



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
4 March 2019

Original: English

## Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

### Twenty-eighth session

Vienna, 20–24 May 2019

Item 8 of the provisional agenda\*

### World crime trends and emerging issues and responses in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice

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### Note by the Secretariat

#### *Summary*

The present document, prepared in accordance with the practice established pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/18, presents the most recent information available on world crime trends and the state of criminal justice.

This report reviews trends in crime and criminal justice. It presents gender differences in trends and patterns of crime, focusing particularly on men and their role in homicide and trafficking in persons. The gender-related aspects are examined in the context of regional and global trends. While the majority of homicide victims continue to be men, women are more often killed by their current or former intimate partner. Men also constitute the clear majority of offenders, irrespective of type of homicide. The situation is different with trafficking in persons: the majority of trafficking victims are women. Women and girls constitute the majority of victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation. Men and boys constitute the majority of victims of trafficking for purposes of forced labour.

Gender differences can also be observed in criminal justice systems. This report looks at the shares of men and women in prison populations and among police personnel. Men constitute the clear majority of the prison population in all parts of the world, and most police officers worldwide are men. Crime prevention efforts that focus on the overrepresentation of men among offenders are needed.

\* E/CN.15/2019/1.



## I. Introduction

1. The international discourse on gender and gender-related issues is often presumed to be primarily concerned with the relative disadvantages experienced by women in many social domains as compared with men. That concern is justified in many cases as a correction to decades, if not centuries, of official as well as informal discrimination against women. Worldwide, women are, for example, less likely than men to be educated and employed and to own assets; these major discrepancies require concerted action to level the playing field between the genders. As a result, the specific situation of women has not always been recognized as an important factor in reporting, in particular on male-dominated areas such as criminal activity and sectors of society such as law enforcement and criminal justice systems. However, the situation in this regard has improved, and currently many reports contain a specific focus on women.<sup>1</sup>

2. However, while the concept of a “gender lens” is usually applied in relation to women, it may also be fruitfully applied to men. This is particularly the case with the topic of crime, as the majority of convicted criminals worldwide are men. This general fact draws attention to the issue of male involvement in crime and serves as a starting point to build the political will to find solutions. However, in order to understand the problem and to design successful targeted policy interventions, it is necessary to collect solid crime data that are appropriately disaggregated, as data disaggregation makes it possible to identify structural differences among different subgroups in the population being studied.

## II. International crime and criminal justice trends

3. The world of crime has traditionally been seen as a man’s world. The media and entertainment industries have often portrayed men as mafia bosses, smart detectives or gentlemen thieves. Women have seldom had the opportunity to be presented in these roles. The statistics on crime reported to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) confirm that a clear majority of the convicted offenders are men. Statistics on the percentage of victims of crime who are men are not readily available for all crime types. However, for crimes of fatal violence, for example, the greatest number of victims are men, as reflected in homicide statistics.

4. For some crime types, women constitute the majority of the victims, for example, violent crimes such as sexual violence and domestic violence. Trafficking in persons is another example, since most of the victims by far, according to statistics reported to UNODC, are women. However, that is the overall average, and the share of victims who are men is sometimes larger than that of women depending on the subregion and the form of trafficking. The real number of trafficking victims is hard to estimate or measure because the crime is mostly hidden. This means that the real share of male victims of trafficking in persons is unknown in most countries. As offenders, men still constitute the clear majority of traffickers.

### A. Global and regional crime trends

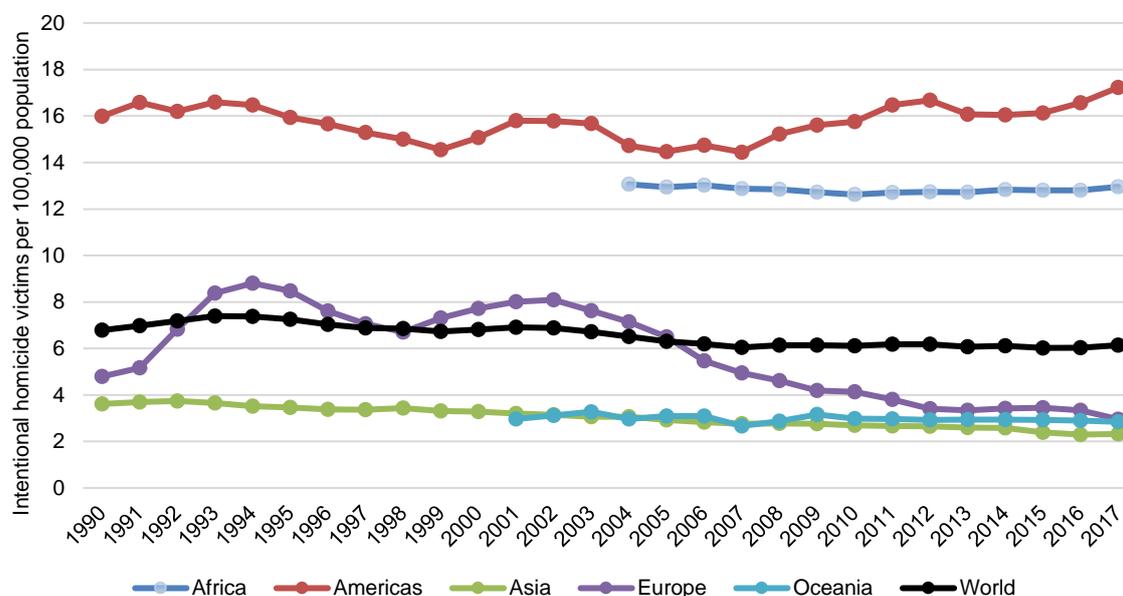
5. Reviewing in greater detail the data on homicide, global homicide rates have remained broadly stable since 1990, with a slight declining trend, as shown in figure 1. However, considering the global total in isolation would obscure the significant regional differences in terms of both homicide levels and trends. In the Americas, the rate has fluctuated even while it continued to be the highest of all world

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<sup>1</sup> See, for example, the most recent UNODC research reports, such as the booklet entitled *Gender-related Killing of Women and Girls* (Vienna, 2018) of the forthcoming *Global Study on Homicide, Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2018* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.19.IV.2) and booklet 5 of *World Drug Report 2018* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.18.XI.9), which focuses on the specific issues related to drug use among women.

regions over the entire period 1990–2017. In Africa, the rate is also high, although data are available only as of 2004. Europe has had a consistently decreasing trend since the early 2000s. That region, like Oceania and Asia, contains some of the countries with the lowest homicide rates.

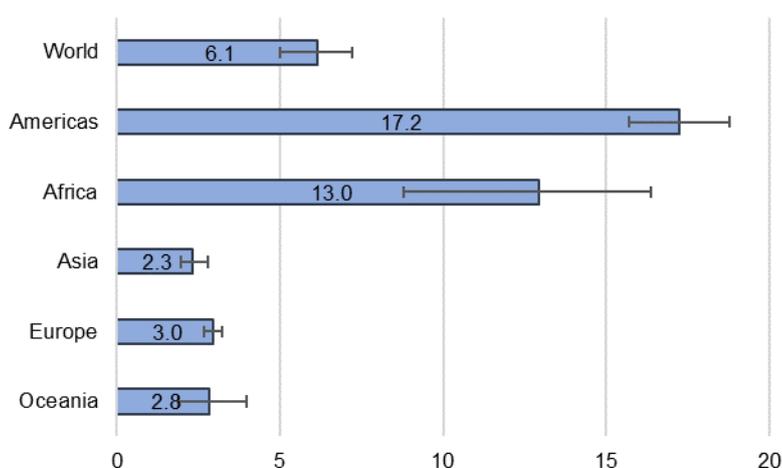
Figure 1  
Trends in homicide rates, by region, 1990–2017



Source: UNODC homicide database (2018).

6. Looking specifically at 2017 data (see figure 2), the picture is very similar. There is more uncertainty regarding the data for Africa than for the other regions, which means that the homicide rate for Africa could actually be higher than the rate for the Americas. The data for Oceania are also comparatively weak, leading to a large possible range in the homicide victimization rate in that region as well.

Figure 2  
Victims of intentional homicides per 100,000 population, by region, 2017

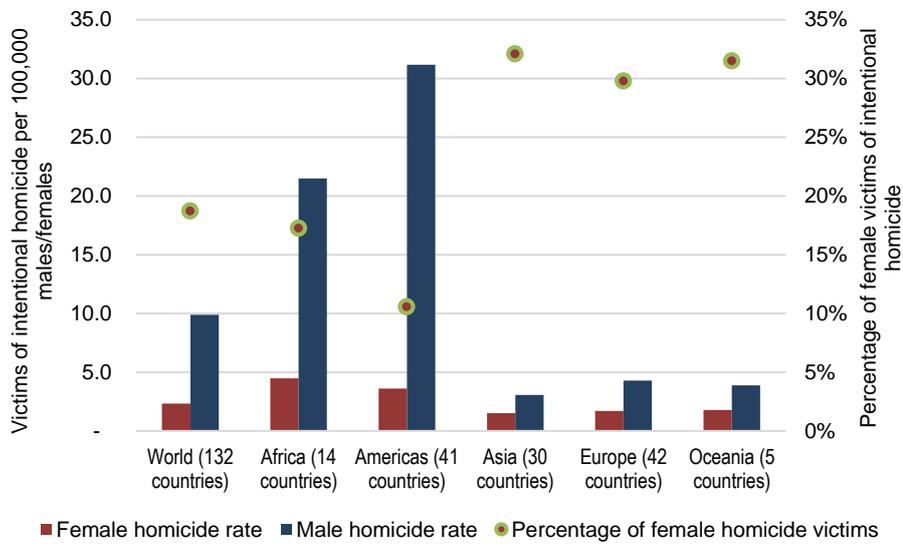


Source: UNODC homicide database (2018).

7. There are clear differences in homicide rates from region to region, but there is a clear pattern with regard to who is killed: in 2017, around 80 per cent of the victims of homicide worldwide were men, and that pattern appears to have been stable in recent years.

8. The overrepresentation of men as victims of homicide can be seen in all regions. Particularly in the Americas and Africa, the proportion of men among homicide victims is very high. Also in Oceania, Europe and Asia, there are more male than female victims of homicide, but the difference is not so great.

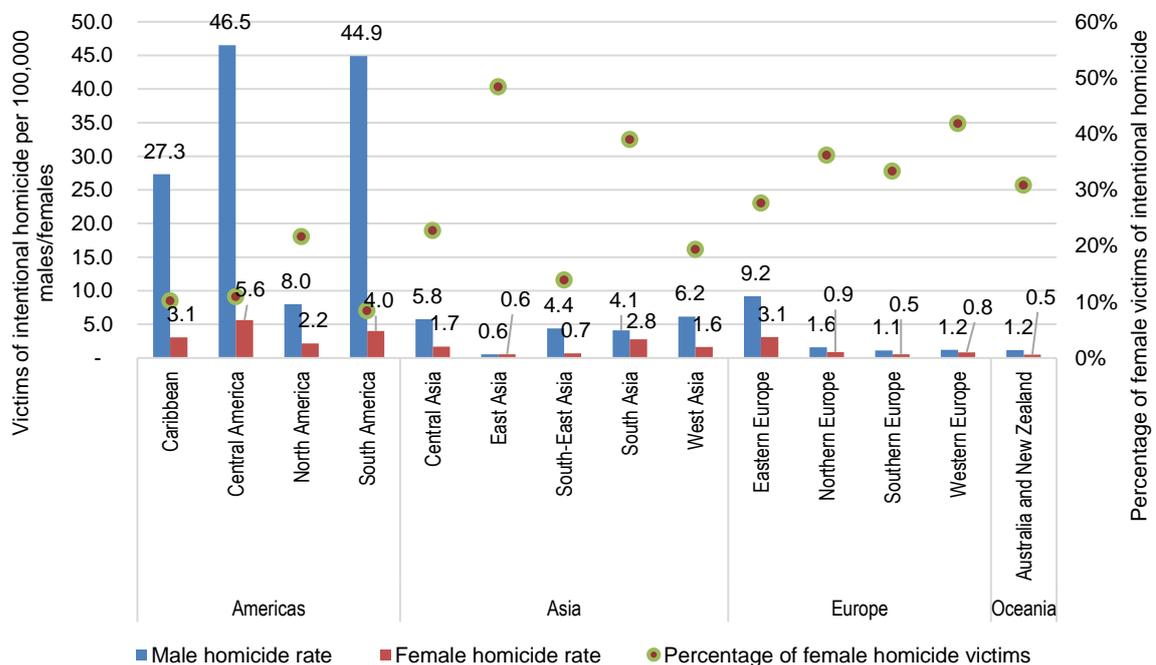
Figure 3  
**Homicide rates, by region and by sex, 2017**



Source: UNODC homicide database (2018).

9. A closer look at the subregional differences shows that the rate of men as homicide victims is very high in South and Central America and the Caribbean compared with the global rate (9.6 victims per 100,000 persons) as shown in figure 4. As shown in figure 3, in Asia, Oceania and Europe, where there is a low homicide rate in general, the difference between male and female rates of victimization is smaller. In East Asia, the rates of homicide among men and women are at the same level.

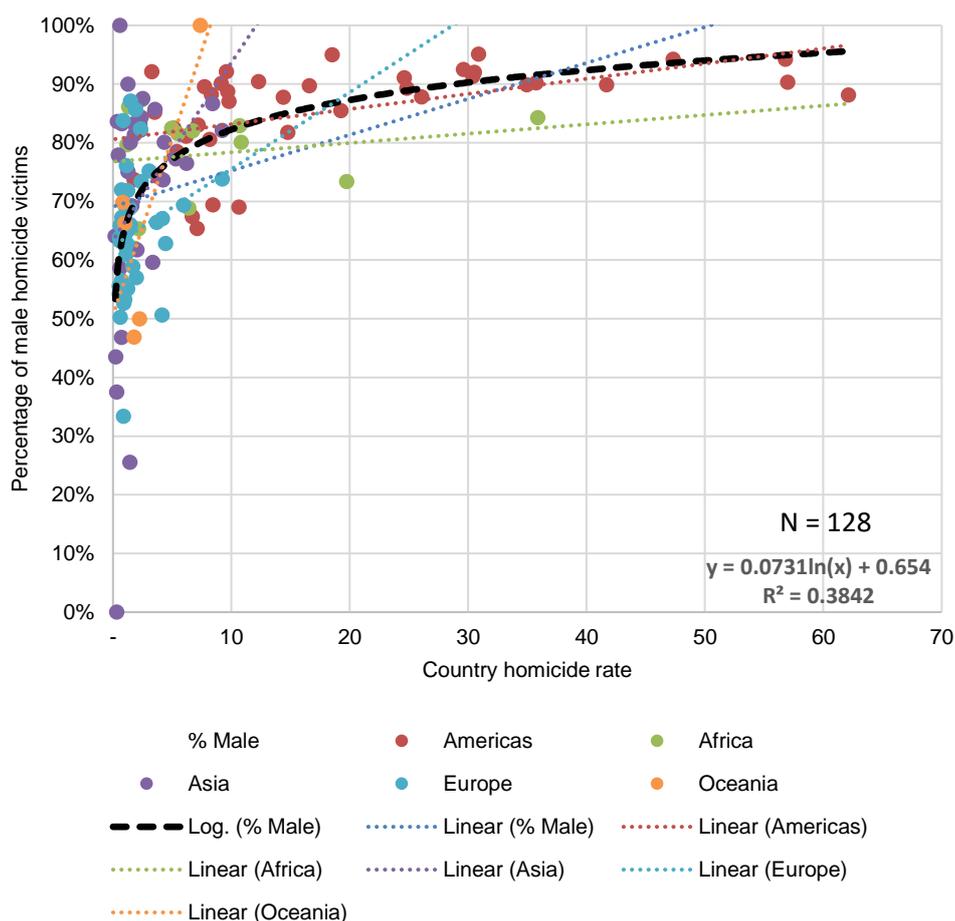
Figure 4  
**Homicide rates, by subregion and by sex, 2017**



Source: UNODC homicide database (2018).

10. When comparing the share of male homicide rates with total homicide rates, it can be seen that the share of male homicide victims increases in line with the level of total homicide rates. So, in countries with a high overall homicide rate, the male homicide rate is particularly high. And in countries with lower total homicide rates, the share of male homicide victims is lower. As shown in figure 5, this relationship holds true at the global level and in each of the five regions. In some countries in Asia and Europe with total homicide rates below 1 homicide per 100,000 inhabitants, women make up the majority of homicide victims. The findings may indicate that the decrease in the overall homicide rate is mainly due to the decreasing rate of male homicide. This fact, combined with the information showing that men are most often the offenders, should guide preventive efforts on homicide targeting the male population.

Figure 5

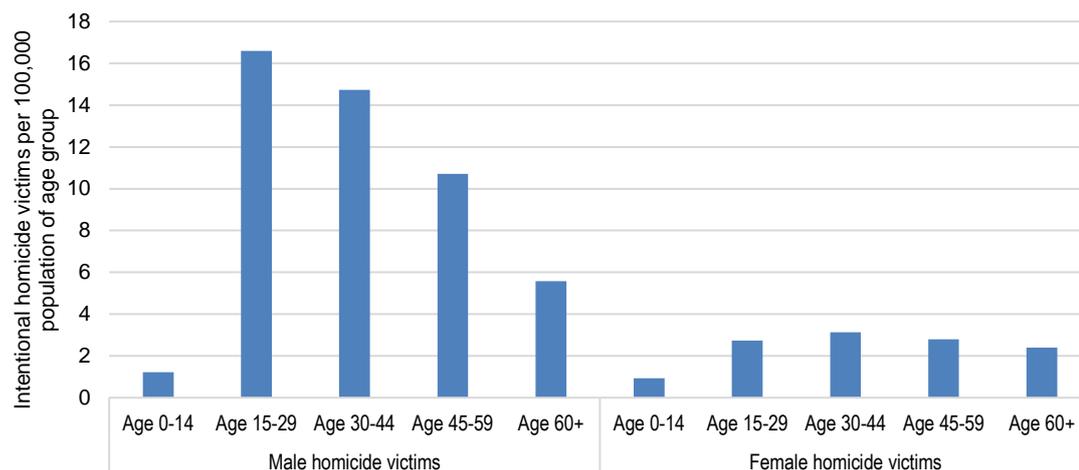
**Share of male homicide victims versus total homicide rates, 2017**

Source: UNODC homicide database (2018).

Note: Countries with a total population less than 100,000 and countries with only a single homicide in the reference year have been removed from the calculation, as the share of male and female homicides tends to fluctuate greatly from year to year.

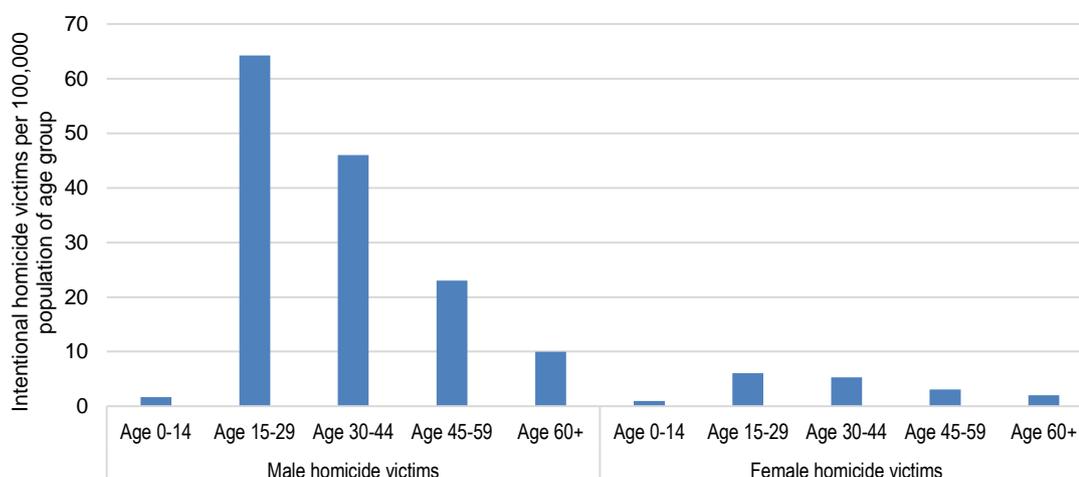
11. The age distribution of homicide victims shows that young men are particularly vulnerable to homicide (see figures 6–8). However, there are regional variations, which is clearly seen when looking at the situation in the Americas and Europe. In the Americas, the victimization of young men is especially high, while in Europe, the groups of greatest victimization include men between the ages of 30 to 59, which is also the case in Asia. In Africa, the male victims tend to be a little older. Among female victims, the differences are not that clear because of the lower rate of victimization; however, the regional distribution of female victims by age group loosely follows that of men.

Figure 6  
**Homicide rate, by sex and age group, 2017: global**



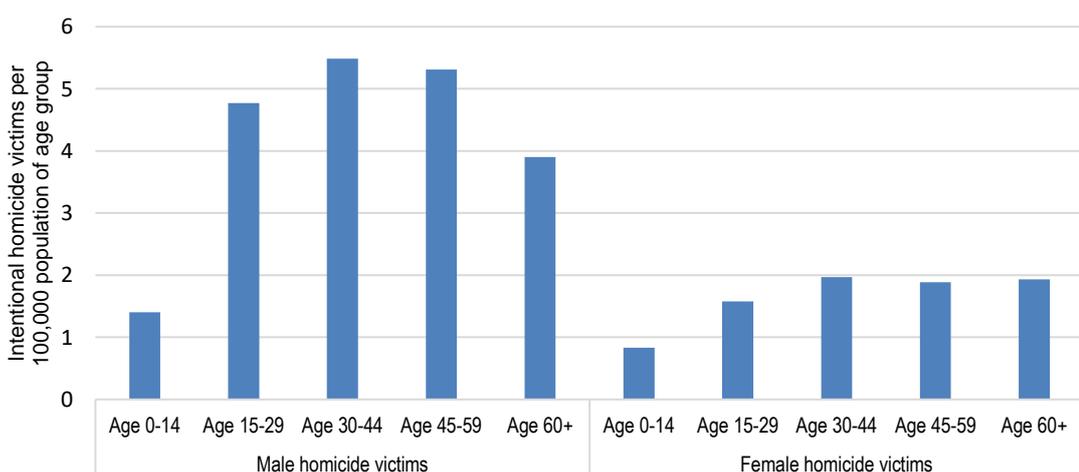
Source: UNODC homicide database (2018).

Figure 7  
**Homicide rates by sex and age group, 2017: Americas**



Source: UNODC homicide database (2018).

Figure 8  
**Homicide rates by sex and age group, 2017: Europe**



Source: UNODC homicide database (2018).

12. In both cases of homicide of men and cases of homicide of women, the perpetrator is more likely to be male. However, there are some differences in the statistics on the gender of the perpetrator with respect to the different environments in which homicide takes place and to the relationship between perpetrator and victim. Although the overall risk of homicide for women is substantially lower than for men, women's risk of being killed by a current or former male intimate partner is higher. Only 18 per cent of victims of intimate partner homicide are men, and, in the broader category of intimate partner and family-related homicide where the offender may be a family member or a relative, 36 per cent of victims are men.

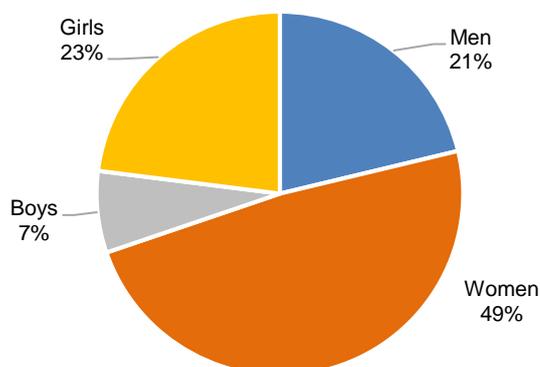
13. In addition, men are most often the perpetrators of homicide, comprising 90 per cent of all persons brought into formal contact with the criminal justice system, as well as of those convicted. This pattern holds true in all regions worldwide.

### Trafficking in persons

14. Data on trafficking in persons cases that have been detected by national authorities, reported to UNODC and stored in the UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons database, show that adult women continued to comprise a clear majority of the detected victims in 2016. Men and girls were detected in similar proportions: both those groups accounted for about one fifth of victims detected globally (see figure 9).

Figure 9

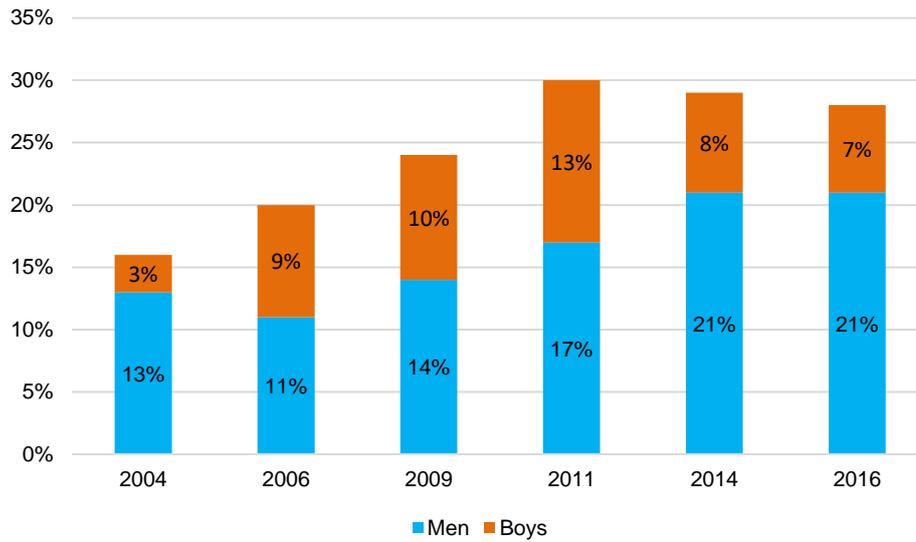
**Shares of detected victims of trafficking in persons globally, by age group and sex, 2016 or most recent data**



Source: UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons database.

15. Since 2004, there has been a significant increase in the number of detected cases of men who are victims of trafficking in persons; however, the number of detections appears to have stabilized (see figure 10). During the same period, the share of adult women among victims has decreased from 74 per cent in 2004 to 49 per cent in 2016. The share of men among the victims detected in 2016 was about 20 per cent. Comparing data from 2004 and 2016 reveals a clear increase in detections of boys who were victims (see figure 10); however, there seems to have been a decreasing trend in the detection of boys since 2011. At the same time, the detection of girls continued to increase, with the share of that group increasing from 10 per cent in 2004 to 23 per cent in 2016.

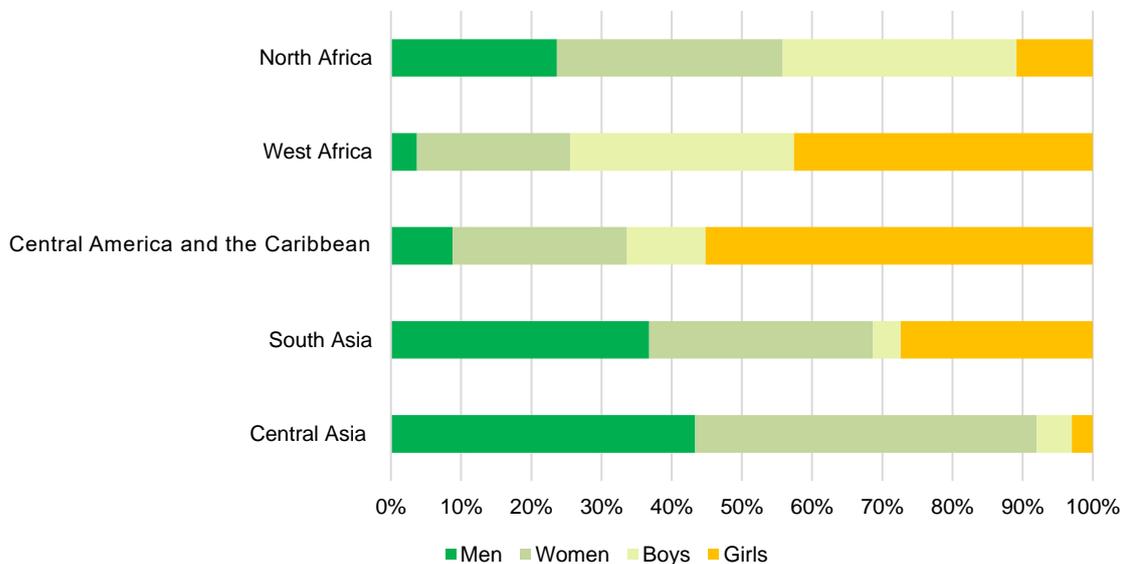
**Figure 10**  
**Trends in the shares of men and boys among detected trafficking victims, selected years**



Source: UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons database.

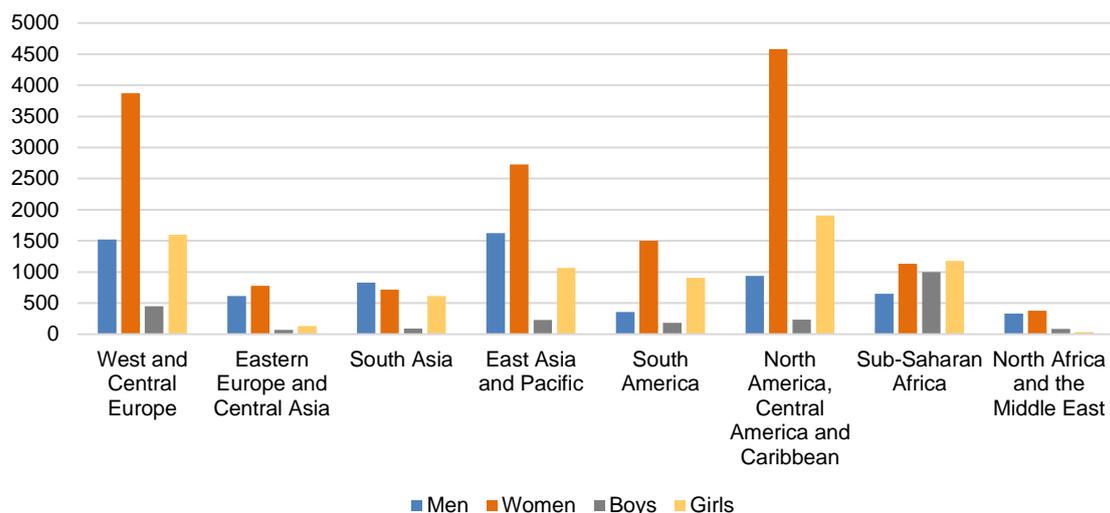
16. While women make up by far the largest group of victims of trafficking in persons, followed by girls under the age of 18, more than half of the victims of trafficking for the purpose of forced labour are adult men. However, there are significant regional differences in the sex and age profiles of detected trafficking victims (see figure 11). For example, in Central Asia, a larger share of adult men who were victims was detected compared with other regions. In South Asia, more adult men than adult women victims were detected. In sub-Saharan Africa, boys under the age of 18 made up a significant share of the total victims detected. In absolute numbers, most of the detected boy victims were detected in Africa, whereas adult male victims were often detected in South Asia and the Middle East (see figure 12).

**Figure 11**  
**Shares of detected victims of trafficking in persons in subregions, 2016 or most recent data**



Source: UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons database.

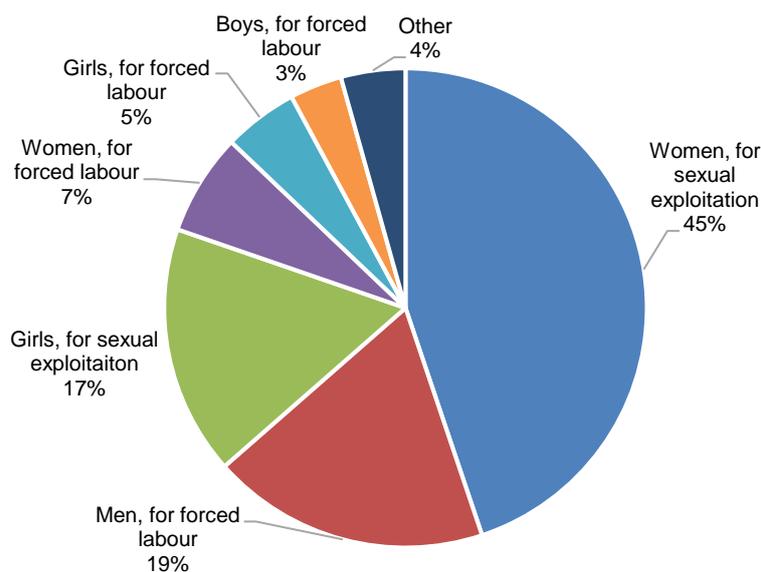
Figure 12  
**Detected victims of trafficking in persons, by age group and sex, by region of detection, 2016 or most recent data**



Source: UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons database.

17. Most victims of trafficking in persons detected worldwide are female: mainly adult women, with an increasing number of girls. However, men are more often trafficked for forced labour than are women (see figure 13). The most common type of detected trafficking is women trafficked for sexual exploitation, followed by men trafficked for forced labour and girls trafficked for sexual exploitation.

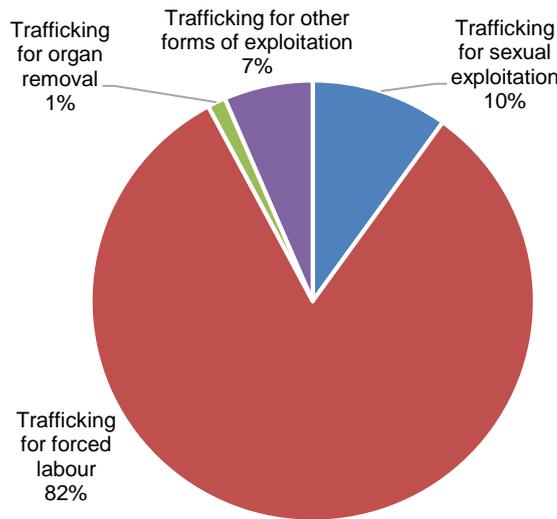
Figure 13  
**Share of detected victims of trafficking, by profile and form of exploitation, 2016 or most recent data**



Source: UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons database.

18. Of detected victims that are adult men, more than 80 per cent are trafficked for forced labour (see figure 14). Men are also trafficked for sexual exploitation and other forms of trafficking, but the share of male victims of those latter forms of trafficking is very low. Compared with adult women, there is a clear difference with respect to the form of trafficking, since 83 per cent of detected women victims were trafficked for sexual exploitation and only 13 per cent for forced labour.

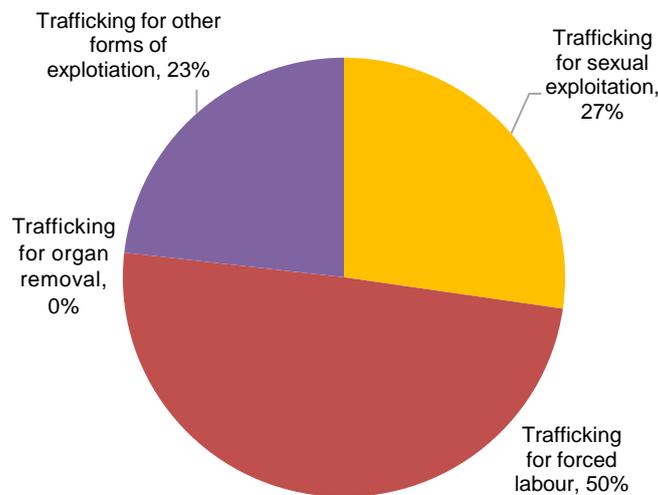
Figure 14  
**Share of forms of exploitation among detected men victims of trafficking in persons, 2016 or most recent data**



Source: UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons database.

19. The profile of exploitation types among detected victims who are boys appears to be somewhat different than that for adult men (see figure 15). Although forced labour comprises half of the exploitation type for which boys are trafficked, the other half includes roughly the same portion of sexual exploitation and other forms of trafficking. These include exploitative begging, serving as child soldiers, forced criminal activities and other forms of exploitation. For detected girl victims, the main form of trafficking is sexual exploitation (72 per cent), followed by forced labour (21 per cent).

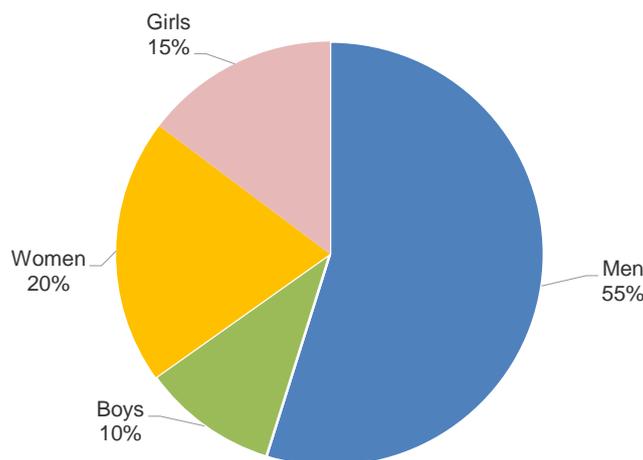
Figure 15  
**Share of forms of exploitation among detected boy victims of trafficking in persons, 2016 or most recent data**



Source: UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons database.

20. There is a clear overrepresentation of men among detected victims trafficked for forced labour, as men comprise more than half of the detected victims, followed by women (see figure 16).

Figure 16

**Share of detected victims of trafficking for forced labour, by age group and sex profiles, 2016 or most recent data**

Source: UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons database.

21. The statistics cited above represent only the detected cases of trafficking in persons. There is some evidence of a large hidden amount of human trafficking which is difficult to estimate. In 2017, the Dutch National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence against Children and UNODC published a research brief<sup>2</sup> describing the process and results of a multiple systems estimation (MSE) study carried out on multi-year data disaggregated according to various criteria (sex, age, form of exploitation and Dutch or non-Dutch citizenship). The study found that there are four to five times as many presumed victims of trafficking as the number of detected cases. Three other countries – Ireland,<sup>3</sup> Romania<sup>4</sup> and Serbia<sup>5</sup> – have also carried out national MSE studies. All studies suggest that among the estimated total number of victims, women trafficked for sexual exploitation is the biggest form of trafficking in those countries and that men are trafficked for other forms of exploitation including forced labour.

22. While women constitute the largest group of detected victims of human trafficking, men are most often the offenders of this crime. The overrepresentation of men as offenders can be seen at all levels of the criminal justice process (see figures 17–19). Over 60 per cent of suspected, prosecuted and convicted offenders are men. However, the share of women among offenders is twice as high as for other crimes.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>2</sup> See UNODC and Dutch National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence against Children, “Monitoring target 16.2 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: a multiple systems estimation of the numbers of presumed human trafficking victims in the Netherlands in 2010–2015 by year, age, gender, form of exploitation and nationality”, research brief (2017).

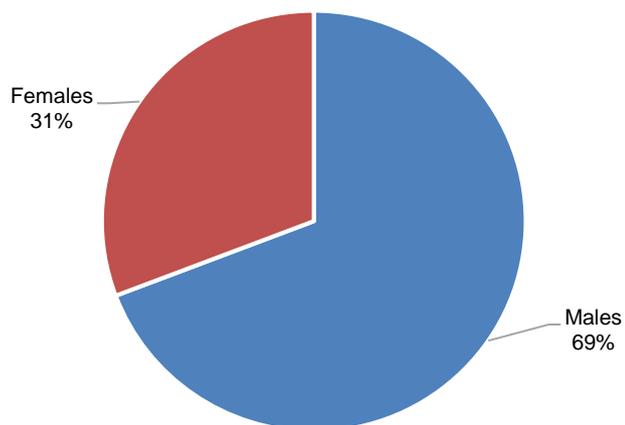
<sup>3</sup> See UNODC and Department of Justice and Equality of Ireland, “Monitoring target 16.2 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: a multiple systems estimation of the numbers of presumed victims of trafficking in persons – Ireland”, research brief (2017).

<sup>4</sup> UNODC, “Monitoring target 16.2 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: a multiple systems estimation of the numbers of presumed victims of trafficking in persons – Romania”, research brief (2017).

<sup>5</sup> UNODC and Centre for Human Trafficking Victims Protection, “Monitoring target 16.2 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: a multiple systems estimation of the numbers of presumed victims of trafficking in persons – Serbia”, research brief (2017).

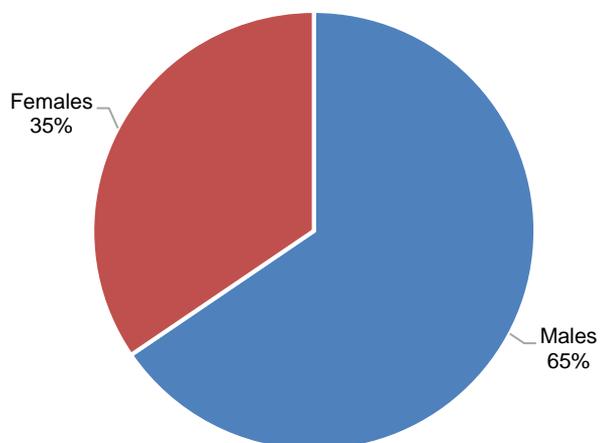
<sup>6</sup> Data on all crime reported through the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems for the period 2003–2017.

Figure 17  
**Shares of persons investigated or arrested for trafficking in persons, by sex, 2016 or most recent data**



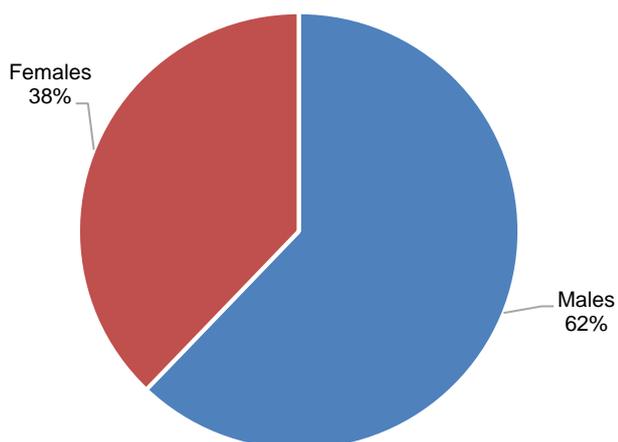
Source: UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons database.

Figure 18  
**Shares of persons prosecuted for trafficking in persons, by sex, 2016 or most recent data**



Source: UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons database.

Figure 19  
**Shares of persons convicted of trafficking in persons, by sex, 2016 or most recent data**

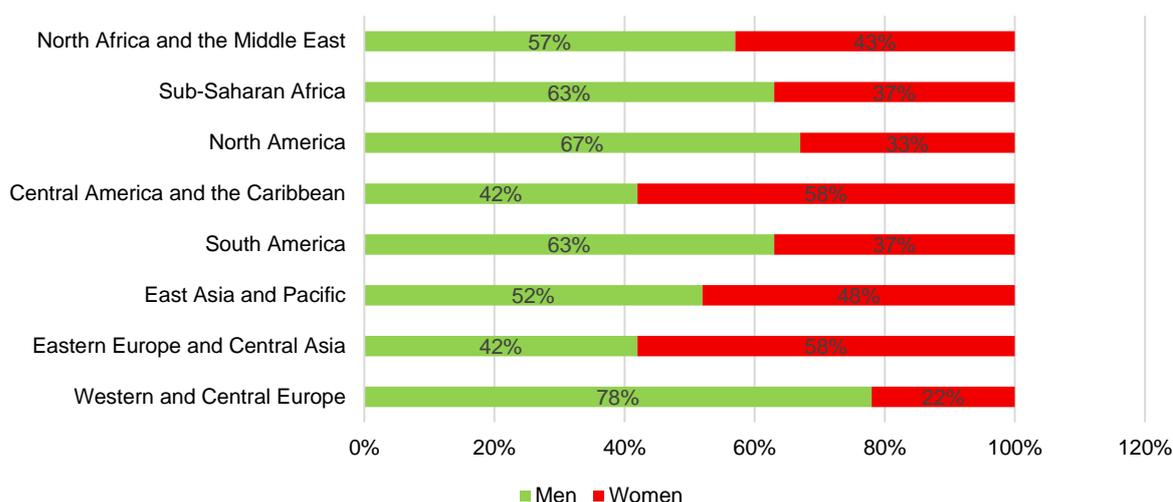


Source: UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons database.

23. There are some regional differences in the gender profile of offenders. In most of the world's subregions, men make up the majority of convicted offenders. Only in Eastern Europe and Central Asia are more females convicted of trafficking in persons than are males, and similar patterns are recorded in Central America and the Caribbean. In East Asia and the Pacific, women accounted for about half of all convicted trafficking in persons offenders. Countries in Western and Central Europe report high shares of male offenders, just below 80 per cent. Countries in the Americas as well as in Africa and the Middle East generally reported that men constituted about two thirds of those convicted of trafficking in persons.

Figure 20

**Share of persons convicted of trafficking in persons, by sex and subregion, 2016 or most recent data**



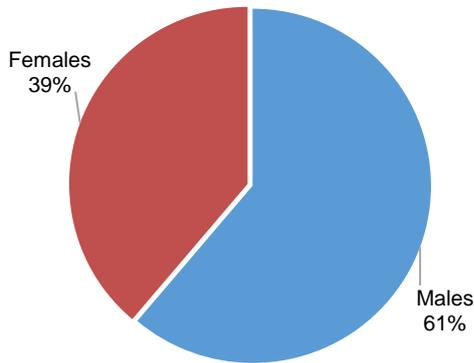
Source: UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons database.

24. There is a clear difference in the gender profiles of perpetrators with respect to origin and destination countries,<sup>7</sup> a difference reflected at all stages of criminal proceedings (see figures 21–26). Typically, women are more often investigated, prosecuted and convicted in origin countries than in destination countries. The difference is particularly clear with regard to convictions. The reasons may be connected to the role of women in trafficking in persons crimes, since women are often tasked with the recruitment of victims.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>7</sup> It is not possible to make a rigid distinction between origin and destination countries, and many countries may belong to both categories. Very few countries are exclusively origin or destination countries. For this reason, countries may be thought of as being more typical of origin countries or more typical of destination countries. While countries can play both roles, as both an origin and destination country, the majority of the trafficking flows are either outbound (typical of an origin country) or inbound (typical of a destination country). Of the 48 countries that provided information concerning the citizenship of convicted, prosecuted, investigated or arrested offenders, 24 countries were considered to be more typical of origin countries of cross-border trafficking, whereas 24 were considered to be more typical of destination countries.

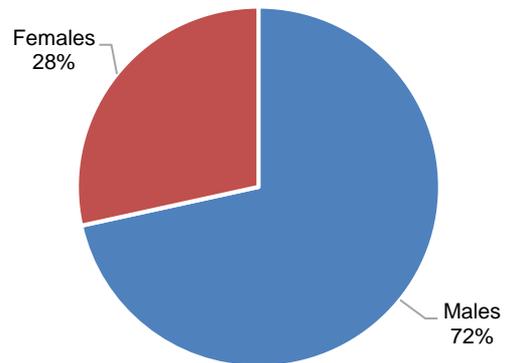
<sup>8</sup> See UNODC, *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2012* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.13.IV.1), p. 30; *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2014* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.14.V.10), pp. 27–29; and *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2016* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.16.IV.6), pp. 36–39.

Figure 21  
**Share of persons investigated or arrested for trafficking in persons in typical countries of origin, by sex, 2016 or most recent data**



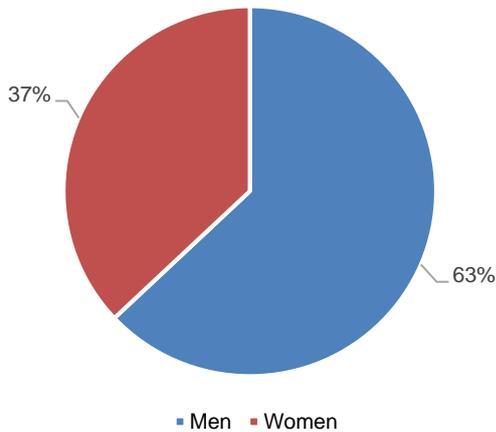
Source: UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons database.

Figure 22  
**Share of persons investigated or arrested for trafficking in persons in typical countries of destination, by sex, 2016 or most recent data**



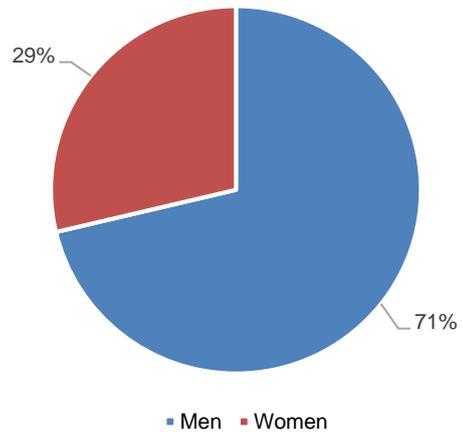
Source: UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons database.

Figure 23  
**Share of persons prosecuted for trafficking in persons in typical countries of origin, by sex, 2016 or most recent data**



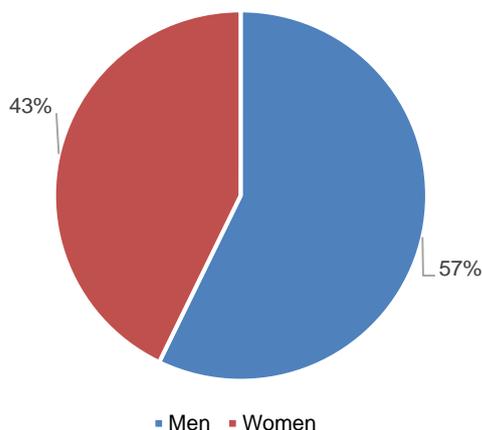
Source: UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons database.

Figure 24  
**Share of persons prosecuted for trafficking in persons in typical countries of destination, by sex, 2016 or most recent data**



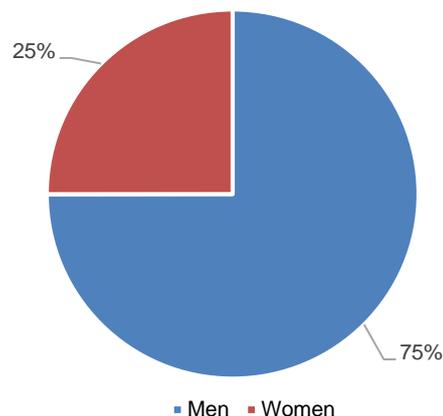
Source: UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons database.

Figure 25  
**Shares of persons convicted of trafficking in persons in typical countries of origin, by sex, 2016 or most recent data**



Source: UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons database.

Figure 26  
**Share of persons convicted of trafficking in persons in typical countries of destination, by sex, 2016 or most recent data**



Source: UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons database.

## B. Criminal justice system

25. Crime is overwhelmingly a male-dominated activity, and males absorb most of the criminal justice resources in every country for which UNODC has records. According to data from 108 countries between 2003 and 2016, men comprise over 80 per cent of adults who have been convicted. In addition, adult men comprise over 90 per cent of those held in custody, which may reflect the more serious nature of the offences committed by males.

26. Women everywhere comprise a minority of prisoners – less than 10 per cent. At the country level, there are great differences with respect to the share of women prisoners. The reasons for this are unclear, as countries with similar female prisoner shares often have very different crime profiles. For example, some Central American countries with very high murder rates have a share of female prisoners similar to that in countries with very low murder rates in Asia.

27. Men absorb the majority of criminal justice resources in another way: jobs. Men make up more than 80 per cent of police forces globally. However, there are some difference between countries. The Baltic countries come closest to gender parity, where around 35 per cent of police officers are women. However, globally, only about half of all judges and magistrates are men, and in many Eastern European countries – and some Western countries – women make up the majority of judicial staff. In keeping with the higher number of male prisoners, men make up over 70 per cent of prison staff worldwide.

## III. Work towards better data

28. In 2018, UNODC, as the custodian of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes, endorsed in 2015 by the United Nations Statistical Commission as well as by the Economic and Social Council upon the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, continued to provide technical assistance and advice to countries that are in the process of adapting their national crime statistics to the International Classification. Regional training workshops on the implementation of the International Classification were held in Bridgetown for the Caribbean in September 2018, in Budva, Montenegro, for the western Balkans in September 2018, and in Tashkent for Central Asia in December

2018. National workshops on the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes were held in Buenos Aires in April 2018, as well as in Machakos, Kenya, and in Seeta, Uganda, in May 2018.

29. As in past years, in 2018 UNODC continued to collect data on selected crimes and on the operation of justice systems through the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems and disseminated updated data series on its new data portal.<sup>9</sup> The network of national focal points to coordinate national responses to the Survey was further extended to cover over 140 countries and territories. To further strengthen its network of focal points and increase the quality of the data supplied, UNODC held its joint second meeting of the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems focal points and members of the Technical Advisory Group of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes, in Lima on 7 and 8 June 2018, which was attended by over 70 participants from 32 countries and seven international organizations.

30. In addition, UNODC continued to provide targeted advice, technical assistance and training to Member States aimed at strengthening administrative crime and criminal justice statistics. Activities in this area include technical assistance on conducting crime victimization surveys in several Latin American countries in cooperation with the UNODC/National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI) Centre of Excellence for Statistical Information on Governance, Victimization, Public Security and Justice, in Mexico City. The Centre of Excellence also offered several successful online courses on crime victimization surveys in Spanish and English. The latest online course was held from October to December 2018 and had participants from seven countries in Africa, the Americas and Asia.

31. Within the United Nations system, UNODC is responsible for collecting the data and metadata needed for monitoring several indicators related to the Sustainable Development Goals, with a focus on Goal 16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels). The Office regularly provides data and metadata on several Sustainable Development Goal indicators for which an established methodology and a data collection system already exist, including on intentional homicide, trafficking in persons and pretrial detention. For other Sustainable Development Goal indicators under its responsibility, for which such methodologies do not yet exist, UNODC is undertaking intensive methodological work with a view to developing agreed statistical standards for monitoring progress on Sustainable Development Goals.

32. In this context and drawing on the inputs and comments of many Member States, in 2018 UNODC finalized and published the *Manual on Corruption Surveys*, which is a major contribution to promoting the use of such surveys for monitoring Sustainable Development Goal indicators 16.5.1 and 16.5.2.<sup>10</sup>

33. The Office also provided technical assistance and advice to dozens of countries on the collection of data on firearms trafficking. In 2018, a new annual collection of data on firearms trafficking, the illicit arms flows questionnaire, was launched for Member States to report annually on efforts to reduce firearms trafficking and make it possible to monitor progress on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.4.2. In addition, substantive progress was made on elaborating a methodological framework for the measurement of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.4.1 on illicit financial flows, and in 2018 UNODC produced guidelines for national statistical offices to test the methodology in pilot countries in Latin America.

34. In order to improve statistical information on wildlife crime and in view of work in preparing the next *World Wildlife Crime Report*, UNODC has further developed the new World Wildlife Seizures (World WISE) database on trafficking in protected species of wildlife fauna and flora. In that context, at its 70th meeting, the Standing

<sup>9</sup> Available at <https://dataunodc.un.org/crime>.

<sup>10</sup> Available at [www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/corruption.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/corruption.html).

Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) viewed positively the UNODC proposal to provide a long-term and sustainable framework to collect, process, store and disseminate data collected through the CITES annual illegal trade reports.

35. Regarding trafficking in persons, the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2018*, covering 142 countries, provides an overview of patterns and flows of trafficking in persons. Three research briefs published in 2018 present the implementation of the innovative MSE methodology to estimate the total number of victims of trafficking in persons in order to improve the accuracy of measurement of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.2.2. The application of that method in pilot countries<sup>3, 4, 5</sup> demonstrates how certain forms of trafficking appear to be underestimated if only the officially detected trafficking cases are taken into account.

36. In 2018, UNODC also published the *Global Study on Smuggling of Migrants 2018*, the first time that periodic study has been published. The study shows that migrant smuggling routes affect every part of the world and presents detailed information about key smuggling routes, such as the magnitude of smuggling along those routes, the profiles of smugglers and smuggled migrants, the *modi operandi* of smugglers and the risks faced by smuggled migrants.

#### IV. Conclusion

37. Analysis of gender differences can provide further insight into crime situations and the functioning of the criminal justice system in different parts of the world. Crime often has a different impact on women and men. While some crimes victimize more women than men, most crime victims worldwide are men. Also, most offenders and persons who are incarcerated are men.

38. When looking at homicide, the clear majority of victims are men. But most victims killed by their current or former intimate partner are women. In both cases, the crime is most often committed by a male perpetrator. In countries where the overall homicide rate has been decreasing, that decrease is mainly due to the decrease in male homicide rates. While efforts to prevent homicide should aim at protecting all potential victims, including women, men, girls and boys, specific prevention efforts to lower the overall homicide rate should target men both as offenders and as victims. Young men are particularly overrepresented among victims of homicide in countries with a high homicide rate. Thus, there should be special prevention efforts that target this group.

39. With trafficking in persons, the picture is very different, since women and girls are the main group of detected human trafficking victims in most countries. Women are also convicted as offenders of trafficking in persons more often than for other crimes. Nevertheless, men and boys are also trafficked, but more often for purposes falling in the statistical category of “other purposes” than are women, and men and boys are the main group trafficked for forced labour.

40. The data show that the prisons are filled mostly by men: men make up the majority of the prison population in all regions. The ranks of the world’s police forces are also filled mainly by men. There are clear indications that crime is a male-dominated activity in all parts of the world. Men are highly overrepresented among perpetrators. Crime prevention should naturally address all groups of victims and offenders. However, with crimes such as homicide, efforts to reduce offending should include crime prevention methods specifically targeting men and boys, and which should also include efforts to mitigate the conditions that increase vulnerability to criminal behaviour.