



INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE
MISSION AUSTRALIA
IJM.ORG.AU

Introduction

International Justice Mission (IJM) is a global organisation that protects people in poverty from violence. We partner with local authorities in 33 program offices in 19 countries to combat slavery, violence against women and children, and police abuse of power against people living in poverty.

Our Four Pillars



Strengthen Justice Systems

We collaborate with justice system and community leaders to respond effectively to violence. Together, we design improvements that serve survivors, deter criminals and dramatically decrease violence.



Rescue and Restore Victims

We partner with local authorities to rescue individual victims of violence and restore survivors to safety and stability.



Bring Criminals to Justice

We work alongside justice system officials to ensure that criminals are held accountable, stopping the cycle of violence and deterring others from abusing vulnerable people.



Scale Demand for Protection

We convene and equip champions to advocate for protection as an essential and tangible future for everyone.



*Stock image. Not an actual survivor depicted.

Our Impact Around the World



158,300+
officials trained since 2012



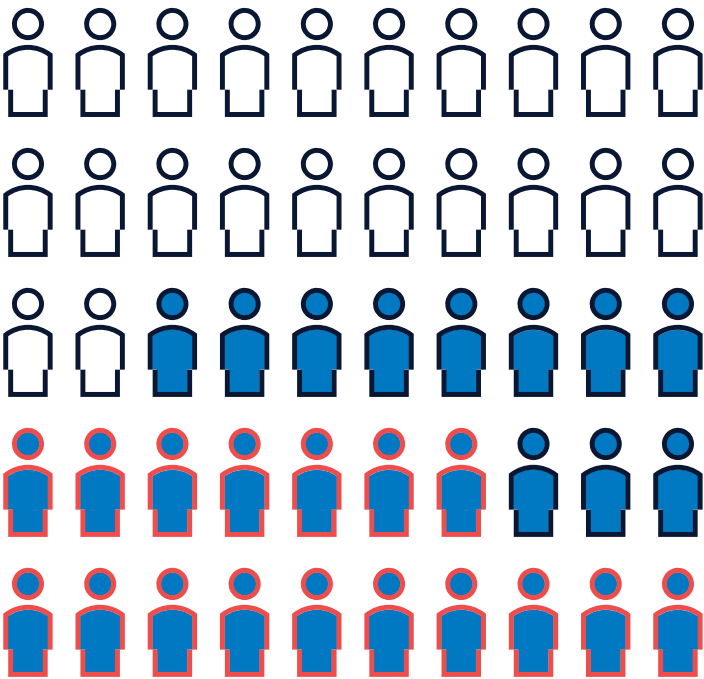
480,000+
people rescued from oppression

The Size of the Problem

50 million people are estimated to be held in slavery worldwide, 28 million of which are victims of forced labour. Asia and the Pacific are host to more than half of the global total¹ with over 17 million or 3.5 per thousand people estimated to be in forced labour in 2021.² The economic cost and illicit profits of human trafficking and modern slavery, is staggering: annual illegal profits from forced labour have increased by 37% since 2014, culminating in a total of AU\$378 billion in illegal profits per year in 2024, with AU\$99 billion of that originating in the Asia Pacific.³

50 MILLION PEOPLE

are estimated to be held in slavery worldwide



28 MILLION

of those held in slavery are victims of forced labour slavery.

17 MILLION

of which are in the Asia Pacific region



*Stock image. No actual survivors or situations of forced labour depicted.

Why should Australia Act?

The fastest growing forms of transnational crime and human trafficking in our region have direct impacts on Australians: online sexual exploitation of children is perpetrated by Australians, and the scamming industry is fuelled by trafficked people who are responsible for scamming millions of dollars from thousands of Australians each year.

Protect Children from Online Sexual Abuse

- Nearly half a million Filipino children were trafficked to produce new child sexual abuse material in 2022 alone.⁴
- The Philippine Anti-Money Laundering Council identified that between 2015 and 2022, Australia was the third highest source country for suspicious payments related to online sexual exploitation of children behind the US and the UK. On a per capita basis, Australians were the most prolific demanders of online sexual exploitation of Filipino children in this reporting period.
- According to a recent study by the University of New South Wales, 1 in 55 Australian men have engaged in sexually explicit webcamming with a child, and about the same number have paid for online sexual interactions, images or videos involving a child.”⁵

Stop Scams at the Source

- The scamming industry is rife with allegations of trafficking into forced criminality, with ‘forced scamming’ being one of the most complex and fastest-growing forms of modern slavery in the world.
- According to a 2024 report by the United States Institute of Peace, approximately 300,000 people are being held in online scam centres in the Mekong region.⁶ USIP estimates that the funds stolen worldwide by these criminal syndicates approaches AU\$100 billion.
- Australians reported almost \$480 million in losses across 300,000 scams in 2023, and nearly \$320 million in losses across 250,000 scams in 2024.⁷

Position Australia as a Leader in Our Region

Despite these examples of rapidly growing forms of transnational crime that profit from the violent abuse of vulnerable people, investment in addressing modern slavery is comparatively small. For example, a United Nations University report, authored by the now NSW Anti-Slavery Commissioner, found that across \$3.2 million of international aid projects between 2000 and 2017, less than \$19 per victim of modern slavery was committed on average each year.

Australia should prioritise addressing modern slavery in our region by partnering with civil society and our neighbours in the region to strengthen the rule of law and protect vulnerable people from violence.



Introduce a Digital Duty of Care

Further to Labor's election commitment to a digital duty of care⁸, IJM is calling on all parties and independents to commit to introducing a digital duty of care under the Online Safety Act 2021. For too long, tech companies have distributed services, platforms, apps that have little to no safety features to prevent online sexual exploitation and abuse of children from being created and disseminated.

In 2023, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's (NCMEC) CyberTipline received over 36 million reports of suspected child sexual exploitation online. The number of urgent, time-sensitive reports where a child was at risk of harm grew by more than 140% over 2020-2023.⁹

A digital duty of care should aim to prevent child sexual abuse material on Australian screens, keeping children safe from online sexual exploitation by Australian offenders, wherever they are in the world. This would shift the burden from individuals to service providers, who have the expertise and resources to identify and address harms.

In line with the independent reviewer's recommendation, Australia should "adopt a singular and overarching duty of care that encompasses due diligence, and is underpinned by safety by design principles, risk assessment, risk mitigation and measurement", and highlight the harm of "child sexual exploitation and abuse"¹⁰.

Specifically, a robust digital duty of care should:

- Require tech companies to take reasonable steps to address and prevent foreseeable harms on their services,
- Include ongoing risk assessments and reports on mitigation measures taken and their effectiveness, including risks to children impacted by the service,
- Apply to operating systems and equipment/device manufacturers, and
- Consider the best interests of the child

Scale Proven Models to Counter Online Sexual Exploitation of Children

This election, IJM is asking you to:

- Build the capacity of overseas hotspots to respond to reports of OSEC, which has a direct effect on Australia’s ability to identify and prosecute local offenders.
- Bolster support for the AFP and the National Office of Child Safety to further Australia’s crucial leadership role in Southeast Asia to support local law enforcement, prosecutors and judges to respond to OSEC.

Technical Capacity Building \$4 MILLION OVER 4 YEARS	Establish a Child Protection Compact with the Philippines \$8 MILLION OVER 4 YEARS	Double Funding for the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation \$92.4 MILLION OVER 3 YEARS
<p>Invest more in existing peer-to-peer technical capacity building to detect and prosecute OSEC cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More AFP liaison officers and support for international law enforcement coordination centres that exchange intelligence, such as the Philippines Internet Crimes Against Children Centre, to drive case outcomes where Australian offenders are implicated. • Provide Advanced Investigative Workshops for Philippine law enforcement. • Further judicial training to build Filipino judges’ expertise in considering digital evidence and using child protective courtroom strategies. • Increase law enforcement training to interpret CyberTipline reports and improve online investigative skills in other emerging hot spots, such as Malaysia and Indonesia. 	<p>An international model that has seen success in protecting children from OSEC is the United States’ Child Protection Compacts (CPCs).</p> <p>CPCs are multi-year plans developed jointly by bilateral partners that document a shared commitment to achieve objectives aimed at strengthening the developing partner country’s efforts to effectively prosecute and convict child traffickers, provide comprehensive trauma-informed care for child victims of these crimes, and prevent child trafficking in all its forms.</p> <p>IJM recommends that Australia establish a CPC Partnership with the Philippines, backed by an investment of \$8 million over 4 years, seeking a co-contribution from the Philippine government as part of the agreement.</p> <p>Funding could be made available through DFAT’s Counter Modern Slavery, People Smuggling and Transnational Crime Branch with the program managed by the AGD’s National Office for Child Safety and mobilised through AFP operational support including through the Southeast Asia CSEA Command.</p>	<p>Further to the Coalition’s election commitment to double the size of the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation¹¹, IJM is calling on all parties and independents to match this commitment and include as part of this promise increased AFP support for the Philippine Internet Crimes Against Children Centre in Manila.</p> <p>This would increase law enforcement resources through an effective model to identify and rescue children in the Philippines who are victims of online sexual exploitation and abuse by Australian offenders.</p> <p>Australians are the highest per capita demanders of child sexual abuse materials from the Philippines¹², which 1 in 100 children are trafficked to produce¹³.</p> <p>Over 2021-22 – 2023-24, the AGD allocated \$15.4 million each year to the ACCCE, \$46.2 million in total.¹⁴</p> <p>A doubling of the size of the ACCCE would require a total investment of \$30.8 million each year over 2025-26 – 2028-29, or \$92.4 million in total.</p>

Case Study

Evidence of Success: Australians and Filipinos Work Together in World Leading Model of International Law Enforcement Cooperation (Dec 2024)

The AFP currently provides operational support as a member of the Philippine Internet Crimes Against Children Centre (PICACC) in Manila, which receives referrals from the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children to investigate suspected OSEC cases in the Philippines. The PICACC was jointly established in 2019 by Philippine law enforcement, the AFP, UK National Crime Agency and International Justice Mission, and was joined by Netherlands Police in 2021. From its inception in 2019 to the end of November 2024, the PICACC had undertaken a total of 287 operations, resulting in the removal of 766 victims from harm and arrest of 167 suspects.

In December 2024, the AFP announced that six children were removed from harm in the Philippines following an investigation between the AFP and Philippine National Police, which was triggered by the Tasmanian Joint Anti Child Exploitation Team arresting a 41-year-old man from Tasmania in March for alleged online child abuse offences. A 41-year-old Victorian man was then arrested in April after child abuse material was allegedly found on his phone after he arrived at Melbourne Airport from the Philippines.

Intelligence from both investigations was provided to the PICACC and AFP investigators based in Manila identified common aspects between the cases, including victims linked to both men. In November, the Philippine National Police and Philippine Department of Social Welfare and Development together with members of the AFP's Manila Post executed search warrants in the southern Philippines, which resulted in the arrest of two women, aged 43 and 23, who were charged with human trafficking and child abuse material offences contrary to Filipino law. Each of these offences carry a maximum penalty of life imprisonment. Six children, the youngest aged just two years old, were removed from harm and placed in the care of child welfare services.¹⁵



Support Law Enforcement Training and Operations to Identify Human Trafficking and Scamming in Southeast Asia

Australia is known in the Asia Pacific region for its leadership and commitment to countering human trafficking, and we should continue to invest in sustainable and innovative centres of excellence to address victim identification challenges, especially in scam centres. This would upskill our neighbours to interrupt human trafficking and the flow on impacts to Australians, including Australians being targeted by trafficked workers in offshore scam centres, who are often forced into criminality using deceptive recruitment practices and coercive violence.

Proper victim identification for trafficked workers followed by law enforcement action that holds perpetrators accountable is critical to protecting individuals from human trafficking and stopping scams at the source.

The 2024 Trafficking in Persons report noted that Thai and Indonesian officials lacked an understanding of human trafficking and could not effectively implement identification procedures consistently nationally, often resulting in authorities likely inappropriately arresting, penalising and deporting trafficking victims for illegal acts committed as a direct result of being trafficked.¹⁶

This election, IJM is asking you to:

Bolster Anti-Trafficking Training in Thailand and Indonesia \$600,000 OVER 3 YEARS	Boost DFAT's Capacity to Strengthen an Ally's Ability to Prevent Human Trafficking \$8 MILLION OVER 4 YEARS	Establish a Mekong Working Group on Cybercrime \$200,000 PER ANNUM
<p>In 2022, Australia entered into a bilateral partnership with Thailand to establish the Counter Trafficking in Persons Centre of Excellence as the first training facility in the region with a dedicated focus on combatting human trafficking, including trafficking into forced criminality in online scam centres.</p> <p>Recent training materials developed by the Centre of Excellence are designed to assist government law enforcement, border and industry agents to correctly identify victims and respond to cases of human trafficking across a range of case types.</p> <p>As the next phase of our partnership, Australia should work with Thailand to ensure that this curriculum is rolled out across Thailand and adopted institutionally.</p> <p>Australia should also work with Indonesia to adapt this curriculum for the Indonesian National Police for rollout via their education and training institute to address cases of cross-border human trafficking.</p>	<p>Expand the role of the Ambassador to Counter Modern Slavery, People Smuggling and Human Trafficking and establish a multi-year partnership program under that office, modelled on the US Department of State's Partnership to Prevent Trafficking in Persons (P2P) between Australia and one other bilateral partner.</p> <p>The P2P would aim to strengthen the efforts of an Australian ally government and civil society organisations to prevent human trafficking; identify, protect, and provide comprehensive, trauma-informed care for victims of trafficking; and create an enabling environment to promote more effective collaboration and partnerships to address human trafficking.</p>	<p>Establish an AFP-led Law Enforcement Mekong Working Group on Cybercrime and Scam Centres. The Working Group would comprise of AFP liaison officers and specialists in the Mekong region, foreign law enforcement partners, private organisations and civil society. Members would convene three times per year at the AFP Post in Bangkok to discuss intelligence sharing and exchange best practice knowledge to assist with international law enforcement operations.</p>

Case Study

Cracking Down on Human Trafficking and Cyberscamming

After losing his job during the pandemic, Indonesian national Rahim* (pseudonym) was recruited for a marketing job in Cambodia paying AU\$1,100 per month. Upon arrival in May 2022, he learned that the work actually involved targeting wealthy foreigners, including Australian men, through romance baiting and convincing them to invest in fake cryptocurrency investment schemes.

Rahim* never achieved the targets set for him and was frequently beaten, held in solitary confinement without food, and his pay was withheld. When he wanted to leave the compound, his family was ordered to pay a ransom they could not afford for his release to 'pay back' his recruitment and travel fees from Indonesia. Rahim* managed to contact the Indonesian Embassy and his friend contacted IJM through a relative.

In July 2022, Rahim* and eight other Indonesian nationals were rescued from the facility by Cambodian authorities, with support from IJM and Cambodian Police. IJM and the Indonesian Embassy were then able to repatriate the nine survivors back to Batam, Indonesia and worked with the survivors to make a report to local authorities and provide evidence in support of the case.

Three Indonesian nationals were later charged for human trafficking offences. The main recruiter was convicted and sentenced to four years in prison, fined IDR 200 million and ordered to pay restitution to each of the nine victims. Two accomplices were also convicted and sentenced to three years in prison and fined IDR 200 million.

**A pseudonym and obscured image used to protect survivor identity*



*Consent gathered for all images.

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3. Profits and poverty: The economics of forced labour, ILO, https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/2024-10/Profits%20and%20poverty%20-%20The%20economics%20of%20forced%20labour_WEB_20241017.pdf
4. https://ijm.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/IJM_Scale_of_Harm_2023_Full_Report.pdf
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16. <https://www.state.gov/reports/2024-trafficking-in-persons-report/>

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