Creating Stable Futures: Human Trafficking, Participation and Outcomes for Children

International and UK Overview of the Human Trafficking of Children and Young People
(Powerpoint 2)

International Context

Human Trafficking and/or Modern Slavery

- Global context
- Measuring human trafficking – estimates and statistics
- Headlines / trends from UNODC 2022 report
- Headline from Walk Free Foundation / ILO / IOM 2021 report
- Why and how are people trafficked?
- Determinants, Drivers and Vulnerabilities
- Who trafficks?

Perceptions of human trafficking and modern slavery

A scourge on society …. "evil"

The result of state practices that create environments in which exploitation can flourish

Human trafficking as 'one of the darkest aspects of the dark side of globalisation' (Heine and Thakur, 2011:13)

Globally, protection and support for children and young people who have experienced abuse, neglect and/or exploitation are particularly challenging areas of work (Radford *et al.,* 2011; Radford *et al.,* 2015; UNICEF, 2020)

Complex

Human trafficking: Two key sources of data

Summary of core data and indicators used in this edition of the Report

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020 (or most recent)	Total 2017-2020
Number of detected victims reported	44,989	46,384	49,692	46,850	53,800	187,915

GLOBAL REPORT ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS 2022

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

The 2021 Global Estimates indicate there are **50 million people** in situations of modern slavery on any given day, either forced to work against their will or in a marriage that they were forced into
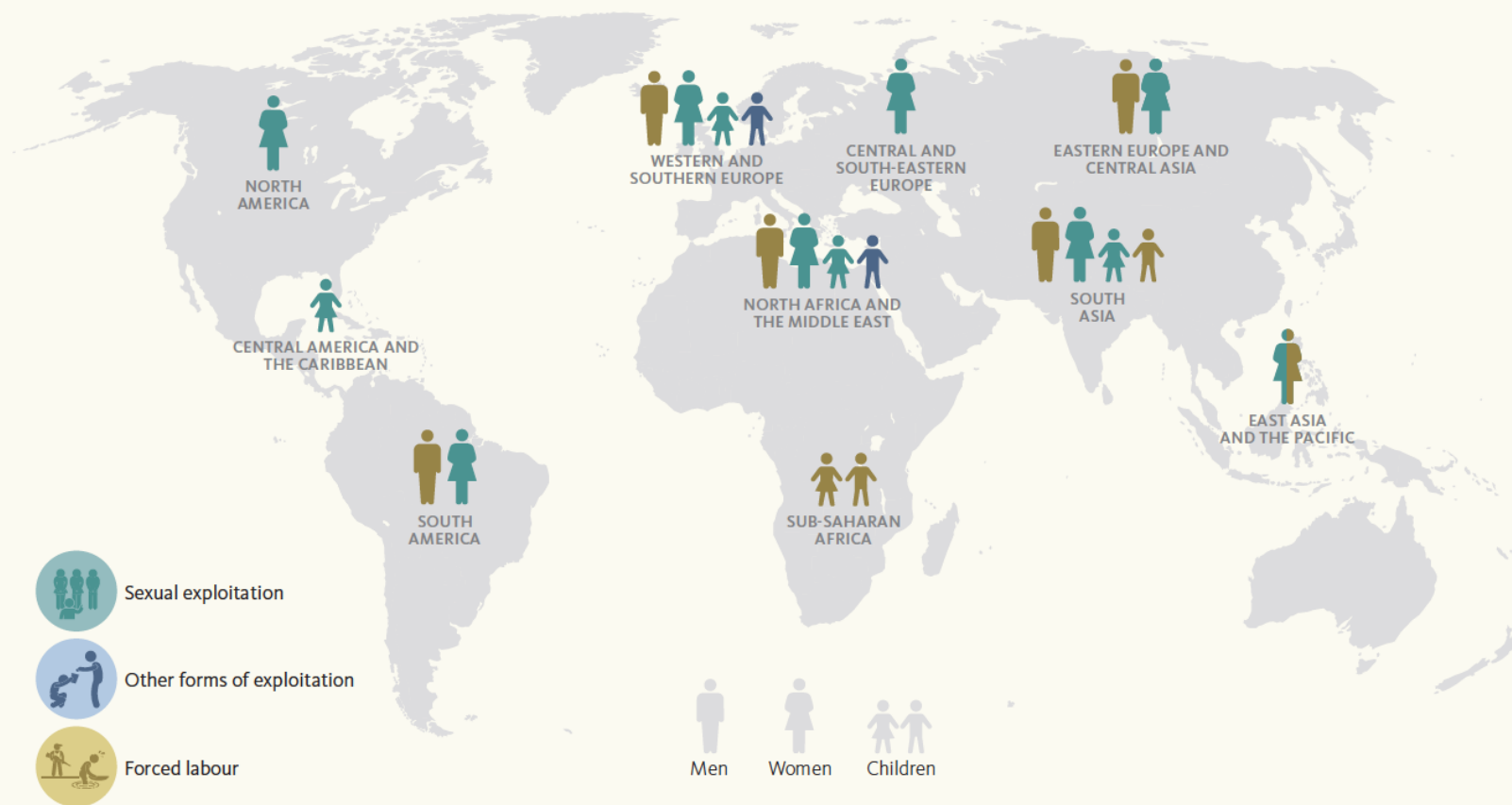- Forced labour accounts for 27.6 million
- Forced marriage accounts for 22 million

International Labour Organization   WALK FREE   IOM UN MIGRATION

Global Estimates of Modern Slavery
Forced Labour and Forced Marriage

Main forms of exploitation and profile of detected victims, by regions, 2020 (or more recent)

NORTH AMERICA

WESTERN AND SOUTHERN EUROPE

CENTRAL AND SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

SOUTH ASIA

SOUTH AMERICA

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Sexual exploitation

Other forms of exploitation

Forced labour

Men   Women   Children

Sources: UNODC elaboration of national data.
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

WESTERN AND SOUTHERN EUROPE

› In 2020, 22% increase in male victims detected compared to 2019.
› A proportion of detected victims are trafficked to be exploited in criminal activity or mixed forms of trafficking.
› Increased detection of domestic trafficking.
› Decrease in prosecutions and convictions.

UNODC (2022) global findings

Finding 2 — *Trafficking for sexual exploitation less detected during the pandemic*

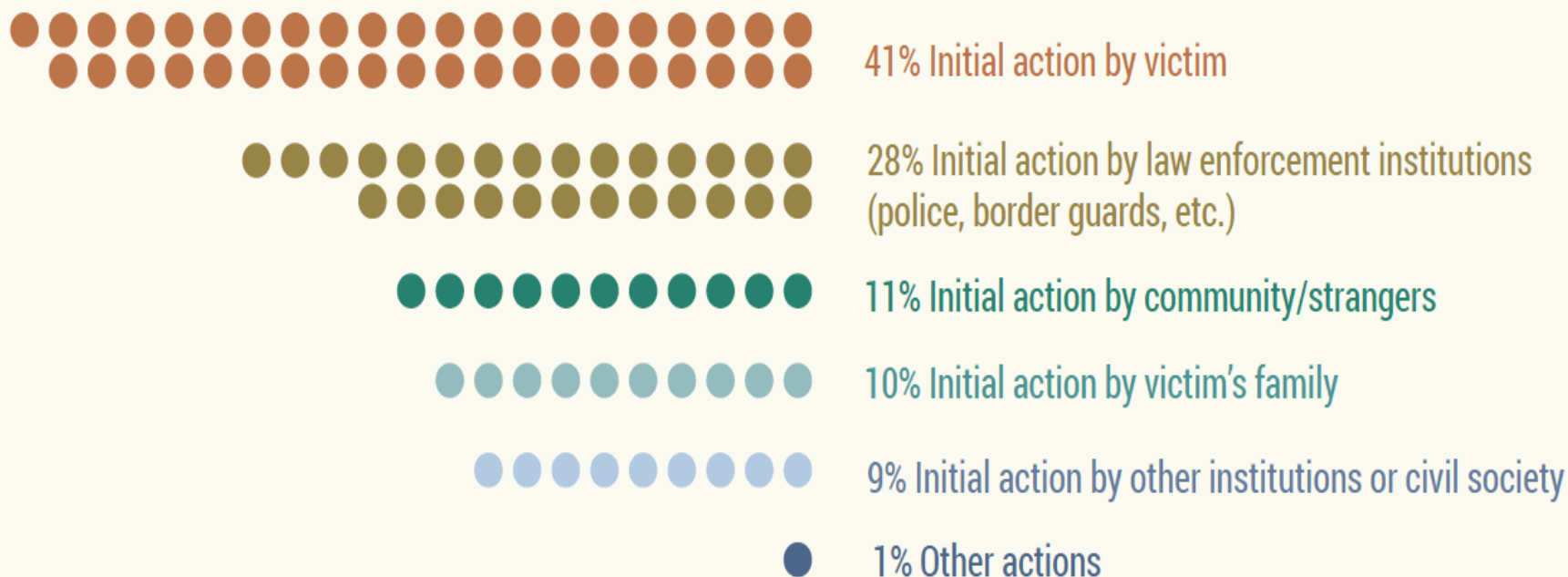**Finding 3** — *Victims rely on "self-rescue" as anti-trafficking responses fall short*

Finding 8 — *Boys and men account for a greater share of detected victims as new forms of exploitation emerge*

Finding 9 — *Women and children suffer greater violence at the hands of traffickers*

Finding 11 — *Women: more likely than men to be traffickers or more likely than men to be convicted?*

## Finding 3 Victims rely on "self-rescue" as anti-trafficking responses fall short

Discovery patterns for trafficking in persons cases (2012-2022)

41% Initial action by victim

28% Initial action by law enforcement institutions (police, border guards, etc.)

11% Initial action by community/strangers

10% Initial action by victim's family

9% Initial action by other institutions or civil society

1% Other actions

Finding 8 *Boys and men account for a greater share of detected victims as new forms of exploitation emerge*

Trends in the profile of victims detected, 2004–2020
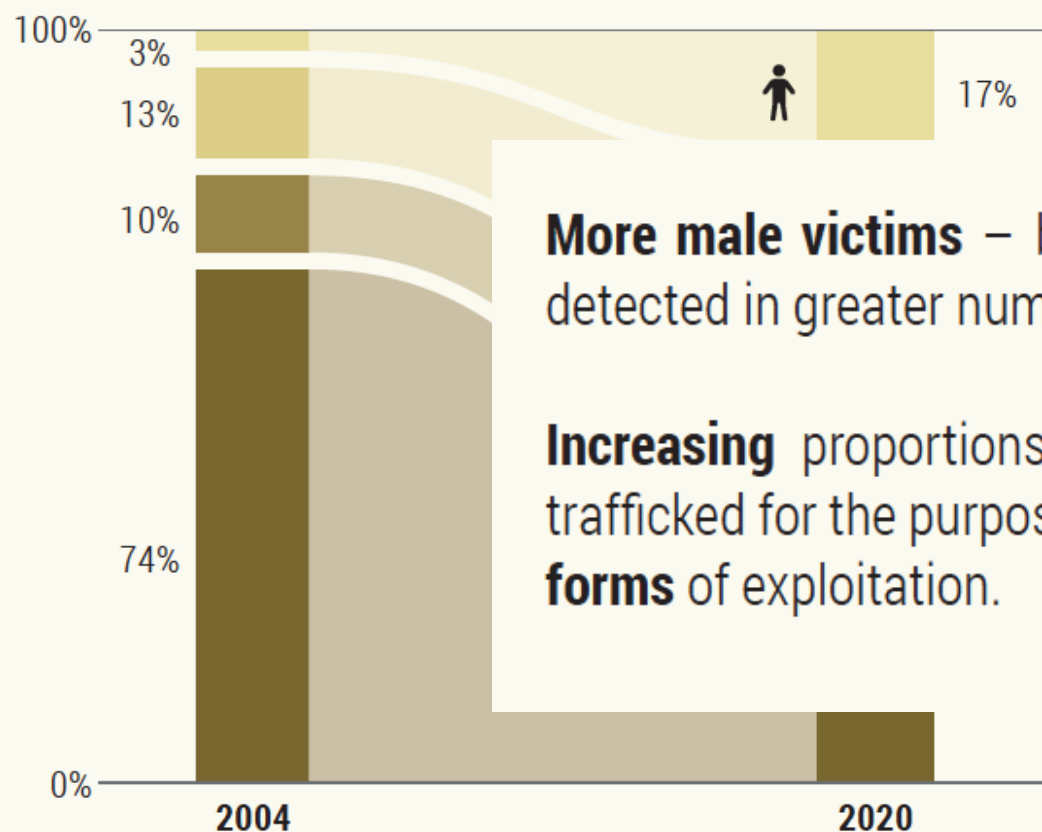
More male victims – both boys and men – have been detected in greater numbers over the past decade.

Increasing proportions of identified victims have been trafficked for the purpose of **forced criminality and mixed forms** of exploitation.

Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

Finding 9 *Women and children suffer greater violence at the hands of traffickers*

Analysis of court cases shows that **female victims are subjected to physical or extreme violence at the hands of traffickers at a rate three times higher than males**, while while children are subjected to physical or extreme violence at a rate almost two times higher than adults.

Physical or extreme violence rate

Physical or extreme violence rate

Finding 11   Women: more likely than men to be traffickers or more likely than men to be convicted?

Women investigated for trafficking in persons are significantly more likely to be convicted than men.

Persons investigated, prosecuted, convicted (1st instance) for trafficking in persons, by sex, 2020 (or most recent)

	Investigated	Prosecuted	Convicted
Women	28%	36%	41%
Men	72%	64%	59%
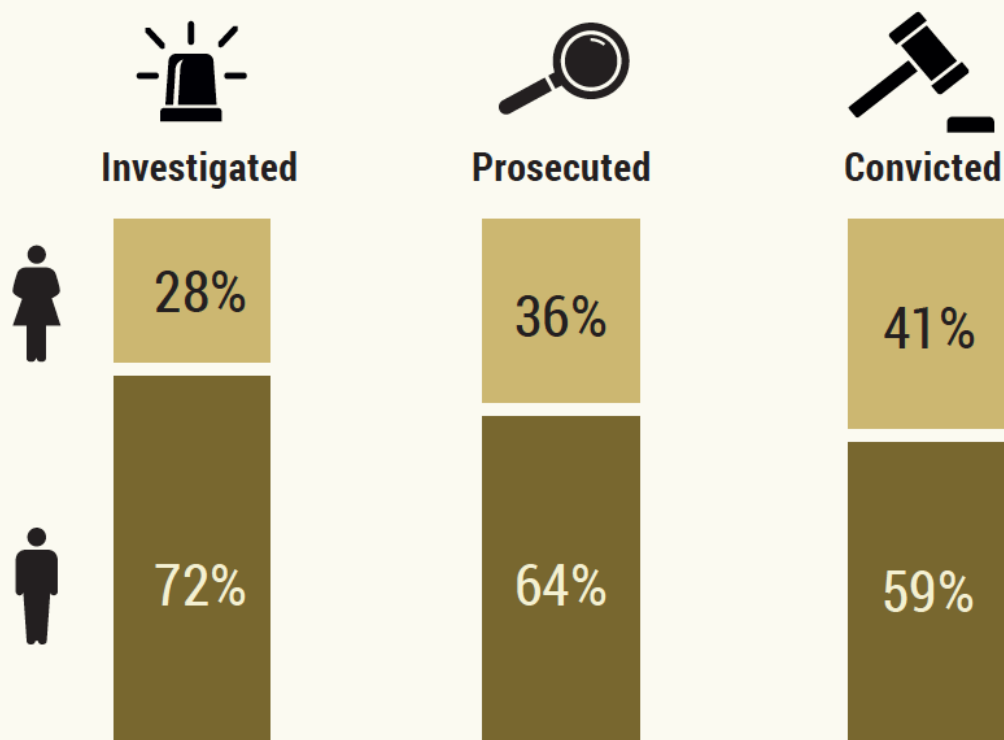
Member States to integrate training of the judiciary to examine trafficking in persons as a form of gender-based violence within the context of international women's rights frameworks, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women (CEDAW).

Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

Finding 6 War and conflict offer hunting grounds for traffickers

Relationship between Ukrainian asylum applications and detection of Ukrainian trafficking victims, in Western and Central Europe, 2009-2022

Legend:
— Ukrainian Trafficking victims detected in Europe (share to total)
▮ Asylum application of Ukrainian citizens in Europe
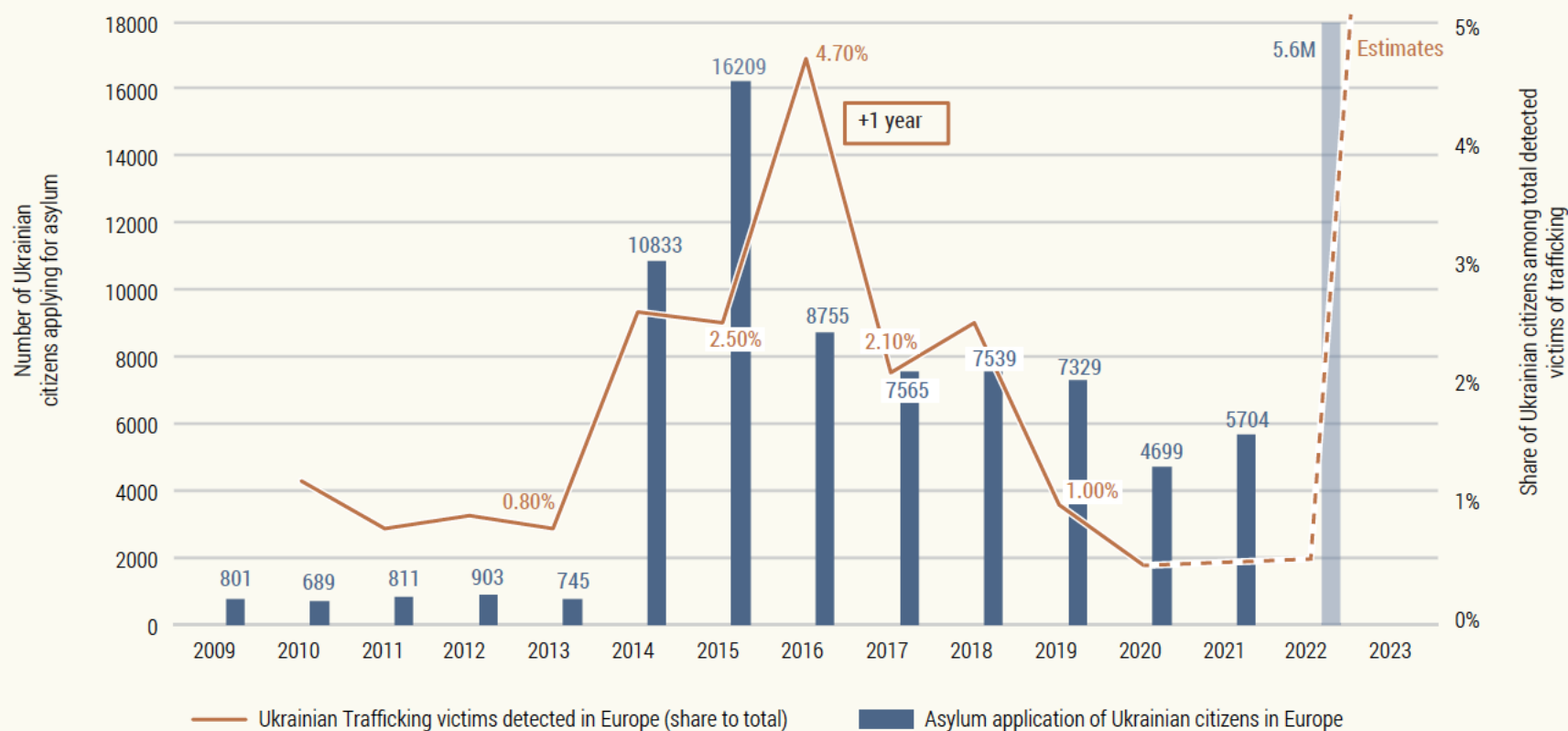
Past Research – Utilising IOMs Determinants of Migrant Vulnerability Model

Individual factors:
- Education and Skills
- Socio-economic status
- Employment status
- Attitude to migration
- Age
- Debt
- Sex and Gender

Structural factors:
- Conditions and institutions that influence the overall environment
- Migration management practices

INDIVIDUAL FACTORS

STRUCTURAL FACTORS

DoMV

HOUSEHOLD & FAMILY FACTORS

COMMUNITY FACTORS

The determinants of migrant vulnerab

Household/family factors:
- Gender roles and dynamics within the family
- Socio-economic status
- Debt
- Family history
- Patterns of parent and child interactions
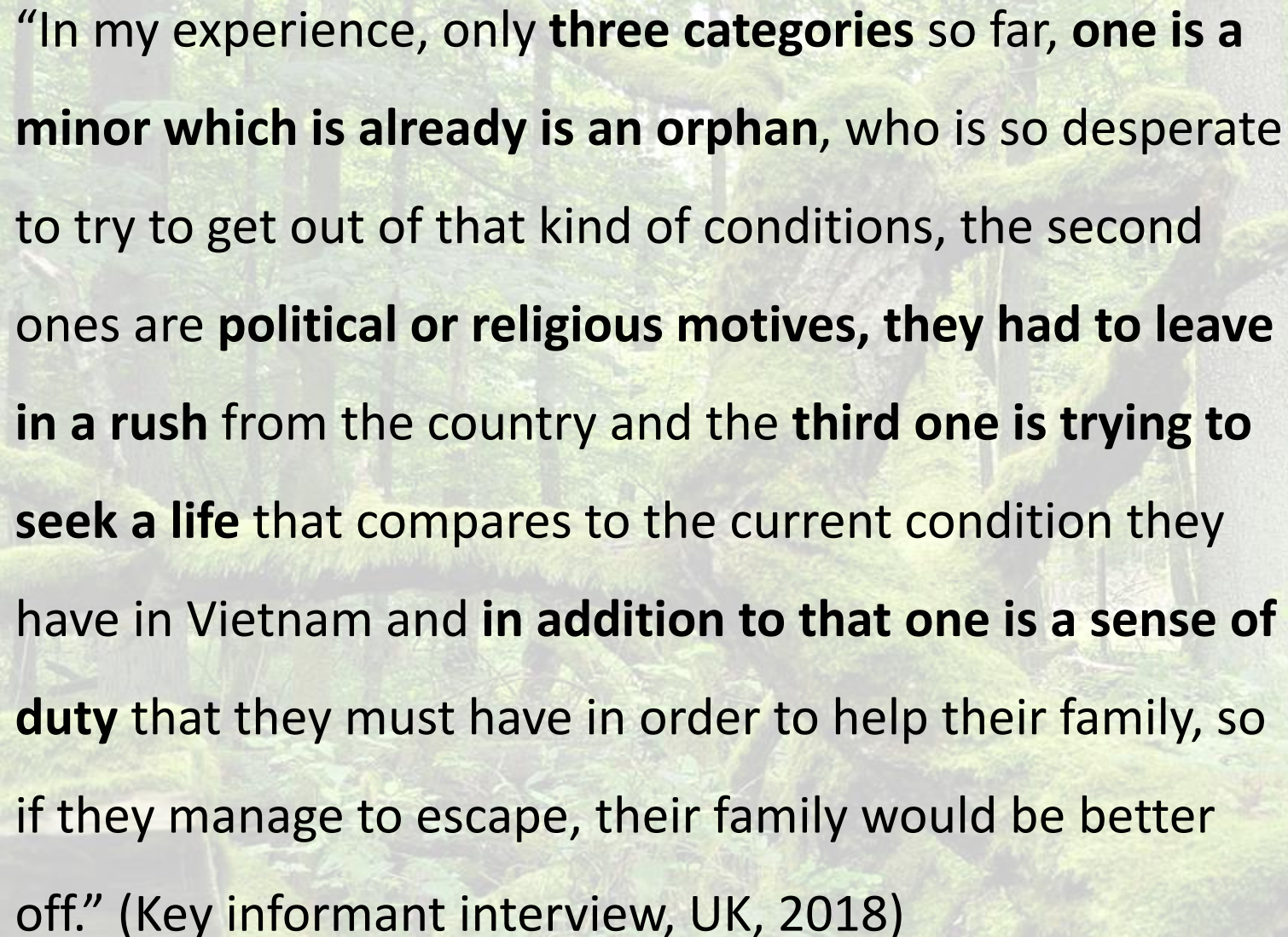
Community factors:
- Community beliefs and practices
- Livelihoods and employment opportunities
- Migration history and practices
- Social networks

Past Research – "Between Two Fires"

'Then he started saying things like "I can help you I can take you to Italy"... I thought I would get out of the slavery I was in, I thought I was a slave. My mum treated me badly, her husband worse, I was **between two fires**. For one-month things went well. Then after a month he started introducing me [to] his friends, friends he used to drink with ...'

- Resisting 'vulnerability' and attempts to resolve own circumstances but encounter structural and exploitative circumstances that then render them 'vulnerable'
- Socio-economic and political conditions within countries of origin and the back stories of those arriving remain largely untold

"In my experience, only **three categories** so far, **one is a minor which is already is an orphan**, who is so desperate to try to get out of that kind of conditions, the second ones are **political or religious motives, they had to leave in a rush** from the country and the **third one is trying to seek a life** that compares to the current condition they have in Vietnam and **in addition to that one is a sense of duty** that they must have in order to help their family, so if they manage to escape, their family would be better off." (Key informant interview, UK, 2018)

"They trust the people who told them, not the system, they don't like it but they have no choice, but they're not trusting that system."
(Key informant interview, UK, 2018)

Who trafficks?

Business-like type of organized crime **46%**

Governance type of organized crime **23%**

Opportunistic association **21%**

Individual traffickers **10%**

Source: UNODC 2022

UK Context

Modern Slavery in the UK

Modern slavery is an umbrella term that encompasses human trafficking, slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour.
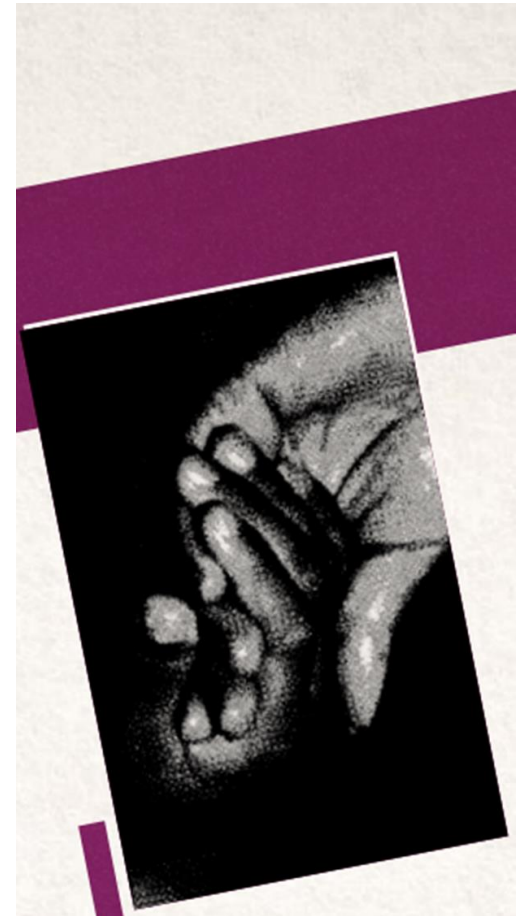
UK estimates vary between 17,000-136,000

Definition of Trafficking

The Palermo Protocol, 2000

"**The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons,** *by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person,* **for the purpose of exploitation...**"

Action – Means – Purpose

Our definition of trafficking expands as the *modus operandi* of trafficking evolves and adapts (Thomson, 2017).

ACT	MEANS	PURPOSE
Recruitment	The threat or use of force	Includes, at a minimum:
Transportation	Other forms of coercion	Exploitation of the prostitution of others
Transfer	Abduction	Sexual exploitation
Harbouring	Fraud	Forced labour or services
Receipt of persons	Deception	Slavery or practices similar to slavery
	Abuse of power	Servitude
	Abuse of position of vulnerability	Removal of organs
	Giving or receiving of payments or benefits	

Does not apply to children under 18 years

Human Trafficking and Human Smuggling - Similarities

Involve movement from one place to another

Defined as a punishable offence

May involve transnational organised criminal groups

	Trafficking	Smuggling
Offence type	Against an individual – violation of a person's freedom	Against the state – violation of state soveignty
Borders	Can be across borders or within	Always across borders
Interaction of those involved	Exploitative	Smuggler as a 'service provider'
Length of interaction	Ongoing beyond the movement	Short term- just about the movement across a border
Exploitation	Always present at some point	Not an element
Consent	Irrelevant for children	Consent given
Victim status	Considered victims of crime, should not be punished (or deported) and should be protected from further harm	Not considered victims of crime but in some way complicit and may be punished and deported without further protection

Vulnerabilities and risk factors

|			
Socio-economic background/ poverty	Loss / Separation from parents/carers	Lack of protective family, neglect, abuse	War and conflict
Displacement	Homelessness	Climate Disaster	Being an unaccompanied asylum-seeking child
Special educational needs and disabilities	Cultural practices	Discrimination and persecution	Problematic substance use
Vulnerability in social media	Limited alternatives and choices	Transitions to adulthood	Link to research

2023 NRM Data
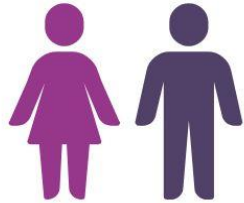
24:76
Gender Ratio
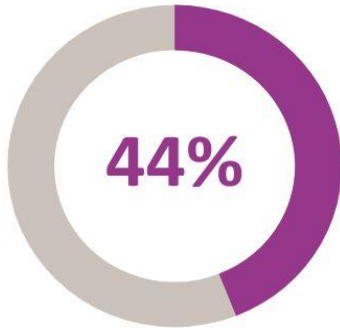
44%
Children(7,432)
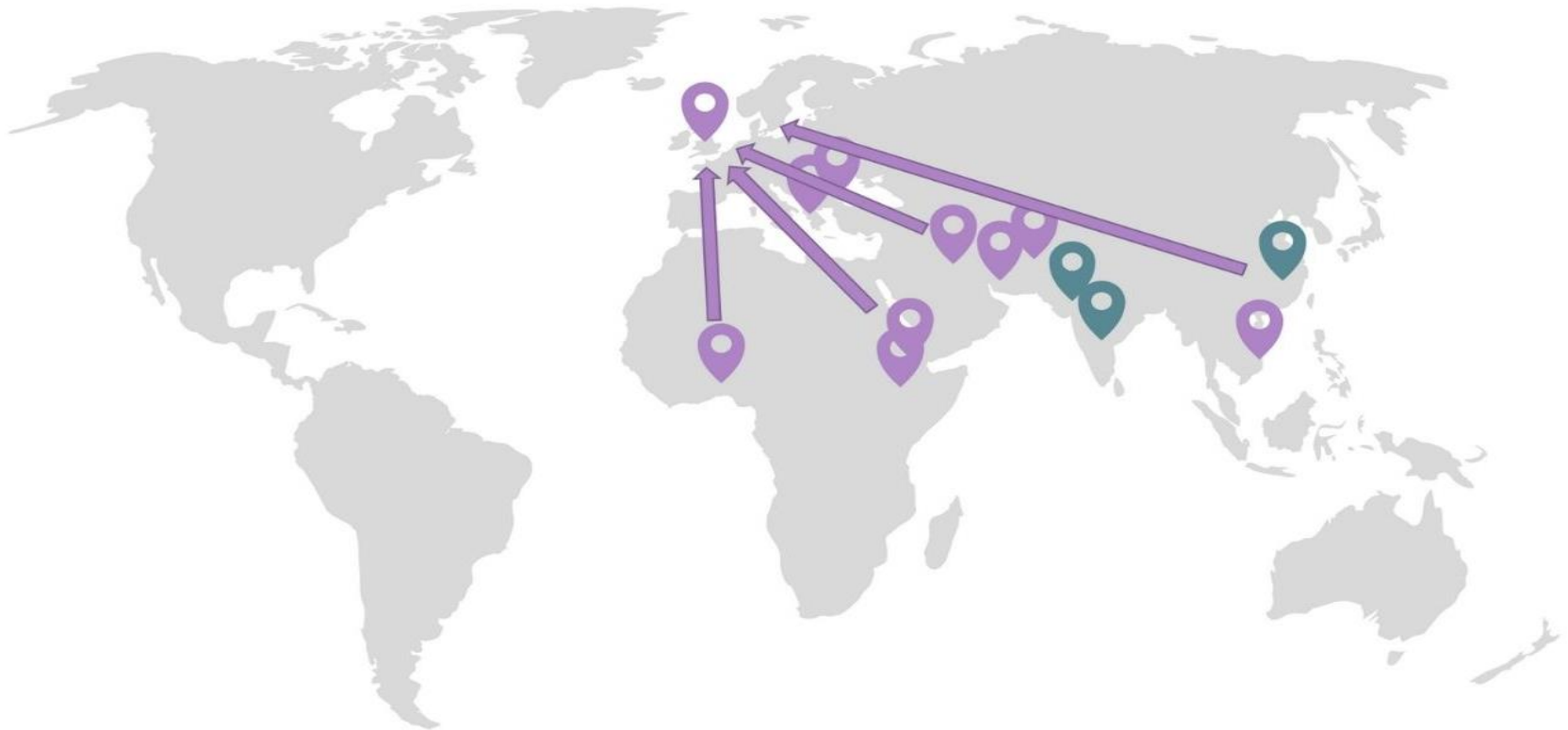
17,004
Total referral
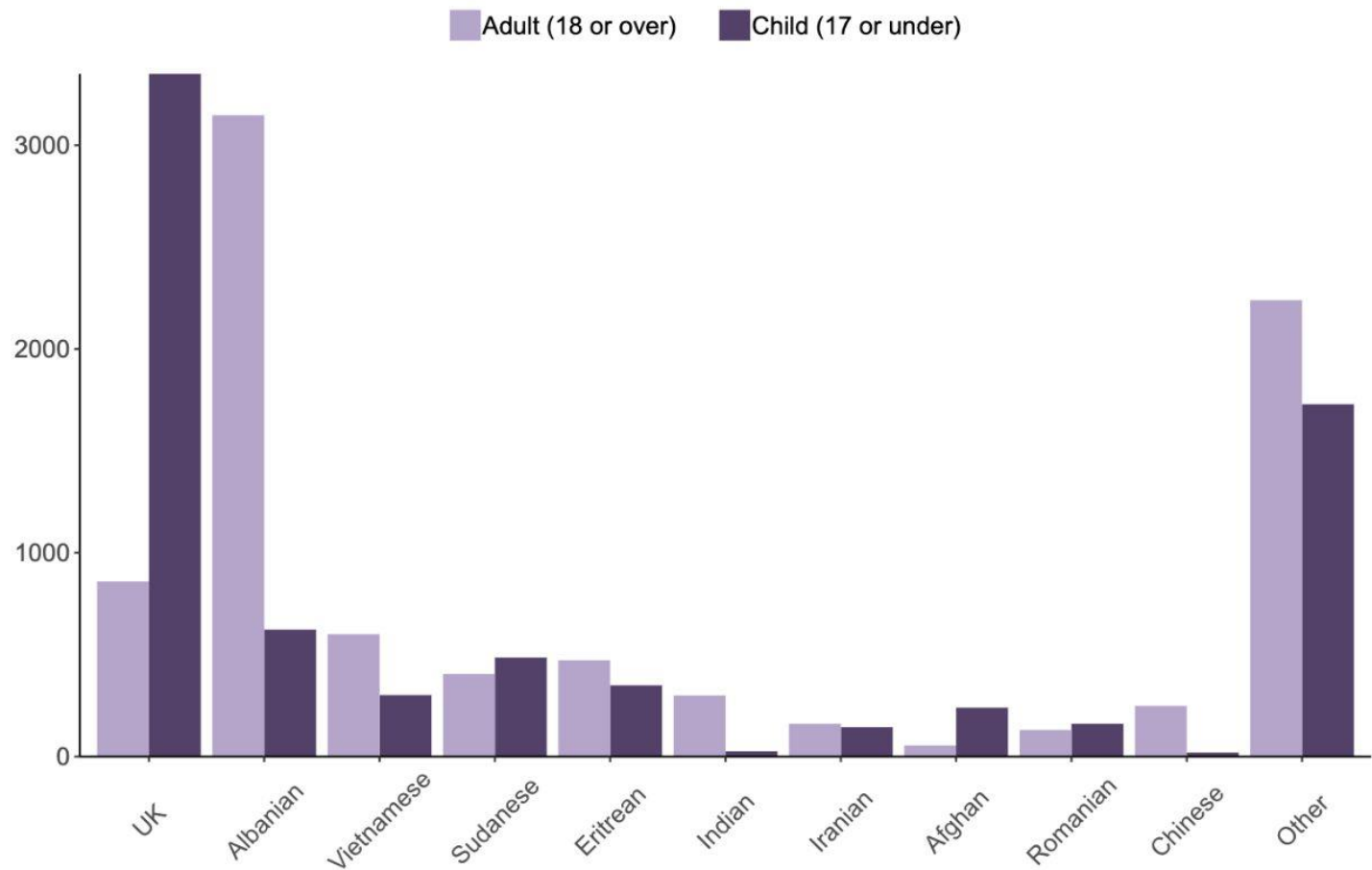
66% of CG decisions issued

Highest referral number since 2009

Countries of origin

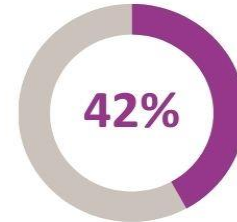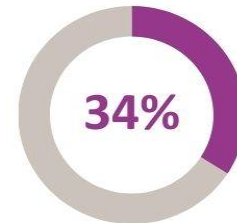UK, Albania, Sudan, Eritrea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Romania, Iran, Somalia, Nigeria

Most common type of exploitation
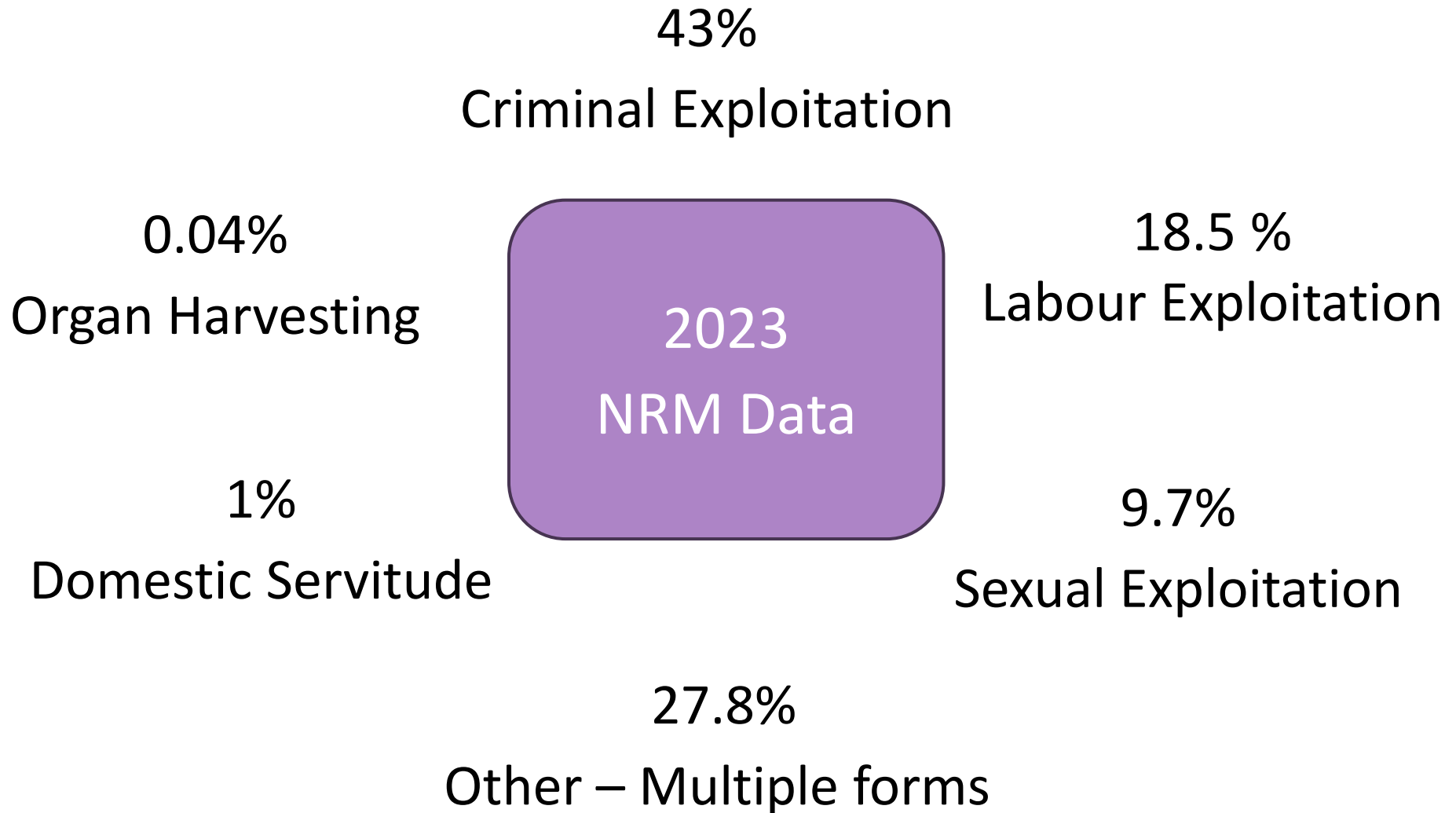
Criminal Exploitation   42%

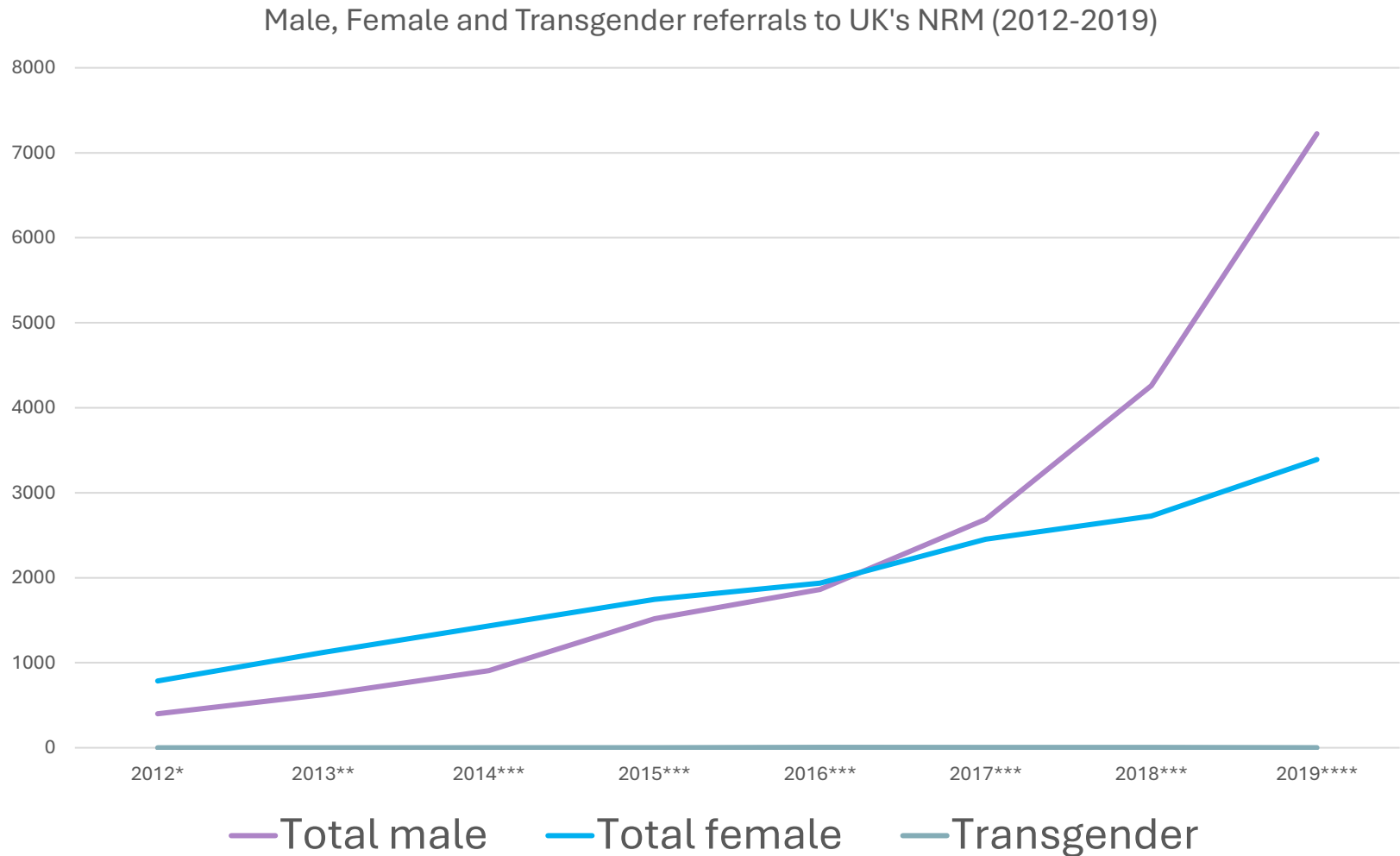**Reported by Children victims (3123)**

Labour Exploitation   34%
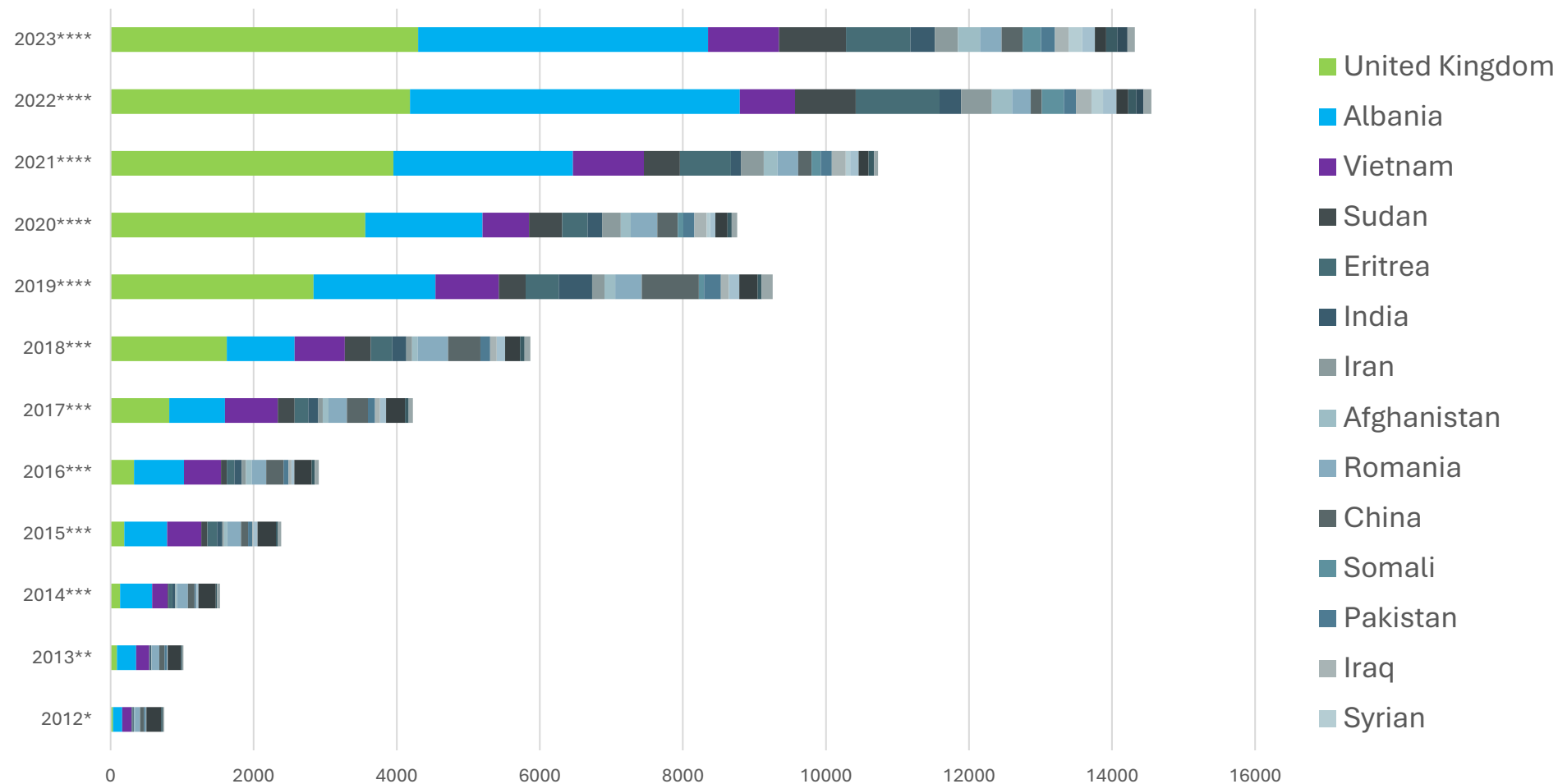
Reported by Adult victims (2902)

Types of Exploitation

43%

Criminal Exploitation

0.04%

Organ Harvesting

1%

Domestic Servitude

2023
NRM Data

18.5 %

Labour Exploitation

9.7%

Sexual Exploitation

27.8%

Other – Multiple forms

Referrals into the UK's National Referral Mechanism (NRM) by Gender Categories: 2012-2019

Male, Female and Transgender referrals to UK's NRM (2012-2019)

Legend: Total male, Total female, Transgender

Referrals to UK's NRM - Adult and Child by Nationality: 2012 - 2023

Legend:
- United Kingdom
- Albania
- Vietnam
- Sudan
- Eritrea
- India
- Iran
- Afghanistan
- Romania
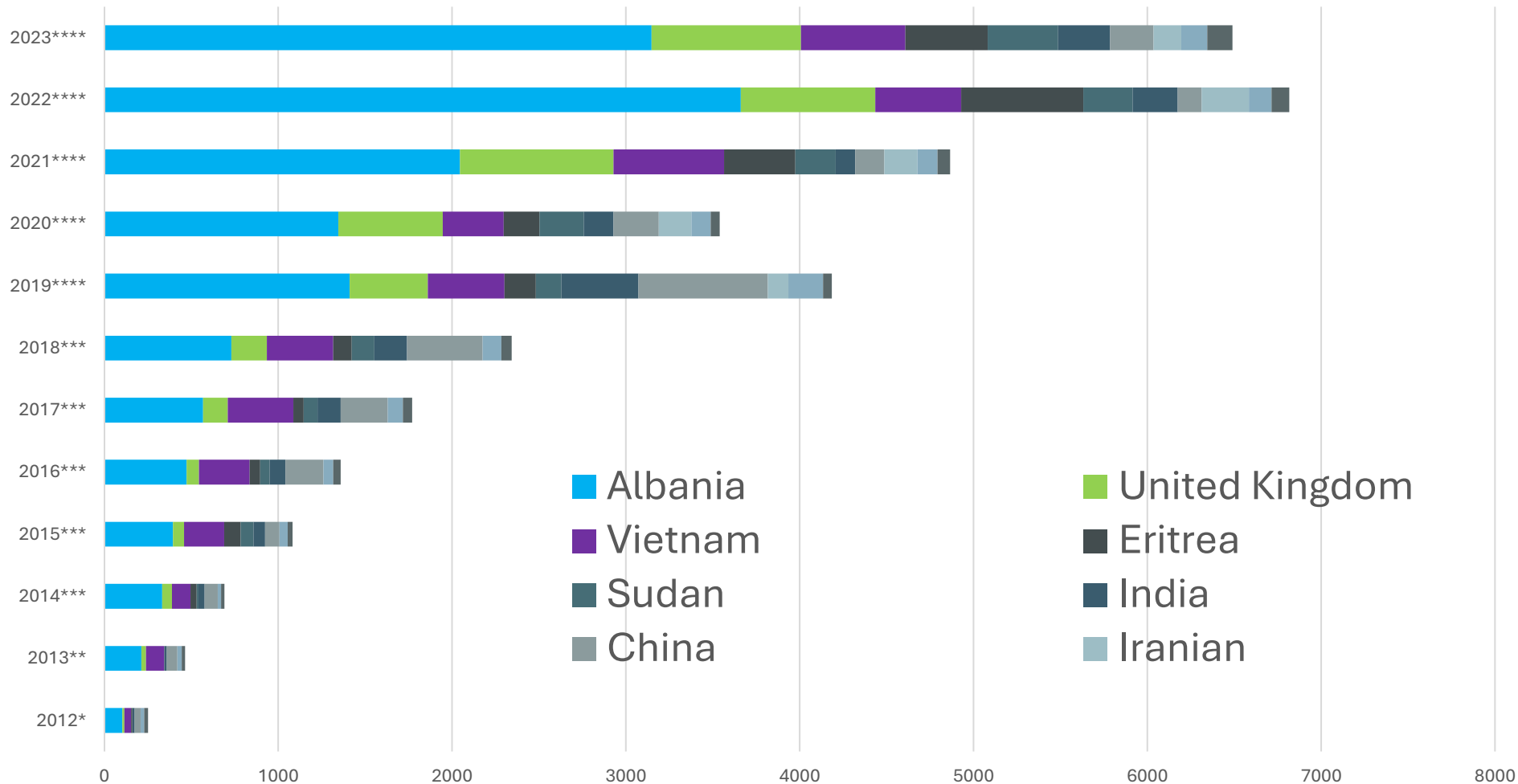- China
- Somali
- Pakistan
- Iraq
- Syrian

* Statistics produced by UKHTC and SOCA (United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre and Serious Organised Crime Agency)
** Statistics produced by UKHTC and NCA ((United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre and National Crime Agency)
*** Statistics produced by NCA (National Crime Agency)
**** Statistics produced by UK Home Office

Referrals to the UK's NRM - Top 10 Adults by Nationality: 2012 - 2023

Legend:
- Albania
- United Kingdom
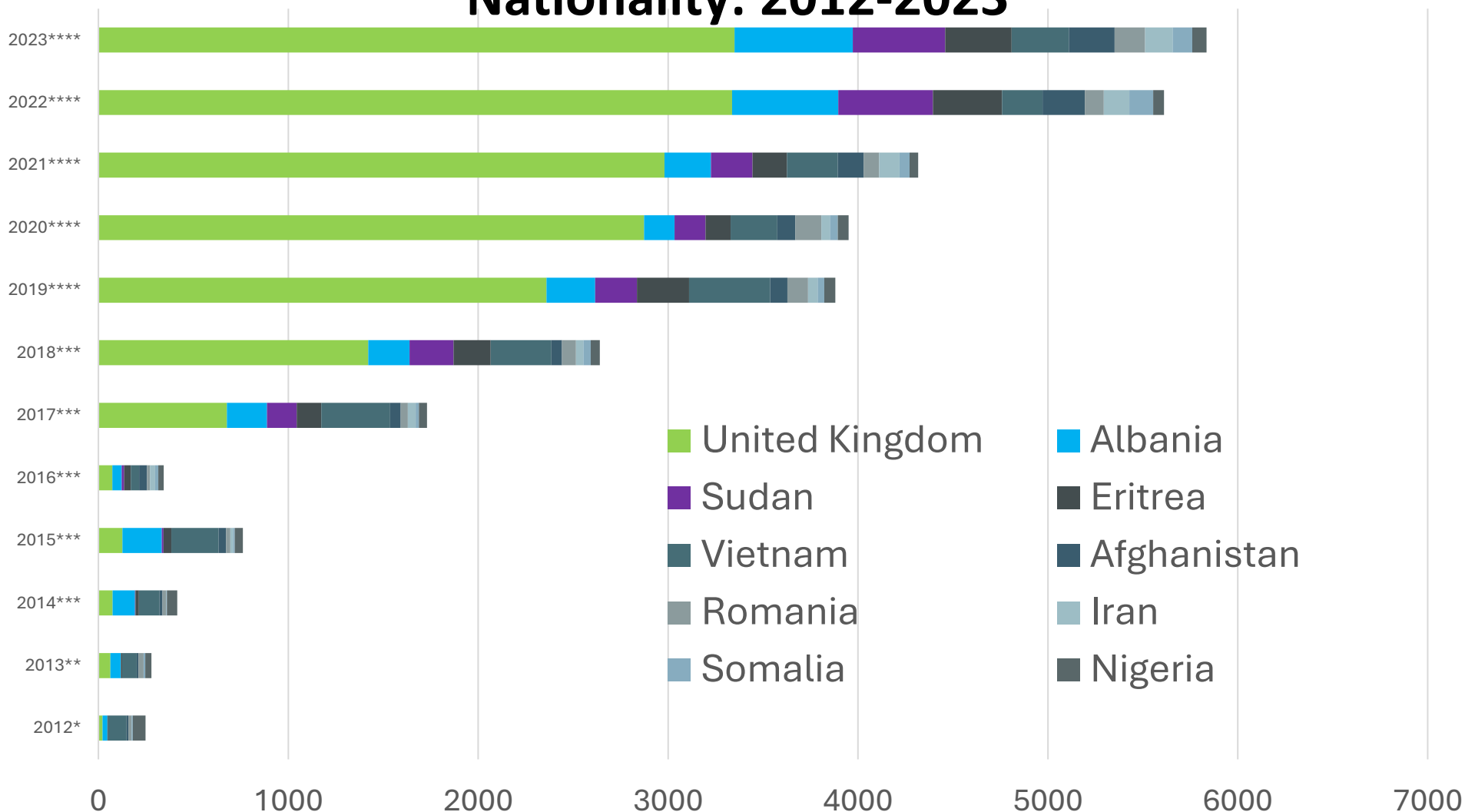- Vietnam
- Eritrea
- Sudan
- India
- China
- Iranian

* Statistics produced by UKHTC and SOCA (United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre and Serious Organised Crime Agency)
** Statistics produced by UKHTC and NCA ((United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre and National Crime Agency)
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**** Statistics produced by UK Home Office

Referrals to the UK's NRM - Top 10 Minors by Nationality: 2012-2023

Legend:
- United Kingdom
- Albania
- Sudan
- Eritrea
- Vietnam
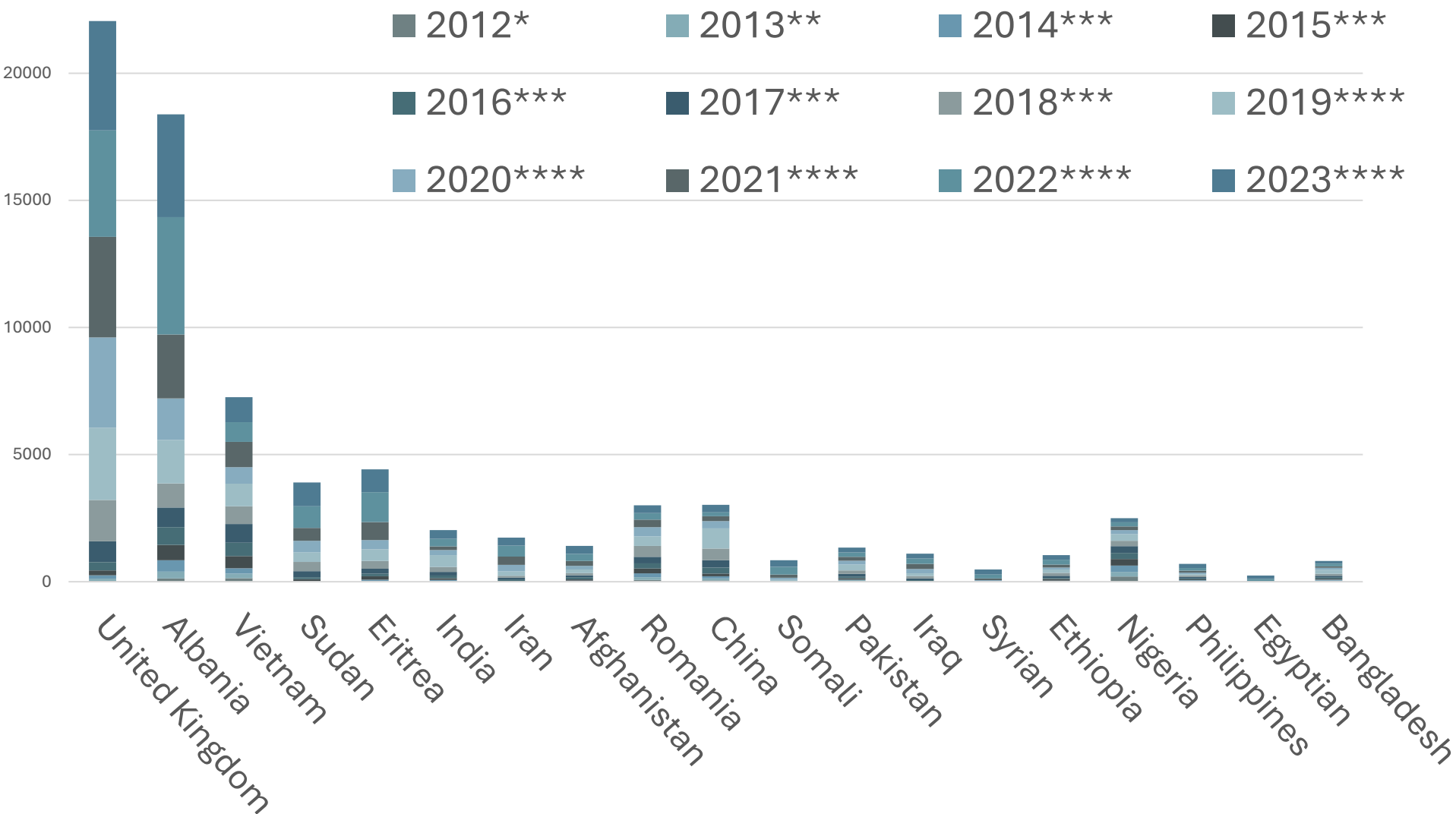- Afghanistan
- Romania
- Iran
- Somalia
- Nigeria

* Statistics produced by UKHTC and SOCA (United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre and Serious Organised Crime Agency)
** Statistics produced by UKHTC and NCA ((United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre and National Crime Agency)
*** Statistics produced by NCA (National Crime Agency)
**** Statistics produced by UK Home Office

Referrals to UK's NRM - Adult and Child by Nationality: 2012 - 2023

Legend:
- 2012*
- 2013**
- 2014***
- 2015***
- 2016***
- 2017***
- 2018***
- 2019****
- 2020****
- 2021****
- 2022****
- 2023****

Categories (x-axis): United Kingdom, Albania, Vietnam, Sudan, Eritrea, India, Iran, Afghanistan, Romania, China, Somali, Pakistan, Iraq, Syrian, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Philippines, Egyptian, Bangladesh

Y-axis: 0 to 25000

* Statistics produced by UKHTC and SOCA (United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre and Serious Organised Crime Agency)
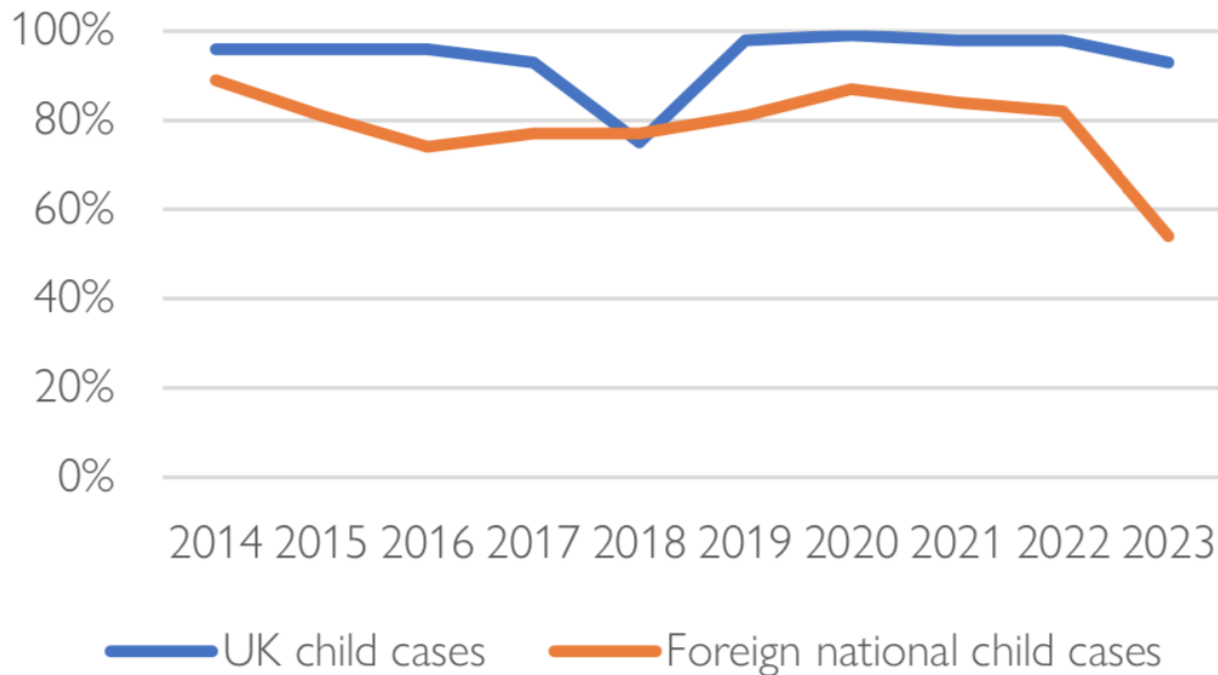** Statistics produced by UKHTC and NCA ((United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre and National Crime Agency)
*** Statistics produced by NCA (National Crime Agency)
**** Statistics produced by UK Home Office

Graph 5: Percentage of positive RG decisions for UK and foreign national child cases per year 2014-2023

Numbers of children receiving a positive RG decision in 2023:
- UK born = 93%
- non-UK born = 54%

Source: IOM, 2024

But....

Graph 5 shows an even greater difference in the proportion of positive decisions for child cases for UK and foreign nationals. Whereas only 54% of foreign national child cases received a positive RG decision, 93% of UK child cases did. The decision making for UK child cases in 2023 did not fall from the recent trend of 9 out of 10 positive cases.

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Thank you!

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