



July 2026

PATH EDUCATION

July 30th is designated as World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. In 2013, the United Nations General Assembly held a high-level meeting to appraise the Global Plan of Action. Member States also adopted resolution [A/RES/68/192](#) and designated July 30 as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons. This resolution declared that such a day was necessary to “raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights.”

The 2026 theme: Trapped Behind the Scam, is pertinent to the digital lives we lead these days. The UN Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) gives some important information on how this theme was chosen.

The 2026 World Day Against Trafficking in Persons theme, "Trapped Behind the Scam," draws attention to a rapidly expanding form of human trafficking in which transnational organized crime groups exploit people to carry out industrial-scale financial fraud. Victims are trafficked for forced criminality and compelled to participate in online scam operations. This form of exploitation is closely linked to cybercrime, financial fraud, money laundering, and corruption, demonstrating the increasingly interconnected nature of organized crime.

How victims become trapped

Traffickers often recruit victims through fake job advertisements that promise legitimate employment opportunities abroad. Believing they are accepting genuine work, victims travel to another country only to find themselves confined in illegal scam compounds.

Within these compounds, victims are forced to conduct cyber-enabled fraud, including romance scams, cryptocurrency fraud, and other online schemes targeting people around the world. They are kept under constant surveillance and subjected to violence, threats, debt bondage, and demanding work quotas, leaving them trapped in conditions of fear with little opportunity to escape.

The article also offers some eye popping statistics:

- 74% of traffickers operate within organized crime groups.
- In 2022, victims from 162 nationalities were trafficked to 128 different countries.
- About 70% of those investigated, prosecuted and convicted for trafficking in 2022 were men.
- African victims were the most widely trafficked group. They accounted for 31% of cross-border trafficking flows.

Human trafficking continues to evolve, adapting to new technologies and exploiting vulnerabilities in increasingly sophisticated ways. The rise of online scam compounds is a reminder that trafficking is not confined to distant places or outdated stereotypes—it is a global crime with far-reaching consequences. Take time to learn the warning signs, support organizations working to protect survivors, and share accurate information with others. Greater awareness is one of the most powerful tools we have in preventing exploitation and ensuring that those trapped behind the scam are seen, protected, and given a path to freedom.

[Read the full UNODC article here](#)

PATH IN THE BOARDROOM

It is the start of a new year for PATH and we want to thank Sr Jacqueline Aceto, SCN, MSSW as she continues as the Chair, Dr. Theresa Hayden, PhD, MSSW as she takes on the Treasurer role and Sr Maryann Tarquinio, OP as she continues on as Secretary.

We thank those current board members as they give their time, talent and treasure to supporting the educational work PATH does: Yamiley Antoine, MSSW, LCSW, Dr. Patricia Bautista-Cervera, MD, MPH, Sr Carol Curtis, OPU, Dr. Ruben Pavlov, PhD, LCADC, CSW, and Sr Barbara Sullivan, OP.

We are welcoming two new board members in August and look forward to having them join us.

PATH AND YOU



The 24 hour day of giving returns on Thursday, September 10, 2026. Save the Date and be sure to support PATH during this amazing day of generosity.



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