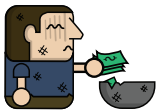
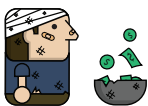


Human Trafficking for Forced Begging



Some beggars are being forced to do so by others. They have to hand over all or most of their earnings to the person who is forcing them to beg. They don't have enough money to survive regardless of the amount well-meaning people give them.



People can be beaten, threatened with violence or psychologically pressured into begging. Forced begging is a form of exploitation that can result in human trafficking.¹



Children can be forced to beg by their parents, siblings, guardians, or by a third party, including criminal gangs, distant relatives, neighbours or family friends.²



There are reports of children being kidnapped by gangs and forced to beg. Sometimes children are also forced to take drugs to the point that they develop an addiction, which results in a dependency on the gangs. Begging then becomes a tool to feed their addiction.³



Children who are forced to beg are often under the age of ten. Younger children gain more sympathy from passersby. Infants and young children are often 'rented' from their parents or guardians to beg for the day.⁴



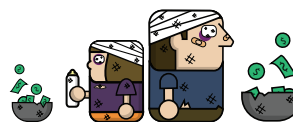
Forced child beggars work long hours, suffer physical, mental and verbal abuse and are at very high risk of sexual abuse by people they encounter while begging and by those forcing them to beg.³



Children are known to be forced to play instruments and/or perform tricks to entertain or evoke sympathy from passersby. Victims of forced begging may also be given crutches or other props to attract more attention.⁵



Passersby generally give beggars with disabilities more money. Often people with skin diseases or physical disabilities, such as missing limbs or visual impairment, are forced to beg.⁶



There are reported cases of children and adults being purposefully disfigured by traffickers and then forced to beg.⁷



Globally, it is estimated that traffickers who force disabled children to beg can make up to US\$40,000 a year in illegal profits through the money donated to these children.⁸



Often victims of forced begging are migrants who come from impoverished areas. After moving to countries or cities with higher incomes and more economic opportunities, they become targets for traffickers who force them into begging.⁹

IOM X is the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) innovative campaign to encourage safe migration and public action to stop exploitation and human trafficking. The campaign is produced in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Visit IOMX.org or contact IOMX@iom.int to learn more.
Tell us what you think online, using #IOMX

¹ Delap, Emily (Anti-Slavery International), 2009. Forced Child Begging Toolkit for Researchers p. 3. Available from http://www.antislavery.org/includes/documents/cm_docs/2009/b/beggingforchange_toolkit09.pdf.

² Ibid.

³ Al Helal, Abdullah and Kazi Shahdat Kabir. 2013. Exploring Cruel Business of Begging: The Case of Bangladesh. Asian Journal of Business and Economics 3(3).

⁴ International Labour Organization (ILO), 2004. A Rapid Assessment of Bonded Labour in Domestic Work and Begging in Pakistan p. 27.

⁵ Groce, Nora, Marie Loeb and Barbara Murray (ILO). The Disabled Beggar – A Literature Review: Begging as an Overlooked Issue of Disability and Poverty p. 7-8.

⁶ Al Helal, Abdullah and Kazi Shahdat Kabir. 2013. Exploring Cruel Business of Begging: The Case of Bangladesh. Asian Journal of Business and Economics 3(3).

⁷ Al Helal, Abdullah and Kazi Shahdat Kabir. 2013. Exploring Cruel Business of Begging: The Case of Bangladesh. Asian Journal of Business and Economics 3(3).

⁸ Delap, Emily (Anti-Slavery International), 2009. Begging for Change – Research Findings and Recommendations on Forced Child Begging in Albania/Greece, India and Senegal p. 6.

⁹ Delap, Emily (Anti-Slavery International), 2009. Begging for Change – Research Findings and Recommendations on Forced Child Begging in Albania/Greece, India and Senegal p. 15.



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