

Ireland



Population: 4,250,163 (July 2010 est.)
Population Growth Rate: 1.102% (2010 est.)
Birth Rate: 14.1 births/1,000 population (2010 est.)
Life Expectancy: total population: 78.41 years; male: 75.76 years; female: 81.24 years (2010 est.)
Literacy Rate: total population: 99%; male: 99%; female: 99% (2003 est.)
Net Migration Rate: 4.71 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2009 est.)
Unemployment Rate: 12% (2009 est.)
Gross Domestic Product per Capita: \$42,200 (2009 est.)
Religions: Roman Catholic 87.4%, Church of Ireland 2.9%, other Christian 1.9%, other 2.1%, unspecified 1.5%, none 4.2% (2006 census)
Languages: English (official) is generally used, Irish (Gaelic or Gaeilge, official) is spoken mainly in areas along the western coast
Ethnic Groups: Irish 87.4%, other white 7.5%, Asian 1.3%, black 1.1%, mixed 1.1%, unspecified 1.6% (2006 census)
Capital: Dublin¹

Trafficking Routes

Ireland is a destination country for victims of forced labor from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Egypt, and the Philippines.² It is also a destination for women trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation from Nigeria, Cameroon, Kenya, Burundi, Malawi, Congo, Zimbabwe, Thailand, Brazil, Romania, and Lithuania. Women are trafficked and exploited in sex slavery in such large towns as Kilkenny, Waterford, Sligo, Athlone, Dundalk, Drogheda, Monaghan, and Donegal.³ Ireland has been reported as a transit country for children trafficked to the United Kingdom for prostitution and forced labor.⁴

Factors That Contribute to the Trafficking Infrastructure

Since the mid-1990s, Ireland has experienced an enormous demand for laborers due to economic expansion. The influx of migrants seeking employment has produced a situation where trafficking for forced labor and exploitative labor is common. Failure to regulate recruitment agencies has also been cited as a contributing factor in trafficking and exploitation. In addition, the improvements made under the 2006 Employment Permit Act, including the allowance of

¹ CIA, The World Factbook 2009, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ei.html>.

² *Human Trafficking*, IRISH TIMES, Oct. 20, 2008, available at: <http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/opinion/2008/1020/1224279465152.html>.

³ *Rural hell of Ireland's sex slaves*, Independent.ie, July 1, 2008, available at: <http://www.independent.ie/national-news/rural-hell-of-irelands-sex-slaves-1424709.html>

⁴ *Ireland named as a major route for child trafficking*, Independent.ie, Sept. 4, 2007, available at: <http://www.independent.ie/national-news/ireland-named-as-major-route-for-child-trafficking-1070794.html>

flexibility in changing jobs and seeking work permits for up to two years, may not be available to those most at risk of exploitation.⁵

Forms of Trafficking

Women are trafficked to Ireland to be sexually exploited in brothels and lap dancing clubs.⁶ Trafficking of migrants for the purpose of forced labor is also reported in such sectors as domestic work, the restaurant industry, construction, and agriculture.⁷ There have been reports of Ireland's facilitation of child trafficking.⁸

Government Responses

In 2008, the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act came into force and created separate offenses for trafficking in children for labor, sexual exploitation, and organ harvesting and trafficking in adults for the same purposes.⁹ Section 2(1) of the act stipulates that "A person who trafficks a child for the purposes of the exploitation of that child shall be guilty of an offence." Section 2(5) subjects violators to "imprisonment for life or a lesser term, and at the discretion of the court, to a fine." Section 3(1) mandates that "A person who trafficks a child for the purpose of sexual exploitation of the child shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable upon conviction on indictment to imprisonment for life or a lesser term, and at the discretion of the court, to a fine." According to section 4, anyone who trafficks an individual other than a child may be subject to life in prison and a fine.¹⁰

Currently, the 2008 Immigration, Residence, and Protection Bill is being considered before the Irish Parliament. Article 124 allows a victim of trafficking to be afforded "a period of 45 days" for recovery and reflection; this period is to allow victims to decide whether to assist law enforcement in the investigation and prosecution of their case. Victims may be granted six-month "temporary residence permissions" if it is determined that their assistance will be needed in legal proceedings.¹¹

The government initiated an Anti-Human Trafficking Unit under the Department of Justice to ensure that appropriate policies are implemented and sufficient services are offered to victims. The unit is responsible for putting the National Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Trafficking of Human Beings into practice; the plan was published in June 2009 and was designed to initiate Ireland's ratification of both the Council of Europe Convention on Action

⁵ MIGRANT RIGHTS CENTRE IRELAND, *NO WAY FORWARD, NO GOING BACK: IDENTIFYING THE PROBLEM OF TRAFFICKING FOR FORCED LABOUR IN IRELAND* (2006), available at: <http://www.mrci.ie/publications/documents/NoWayForward-NoGoingBack-TraffickingforforcedlabourinIreland.pdf>.

⁶ Father John Flynn, *Prostitution Fueling Exploitation of Women*, ZENIT, Dec. 3, 2007, available at: <http://www.zenit.org/article-21178?l=english>.

⁷ MIGRANT RIGHTS CENTRE IRELAND *supra* note 5.

⁸ *Child trafficking advice issued*, BBC NEWS, Aug. 28, 2007, available at: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/wales/6965945.stm.

⁹ Stephen Rogers, *Ireland a Target for Human Traffickers*, IRISH EXAMINER, June 7, 2008, available at: <http://www.examiner.ie/story/ireland/gbeyeyqloj/rss2/>

¹⁰ Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008, Ireland, available at: <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2008/en/act/pub/0008/index.html>.

¹¹ Immigration, Residence, and Protection Bill 2008, Ireland, § 125.7 available at: <http://www.oireachtas.ie/documents/bills28/bills/2008/0208/B0208D.pdf>

Against Trafficking in Human Beings and the Palermo Protocol. The plan also guarantees that Ireland approaches the problem of human trafficking by adhering to international best practice.¹²

Nongovernmental and International Organizations Responses

Law Centre (NI) is a nonprofit organization in Northern Ireland that seeks to protect individuals, including immigrants, against violations of human rights. In 2008, Law Centre (NI) published a leaflet, *Exploited*, in 12 different languages. *Exploited* alerts victims trafficked into Ireland about their right to protection and guides such individuals to Law Centre (NI) to seek further assistance. The organization provides copies of the leaflet to be distributed through migrant worker organizations, community groups, policy agencies, and health and social services.¹³

Ruhama is a Christian-based nongovernmental organization operating out of Dublin that seeks to remove women from lives of prostitution and forced sexual exploitation, often as the result of trafficking. Ruhama offers confidential counseling, accompanies victims throughout legal proceedings, and networks with other agencies to provide housing and welfare support. Ruhama personnel reach out to women on the streets, in health and drug clinics, and in prisons to make them aware of the availability of the group's services.¹⁴

Multilateral Initiatives

The Irish Congress of Trade Unions represents approximately 832,000 working individuals and has partnered with the International Trade Union Confederation, the European Trade Union Confederation, the Trade Union Advisory Committee, and 10 Global Union Federations to ensure fair treatment and equality. It also stands as a strong advocate for those subjected to child labor and forced labor.¹⁵

The Dublin-based NGO Concern Worldwide works to improve the quality of life for underprivileged and vulnerable groups in various countries throughout Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean. Initiatives have included vocational skills training for children, providing educational materials and instruction, and raising awareness of children's rights.¹⁶ A major goal of Concern Worldwide is the eradication of child labor; to that end, the NGO collaborates with such European organizations as People in Need from the Czech Republic, ACTED from France, and IBIS from Denmark in the international Stop Child Labor campaign. Concern Worldwide promotes the campaign by raising awareness of child labor, encouraging the public to avoid

¹² Department of Justice, Equality, and Law Reform, *Anti-Human Trafficking Measures*, <http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/WP09000005> (last visited Feb. 15, 2010).

¹³ Law Centers Federation, *Law Center (NI) launches Anti-Trafficking resource* (Dec. 11, 2008), <http://www.lawcentres.org.uk/news/detail/law-centre-ni-launches-anti-trafficking-resource/>

¹⁴ Ruhama, <http://ruhamaphp.users29.donhost.co.uk/index.php> (last visited Feb. 15, 2010).

¹⁵ Irish Congress of Trade Unions, *About Us*, <http://www.ictu.ie/globalsolidarity/about/ictu.html> (last visited Feb. 22, 2010).

¹⁶ CONCERN WORLDWIDE, ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2008, *available at*: http://www.concern.net/sites/concern.net/files/documents/annual-reports/Concern_AR_08.pdf.

products made with child labor and advocating for education to be made available without discrimination.¹⁷

Ireland, the United Kingdom, Poland, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Interpol, Europol, and Eurojust have joined a cooperative project, the G6 Human Trafficking Initiative. Members consent to sponsor awareness-raising campaigns among the public and law enforcement agencies. In Ireland, the Don't Close Your Eyes to Human Trafficking campaign commenced in October 2008 with the goal of persuading citizens to report any instances of trafficking to the Garda Síochána, the Republic of Ireland's police force.¹⁸

¹⁷ Stop Child Labour, *The Campaign*, <http://www.stopchildlabour.net/campaign.php> (last visited Feb. 22, 2010).

¹⁸ Department of Justice, Equality, and Law Reform, *Anti-Human Trafficking Measures*, <http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/WP09000005> (last visited Feb. 22, 2010).