

PLATTFORMEN CIVILA SVERIGE MOT MÄNNISKOHANDEL

Platform Swedish Civil Society against Trafficking in Human Beings *Annual Statistics 2019*

1. Introduction

The following report collates information from members of the Platform Swedish civil society against Trafficking in Human Beings (hereafter the Platform) regarding individuals they have supported in a variety of ways during the year 2019. The information has been collected using a new template compared to previous years which has been completed in response to questions regarding individual cases. This report gives an overview of the collective findings.

One of the reasons for developing the way that the Platform collects information from its members is our desire to highlight the vulnerability of children in relation to the crime of human trafficking, whether they have become victims of the crime themselves or are impacted as a result of someone else's victimisation (usually a parent). We have therefore sought more information from the respondents this year regarding the children they come into contact with.

We have also included additional questions regarding the impact of human trafficking in collecting information from our members, as we believe it is important to raise awareness about the impact in general. We also do so hoping to improve understanding of the need for protection measures, with a commitment to continuously develop and improve our own response. We also seek to emphasise the need for the authorities to work from a victim's rights perspective in all that they do to combat the crime of human trafficking.

Unless otherwise stated the numbers below include all individuals supported by the Platform, whether it is a potential victim of human trafficking (hereafter PVoT), the child of a victim or otherwise related.

Please note that we use the term PVoT in this report, as formal identification of victims can only take place as a result of a criminal complaint regarding the crime of human trafficking in Sweden.

2. Summary of findings

During 2019 the Platform assisted 177 individuals identified as impacted by the crime of human trafficking. 140 of them were PVoTs of which 126 were female, 13 male and 1 preferred not to say.

28 individuals were children of PVoTs, 5 were siblings to a PVoT and 4 were relatives/spouses of a PVoT.

The top 5 countries of origin were: Sweden (39), Nigeria (36), Romania (17), Thailand (15) and Iraq (10).

The majority of the PVoTs were subjected to sexual exploitation, including prostitution and a majority were exploited in Sweden.

Among the PVoT were 3 children under the age of 15, 9 children between the ages of 15 and 18 and a majority (57) were young adults between the ages of 18 and 26.

The impact of human trafficking on the PVoTs was assessed by the respondents and the vast majority suffered from stress (57%) while general lack of psychological wellbeing (49%) and sleep-disruption (39%) was also frequently recorded. More than a third (36%) of the identified PVoT suffered from physical injuries and 27% were assessed as suffering from PTSD-symptoms.

Among the children of PVoTs 4 out of 10 were assessed as having suffered neglect and one out of three was suffering from trauma.

3. The respondents

The Platform acts as an umbrella organisation for approximately 30 NGOs and civil society actors who all work to combat human trafficking in various ways in Sweden. The majority work with protection and support, providing a wide range of support to those who suffer from this crime or who are at risk.

For further information about our individual members and our common agenda, please visit: www.manniskohandel.se.

4. Individuals assisted

The Platform assisted 177 individuals identified by the respondents as impacted by human trafficking during the year 2019.

140 of these were PVoTs, 28 were children of a PVoTs, 5 were siblings to a PVoT and 4 were relatives/spouses of a PVoT.

5. Countries of origin

<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Number of individuals</i>	<i>Percentage of total</i>
Afghanistan	5	2,82 %
Azerbaijan	1	0,56 %
Bulgaria	2	1,12 %
Colombia	1	0,56 %
Congo	1	0,56 %
China	1	0,56 %
Czech Republic	1	0,56 %
Ghana	2	1,12 %
Greece	1	0,56 %
Guinea	2	1,12 %
Honduras	1	0,56 %

Hungary	2	1,12 %
Iran	2	1,12 %
Iraq	10	5,64 %
Italy	3	1,69 %
Kenya	1	0,56 %
Kosovo	3	1,69 %
Malaysia	1	0,56 %
Moldova	1	0,56 %
Montenegro	1	0,56 %
Morocco	3	1,69 %
Nigeria	30	16,94 %
Born in Sweden by Nigerian mother. (status of individual in Sweden is unknown)	6 Total: 36	3,48 % 20,33 %
Pakistan	4	2,25 %
Palestine	1	0,56 %
Peru (including an individual of dual nationality in Spain)	2	1,12 %
Philippines	1	0,56 %
Romania	17	9,6 %
Spain	2	1,12 %
Sierra Leone	1	0,56 %
Sweden	39	22 %
Tanzania	1	0,56 %
Thailand	15	8,47 %
Uganda	1	0,56 %
Ukraine	3	1,69 %

Vietnam	4	2,25 %
Unknown	5	2,82 %

6. Information regarding potential victims of trafficking (PVoTs)

Type of exploitation

<i>Type of exploitation</i>	<i>Number of PVoTs</i>	<i>Percentage of total</i>
Sexual exploitation, including prostitution	102	72,85 %
Labour exploitation including domestic work	12	8,57 %
Forced begging	3	2,14 %
Forced marriage	9	6,42 %
Multiple types of exploitation including criminal exploitation*	14	10 %
TOTAL:	140	100 %

*criminal exploitation occurs only as a form of exploitation among those exploited in multiple ways.

Country of exploitation

<i>Country of exploitation</i>	<i>Number of PVoTs</i>	<i>Percentage of total</i>
Country of origin	11	7,85 %
EU	20	14,28 %
Sweden	76	54,28 %
Multiple countries (this includes Sweden in some cases)	33	23,57 %

Time in exploitation

<i>Time in exploitation</i>	<i>Number of PVoTs</i>
Recently trafficked	3
<1 year (up to a year)	18
< 2 years (up to two years)	12
< 3 years (up to three years)	14
< 4 years (up to four years)	7
< 5 years (up to five years)	10
Over 5 years	10
No information available	66

Age

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of PVoTs</i>	<i>Percentage of total</i>
Child > 15	3	2,14 %
Child 15 – 18	9	6,42 %
Young adult 18 – 26	57	40,7 %
Adult 26 – 65	45	32,14 %
Unknown	26	18,57 %

Gender

<i>Gender</i>	<i>Number of PVoTs</i>	<i>Percentage of total</i>
Female	126	90 %
Male	13	9,28 %
Prefer not to say	1	0,71 %

7. Children as PVoT

In total 12 children under the age of 18 was recorded by the organisations. Among them where 8 victims of sexual exploitation, 2 of forced marriage, 1 of forced labour, 1 multiple exploitation including sexual exploitation and forced begging. 7 out of the 12 children have been trafficked domestically with Sweden as their country of origin. 4 out of the 9 children that were identified as victims of sexual exploitation were recorded as having been sexually abused before the exploitation started.

8. Children of PVoTs

Responding NGOs were asked to, in their own words provide answers to: 1) Does PVoT have children, 2) how many, 3) Where are they? (with PVoT, in home country, foster care, with relatives), 4) Are they safe/unsafe?). 5) Is the PVoT pregnant? 6) is the pregnancy a result of exploitation?

The answers provided lacked some detail, but paints the following picture. The PVoTs have 51 children between them and two PVoTs were pregnant at the time of collating the information (11 individuals were further recorded as having been pregnant as an impact of human trafficking, see below).

Among the 51 children:

- 6 children were recorded as staying with relatives and considered unsafe in the country of origin.
- 12 children were recorded as staying with relatives or another person considered safe in the country of origin.
- 5 children were recorded as staying with their parent(s) in Sweden and considered unsafe.
- One child was recorded as being looked after by social services in Sweden.
- The whereabouts of one child is unknown.
- No specific mention is made regarding the remaining 26 children.

9. Reasons behind an individual's trafficking situation

The respondents were asked to detail some of the reasons contributing towards the victimisation of individual PVoTs. The answers given have been categorised afterwards and include the following:

Push-factors

- poverty
- discrimination in country of origin
- war and conflict
- domestic violence
- threat of forced marriage
- 'lover-boy' scenario
- 'juju' witchcraft has been used
- debt
- dysfunctional family
- lack of opportunities in country of origin
- financial responsibility towards family
- asylum application rejected in Sweden, living undocumented

Pull-factors

- job offers
- promise of safety in Sweden

Particular vulnerabilities

- child (age)
- young adult (age)
- lack of education
- physical disability
- special needs
- perpetrator is member of victim's family
- orphan
- self-harming through sexual exploitation
- victim of rape
- victim of honour related violence
- victim of sexual abuse as a child
- victim of sexual abuse as an adult

10. Impact assessment

Impact of human trafficking on PVoT as assessed by the respondents

<i>Type of impact</i>	<i>Number of individuals</i>	<i>Percentage of total (140 PVoTs)</i>
Physical injuries	50	35,7 %
Pregnancy	11	7,85 %
Substance misuse/drug addiction	16	11,4 %
Disease or infection	10	7,1 %
General lack of physical wellbeing	40	28,57 %
PTSD-symptoms	38	27,14 %
Complex PTSD-symptoms	31	22,14 %
Other severe psychological problems	46	32,85 %
General lack of psychological wellbeing	68	48,57 %
Stress	80	57,14 %
Sleep-disruption	54	38,57 %
Malnutrition	18	12,85 %
Disability	5	3,57 %

No impact recorded	43	30,71 %
--------------------	----	---------

Impact of human trafficking on children of PVoTs

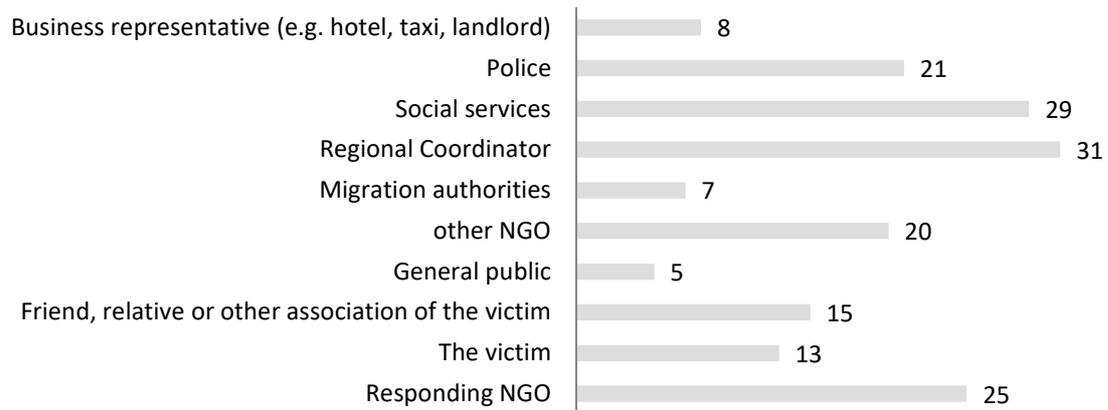
Organisations have been asked to detail their assessment of the impact on children to victims of crime. These are detailed as number of individuals suffering from various impact below. All children who have been recorded as having suffered some kind of impact have suffered more than one type of impact; therefore the statistics should be read only per type of impact.

<i>Type of impact</i>	<i>Number of individuals (responses 25)</i>	<i>Percentage of total (28 children of PVoTs)</i>
Physical injuries or issues	7	25 %
Drug addiction	1	3,57 %
Suffered neglect	11	39,38 %
Trauma	9	32,14 %
Other psychological issues	8	28,57 %
Disrupted sleep	1	3,57 %
Disrupted eating habits	1	3,57 %
Attachment issues	6	21,42 %
Suffered abuse	7	25 %
Child has become a carer to parent	1	3,57 %
No impact recorded	8	28,57 %

11. Identification/referral

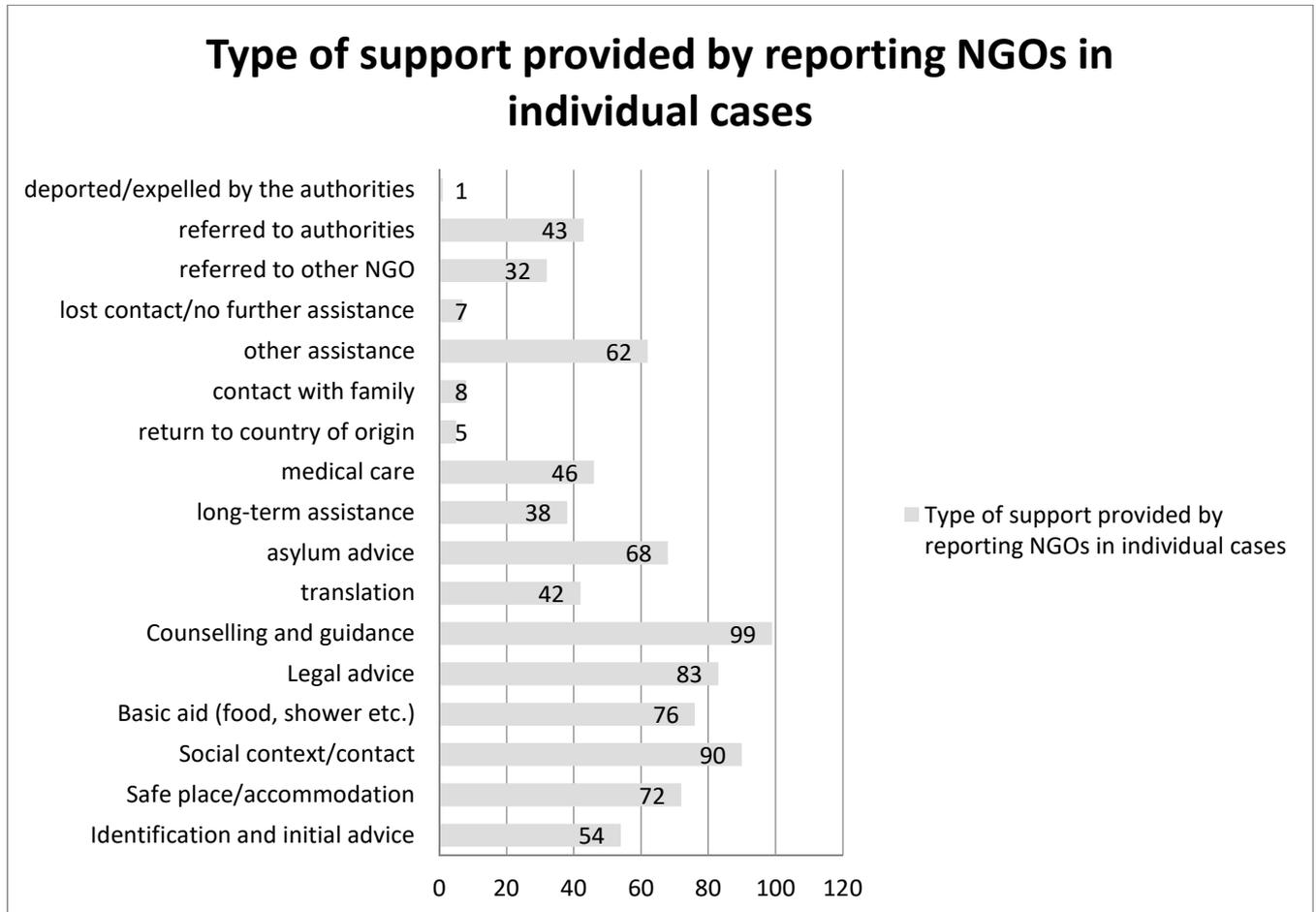
Source of referral to responding NGO (responses 161)

■ Source of referral to responding NGO (responses 161)



12. Assistance provided

The respondents have provided a variety of services to the individuals encountered during the year. The great majority have received more than one type of support. The information below should therefore be read by category only.



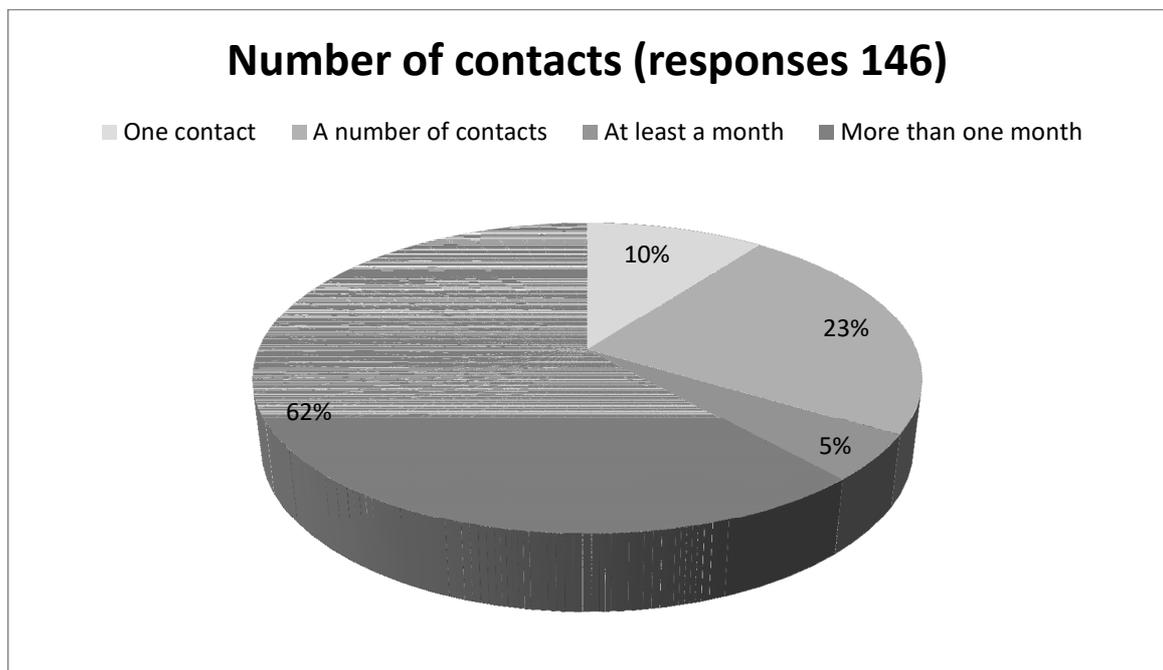
Unmet needs identified

The respondents were asked to detail any needs they were unable to meet. The following was recorded:

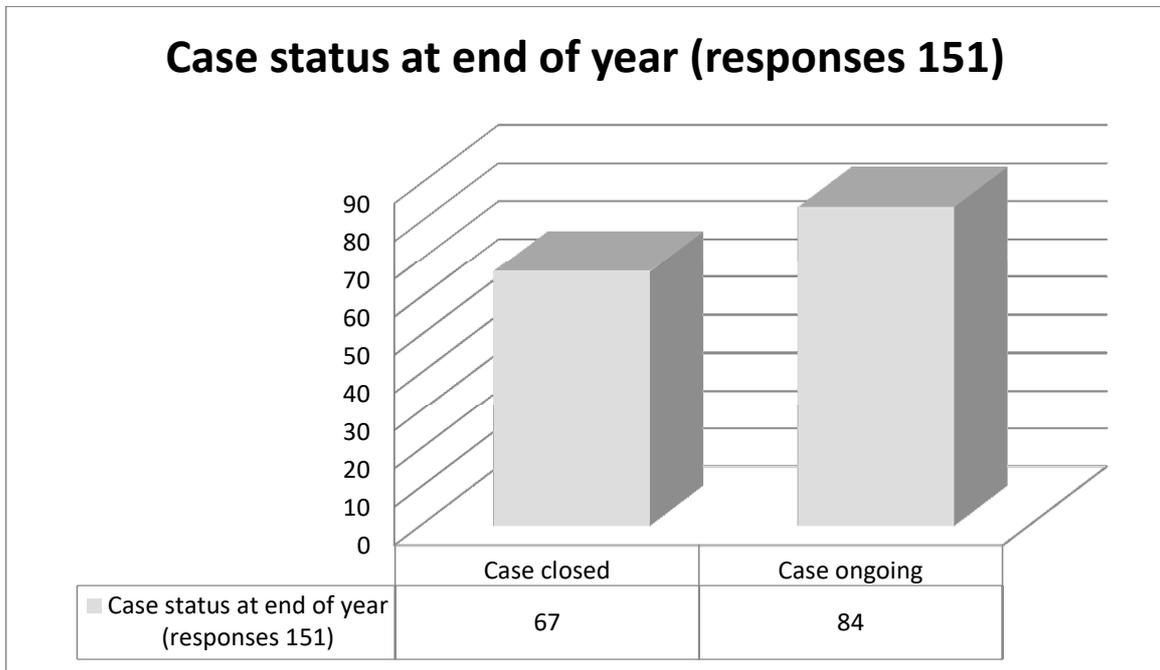
- *“It was impossible to refer the individual to the authorities for adequate accommodation, protection against offenders and financial support until he was granted TUT.”*
- *“The individual really had need for round the clock support at the safe house due to her state of mind and needs”.*
- *“There was a problem in making social services understand what we saw as needs that she had as a parent and in her daily life.”*

- *“This family was too big for us to be able to help without financial assistance from the government, when the social services referred them to the migration board’s accommodation we had to let them move, although they were in fact in our target group and needed more assistance than they get at the asylum centres.”*
- *“Since the child and his mother are currently undocumented in Sweden there has been difficulty finding health care for them. Even though the child should be entitled to health care (since he is a child) the health institutions the family has turned to has treated them badly resulting in a fear of seeking assistance of which they should have a right to receive. We have had to appeal several hospital bills which were incorrectly issued concerning psychological care for the child. Therefore the child got some help, but more help would have been needed.”*
- *“The child was left with the family who were also the perpetrators; the social services did not make the decision to use child protection law to reunite mother and child, although there were many witnesses of severe violence. This resulted in the mother going back to the abusive environment.”*

13. Number of contacts with individuals assisted



14. Case status at end of year



15. Criminal complaint and support from the authorities

<i>Criminal complaint and support from the authorities.</i>	<i>Statement is true regarding the number of individuals indicated out of a total of 177</i>
A criminal complaint has been made.	
*YES	83 (46, 89 %)
NO	75 (42, 37 %)
DO NOT KNOW	19 (10, 7 %)
The case is being investigated.	30 (16, 9 %)
The individual has been provided with a reflection and recovery period.	10 (5, 6 %)
The individual has been provided with a risk assessment plan.	5 (2, 8 %)
The individual has been granted a temporary residence permit.	17 (9, 6 %)
The regional coordinator has been actively supporting the individual.	20 (11, 3 %)

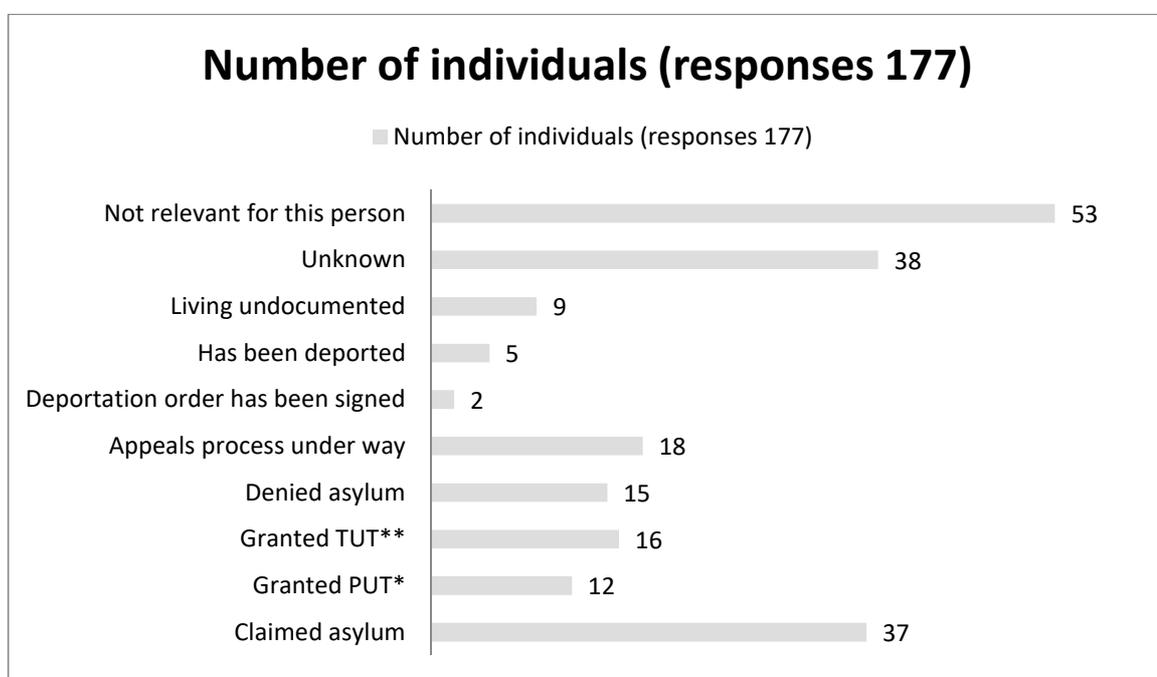
The individual has been granted a special representative.	16 (9 %)
---	----------

*This relates to any criminal complaint, whether recorded as human trafficking or not.

Additional information provided:

- In three cases it has been recorded that the criminal complaint was made in another EU country, and dismissed.
- In two cases convictions regarding pimping have been made.
- In one case convictions regarding the crime of human trafficking have been made.

16. Asylum status



* TUT = temporary residence permit

** PUT =, permanent residence permit

- *“The individual was granted TUT but it was revoked when the prosecutor decided not to prosecute the suspects. The Migration agency has now opened up the individual's asylum case again due to new reasons for protection. These new reasons are not connected to him being a victim of trafficking.”*
- *“The individual was granted TUT but it was revoked when the prosecutor decided not to prosecute the suspects. The individual has now decided to leave Sweden and go to another European country.”*