



COI QUERY

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Title	Trafficking in human beings (THB)
Reference period	January 2022 to 20 September 2024
Topic(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Prevalence and main profiles of victims of trafficking2. Legal framework3. Availability of state protection4. Treatment and perception of victims of THB by society5. Availability and access to support services, including medical services, for victims of THB, particularly in Monrovia6. Access to employment, housing and public services, particularly in Monrovia
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Cite as: EUAA, Country of Origin Information Query, Liberia: Trafficking in human beings (THB), 24 September 2024, [url](#)



COI QUERY RESPONSE – Liberia

Trafficking in Human Beings (THB)

1. Prevalence and main profiles of victims of trafficking

Specific information on data and statistics on the prevalence and main profiles of victims of trafficking in human beings (THB) could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints. However, the following information could be relevant.

According to the Global Slavery Index 2023 by the Walk Free Foundation¹, Liberia was on the 37th place on a regional list for Africa concerning the estimated prevalence and number of people in ‘modern slavery’², consisting of 50 countries.³ The same source estimated that, in relation to Liberia’s population of about 5 million people, 16 000 people were estimated to be in a situation of ‘modern slavery’.⁴

The ENACT 2023 Africa Organised Crime Index⁵ noted that Liberia was ‘a source and destination country for human trafficking, with a significant number of victims being exploited within its borders’.⁶ Similarly, the 2024 United States Department of State (USDOS) report on Trafficking in Persons in Liberia reported that ‘human traffickers exploit domestic and foreign victims in Liberia, and traffickers exploit victims from Liberia abroad’.⁷ However, according to the same source, the prevalence of trafficking inside the country was higher than transnational trafficking.⁸

According to sources, the most frequent forms of THB in Liberia included sex trafficking, domestic servitude, forced begging, and forced labour, including in street vending, mining,

¹ Walk Free is an international human rights group ‘focused on the eradication of modern slavery in all its forms’. Walk Free, Who we are, n.d., [url](#)

² Walk Free Foundation uses the term ‘modern slavery’ to refer to different phenomena, including ‘forced labour, forced or servile marriage, debt bondage, forced commercial sexual exploitation, human trafficking, slavery-like practices, and the sale and exploitation of children’. Walk Free, The Global Slavery Index 2023, 16 June 2023, [url](#), p. 2

³ Walk Free, The Global Slavery Index 2023, 16 June 2023, [url](#), p. 78

⁴ Walk Free, The Global Slavery Index 2023, 16 June 2023, [url](#), pp. 78, 204

⁵ Enhancing Africa’s capacity to respond more effectively to transnational organised crime (ENACT) is an EU-funded programme focused on mitigating the impact of transnational organised crime in Africa, implemented by the Institute for Security Studies and INTERPOL, in affiliation with the Global Initiative against Transnational Organised Crime. The ENACT Organised Crime Index is a multi-dimensional tool that measures ‘both the level of countries’ criminality and their resilience to organised crime.’, Africa - Organised Crime Index, About the Index, n.d., [url](#)

⁶ ISS, INTERPOL, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, ENACT Organised Crime Index 2023, Africa – Liberia, n.d., [url](#), p. 3

⁷ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

⁸ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#)



and rubber plantations.⁹ Additionally, according to Freedom House annual report covering 2022, most victims are trafficked from rural to urban areas.¹⁰

According to the ENACT 2023 Africa Organised Crime Index, although organized agents were operating in Liberia and were involved in THB, ‘the overall network appears to be more opportunistic than coordinated’.¹¹ In the same context, USDOS also noted that traffickers ‘typically operate independently’.¹²

According to the 2024 USDOS report on Trafficking in Persons in Liberia, traffickers’ profiles often include family members of the victims and ‘well-respected’ community members.¹³

Moreover, the ENACT 2023 Africa Organised Crime Index reported that Liberia was also a transit hub for THB, attributed mainly to the limited capacities in border control, and ‘weak detection capabilities’ at entry points.¹⁴

Concerning transnational trafficking, USDOS indicated that main countries of exploitation for Liberian nationals were other West African countries, including Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, and Sierra Leone, and countries of the Middle East, including Oman.¹⁵

Specifically, according to the same source, during the period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, the government identified 157 THB victims, including two women sex trafficking victims, four men labour trafficking victims, and 151 victims of not specified forms of trafficking (150 women and one child).¹⁶ NGOs also identified additional 40 victims THB, all women.¹⁷ USDOS reported that from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, the government identified 154 THB victims, who consisted of 112 women victims of labour trafficking, and 42 victims not specified forms of trafficking, including 24 children and 18 foreign nationals.¹⁸

A January 2023 report by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) noted that, according to data by the Liberian Ministry of Labour (MOL), in 2022, the number of victims of THB included 70 women, 15 men, and less than five minor boys.¹⁹

1.1. Trafficking of Liberian women in Oman

⁹ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#); ISS, INTERPOL, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, ENACT Organised Crime Index 2023, Africa – Liberia, n.d., [url](#), p. 3

¹⁰ Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2023 - Liberia, 2023, [url](#)

¹¹ ISS, INTERPOL, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, ENACT Organised Crime Index 2023, Africa – Liberia, n.d., [url](#), p. 3

¹² USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

¹³ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

¹⁴ ISS, INTERPOL, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, ENACT Organised Crime Index 2023, Africa – Liberia, n.d., [url](#), pp. 3, 6

¹⁵ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

¹⁶ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

¹⁷ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

¹⁸ USDOS, 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 15 June 2023, [url](#)

¹⁹ UNODC, Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2022; Country profiles: Sub-Saharan Africa, January 2023, [url](#), p.



Sources reported that Liberian women were trafficked in the Middle East, mainly in Oman, for forced labour and domestic servitude.²⁰

In Liberia, most of these women were recruited by agencies and fraudulent job recruitment schemes, which collected fees from them and their families under the pretext of helping them to relocate with a promise of good job opportunities.²¹ According to media sources, poverty was reported as one of the major factors inciting women to be recruited.²² Liberian women victims of THB in Oman were exploited as domestic workers, and were reported to face ill-treatment, including less payment, excessive working hours²³, bad living conditions²⁴, starvation²⁵, and physical and sexual abuse.²⁶

Media sources reported that Liberian women were usually relocated and worked as domestic workers under Oman's kafala system, namely a legal employment system or 'sponsorship system'.²⁷ According to an article published in September 2022 by The Africa Report, a news organization covering news in Africa, this system allowed 'private citizens control over migrant's workers' employment and immigration status'.²⁸ The same source also noted that, in order to leave, women had to pay a fee and cover the expenses of return to Liberia, which impeded victims from leaving.²⁹

According to news sources, the issue of Liberian women trafficked in Oman was brought into light after testimonies of victims reached Liberian media³⁰, including through the victims' families.³¹ Front Page Africa (FPA), a local media newspaper, in December 2022 noted that,

²⁰ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#); Premium Times, Liberian women who took on their traffickers and won, 29 August 2023, [url](#); Africa Report (The), Liberia asks Oman to halt granting visas to Liberians for domestic work after abuse reports, 16 September 2022, [url](#); New Dawn (The), Liberian women subjected to modern-day slavery: The danger of human trafficking, 12 August 2022, [url](#)

²¹ Premium Times, Liberian women who took on their traffickers and won, 29 August 2023, [url](#); Africa Report (The), Liberia asks Oman to halt granting visas to Liberians for domestic work after abuse reports, 16 September 2022, [url](#)

²² Premium Times, Liberian women who took on their traffickers and won, 29 August 2023, [url](#); FPA, Liberia: Door Closes on Oman as Destination for Trafficked Women, 8 December 2022, [url](#); Africa Report (The), Liberia asks Oman to halt granting visas to Liberians for domestic work after abuse reports, 16 September 2022, [url](#);

²³ Premium Times, Liberian women who took on their traffickers and won, 29 August 2023, [url](#); FPA, Liberia: Door Closes on Oman as Destination for Trafficked Women, 8 December 2022, [url](#); Africa Report (The), Liberia asks Oman to halt granting visas to Liberians for domestic work after abuse reports, 16 September 2022, [url](#)

²⁴ Africa Report (The), Liberia asks Oman to halt granting visas to Liberians for domestic work after abuse reports, 16 September 2022, [url](#)

²⁵ FPA, Liberia: Door Closes on Oman as Destination for Trafficked Women, 8 December 2022, [url](#)

²⁶ Premium Times, Liberian women who took on their traffickers and won, 29 August 2023, [url](#); FPA, Liberia: Door Closes on Oman as Destination for Trafficked Women, 8 December 2022, [url](#)

²⁷ FPA, Liberia: Door Closes on Oman as Destination for Trafficked Women, 8 December 2022, [url](#); Africa Report (The), Liberia asks Oman to halt granting visas to Liberians for domestic work after abuse reports, 16 September 2022, [url](#)

²⁸ Africa Report (The), Liberia asks Oman to halt granting visas to Liberians for domestic work after abuse reports, 16 September 2022, [url](#)

²⁹ Africa Report (The), Liberia asks Oman to halt granting visas to Liberians for domestic work after abuse reports, 16 September 2022, [url](#)

³⁰ Premium Times, Liberian women who took on their traffickers and won, 29 August 2023, [url](#); FPA, Liberia: Door Closes on Oman as Destination for Trafficked Women, 8 December 2022, [url](#)

³¹ FPA, Liberia: Door Closes on Oman as Destination for Trafficked Women, 8 December 2022, [url](#)



according to the head of the Liberian anti-trafficking unit of the MOL, a precise number of Liberian women in Oman was not known.³²

1.2. Trafficking of children

Liberia was reported to be a source, transit and destination country for child trafficking.³³

USDOS indicated that most of THB victims in the country were children.³⁴ Similarly, The New Dawn, a local news source, in an article published in January 2022 reported that 70 % of detected victims of trafficking were children below the age of eighteen years, and most of them originated from rural areas.³⁵ Corroborating information could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within the time constraints.

Children victims of THB in Liberia were reported to be exploited in sex trafficking and forced labour and domestic servitude.³⁶

According to the January 2022 article by The New Dawn, the practice of relatives and rural elders sending children to other relatives in urban areas with the purpose to receive better education and opportunities, constituted a new form of trafficking in the country.³⁷ The same source reported that these children were often mistreated and abused, forced to work or deprived of access to education.³⁸

According to the 2024 USDOS report on Trafficking in Persons in Liberia, orphaned children were trafficked in street vending and sex trafficking, while some parents encouraged 'their daughters' exploitation in sex trafficking to supplement family income'.³⁹ Furthermore, the same source indicated in relation to child trafficking that law enforcement employees occasionally accepted bribes from suspected traffickers.⁴⁰

2. Legal framework

Liberia ratified the United Nations (UN) Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, in 2004.⁴¹

³² FPA, Liberia: In A Whatsapp Group Trafficked Women in Oman Plead for Help; Suspect Flees, 12 December 2022, [url](#)

³³ New Dawn (The), Child Trafficking in Liberia: A growing menace to society, 14 January 2022, [url](#)

³⁴ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#); USDOS, 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 15 June 2023, [url](#)

³⁵ New Dawn (The), Child Trafficking in Liberia: A growing menace to society, 14 January 2022, [url](#)

³⁶ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#); New Dawn (The), Child Trafficking in Liberia: A growing menace to society, 14 January 2022, [url](#)

³⁷ New Dawn (The), Child Trafficking in Liberia: A growing menace to society, 14 January 2022, [url](#)

³⁸ New Dawn (The), Child Trafficking in Liberia: A growing menace to society, 14 January 2022, [url](#)

³⁹ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

⁴⁰ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

⁴¹ UN Treaty Collection, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, last updated 18 September 2024, [url](#)



In 2005, Liberia enacted the Act to Ban Trafficking in Persons.⁴² According to UNODC, the Act covered ‘all forms of trafficking indicated in the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol’.⁴³

According to Section 5 of the 2005 Act to Ban Trafficking in Persons:

‘A court of competent jurisdiction shall sentence a person convicted of the crime of trafficking in persons to a minimum of one year imprisonment.’⁴⁴

Sources reported that in 2021, the Revised Act to Ban Trafficking in Persons was passed, aligning THB-related legislation with international law.⁴⁵ The revised law prescribed minimum sentences of 20 years’ imprisonment for as a sentence for THB.⁴⁶ Sources noted that the revised law also provided that victims could obtain ‘restitution’⁴⁷, while it allowed courts to order the confiscation and auction of convicted person’s assets to that end.⁴⁸

The text of the 2021 Revised Act to Ban Trafficking in Persons could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints.

3. Availability of state protection

According to sources, the government of Liberia made efforts to combat THB.⁴⁹ However, Freedom House noted that despite these efforts, THB for the purpose of forced labor and prostitution remained ‘a problem’⁵⁰. Furthermore, according to the ENACT 2023 Africa Organised Crime Index, the effective implementation of the legal framework remained ‘a difficult task’, despite the government’s attempts for law and policy reforms.⁵¹

⁴² UNODC, Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2022; Country profiles: Sub-Saharan Africa, January 2023, [url](#), p. 23; New Dawn (The), Child Trafficking in Liberia: A growing menace to society, 14 January 2022, [url](#)

⁴³ UNODC, Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2022; Country profiles: Sub-Saharan Africa, January 2023, [url](#), p. 23

⁴⁴ Republic of Liberia, Act to Ban Trafficking in Persons, 2005, [url](#)

⁴⁵ USDOS, 2022 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 29 July 2022, [url](#); Africa Report (The), Liberia asks Oman to halt granting visas to Liberians for domestic work after abuse reports, 16 September 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁶ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#); Premium Times, Liberian women who took on their traffickers and won, 29 August 2023, [url](#); GNN, LIBERIA: Court Renders Guilty Verdict Against Arthur Chan-chan And Others, 13 January 2023, [url](#)

⁴⁷ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#); FPA, Liberia: Trafficking Victims Unaware of Funds Awarded to Them in Landmark Trafficking Trial; Alleged Mastermind’s Online History Tells How He Devised the Scheme, 17 March 2023, [url](#)

⁴⁸ FPA, Liberia: Trafficking Victims Unaware of Funds Awarded to Them in Landmark Trafficking Trial; Alleged Mastermind’s Online History Tells How He Devised the Scheme, 17 March 2023, [url](#); New Dawn (The), Government wins Human Trafficking case, 21 April 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁹ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#); FPA, Liberia: Human Trafficking Defendant Released And Cases Halted As Funds Diverted, Risking U.S. Sanctions, 13 February 2024, [url](#); ISS, INTERPOL, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, ENACT Organised Crime Index 2023, Africa – Liberia, n.d., [url](#), p. 6

⁵⁰ Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2024 - Liberia, 2024, [url](#)

⁵¹ ISS, INTERPOL, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, ENACT Organised Crime Index 2023, Africa – Liberia, n.d., [url](#), p. 6



In reference to the identification and protection of THB victims, the 2024 USDOS report on Trafficking in Persons in Liberia, noted that the Liberian government made ‘mixed efforts’.⁵² USDOS indicated that, according to government’s reports, from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, 25 of the total 157 identified THB victims were referred to government and NGOs’ services⁵³; in comparison with 122 THB victims referred within the time period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.⁵⁴

Furthermore, sources reported that an anti-trafficking hotline was established.⁵⁵ However, according to the 2024 USDOS report on Trafficking in Persons in Liberia, the hotline ‘did not always appear to be operational’.⁵⁶ The same source noted that, according to government’s reports, the hotline received 5 959 THB-related calls from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, but there were no reports of referrals of any calls to Liberia National Police (LNP) for investigation.⁵⁷

Lack of resources, lack of training of authorities’ personnel on standard operating procedures and available referral mechanisms⁵⁸, as well as inconsistent application of these procedures⁵⁹ were reported as main factors hindering the identification of THB victims.⁶⁰ As a result, many THB victims were not identified⁶¹, or were misidentified as victims of other crimes.⁶²

Moreover, USDOS indicated that in 2022, the Liberian government increased the year’s budget allocated to combat THB to USD 275 000 [about EUR 248 000].⁶³ However, FPA reported that in the context of the 2023 national elections the government significantly decreased the year’s budget to combat THB, from USD 230 000 [about EUR 207 430] initially allocated to USD 15 000 [about EUR 13 530].⁶⁴ According to the same source, this has led ‘anti-trafficking efforts to a halt’.⁶⁵

Concerning the law enforcement, the 2024 USDOS report on Trafficking in Persons in Liberia, noted that the government ‘decreased’ efforts.⁶⁶ According to the same source, during the

⁵² USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

⁵³ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁴ USDOS, 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 15 June 2023, [url](#)

⁵⁵ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#); Africa Report (The), Liberia asks Oman to halt granting visas to Liberians for domestic work after abuse reports, 16 September 2022, [url](#)

⁵⁶ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁷ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁸ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#); ISS, INTERPOL, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, ENACT Organised Crime Index 2023, Africa – Liberia, n.d., [url](#), pp. 6, 7

⁵⁹ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

⁶⁰ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#); ISS, INTERPOL, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, ENACT Organised Crime Index 2023, Africa – Liberia, n.d., [url](#), pp. 6, 7

⁶¹ ISS, INTERPOL, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, ENACT Organised Crime Index 2023, Africa – Liberia, n.d., [url](#), p. 7

⁶² USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

⁶³ USDOS, 2022 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 29 July 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁴ FPA, Liberia: Human Trafficking Defendant Released And Cases Halted As Funds Diverted, Risking U.S. Sanctions, 13 February 2024, [url](#)

⁶⁵ FPA, Liberia: Human Trafficking Defendant Released And Cases Halted As Funds Diverted, Risking U.S. Sanctions, 13 February 2024, [url](#)

⁶⁶ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#)



period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, the Liberian government investigated nine trafficking cases involving 13 suspects, continued the investigation of six cases involving nine suspects, and initiated the prosecution of one defendant.⁶⁷ During the same period, the judicial authorities did not issue any conviction for THB offences.⁶⁸ Furthermore, according to the same source, the authorities did not investigate or prosecute any government officials implicated in THB offences.⁶⁹

In comparison, USDOS also reported that from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 the government ‘investigated eight trafficking cases, involving 12 suspects, including five for labour trafficking and three for unspecified forms of trafficking’, continued the investigation of seven cases involving eight suspects.⁷⁰ During the same period, the government initiated the prosecution of 13 defendants, and continued the prosecution of three defendants, while 15 of the defendants were prosecuted under the 2021 Revised Act to Ban Trafficking in Persons and one under the previous 2005 Act.⁷¹ Within the same time period, the judicial authorities convicted four individuals for THB, three of them under the 2021 Revised Act to Ban Trafficking in Persons and one under the previous 2005 Act for trafficking, with sentences ranging from three to 25 years’ imprisonment.⁷²

A January 2023 report by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) noted that, according to data by the Liberian MOL, during 2022, seven cases of THB were recorded, four cases were investigated, while two cases resulted in judicial conviction.⁷³

Furthermore, the LNP anti-trafficking unit was reported as primarily responsible to investigate THB cases, although, as USDOS noted, it ‘lacked basic resources and equipment to fully respond to and investigate trafficking allegations.’⁷⁴ Similarly, the Liberian Immigration Service (LIS), comprised of 14 officers stationed at ‘five major ports of entry and other minor ports of entry’ investigated transnational trafficking cases.⁷⁵

According to FPA, Criminal Court A was the special court dedicated to the adjudication of THB cases⁷⁶, which was based in Monrovia.⁷⁷

⁶⁷ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

⁶⁸ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

⁶⁹ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

⁷⁰ USDOS, 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 15 June 2023, [url](#)

⁷¹ USDOS, 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 15 June 2023, [url](#)

⁷² USDOS, 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 15 June 2023, [url](#)

⁷³ UNODC, Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2022; Country profiles: Sub-Saharan Africa, January 2023, [url](#), p. 23

⁷⁴ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

⁷⁵ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

⁷⁶ FPA, Liberia: Human Trafficking Defendant Released And Cases Halted As Funds Diverted, Risking U.S. Sanctions, 13 February 2024, [url](#)

⁷⁷ New Dawn (The), Government wins Human Trafficking case, 21 April 2022, [url](#); Republic of Liberia, The Judiciary: Judges assignment, n.d., [url](#)



Incidents of government response and prosecution for offenses related to THB in Liberia, as reported by local media sources, include⁷⁸:

- In February 2024, a schoolteacher accused of trafficking three women to Oman in 2022, was released on bail by Criminal Court A.⁷⁹ According to FPA, the judicial decision to grant bail to the accused was issued ‘after the state failed to prosecute him within the legal period required’ and after ‘two of the three women who were set to testify against him had signed “waivers of prosecution” signaling their unwillingness to testify against him’.⁸⁰ The same source reported that the women signed the waivers after threats and bribes from family members of the accused.⁸¹ In March 2024, FPA reported that about two weeks after his release, the accused was arrested again and detained, awaiting trial, following an order by the Criminal Court A.⁸² Further information on the case could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within the time constraints.
- In January 2023, a former agent of the National Security Agency was sentenced by Criminal Court A to 25 years in prison for trafficking two women in Oman.⁸³ The man was accused of participating in the arrangement and organization of a scheme trafficking Liberian women to Oman under the false pretense of providing them with employment opportunities.⁸⁴ Media sources reported that this conviction was the highest sentence ever prescribed by courts for the crime of THB in Liberia.⁸⁵ According to FPA, this was also ‘the first accused perpetrator to have a direct link to the Liberian government’.⁸⁶ Under the 2021 Revised Act to Ban Trafficking in Persons, the accused was also sentenced to pay a USD 100 000 [about EUR 90190] fine to government and USD 11 000 [about EUR 9920] in total to the two victims.⁸⁷ According to an article by FPA published in March 2023, the restitution to the victims had to be paid before the fine, however the payment remained pending after the accused lodged an appeal of his conviction.⁸⁸ The defendant’s brother, who was believed to reside in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), was reported to be in charge of the trafficking ring, while the

⁷⁸ Regarding the issue of THB in Liberia, sources consulted by EUAA within the timeframe of this query response reported mostly on cases related to Liberian women victims of THB in Oman.

⁷⁹ FPA, Liberia: Human Trafficking Defendant Released And Cases Halted As Funds Diverted, Risking U.S. Sanctions, 13 February 2024, [url](#)

⁸⁰ FPA, Liberia: Human Trafficking Defendant Released And Cases Halted As Funds Diverted, Risking U.S. Sanctions, 13 February 2024, [url](#)

⁸¹ FPA, Liberia: Human Trafficking Defendant Released And Cases Halted As Funds Diverted, Risking U.S. Sanctions, 13 February 2024, [url](#)

⁸² FPA, Liberia: Accused Human Trafficker Rearrested And Detained, 1 March 2024, [url](#)

⁸³ FPA, Liberia: Former State Security Agent Gets 25 Years for Human Trafficking, 19 January 2023, [url](#)

⁸⁴ FPA, Liberia: NSA Agent, Brother On Trial For Human Trafficking, 23 December 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁵ Premium Times, Liberian women who took on their traffickers and won, 29 August 2023, [url](#); FPA, Liberia: Former State Security Agent Gets 25 Years for Human Trafficking, 19 January 2023, [url](#)

⁸⁶ FPA, Liberia: NSA Agent, Brother On Trial For Human Trafficking, 23 December 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁷ FPA, Liberia: Trafficking Victims Unaware of Funds Awarded to Them in Landmark Trafficking Trial; Alleged Mastermind’s Online History Tells How He Devised the Scheme, 17 March 2023, [url](#)

⁸⁸ FPA, Liberia: Trafficking Victims Unaware of Funds Awarded to Them in Landmark Trafficking Trial; Alleged Mastermind’s Online History Tells How He Devised the Scheme, 17 March 2023, [url](#)



Criminal Court A asked the Liberian police to issue an international arrest warrant against him.⁸⁹

- In August 2022, a man, deemed by the authorities as a leader of the trafficking network of women in Oman, was indicted with THB, criminal solicitation, and theft of property.⁹⁰ According to Liberian police authorities, the accused operated with the assistance of accomplices for the issuance of visas and identity documents, and travel arrangements.⁹¹ However, in September 2022, the man was released on bail by a decision of the Criminal Court A, and after his sister and father-in-law agreed to serve as guarantors that he would appear in court.⁹² Following his release, the accused fled, while the authorities believed he left the country.⁹³ FPA reported that it was not possible to proceed with the prosecution, as according to ‘Liberian law, criminal defendants must be present in the court during trial and cannot be tried “in absentia”’.⁹⁴
- In April 2022, the LNP has investigated and arrested a pastor in the Boys Town Community, Margibi County, for allegedly trafficking a Liberian woman to Oman, following the filing of a complaint by the woman’s husband.⁹⁵ Specifically, the pastor was accused that, with the help of an accomplice, he recruited and transported a woman to Oman for work, where she reportedly faced ill-treatment and sexual abuse.⁹⁶ The woman had also paid an amount of money as a processing fee to the pastor.⁹⁷ According to local media sources, two other women were extorted by the pastor by paying processing fees.⁹⁸ The pastor was charged with the commission of the crimes of trafficking in person of the Revised Act to Ban Trafficking in Persons and of theft of property under the Liberian Penal Law, and was incarcerated awaiting trial.⁹⁹
- In April 2022, a 31-year-old man was charged with trafficking in persons under the Revised Act to Ban Trafficking in Persons, and was incarcerated in Monrovia.¹⁰⁰ The man was charged of trafficking a woman to Oman and receiving a fee before her

⁸⁹ FPA, Liberia: Trafficking Victims Unaware of Funds Awarded to Them in Landmark Trafficking Trial; Alleged Mastermind’s Online History Tells How He Devised the Scheme, 17 March 2023, [url](#)

⁹⁰ FPA, Liberia: In A Whatsapp Group Trafficked Women in Oman Plead for Help; Suspect Flees, 12 December 2022, [url](#)

⁹¹ FPA, Liberia: In A Whatsapp Group Trafficked Women in Oman Plead for Help; Suspect Flees, 12 December 2022, [url](#)

⁹² FPA, Liberia: Accused Oman Trafficker Skips Bail; Family Members Jailed Over His Escape, 5 December 2022, [url](#)

⁹³ FPA, Liberia: In A Whatsapp Group Trafficked Women in Oman Plead for Help; Suspect Flees, 12 December 2022, [url](#)

⁹⁴ FPA, Liberia: In A Whatsapp Group Trafficked Women in Oman Plead for Help; Suspect Flees, 12 December 2022, [url](#)

⁹⁵ News Public Trust, Church Pastor Jailed For Allegedly Trafficking A Liberian Woman, 23 April 2022, [url](#); New Dawn (The), Pastor jailed for trafficking woman to Oman, 21 April 2022, [url](#)

⁹⁶ News Public Trust, Church Pastor Jailed For Allegedly Trafficking A Liberian Woman, 23 April 2022, [url](#); New Dawn (The), Pastor jailed for trafficking woman to Oman, 21 April 2022, [url](#)

⁹⁷ News Public Trust, Church Pastor Jailed For Allegedly Trafficking A Liberian Woman, 23 April 2022, [url](#); New Dawn (The), Pastor jailed for trafficking woman to Oman, 21 April 2022, [url](#)

⁹⁸ News Public Trust, Church Pastor Jailed For Allegedly Trafficking A Liberian Woman, 23 April 2022, [url](#); New Dawn (The), Pastor jailed for trafficking woman to Oman, 21 April 2022, [url](#)

⁹⁹ News Public Trust, Church Pastor Jailed For Allegedly Trafficking A Liberian Woman, 23 April 2022, [url](#); New Dawn (The), Pastor jailed for trafficking woman to Oman, 21 April 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁰ News Public Trust, Church Pastor Jailed For Allegedly Trafficking A Liberian Woman, 23 April 2022, [url](#); New Republic, Man Hook For Woman Trafficking, 22 April 2022, [url](#)



departure, after her husband filed a complaint.¹⁰¹ Media sources also noted that in April 2023, the man was acquitted of the charges, following a verdict of the jury of Criminal Court A.¹⁰²

- In April 2022, the government prosecuted a woman who had allegedly trafficked more than 10 Liberian women to Oman.¹⁰³ The woman was convicted by Criminal Court A, with this being reported as the first conviction of THB under the 2021 Revised Act to Ban Trafficking in Persons.¹⁰⁴
- In January 2022, the Liberian police arrested in a town outside Monrovia a Sierra Leonean man who allegedly tried to sell his minor son.¹⁰⁵

Concerning women victims of THB in Oman, media sources reported that as a response, the Liberian government requested from Omani authorities in a joint meeting to halt the issuance of work visas to Liberians¹⁰⁶ and to allow a Liberian delegation to visit Oman.¹⁰⁷

Moreover, according to sources, the Liberian government assisted in the repatriation of potential Liberian THB victims from Oman.¹⁰⁸ In a September 2022 article, The Africa Report reported that since January 2022 Liberia repatriated 27 women THB victims from Oman.¹⁰⁹ FPA noted in December 2022 that, according to the Liberian anti-trafficking unit, 125 victims returned from Oman since March 2022, with assistance from different actors including a Canadian anti-trafficking advocate and the Liberian Consulate in Dubai.¹¹⁰ According to an August 2023 article by Premium Times, a Nigerian media organization, officials of Liberia's anti-trafficking unit noted that 'more than 250 of the estimated 350' victims of THB were repatriated from Oman.¹¹¹ According to a December 2022 article by FPA, an anonymous source in the Liberian Consulate in Dubai indicated that the debts to 'release the women from their contracts', namely to return the amount of money paid by their 'sponsors' to the agents, were not covered by the Liberian government.¹¹² According to the same source, the families of

¹⁰¹ News Public Trust, Church Pastor Jailed For Allegedly Trafficking A Liberian Woman, 23 April 2022, [url](#); New Republic, Man Hook For Woman Trafficking, 22 April 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰² FPA, Liberia: Government Loses Human Trafficking Case As Court Acquits Accused Following Dramatic Trial, 26 April 2023, [url](#); Independent Probe, In Human Traffickers Case: Jury Hands Down Not Guilty Verdict for Sawo King Zubah, 25 April 2023, [url](#)

¹⁰³ Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2023 - Liberia, 2023, [url](#)

¹⁰⁴ New Dawn (The), Government wins Human Trafficking case, 21 April 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁵ BBC News, Trafic d'êtres humains : un père arrêté au Libéria pour avoir tenté de vendre son fils, 7 January 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁶ FPA, Liberia: In A Whatsapp Group Trafficked Women in Oman Plead for Help; Suspect Flees, 12 December 2022, [url](#); Africa Report (The), Liberia asks Oman to halt granting visas to Liberians for domestic work after abuse reports, 16 September 2022, [url](#); TV5, Une ONG révèle le calvaire de femmes ouest-africaines exploitées à Oman, 7 September 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁷ Africa Report (The), Liberia asks Oman to halt granting visas to Liberians for domestic work after abuse reports, 16 September 2022, [url](#); TV5, Une ONG révèle le calvaire de femmes ouest-africaines exploitées à Oman, 7 September 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁸ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#); GNN, LIBERIA: Court Renders Guilty Verdict Against Arthur Chan-chan And Others, 13 January 2023, [url](#)

¹⁰⁹ Africa Report (The), Liberia asks Oman to halt granting visas to Liberians for domestic work after abuse reports, 16 September 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁰ Premium Times, Liberian women who took on their traffickers and won, 29 August 2023, [url](#); FPA, Liberia: Door Closes on Oman as Destination for Trafficked Women, 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹¹¹ Premium Times, Liberian women who took on their traffickers and won, 29 August 2023, [url](#)

¹¹² FPA, Liberia: Door Closes on Oman as Destination for Trafficked Women, 8 December 2022, [url](#)



some women were able to collect the amount of the debts, while repatriated victims consequently owed debts to their families.¹¹³

Local media sources also noted that the government cooperated in the repatriation of Sierra Leone nationals who were trafficked in Liberia¹¹⁴, with the reported repatriation of 16 victims to Sierra Leone in August 2022¹¹⁵ and one victim in September 2024.¹¹⁶

4. Treatment and perception of victims of THB by society

Information on the treatment and perception of victims of THB by society could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints.

5. Availability and access to support services, including medical services, for victims of THB, particularly in Monrovia

According to USDOS, the Liberian MOL operated three shelters, with the capacity to accommodate a total of 40 victims, to provide support to THB victims.¹¹⁷ One of the shelters was reported to be dedicated exclusively to female THB victims.¹¹⁸ The same source indicated that, due to capacity limitations, THB victims could usually reside in shelters for three to six months.¹¹⁹ According to statements by the head of the anti-trafficking unit of the MOL, as reported by an FPA article in February 2024, the Ministry has established four safe houses, two in Montserrado county, where the capital Monrovia is situated, one in Bomi, and one Margibi counties.¹²⁰

The ENACT 2023 Africa Organised Crime Index reported that shelters were scarce and inadequately equipped.¹²¹ Services were also reported to be limited, mainly due to resource constraints, particularly for male victims and persons with disabilities.¹²² Furthermore, services to THB victims were also reported to be limited particularly in rural areas.¹²³ According to

¹¹³ FPA, Liberia: Door Closes on Oman as Destination for Trafficked Women, 8 December 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁴ FPA, Liberia: Labor Ministry Repatriates Human Trafficking Victim to Sierra Leone to Reunite with Family, 3 September 2024, [url](#); New Dawn (The), Liberia: Government, IOM to repatriate 16 Sierra Leonean, 15 August 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁵ New Dawn (The), Liberia: Government, IOM to repatriate 16 Sierra Leonean, 15 August 2022, [url](#)

¹¹⁶ FPA, Liberia: Labor Ministry Repatriates Human Trafficking Victim to Sierra Leone to Reunite with Family, 3 September 2024, [url](#)

¹¹⁷ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

¹¹⁸ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

¹¹⁹ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁰ FPA, Liberia: Human Trafficking Defendant Released And Cases Halted As Funds Diverted, Risking U.S. Sanctions, 13 February 2024, [url](#)

¹²¹ ISS, INTERPOL, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, ENACT Organised Crime Index 2023, Africa – Liberia, n.d., [url](#), p. 7

¹²² ISS, INTERPOL, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, ENACT Organised Crime Index 2023, Africa – Liberia, n.d., [url](#), p. 7

¹²³ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#)



USDOS, the government relied on private, and NGOs operated shelters and the services, including shelters, were available to both, domestic and foreign THB victims.¹²⁴

Moreover, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MOGCSP) was also reported to operate shelters and several transit centers able to provide medical services and short-term accommodation for victims of gender-based violence, including THB victims.¹²⁵ However, according to USDOS, these transit centers 'operated with limited staff and resources and were unable to provide adequate services.'¹²⁶

USDOS noted further that there weren't official government reports on the number of THB victims assisted at the MOL or MOGCSP shelters.¹²⁷

6. Access to employment, housing and public services, particularly in Monrovia

Information on access to employment, housing and public services for THB victims particularly in Monrovia could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints. However, the following information may be relevant.

Concerning women victims of THB in Oman, the Liberian MOL in a speech in January 2022, as reported by the Global News Network (GNN), a local news provider, noted that the government with the assistance of partners, such as the United States Embassy, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Liberian Lutheran Church, provided reintegration assistance to fifty women victims of THB who had returned from Oman.¹²⁸ The assistance included ten days of psychosocial and business training¹²⁹, and the provision of financial assistance of USD 1 500 [about EUR 1352] of in-kind.¹³⁰

¹²⁴ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁵ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁶ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁷ USDOS, 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 24 June 2024, [url](#)

¹²⁸ GNN, Fifty Trafficked Liberian Ladies Get Reintegration Package..., 16 January 2023, [url](#)

¹²⁹ GNN, Fifty Trafficked Liberian Ladies Get Reintegration Package..., 16 January 2023, [url](#)

¹³⁰ USDOS, 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report: Liberia, 15 June 2023, [url](#)



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