consequent economic crisis have made everyone and especially children much more vulnerable and easy victims of trafficking and exploitation.

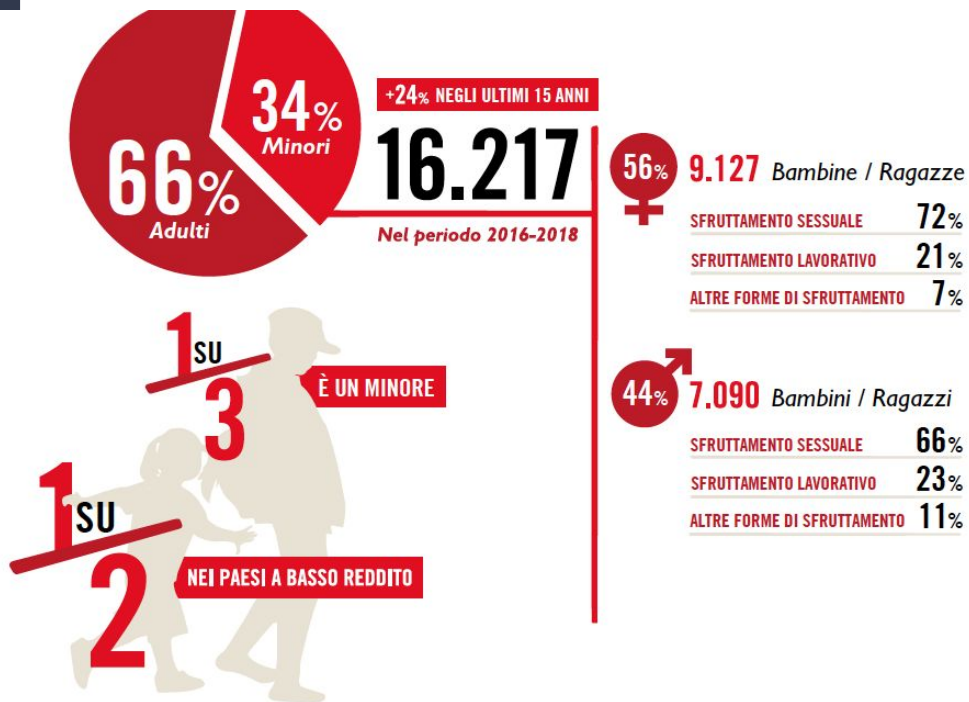
# 50.000

## VITTIME RILEVATE di tratta e sfruttamento NEL MONDO

*Individuate e ingannate dalle reti criminali  
sulla base delle necessità economiche,  
aggravate dalle conseguenze del Covid-19*

*Nel periodo 2016-2018*

Trafficking and sexual exploitation, in particular of minors, are phenomena that are difficult to emerge due to the enormous interests of traffickers and the insufficient commitment of governments to monitoring and action of prevention and contrast.



## FORME DI SFRUTTAMENTO

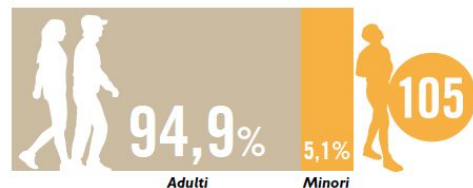
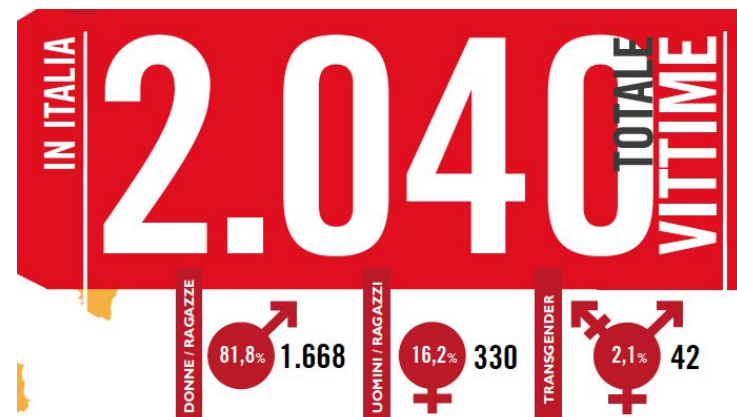


SFRUTTAMENTO SESSUALE 78,4%

SFRUTTAMENTO LAVORATIVO 13,8%

ALTRE FORME DI SFRUTTAMENTO 7,8%

Between 2016 and 2019 there is a net prevalence of Nigerian victims (202, of which 53 minors equal to 26%), followed by Romanian ones (87, of which 6 minors equal to 7%) and Italian (71, of which 12 minors equal to 16.9%). Present, but with lower numbers, victims from Bulgaria (17), Morocco (9), Tunisia (7) and Moldova (6).



Report Save the children "Piccoli schiavi invisibili 2021. Fuori dall'ombra: le vite sospese dei figli delle vittime di sfruttamento."

[https://s3.savethechildren.it/public/files/uploads/pubblicazioni/piccoli-schiavi-invisibili-2021\\_0.pdf](https://s3.savethechildren.it/public/files/uploads/pubblicazioni/piccoli-schiavi-invisibili-2021_0.pdf)

# Egyptians case:

## General context

Ministero dell'interno , cruscotto statistico giornaliero  
Ministero del lavoro, report MSNA

### Egyptians arrived:

2021: 8.352 12% of 67.040

2022 (june): 4.155 15% of 26.922

### Countries of origin by mediterranean rout:

1-Bangladesh 4.606

2-Egypt 4.155

3-Tunisia 3.807

### UMC present in Italy (March 2022):

Total: 14.558

1-Ukrainians: 5.122

2-Egyptians: 2.225

3-Bangladeshi: 1.407

### UMC age:

17 years old: 6.712

7-14 years old: 3.214

16 years old: 2.670



# Migration factors:

**PUSH:** family economic pressures

**PULL:** picture painted through social networks of the life of other children of the same age already in Italy



# Case Study

**Where:** Milan

**Reception center:** SAI children (system of reception and integration for Unaccompanied Migrant Children)

**Numbers:** 18 children, 8 Egyptians (44%)

**Common factors:**

- the will to work as soon as possible to satisfy family pressures and repay past debts (8.000€ to 20.000€)
- a solid network of friends and relatives already in Italy
- all of them have arrived in the community over 17 years old (**they left Egypt at 15/16 years old**)

**FAMILY STRATEGY!**

# Their requests

Many of them expressed the will to study or follow their job aspirations that may need professional unpaid training; however:

**1** is completing a full cycle of studies

**7** abandoned the italian lessons as soon as they found a job as bricklayers

The **family pressures** and the payments of the debts do not allow them to pursue their aspirations freely.





# Working conditions

**Job:** contractors, bricklayers

**Trial period:** 3/10 days, unpaid, no contract.

**Company owners:** part of the Egyptians network

**Contracts:** variable lengths, daily pay 45/60€, 9 hours.

**Safety:** 4 accidents reported within 3 month.

- arm cut
- untied ankle
- two falls from scaffolding

**Work environment:** fear of losing their jobs, demanding managers

**The italian labor market requires  
low-cost workers!**



# Legal Framework

## **CRC:**

- Art 3 The bests interest of the child
- art 6 full development
- Art 24 Health
- Art 29 Education

**CRC Art 32** right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.

**Charter on Fundamental Rights of the EU** art 24  
**UN Declaration on the Right to Development**

**Consitution of the Republic of Italy: ??**

# How to intervene?

**Social educators:** encouragement and dialogue...NOT ENOUGH!

**Risks:** deviant behaviors, voluntary abandonment of the reception system

**Considerations:**

-Egyptian transnational networks immense and either socially accepted or ignored.

-Italian need for low-cost workers

**Actions:**

Cutting this chain to protect young people, their education and integration processes

**How:**

Clear legal intervention by the Italian State and the improvement of the labour market regulations

Zeidan should be a  
chef, not a  
carpenter.

Thank You.

