

GREECE ANNUAL HOTLINE REPORT 2025

ABOUT THE 1109 HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE

Since 2012, A21 Greece has operated the 1109 Hotline, a nationwide counter-human trafficking hotline. Accessible by phone, email, social media and an online webform via its dedicated website (1109.gr), the 1109 Hotline is the only hotline in Greece solely dedicated to human trafficking. Expertly trained call specialists handle calls in Greek and English, supported by an interpretation service providing access to more than 230 additional languages. Beyond delivering direct assistance, the Hotline serves as a vital frontline resource and is often the first point of contact to identify emerging trafficking patterns and trends. This makes it critical not only for rapid response but also for informing and strengthening prevention efforts. It also provides general information on human trafficking in Greece, responds to training requests, and works closely with law enforcement, government agencies and civil society organisations to ensure a prompt and effective response to each case.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRENDS IN 2025

Throughout 2025, the 1109 Hotline continued to observe a rising trend of labour trafficking cases involving victims from Nepal. Of all the labour trafficking cases that were identified and/or assisted by the Hotline in the past year, just over 80% involved Nepalese nationals. All 71 of these survivors had been recruited through fraudulent job offers and were subsequently exploited in the agricultural sector. Patterns across these cases show that victims frequently begin their journey in Balkan countries such as Bulgaria or Romania, before eventually arriving in Greece, where they are coerced into working under conditions of debt bondage.

Throughout 2025, the 1109 Hotline received numerous reports linked to these trends, including 20 distinct and substantive tips concerning potential labour trafficking situations involving Nepalese victims. Community members accounted for 45% of these reports, and 15% were made by victims themselves. The remaining reports for these cases were received from local police departments seeking support from the 1109 Hotline.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Hotline received a total of 3404 CONTACTS, a 5.3% increase from 2024
- 73.6% of contacts were specifically related to Human Trafficking
- The Hotline identified and/or assisted 115 Victims of Trafficking, 64 of whom were supported through A21's Aftercare Program
- Of the human trafficking cases 76.5% related to labour exploitation and 16.5% to sexual exploitation
- The majority of victims reported to the Hotline were MALE (73%)
- The majority of victims reported to the Hotline were from NEPAL (61.7%) or SIERRA LEONE (10.4%)
- 47.3% of contacts came from the GENERAL PUBLIC
- 100 reports were sent to Greek Law Enforcement

"I spoke with my family and my wife and told her about all the help you provided...you are like my mother, thank you for everything"

—Survivor Recovered after Calling the Hotline

'Contacts' to the 1109 Hotline comprise of all incoming enquiries to the Hotline through any means, including but not limited to phone calls, emails, SMS and online web submissions. These enquiries include all reports on potential human trafficking, various crimes both related and unrelated to human trafficking, and queries about human trafficking generally, as well as requests for various types of assistance related to human trafficking, such as safety planning or job vetting.

'Reports' only include contacts to the 1109 Hotline relating to a potential human trafficking situation.

The statistics below are exclusively drawn from substantive contacts made to the 1109 Hotline from January - December 2025 concerning human trafficking matters. This report is not a reflection of all substantive calls to the 1109 Hotline, which may include calls related to high-risk crimes, labour exploitation and other non-trafficking issues.

Disaggregated data has been collected on each individual case based on descriptive factors including gender, age, type of trafficking, methods of control and recruitment methods. The data contained herein is based on the cases where the information was available. In the majority of cases, the call specialists were unable to obtain full or specific details about the case. Therefore, the data below is based on cases where the specified information was made available.

In response to this growing trend, A21 began strengthening partnerships with NGOs in Nepal to share key insights and emerging patterns they had observed. Together, they collaborated to develop a prevention resource designed to equip individuals considering travel to Europe for work. It includes practical information on typical wages and the cost of living in popular destination countries, while also highlighting red flags to watch for when assessing potentially suspicious job offers

OVERVIEW OF DATA ¹

Throughout 2025, the 1109 Hotline received 3,404 contacts via phone, email, social media and the online form, available on the Hotline’s webpage. Of the new, unique contacts received by the hotline, 35.4% of these were made through an online channel.

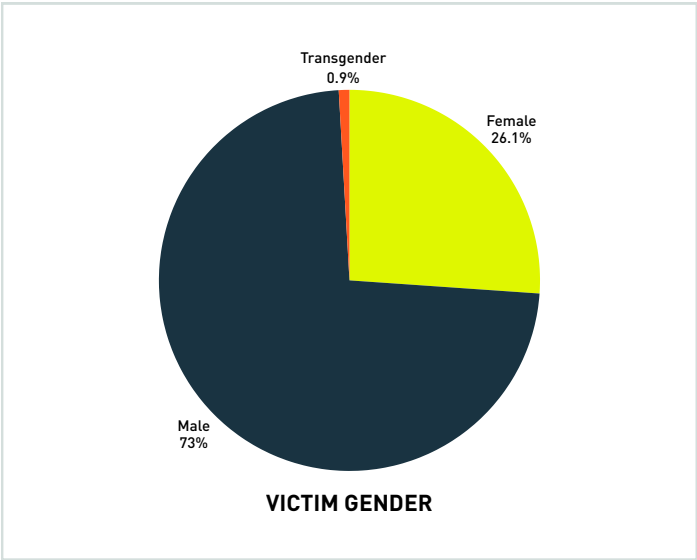
Human trafficking-related contacts accounted for 73.6% of total calls, an increase from 66.6% in 2024.

Throughout the year, 100 reports were compiled and submitted to law enforcement. Additionally, the Hotline participated in 22 operations in cooperation with authorities in Athens, Thessaloniki and regional police stations. Of these 22 operations, over 80% resulted in the successful identification of victims.

CALLER DEMOGRAPHICS ²

The Hotline continues to receive reports from a wide range of sources across the community, including potential victims, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), frontline professionals, and members of the general public. In 2025, community members accounted for nearly half (47.4%) of all contacts to the Hotline. These contacts typically come from concerned friends and family members of potential victims, as well as individuals who witness suspicious activity in their communities. This represents an 18.3% increase since 2024, reflecting a positive trend in public awareness and growing recognition of the issue of human trafficking - further amplified by a major moment when Panathinaikos FC promoted A21’s Can You See Me? campaign during a European match against Rangers FC at the Olympic Athletic Center of Athens, reaching 47,500 fans in the stadium and many more watching on television on World Day Against Human Trafficking.

Similar to 2024, law enforcement agencies, other NGOs, and potential victims each accounted for about 10% of callers, highlighting the importance of continued collaboration with NGOs and law enforcement agencies, as well as the strength reflected in potential victims reaching out for help on their own behalf.

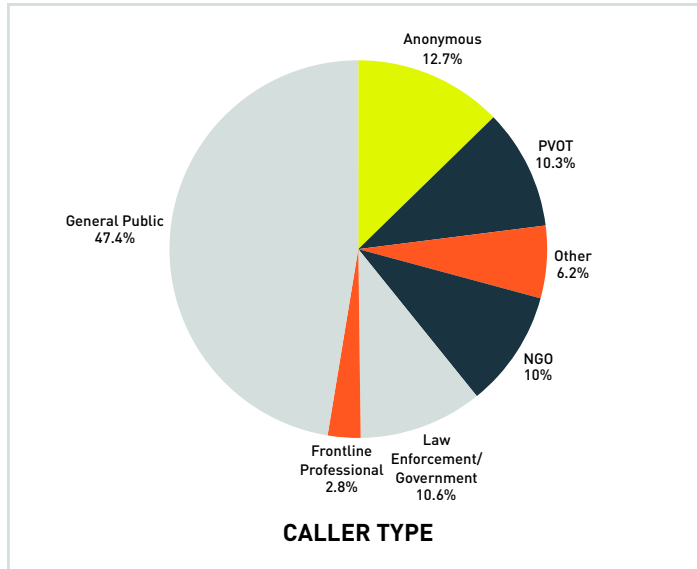


VICTIM DEMOGRAPHICS

The 1109 Hotline call specialists are specially trained to identify and respond to human trafficking situations in Greece. The 1109 Hotline protocol varies based on the caller’s needs. When potential victims contact the hotline directly, call specialists conduct screening interviews to assess their trafficking situation, safety plan and ensure swift extraction where possible. The following data is based on confirmed trafficking victims, either identified directly by call specialists or referred by partner organisations.

AGE AND GENDER

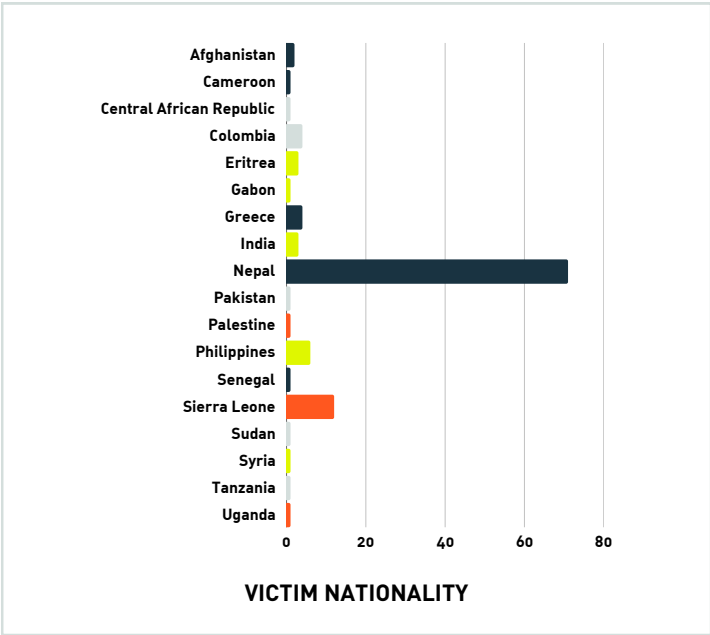
In 2025, 73% of identified victims were male, representing a significant 69.7% increase from 2024, when the majority of identified victims were female. This shift reflects the continued and notable rise in reported cases of labour exploitation. Of the 88 victims identified in situations of labour exploitation, 81 (92%) were male. Among female victims, who comprised 26.1% of the total, over half (56.6%) were identified in situations of sexual exploitation.



In terms of age, adults accounted for 99.1% of individuals identified and/or assisted by the Hotline in 2025, with only one minor identified. This distribution is not unexpected, as the Hotline does not typically provide direct services to individuals under 18. Cases involving children are generally referred to specialised NGOs with expertise in child protection and youth-specific support services.

VICTIM NATIONALITY

Throughout 2025, the Hotline received cases involving individuals from 18 different nationalities, reflecting the diverse backgrounds of those affected by trafficking in Greece. The most frequently reported nationality was Nepalese, accounting for 61.7% of all identified victims. This marks a significant increase from 21% in 2024 and confirms a growing trend of victims being recruited from Nepal through false job offers. Other prevalent nationalities were Sierra Leonean (10.4%), Filipino (5.2%), and Colombian (3.5%).

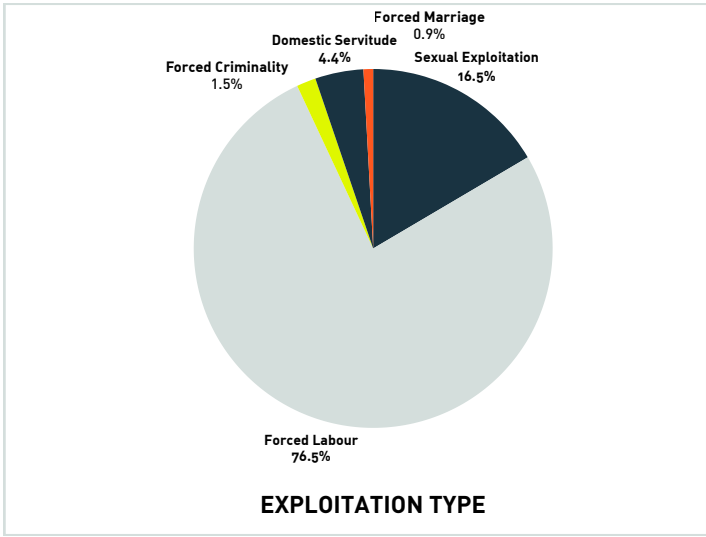


EXPLOITATION TYPE

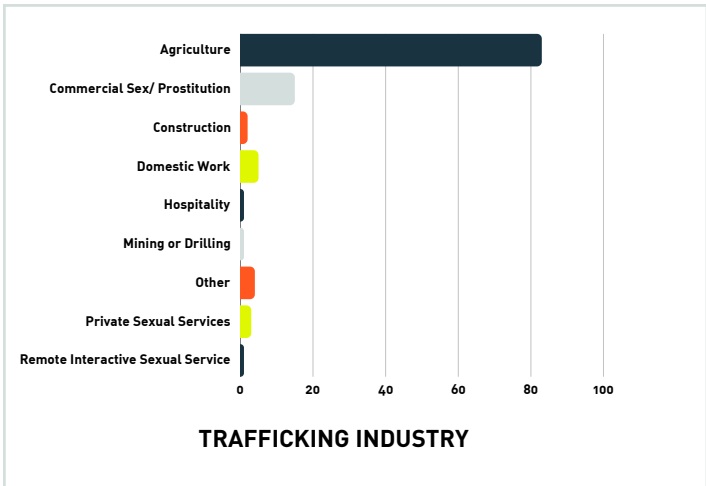
In 2025, the 1109 Hotline recorded a continued rise in the number of forced labour cases identified, a trend first noted in 2024. Forced labour accounted for more than three-quarters of all identified cases, representing a significant increase from 51.4% in 2024. Sexual exploitation remains a prevalent form of exploitation in Greece, accounting for 16.5% of cases. While forced criminality represented only 1.7% of cases assisted by the Hotline, it is notable that this reflects an increase from the previous year, when no cases of forced criminality were recorded.

The sustained increase in identified labour trafficking cases suggests that awareness and understanding of labour

exploitation has continued to grow in Greece, where sexual exploitation has historically been the most widely recognised form of trafficking. Since 2023, targeted training delivered by A21 to labour inspectors and anti-trafficking police have strengthened their ability to identify indicators and respond effectively, while improved coordination mechanisms have supported joint operations and information sharing. Although no specific 2025 cases can be directly linked to individual trainees, the overall rise in detected labour trafficking reflects strengthened professional capacity and institutional responsiveness. Extensive media coverage of large-scale operations involving Nepalese victims has also contributed to increased public awareness of labour exploitation.



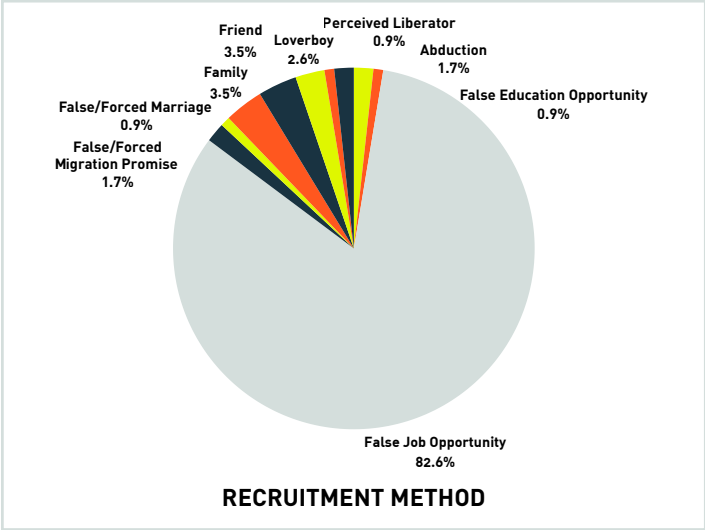
Of the 88 individuals identified as victims of forced labour, 83 were exploited in the agricultural sector. This represents over 72% of all industries reflected in the cases identified by the Hotline. The agricultural cases were reported across multiple areas of Greece, including the Peloponnese region - particularly within Laconia, the municipality of Evrotas, and the town of Skala - as well as in Tripoli and Athens. Other sectors identified in the cases include commercial (13%) and private sexual services, hospitality, construction, mining and drilling, and domestic work (4.3%).



RECRUITMENT METHODS

Victims recruited under false pretenses regarding the nature or conditions of the work - or “false job opportunities” - remained the most common recruitment method in 2025, making up 82.6% of cases reported to the Hotline. The prevalence of this recruitment method is unsurprising given the high number of forced labour cases during the year, as many individuals were seeking new employment opportunities abroad. This trend is consistent with previous years and reflects patterns observed globally by A21.

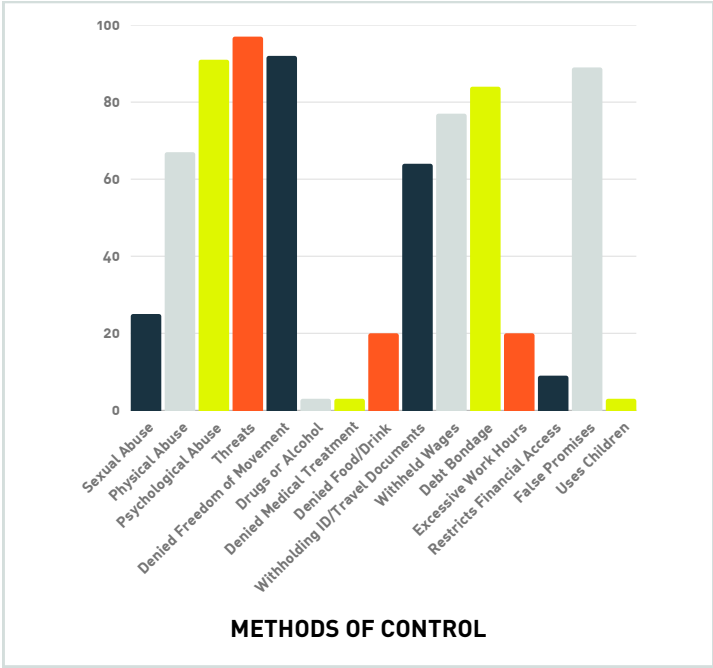
Other recruitment methods identified in cases reported included recruitment through a friend or family member, and the “Loveboy” method, in which an individual is recruited under the guise of a deceptive romantic relationship.



METHODS OF CONTROL

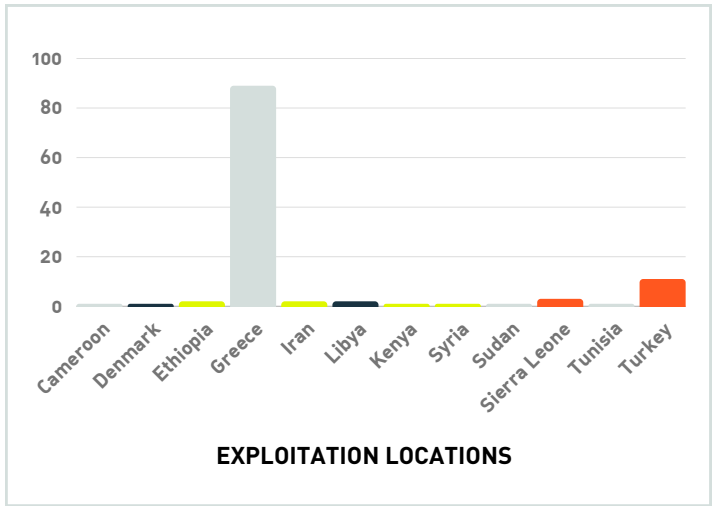
To maintain control over victims in exploitative situations, traffickers employ a range of coercive tactics, including restricting freedom of movement, psychological abuse, threats against the individual, and the withholding of wages or travel documents, among others.

Across the 115 identified trafficking cases, denial of freedom of movement was reported in 80% of cases. In more than 70% of cases, additional control methods were present, including psychological abuse, threats against the individual, debt bondage, and false promises. Withholding wages, confiscating identification or travel documents, and physical abuse were also prevalent control tactics, each occurring in over half of the cases identified. The use of multiple, overlapping control tactics significantly restricts an individual’s ability to seek help or safely leave their situation, creating layers of dependency, fear, and isolation that make exiting exploitation extremely difficult without external support.



EXPLOITATION LOCATIONS

Consistent with 2024 findings, the top three countries of exploitation in 2025 were Greece (77.4%), followed by Turkey (9.6%) and Sierra Leone (2.6%). While the Hotline recorded cases of exploitation across 12 different countries throughout the year, the vast majority occurred within Greece, most of which involved labour trafficking in the agricultural sector. Cases involving exploitation outside of Greece are often linked to the high number of refugees present in the country and the strong relationships the 1109 Hotline and A21 Greece team maintain with partners supporting individuals in refugee camps and other reception settings. Through these partnerships, the Hotline is able to receive disclosures from individuals who may have experienced exploitation in other countries prior to arriving in Greece. In some cases, individuals were exploited abroad but were only able to safely disclose their experiences and access support after arriving in Greece.





HIGHLIGHT: CASE STUDY

A mother from South America was promised a lucrative job opportunity in Greece, with assurances she could earn up to €2,000 per day. Facing financial hardship and wanting to provide for her children, she accepted the offer. However, upon arriving in Greece, the reality was far different.

She was confined to a hotel, closely monitored, and forced into sexual exploitation. Half of her earnings were taken, and additional fees were imposed for “expenses,” leaving her trapped in debt. When she asked to leave, her trafficker threatened her, claiming he knew where her children lived and demanding thousands of euros for her freedom.

In a moment of courage, she was able to reach out for help. Call Specialists immediately connected with the survivor, gathering live location data, descriptions of the building, and photo and video evidence. This information was relayed in real time to Anti-Trafficking Police, who mobilised a response team.

Within a few hours of the initial report, authorities extracted the survivor and arrested the traffickers. A21 was acknowledged in the official police press release for its role in the operation. Following this intervention, A21 provided emergency accommodation, essential support, and legal assistance.

This case demonstrates the power of swift reporting, survivor bravery, and strong collaboration between the Hotline and law enforcement.



ENDNOTES

1 To ensure data integrity, the data presented is extracted from reports submitted to the Hotline, consisting of those identified as victims and likely potential victims of trafficking. This report takes a conservative approach in presenting Hotline data and analysis, omitting reports of potential victims of human trafficking that were unable to be minimally substantiated.

2 Caller Type “Other” includes individuals or entities that do not fall within the defined categories, such as Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) or victims of crimes unrelated to human trafficking.

3 The Can You See Me? campaign is A21’s global campaign intended to equip the general public on recognising human trafficking and reporting suspected trafficking to the country’s relevant hotline. The real-life scenarios depicted through the CYSM? campaign brings awareness of the millions of men, women and children trapped in modern-day slavery across the world. By partnering with law enforcement, governments, businesses and NGOs, the goal is to turn awareness into action.

As a service situated to support those in exploitative situations, the 1109 Hotline is at the forefront of understanding emerging human trafficking trends in Greece. Each year, the 1109 Hotline commits to expanding its network and partners across Greece and throughout Europe to ensure that the collected data accurately reflects the current trafficking trends. The 1109 welcomes new partners interested in counter-human trafficking efforts in Greece and Europe. Partnerships are vital to provide services to identified trafficking survivors and to increase awareness about the services provided by the 1109 Hotline across Greece.



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The observations contained in this report are limited to information communicated to the 1109 Hotline during the reporting period. Nothing arising from the data should be interpreted as showing the full extent or prevalence of human trafficking in Greece.