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UN-ACT ON TWITTER:

- RT @GAATW_IS: #climatechange pushes people into forced #migration but links to #humantrafficking rarely explored - new article ATR [https://...](https://...)
  1:31AM
- RT @TraffikNews_de: Sex Work and Human Trafficking: The Case for Agency and Empowerment - UN ACT | [https://t.co/Xalue2ogZ2](https://t.co/Xalue2ogZ2) 12:21PM
- RT @DanielMurphy0: Thailand's perpetual #migration policy chaos helps generate conditions ripe for exploitation of migrant workers [https://...](https://...)
  11:34AM
Bilateral Cooperation between Cambodia and China

UN-ACT supported the Governments of Cambodia and China in strengthening their bilateral cooperation against human trafficking during a joint meeting in Anhui, China. The two sides agreed to establish a hotline including focal points to facilitate information exchange on investigations and referrals. Further, each side will set up a national task force responsible for overseeing the implementation of their bilateral agreement, and report back on progress at annual meetings between the two sides.

UN-ACT Sharing Experiences of COMMIT at Regional Parliamentarians Conference on Combatting Human Trafficking

UN-ACT supported the Regional Parliamentarians Conference on Combatting Human Trafficking, sharing the experiences of COMMIT in the implementation and monitoring of a regional cooperation framework. Parliamentarians can play a key role in anti-trafficking efforts by reviewing, amending or enacting legislation against
human trafficking, or by holding their respective governments accountable to addressing and ending such forms of exploitation. A Statement of Commitment that was unanimously adopted at the meeting can be accessed [here](#).

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**Development of National Victim Protection Guidelines in Lao PDR**

The National Victim Protection Guidelines in Lao PDR, which have been developed with support from UN-ACT and other partners, are close to being finalized. Following further revisions by the Lao Women's Union, the Lao government will be organizing a stakeholder meeting with development partners in mid-2017 to discuss latest progress. The guidelines will be supported by Standard Operating Procedures to be developed in 2018, and are aligned to the country's current National Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

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**Myanmar Case Workers and NGO Representatives Visit Thai Shelters**

In the framework of the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT), which UN-ACT serves as Secretariat, case workers from the Myanmar government and representatives from Save the Children and World Vision in Myanmar visited a series of governmental shelters in Thailand. The purpose was to
facilitate the return/repatriation of Myanmar trafficking survivors, provide psychosocial support, and support communication between shelter staff and the Myanmar clients. Discussions also took place on how to further strengthen bilateral cooperation and services provided to trafficked persons.

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**Irregular Migrants, Refugees or Victims of Human Trafficking? The Complexities of Mixed Migration in Counter-Trafficking**

Sebastian Boll, Regional Research Specialist, UN-ACT
UN-ACT-Freedom Collaborative Webinar Series, 23 February 2017

UN-ACT Webinar on the Complexities of Mixed Migration in Counter-Trafficking

UN-ACT delivered a webinar on ‘Irregular Migrants, Refugees or Victims of Human Trafficking? The Complexities of Mixed Migration in Counter-Trafficking’. The full webinar including the slides used can be accessed on the [Freedom Collaborative website](http://example.com).

**LATEST UN-ACT BLOGS & ANALYSES**

UN-ACT routinely publishes analyses and opinion pieces on latest trends and developments in anti-trafficking. Here are links and summaries of our most recent blogs

"Sex Work and Human Trafficking: The Case for Agency and Empowerment" provides conceptual reflections on the nexus between sex work and human trafficking, discusses a series of vulnerability factors to human trafficking and introduces an empowerment approach on how to prevent and address exploitation in commercial sex. This is based on the understanding that forms of deception, coercion and exploitation are difficult to identify without the involvement of those affected, and so interventions are needed that allow trafficked persons to come forward and raise concerns without fears of adverse repercussions.
NEW RESOURCES ON THE UN-ACT WEBSITE

UN-ACT maintains a comprehensive resource center related to human trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region and Southeast Asia on its website, covering research, tools & guidelines, laws & agreements, and other publications. Below is a list of latest additions to the resource center including brief summaries and links for downloads.

IN ‘RESEARCH’

**The Myanmar Dilemma: Can the garment industry deliver decent jobs for workers in Myanmar?** - Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO), Action Labor Rights (ALR), Labour Rights Defenders and Promoters (LRDP), 2017

Research analysing human and labour rights risks and actual violations of these in the export-orientated garment industry in Myanmar. The research focused on 12 factories in and around Yangon, Bago and Pathein.


Research based on 285 interviews with trafficked fishermen and other data sources providing a glimpse into a far-reaching and well-entrenched criminal industry operating alongside the legitimate fishing industry, and often overlapping.

**Moving Towards Decent Sex Work** - Empower, 2016

Research applying existing definitions and recognized standards of decent work, forced labour, unacceptable forms of work and others to the current real working conditions in the Thai sex industry, and extrapolating the number of sex workers working across that continuum.
IN 'TOOLS & GUIDELINES’

**Victim Identification and Referral Mechanisms: Common Guidelines for the Greater Mekong Sub-region - COMMIT, 2016**
Guidelines developed to assist victim identification and support services through referral mechanisms in COMMIT.

**Identifying Victims of Trafficking and Associated Forms of Exploitation: Common Indicators for First Responders - COMMIT, 2016**
Set of indicators to support rapid and accurate victim identification as developed by the ASEAN and COMMIT Member States, with support from ILO, IOM, AAPTIP and UN-ACT, and adopted by COMMIT at its Senior Officials Meeting in 2016.

**A Toolkit for Guidance in Designing and Evaluating Counter-Trafficking Programmes - ICAT, 2016**
Toolkit for practitioners to put sectoral learning to work and improve their counter-trafficking programmes. The tools provided are intended to help strengthen programme design, inform planning for evaluation, and engender formative and summative learning.

IN 'LAWS & AGREEMENTS’

**Bilateral Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding on Migration of Low Skilled Workers: A Review - ILO, 2016**
Review analyzing trends in developments of Bilateral Agreements (BAs) and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with a focus on low-skilled migration; identifying good practices in BAs and MOUs based on specific criteria drawn from international norms; and formulating policy advice and recommendations based on the findings.

IN 'PUBLICATIONS’

**Pirates and Slaves: How Overfishing in Thailand Fuels Human Trafficking and the Plundering of Our Oceans - Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF), 2015.**
Report bringing together a detailed explanation of how ecosystem decline generates pressures fuelling the widespread use of slavery throughout an industry.

**Situational Analysis of the Commercial Exploitation of Children: Thailand - ECPAT International and UNICEF, 2015**
Report investigating and analysing the magnitude, nature, context and trends of the commercial sexual exploitation of children in Thailand.
**The role of ASEAN labour attaches in the protection of migrant workers** - ILO, 2015
Policy brief discussing the role and functioning of labour attaches in enhancing the protection of migrant workers in ASEAN. It also outlines examples from different countries and highlights available support for labour attaches, including for capacity building purposes.

**Sex workers speak. Who listens?** - Beyond Trafficking and Slavery (BTS), 2016
A volume of contributions addressing the violence, exploitation, abuse, and trafficking present in the sex industries, from the perspective of sex workers themselves.

**UN-ACT FACEBOOK HIGHLIGHTS**

UN-ACT maintains an active Facebook presence with frequent updates on key news stories, the latest from UN-ACT as well as our partners. Below are some of the highlights from Facebook over the last few months

*Posted on 3 March 2017*

The exhibition ‘Behind Tin Walls’ by photographer Visarut ‘Pop’ Sankham opens at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand - FCCT today. ‘Behind Tin Walls’ documents the lives of migrant workers in Bangkok as they reside in temporary tin-walled structures whilst building Bangkok’s booming luxury condominium industry. If you missed the exhibition, there is more on Pop [here](#).
Freedom Collaborative (FC) celebrated its one-year anniversary! FC brings together stakeholders from around the world to end human trafficking. It is an online, community-based platform offering a newsfeed, a global community of organizations, access to research, programmatic and legal resources, and more.

Since its launch, FC has seen over 380 organizations and 1,775 individuals from 43 countries join the community. In light of this celebration, the team interviewed partners from the anti-trafficking community in Thailand including UN-ACT to get their thoughts on the importance of collaboration. View the video [here](#).

Also, UN-ACT will be facilitating a series of webinars on FC in the coming months. We started on 23 February 2017 with a discussion on the complexities of mixed migration flows in counter-trafficking.

Executive actions taken by the new US administration have raised the volume of discussions across the world about the status of refugees and attitudes towards immigration.
UN-ACT has been disheartened to see a global dialogue that is increasingly focused on “security” concerns at the expense of refugees and forced migrants. As recently as September 2016 UN member states committed to protecting refugees and migrants through the New York declaration. It seems many of those promises have already been forgotten.

“Demonizing refugees or migrants offends profoundly against the values of dignity and equality for every human being, to which we have committed ourselves.” – New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants

“Refugees fleeing conflict and persecution are finding more and more borders closed and increasingly restricted access to the protection they need and are entitled to receive, according to international refugee law” - António Guterres, UN Secretary-General.

Read the following statements to know more: IOM-UNHCR, António Guterres - UN Secretary-General, New York Declaration

CALL FOR PAPERS
Life after Trafficking
Anti-Trafficking Review
Guest Editors: Denise Brennan and Sine Plambech

Post on 23 January 2017

Looking to have your analysis on human trafficking and the responses thereto published? The Anti-Trafficking Review (ATR) is a peer-reviewed journal on human trafficking published by the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW).

The ATR is calling for submissions for an upcoming special issue, titled “Life after Trafficking”, which will critically explore the poverty and legal limbo that many experience after exiting a situation of exploitation.

The deadline for submissions is July 9, 2017, with the special edition due for publication in April 2018. You can find the full announcement here.
UN-ACT closely monitors news and developments on human trafficking, especially related to the Greater Mekong Sub-region and Southeast Asia. Below are some of the key stories that have been published in newspapers around the world over the last few months.

This is the story of Bangladesh migrant workers in Singapore who paid significant sums to be able to work in the city state only to find their wages withheld. They were concerned to face their families upon return given high expectations about financial support that the workers would be able to provide with salaries in Singapore. More [here](#).

“Huge cannabis farm in UK nuclear bunker was staffed by trafficked Vietnamese teenagers.” The title of this article sounds like the plot of a fiction movie, but sadly describes the real experiences of people in a trafficking pattern that has been around for at least a decade: young Vietnamese being deceived into highly exploitative, sometime forced labour on UK cannabis farms. UN-ACT has been partnering with the UK Embassy in Viet Nam to address this form of human trafficking. More [here](#).
“When freed, she was forced to leave her home in Martadi and was unaware of any settlement provisions and support services from the government. She was left to fend for herself and her children with no clear options for earning a decent living.”

This piece from Kathmandu Post highlights the importance of support and reintegration mechanisms for victims of forced labour. Even after being liberated, many remain highly vulnerable to exploitation, especially without necessary economic and social assistance. Read more here.

“Yet no matter how many migrants move to Pi Village or how many years they stay, their lives remain separate from those of native residents.” All too often migrant workers find themselves living on the periphery of society without access to the same housing, schools, or healthcare available to local residents. This piece shines a light on the challenging living conditions experienced by domestic migrants in the Pi Village on the outskirts of Beijing. More here.
UN-ACT’s next quarterly Regional Network Meeting will take place in Bangkok on 18 May 2017. The thematic focus is on the system of rapporteurs on human trafficking and how the counter-trafficking community can draw upon this to more effectively address exploitative practices. The meeting coincides with a visit to Bangkok of Ms. Corinne Dettmeijer-Vermeulen, Dutch National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence against Children, who will join the network meeting for the thematic focus. If you would like to attend the session, please contact matthew.abbey@undp.org!

UN-ACT is pleased to partner with Mahidol University’s International College and the Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies on an academic conference held in Bangkok on 21-22 June 2017. The theme of the conference is ‘Irregular Migrants, Refugees or Victims of Human Trafficking? Analysis, Advocacy and Assistance between Categorizations and (Self-)Identifications’.

A Call for Papers - which included conceptual studies, reports on empirical research, and reflection papers by practitioners in the areas of migration, displacement, human-trafficking and related forms of exploitation in the wider Southeast Asian region (including China) - closed on 31 March 2017 and we have started to read all of your proposals!