

Trafficking in human beings: The case of female migrant and refugee populations

Korina Hatzinikolaou, PhD Psychology

Assistant Professor, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

&

Expert Counsellor, Office of the National Rapporteur on Trafficking
in Human Beings, Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Vulnerability as the cumulative effect of social inequalities



VULNERABILITY

(e.g. social structure and roles, differential working conditions, religious and cultural beliefs, etc.)

FEMALE GENDER



VULNERABILITY

(e.g. dependent on others for security, care, health, relationship with society. Small size, abilities depend on developmental level etc.)

AGE (MINORS)



VULNERABILITY

(e.g. dislocation, lack of basic goods, re-integration to new environment, unstable working conditions, trauma and loss, etc.)

MIGRANT AND/OR
REFUGEE STATUS

- **Step 1. Social inequalities create vulnerable populations**
- **Step 2. Vulnerable populations are easier to exploit**
- **Step 3. The female migrant and/or refugee population is particularly vulnerable (accumulation of risk factors)**
- **Step 4. The female migrant and/or refugee population is easier to exploit**

Human Trafficking: The worst form of human exploitation

- No country is immune from Trafficking in Human Beings (THB): countries in Western and Southern Europe detected victims of **137 different citizenships**.
- Trafficking victims can be **women (51%)**, men (21%), **girls (20%)** and boys (8%)
- Current tendency in terms of forms of THB: significant increase in **forced labour**; most common form is **sexual exploitation**.
- Victims and Traffickers often **share the same background** (e.g. ethnicity, language, religious and cultural beliefs). Same gender is common. Such commonalities generate trust into victims.
- **Cross-border trafficking flows often resemble regular migration flows**

The arrows show the flows that represent 5% and above of the total victims detected in destination subregions



Sciences Po - Atelier de cartographie, 2014

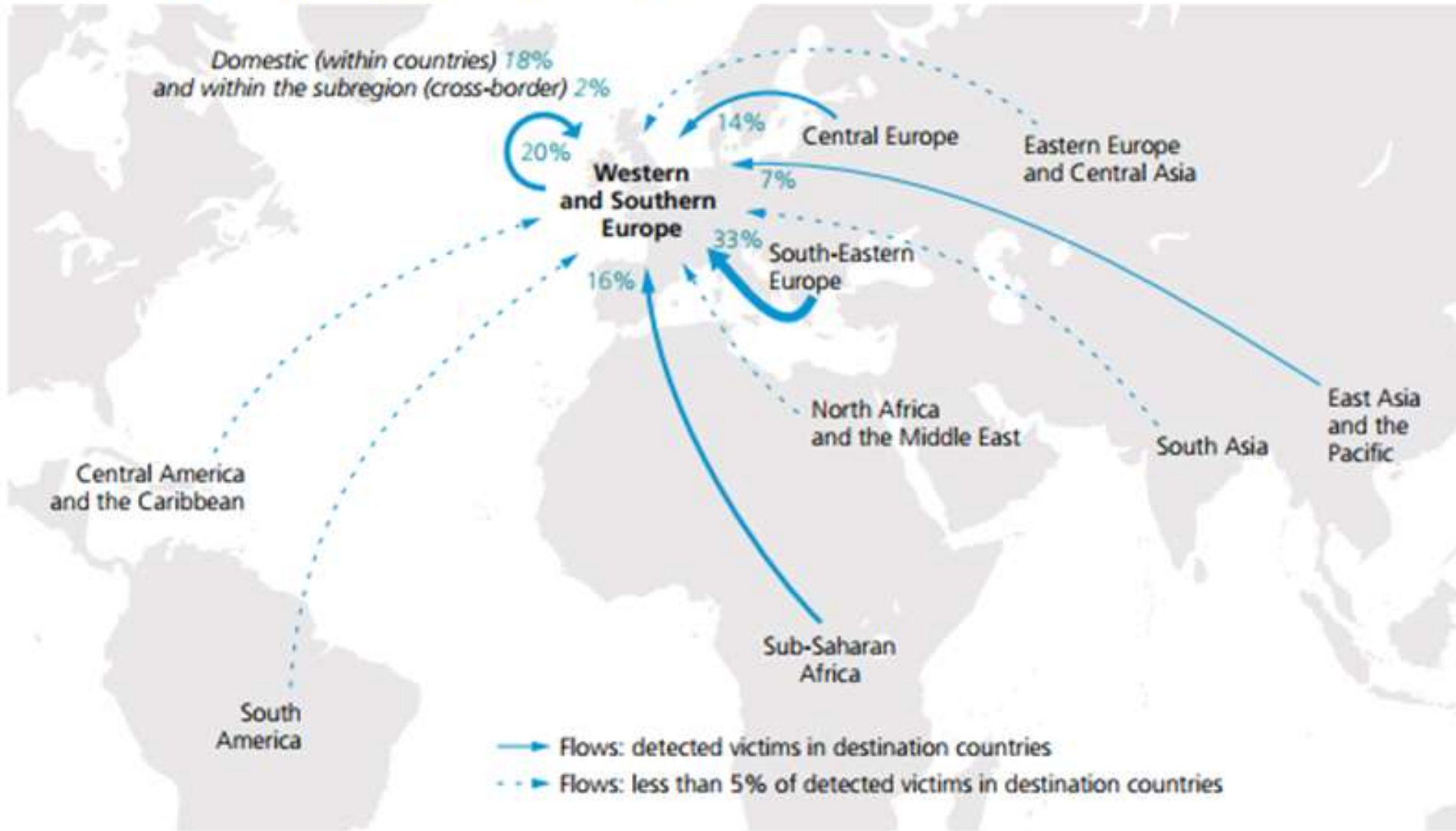
Source: UNODC.

Source: UNODC, Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, 2016

THB in Western & Southern Europe

- 56% of detected victims are women and 18% girls (total female gender: 74%)
- Most frequently detected form of THB is sexual exploitation (67%)
- Gender profile of convicted offenders: 78% males
- 40% of convicted offenders were National citizens
- There is an increase in child (girls') trafficking
- There is an increase in THB for forced labour

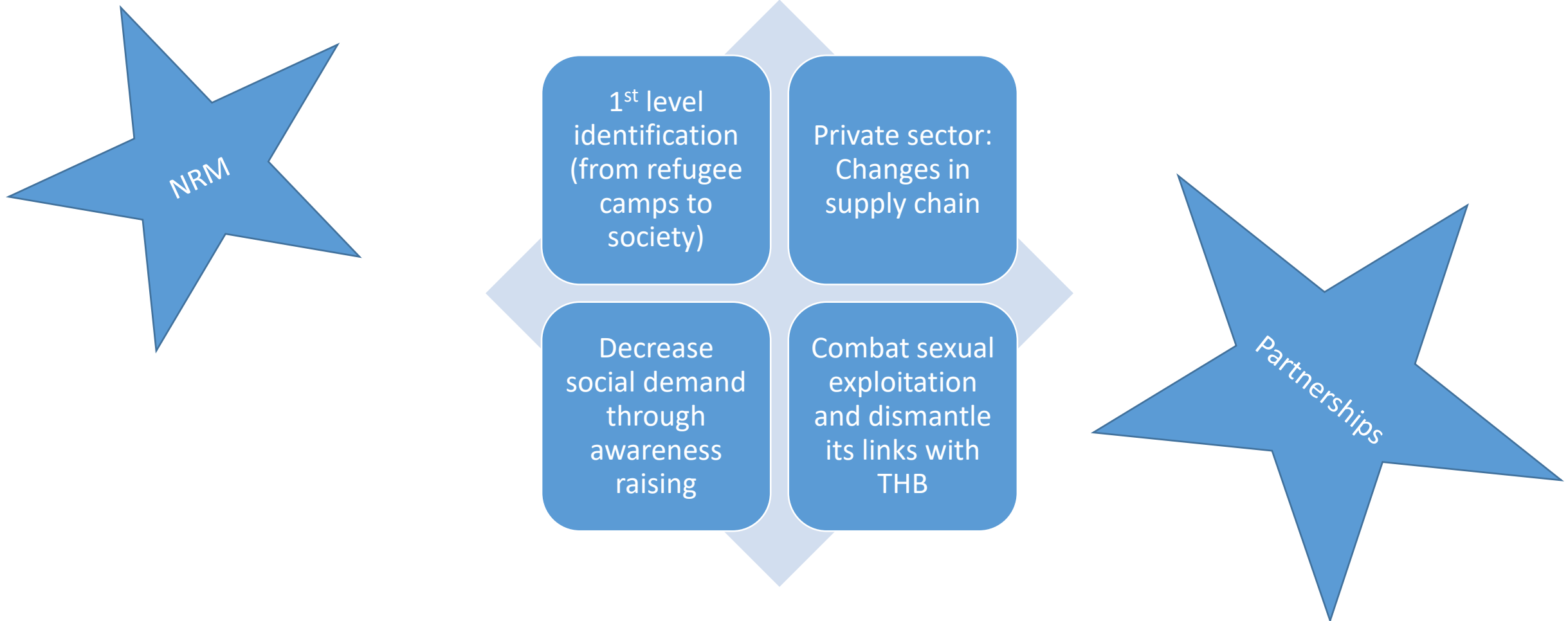
MAP 5 Origins of trafficking victims detected in Western and Southern Europe, by subregion, 2014 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Combating THB in Greece: Current priorities of the Office of the National Rapporteur for THB issues



Evidence-based knowledge on how to more effectively tackle THB in female migrant and refugee population in Greece

- More women patrols in refugee camps and migrant communities
- More women doctors in refugee camps and migrant communities
- Gender-sensitive procedures to be applied in asylum seeking, registration, interviewing, and social inclusion processes
- More behavioural and cultural sciences in the curricula of first-line professionals (e.g. doctors, police, coast guards, etc.)
- Changes in National Laws related to prostitution, and examine the possibility of unifying parts of Laws related to prostitution, sexual exploitation and human trafficking
- National Law on witness protection systematically implemented for recognized **and** possible victims of human trafficking

If we could stop human trafficking, we would have only stopped one expression of gender-based violence.

Combating social and gender-based inequalities is the only way to effectively stop any form of human exploitation.

Thank you for your attention!

Contact details

E-mail: corinahatzinikolaou@hotmail.com

Skype: korina.hatzinikolaou