Chapter 2

National Case Studies on Trafficking of Human Beings in Thailand, Poland, and the United Kingdom

2.1 Introduction
In this Chapter, national case studies on trafficking of human beings in Thailand, Poland and the United Kingdom are presented. These jurisdictions have been selected primarily because of their status as typical States of origin, transit and destination respectively for trafficked people. One qualification, however, is that categorisation as a State of origin, transit, or destination is not definitive. Thailand and Poland simultaneously are States of origin, transit and destination, whereas it has recently been discovered that the United Kingdom serves as a transit State. Despite this qualification, a comparative analysis of these major States of origin, transit and destination provides insights into the nature of the phenomenon at various points of the process and responses to trafficking at national level.

The Chapter begins by illustrating the scale of trafficking of human beings in Thailand, Poland, and the United Kingdom, with particular reference to the major causes of the phenomenon and the profiles of traffickers. This is followed by a detailed analysis of national laws and polices and their enforcement. The Chapter also contains an analysis of victim protection measures. This is relevant as victim protection is one way of implementing a human rights framework to address the practice at the national level. Finally, the role played by key NGOs is examined.

2.2 The Scale of Trafficking in Thailand, Poland, and the United Kingdom

2.2.1 Statistical Overview
Thailand is a major State of origin. A large number of people are trafficked from Thailand annually. According to the Japanese Immigration Bureau, 14,334 Thai nationals were residing in Japan illegally as of January 2004.\(^1\) Thai male immigrants normally work in factories, food stores, farms and restaurants, while Thai female immigrants work as prostitutes, hostesses or waitresses at bars in

---

Chapter 2

Japan.\(^2\) Not every illegal migrant, however, is trafficked. Some may be smuggled instead of being trafficked, and others may travel independently. Nevertheless, the statistical information on illegal migrants is still an important indicator of the scale of trafficking, as traffickers facilitate illegal migration. Thai nationals are also trafficked into other States such as Taiwan, Germany, and the United States.\(^3\) Thailand also serves as a transit State. Many Chinese nationals are trafficked into Malaysia, Myanmar, and Vietnam via Thailand for commercial sexual exploitation.\(^4\) Finally, many people choose Thailand as a final destination. Between 200,000 to 300,000 foreign women are trafficked into Thailand annually for prostitution,\(^5\) most commonly from Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar on account of the geographical proximity.\(^6\) Further, the evidence suggests that Thai people are trafficked internally for a wide variety of purposes. Many people in the northern part of Thailand, especially women, are known to be trafficked to large cities such as Bangkok for prostitution and sexual exploitation.\(^7\)

Similar to Thailand, Poland is also a State of origin, transit and destination. It has been reported that at least 300,000 Polish nationals work abroad illegally each year.\(^8\) Many foreign nationals are also trafficked through Poland.

---

8 Chancellory of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland and Government Plenipotentiary for Poland’s Accession Negotiations to the European Union, Enlargement of the European Union to the East: Consequences for Prosperity and Employment in Europe: Opinion on the Friedrich Ebert Foundation Report “Die Osterweiterung der Europäischen Union. Konsequenzen für Wohlstand und Beschäftigung in Europa” (Warsaw: Chancellory of the Prime Minister of the Republic of