

# Human Trafficking vs. Migrant Smuggling

**Migrant Smuggling (MS)**, involves the facilitation of illegal entry of a person into a country they are not a resident of, by which the person voluntarily enters an agreement with a smuggler to gain entry, usually involving dangerous travel conditions<sup>1</sup>.

Smuggling usually takes the form of a business transaction between two or more people, one of which is the smuggler who accepts either financial or material benefit as payment for their services<sup>2</sup>.

**Human Trafficking (HT)**, involves the exploitation of a person for the purpose of labour or a commercial sex act, through the use of force, fraud or coercion<sup>3</sup>. Movement does not need to take place for someone to be trafficked, it can happen in the country of origin.

## Differences between HT & MS<sup>4,5</sup>

	Human Trafficking	Migrant Smuggling
<b>Consent</b>	No consent OR consent obtained through fraudulent means	YES
<b>Transnationality</b>	International and domestic	International
<b>Exploitation</b>	YES	NO - but could turn into human trafficking and lead to exploitation
<b>Material Benefit</b>	YES - through repeated exploitation of trafficked person	POSSIBLE - through one-time fee

- Trafficking involves a material benefit to the trafficker, obtained through the repeated exploitation of the trafficked person. Although there is usually a material benefit involved for the smuggler, this is not always the case. Even when a material benefit is involved, this is in the form of a one-time business transaction that ends once the destination has been reached and the fees have been paid. However, the payment schedule can be enforced and prolonged by high rates of interest which opens up the potential for abuse, and could also lead to exploitative situations.



*Smuggling can sometimes turn into human trafficking, when the person that initially consented to the transaction is subsequently deprived of their freedom and forced into an exploitative situation.*

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of State, *Human Trafficking & Migrant Smuggling: Understanding the Difference*. URL: <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/fs/2017/272005.htm>

<sup>2</sup> MCIS Language Services, 2014, "Overview of Human Trafficking." In, *Helping Trafficked Persons: A Resource Handbook for Service Providers*, 4-12. URL: [www.helpingtraffickedpersons.org](http://www.helpingtraffickedpersons.org)

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of State, *Human Trafficking & Migrant Smuggling: Understanding the Difference*. URL: <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/fs/2017/272005.htm>

<sup>4</sup> MCIS Language Services, 2014, "Overview of Human Trafficking." In, *Helping Trafficked Persons: A Resource Handbook for Service Providers*, 4-12. URL: [www.helpingtraffickedpersons.org](http://www.helpingtraffickedpersons.org)

<sup>5</sup> Public Safety Canada, 2012, "National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking." *Government of Canada*. URL: <http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrcs/pblctns/ntnl-ctn-pln-cmbt/index-en.aspx#toc-01.1>