

# MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS & GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

## Literature Review

April 2026



### Notes:

*This is a compilation of literature, and the information included was pulled directly, if not exactly, as stated from the respective work. All credit goes to the authors.*

*At the DSG, we prefer to use language in line with restorative justice practices. However, language used here is consistent with that of each article.*

---

## Table of Contents

*Articles may discuss multiple topics- the topic that is discussed first is where it is organized*

Definitions .....	3
Labor Trafficking, Labor Exploitation, & Forced Labor .....	5
Sex Trafficking .....	9
Child Exploitation .....	12
Domestic Violence .....	13
Structural Barriers .....	15
References .....	17

# Definitions

## **Child Exploitation:**

Any situation where a child is abused, harmed or used by another person for economic, sexual, or personal gain (Matkinson, 2024). There are multiple types, such as criminal exploitation, county lines exploitation, child trafficking, and child sexual exploitation (NWG, n.d.).

- **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE):** A form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity-
  - a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or
  - b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator (NWG, n.d.).

## **Domestic Violence (DV):**

A pattern of controlling and abusive behaviors used to gain power and control over another person. Also referred to as 'domestic abuse' or 'DA' in some articles.

## **Forced Labor:**

When individuals are compelled against their will to provide work or service through the use of force, fraud, or coercion (DHS, 2025). This is the result or purpose (see AMP model under *Human Trafficking*) of labor trafficking, but not all forced labor situations happen because of trafficking. Forced labor is a criminal offense (OVC, n.d.).

## **Gender-Based Violence:**

Any harmful action or threat directed at someone because of their sex, gender, or how society expects them to act based on their gender or sex assigned at birth. Predominantly affects women, trans-women, girls, and femme people, but anyone can be impacted (adapted from CDC, 2022 & UNICEF, n.d.).

## **Human Trafficking (HT):**

The use of force, fraud, or coercion to compel a person into commercial sex acts or labor services against his or her will. All human trafficking is a criminal offense (United States Code, 2000). The Action-Means-Purpose Model (AMP) can help make sense of and identify labor trafficking; at least one element from each category must be present to establish a potential human trafficking situation:

- **Action:** induces, recruits, harbors, transports, provides
- **Means:** of force, fraud, or coercion
- (for the) **Purpose:** of compelling the victim to provide commercial sex acts or labor/services (Polaris, 2019).

Types of human trafficking:

- **Labor Trafficking:** When individuals are compelled by force, threats of force, fraud, or coercion to perform labor or service (FBI, n.d.).
- **Sex Trafficking:** When individuals are compelled by force, threats of force, fraud, or coercion to engage in commercial sex acts (FBI, n.d.).
  - For cases involving minors, or individuals under the age of 18, all commercial sex is considered *sex trafficking* (Polaris, 2019).
  - This is ***different from sex work***.

### **Intimate Partner Violence (IPV):**

A type of domestic violence. It has a specific focus on intimate partners- current or former spouses or dating partners.

**Labor Exploitation:** Any situation that does not meet labor standards relevant to the situation and generates disproportionate benefit to the employer. It involves unfair or abusive treatment of workers, often in violation of labor standards or human rights. Labor exploitation can escalate to labor trafficking when the individual is no longer able to leave the exploitative situation- through force, fraud, and/or coercion- freely (IRC Anti-Trafficking Response, 2025). All labor trafficking is (a more severe) form of labor exploitation, but not all labor exploitation is considered labor trafficking. While some labor violations that occur as a result of labor exploitation can be a criminal offense, most federal and state labor law violations are resolved through administrative procedures and workers can also pursue private civil suits (The Advocate for Human Rights, 2016). See **Table 1** for examples of labor exploitation and labor trafficking.

### **Sex Work:**

When a person **willingly** takes part in the sale of sex, it is **consensual** and doesn't affect their human rights (Stop the Traffik, 2018). Does **not** fall under human trafficking.

---

# Labor Trafficking, Labor Exploitation, & Forced Labor

---

While these three topics are different, their articles are being grouped together for ease of reading.

Remember: **labor exploitation** can -but does not always- become **labor trafficking** once force, fraud, or coercion is used making the individual unable to leave freely. **Forced labor** is the labor or services being performed, and this can occur with or without labor trafficking.

All three are forms of gender-based violence.

---

## “Screams Hidden By Cheers: Labor Trafficking Concerns Amidst the 2026 World Cup Games and Beyond”

By: Ayushi Kokroo (2024)

- Sex trafficking often dominates the attention and resources of prosecutors, the media, and law enforcement, which may be detrimental to labor trafficking because:
    - It results in fewer cases being identified,
    - Less training and education for labor trafficking, and
    - Fewer organizational efforts working to prevent labor trafficking.
  - FIFA has been under scrutiny for failing to address ongoing human rights abuses:
    - 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia
      - Workers were not paid, forced to work in as low as 13°F, and were not given work contracts.
    - 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar
      - Over 6,000 migrant workers died during stadium construction.
  - Many victims of labor trafficking in the United States are undocumented individuals.
    - H-2 Visa program is exploited as legal immigration status is tied to employer.
  - Studies have shown “restaurant employers who violate labor and employment laws are also more likely to violate [workplace] health and safety standards.”
- 

## “The Dark Side of the Olympics: Forced Labor and Sex Trafficking”

By: Valencia et al. (2026)

- Host cities where workers have experienced low wages, unsafe working conditions, wage theft, lack of contracts, and forced evictions include:
  - Paris 2024 Olympics
  - Beijing 2008 & 2022 Olympics
  - Rio 2016 Olympics
  - Sochi 2014 Olympics
- During Olympic construction, migrant undocumented workers were often overlooked and underpaid as recorded in:

- Sochi 2014 Olympics
- Beijing 2008 & 2022 Olympics
- Paris 2024 Olympics
- Employers paid workers illegally or manipulated records to avoid legal scrutiny, while injured workers received little to no compensation. Investigations also reveal that oftentimes, accidents and deaths among workers are excluded from Olympic statistics, with official reports claiming few worksite injuries and no fatalities.

### *Sex Trafficking*

- Instances of survivors' stories, like Christina, who was lured to Paris with the promise of a job and was instead sexually exploited. While this can occur and those affected are important and identifiable, the victim count has often been exaggerated by media outlets and advocacy organizations, and increasingly so with social media.
  - For example, claims such as, "Large sporting events like the Olympics produce tens of thousands of sex trafficking victims," were repeatedly circulated by news outlets. These claims were disputed by:
    - The Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women, stating despite widespread concern, no credible data confirms this figure or similar claims for any major sporting event.
    - A research review done at Queen Margaret University found little support for claims of significant increases in sex-trafficking during sport events.

### "The Role of Major Sporting Events in Human Rights Violations: FIFA, the Olympics, and Beyond"

By: Megan Scopp (2025)

- A pattern of human rights violations caused by large-scale events which primarily fall into three categories: labor exploitation, forced displacement, and suppression of civil liberties.
  - Labor Exploitation
    - 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar
      - *Kafala* system tied workers' legal status to employers and created conditions where thousands faced wage theft, hazardous working conditions and limited legal recourse.
      - Labor rights violations such as extreme heat, excessive hours, and employer abuse.
    - Paris 2024 Olympics
      - Undocumented migrant workers were employed under dangerous conditions, some were paid below minimum wage, denied social

security benefits, and worked excessive hours without proper legal protection.

- Forced Displacement
  - Rio 2016 Olympics
    - About 77,000 residents were evicted
  - Beijing 2008 Olympics
    - Estimated 1.5 million people were forcibly removed from homes.
  - Atlanta 1996 Olympics
    - Approximately 30,000 residents were displaced.
  - Vancouver 2010 Olympics
    - Thousands of low-income residents were displaced.
- Suppression of Civil Liberties
  - 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia
    - Russian authorities arrested activists, implemented restrictive protest laws, and increased surveillance on opposing groups.
  - 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar
    - Severe restrictions imposed on LGBTQ+ rights and press freedoms. International reporters faced harassment and detainment for attempting to document labor conditions and human rights abuses.
  - Paris 2024 Olympics
    - Introduced AI-powered surveillance causing fears of government overreach and excessive monitoring of marginalized communities.
  - Beijing 2008 Olympics
    - Journalists faced strict government controls and foreign media was subjected to surveillance and restricted access.
- FIFA & International Olympic Committees Human Rights Commitments
  - 2022 Qatar World Cup and Paris 2024 Olympics highlighted failures of respective organizations' inability to enforce human rights commitments and failure of meaningful oversight regarding labor rights violations.

---

### “The Underprosecution of Labor Trafficking”

By: Annie Smith (2020)

- A small number of human trafficking cases involving labor trafficking are prosecuted. As a result of low prosecution rates, it can foster environments that enable labor trafficking:
  - Traffickers may feel emboldened to exploit workers since they are not being prosecuted.

- It reinforces the myth that all human trafficking is sex trafficking and labor exploitation is of minimal concern.
- Trafficked individuals are more likely to face ongoing fear and abuse due to a lack of prosecutions.
- Consequences of labor trafficking can include, but are not limited to:
  - Prolonged fear and anxiety, disrupted sleep, nightmares, difficulty developing trust, depression, difficulty concentrating, stress, isolation, humiliation, shame, embarrassment, suicidal thoughts, PTSD, mood dysregulation, chest pain, headaches, and symptoms of dissociation.
- From 2016 to 2019, of all federal human trafficking prosecutions, sex trafficking makes up significantly more cases, while labor trafficking constitutes:
  - 2016: 3.7% of cases
  - 2017: 4.9%
  - 2018: 5.1%
  - 2019: 5.1%
- Barriers to Identification and Investigation include:
  - Workplace exceptionalism
    - Broad exclusion of employer conduct from meaningful state oversight and the exclusion of all but the most egregious employer conduct from criminal liability
  - Pervasive myths
  - The conflation of human trafficking and sex trafficking
    - There are *two* forms of human trafficking (sex and labor); ‘human trafficking’ and ‘sex trafficking’ are not interchangeable terms
  - Isolation of victims
  - Fear and distrust of law enforcement
  - Ongoing and credible coercion
  - Skepticism of foreign national victims
  - Insufficient training
  - Maladaptive law enforcement strategies
  - Reactive policing
  - Reliance on traditional policing methods
  - Absence of dedicated units
- Barriers to Prosecution include:
  - Case complexity
  - Proof concerns
  - Desire for the perfect victim
  - Institutional disincentives
  - Insufficient resources
- Recommendations:
  - Reallocate resources and shift incentives

- Train law enforcement, prosecutors, and the public
  - Adapt law enforcement strategies
    - Conduct regional assessments, engage in strategic partnerships, proactively analyze data, apply survivor's and advocates' insights, improve victim experiences, utilize civil litigation
- 

## Sex Trafficking

---

“Debunking the Myth of ‘Super Bowl Sex Trafficking’: Media hype or evidence-based coverage”

By: Lauren Martin & Annie Hill (2019)

- Scholars have traced the origins of the narrative linking major sporting events and sex trafficking to the 2004 Athens Olympics.
  - Concluded that ‘Super Bowl sex trafficking’ as reported in the news media is not empirically supported.
  - Based on evidence, it can be claimed that online ads for sex may temporarily increase parallel to large public events, but the claim needs to be clarified: ads are used as proxy measures for trafficking and should not be understood as the same thing.
  - Three main themes:
    - 76% of stories reviewed placed a causal or correlative link between Super Bowls and sex trafficking.
    - Stories supported the ‘Super Bowl sex trafficking’ narrative through citing quotes of authoritative sources such as the police, politicians, and anti-trafficking advocates.
    - Stories circulated numbers without citations, and conflated terms, such as trafficking and prostitution or ‘teen hookers’ and trafficking victims.
  - Long-term services for sexually exploited women are needed as opposed to episodic interventions connected to events like the Super Bowl.
- 

“Does the Super Bowl increase human trafficking in host city?”

By: Matthew Cimitile (2025)

- USF researchers say that the perception of the Super Bowl being a magnet for sex trafficking is largely unfounded.
- This assumption, fed by the media and scrutiny that followed the Super Bowl led to law enforcement devoting more resources to trafficking activities. As a result of law enforcements efforts increasing, awareness and prevention efforts by anti-trafficking organizations did the same. Through these organizations training officers in host cities and using ‘see something, say something’ campaigns to raise awareness, it in turn

created the perception that wherever a Super Bowl was held, a larger effort needed to be made to prevent [sex] trafficking in the surrounding communities.

---

“Exploring the relationship between super bowls and potential online sex trafficking”

By: Huang et al. (2024)

- What is the relationship between Super Bowls and potential online sex trafficking?
    - Significant upticks were found in online sex advertisements before and during the 2020 and 2021 Super Bowls.
    - The upticks were stronger for advertisements exhibiting indicators of sex trafficking than those posted by independent sex workers.
- 

“Rights, not rescue: trafficking (in)securities at the sport mega-event”

By: Benton J. Oliver and Amanda De Lisio (2023)

- Despite increased surveillance, no increases were found in sex trafficking at:
    - 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany
    - 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa
  - 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil
    - In all of 2014, not a single case of child sexual exploitation was brought forth for litigation.
    - Sex workers reported little impact of the World Cup on their business activities, similar to other FIFA host cities.
  - 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia
    - Local police threatened and intimidated women to perform sexual activities.
      - These are referred to as “buy-and-bust” operations where sexual services are performed for pay as evidence of prostitution
    - While women were forced out of tourist view, men were able to continue operating strip clubs and “Doll Hotels.”
  - 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar
    - Public criticism was directed at labor exploitation and forced migration under the *kafala* system.
  - An opportunistic culture is created through moral policing and campaigns to end human (sex) trafficking, which rationalize large investments in event securities and create gendered insecurities, such as the criminalization and control of migrant women, gender-diverse people, and those perceived to be or actually involved in sex work or adjacent industries.
-

## “We Have the Right Not to Be Rescued...”: When Anti-Trafficking Programmes Undermine the Health and Well-Being of Sex Workers”

By: Aziza Ahmed and Mena Seshu (2012)

- A case study of Veshya Anyay Mukti Parishad (VAMP), a sex workers collective in Sangli, India, to explore the impact of anti-trafficking efforts on HIV prevention programs.
  - Negative consequences of the raids:
    1. The raids may have a negative impact on sex workers' lives as they are violent and disruptive, discouraging clients from visiting those areas.
      - This does not stop sex work, but instead drives in underground, posing greater safety and health risks.
      - In brothels where VAMP works, sex workers are less prone to client violence because they can report these interactions to others and exclude them from brothel areas.
    2. The raids on brothels- structured to facilitate the delivery of HIV programs- detrimentally impact the well-established public health principle: the collectivization of sex workers reduces HIV risk.
      - The raids inhibit the mechanisms already in place that provide care, support, and help monitor the sex workers' health who have HIV.
    3. Arrests and detainment of sex workers in jails, remand homes, and rehabilitation centers often disrupt HIV care and can expose those with HIV to tuberculosis and other diseases.
    4. Violence against sex workers during state raids, rescues, arrests, and in remand homes and rehabilitation centers is well-documented.
    5. The conflation of sex work and trafficking undermines the effective anti-trafficking efforts by sex workers who see the difference between sex work and trafficking.
  - Conclusion:
    - Resources are being shifted away from sex worker projects, like VAMP, and reliance on the raid, rescue, and rehabilitation scheme has proven to be harmful for sex workers and public health projects.
    - Lessons are clear:
      - Allow participation and leadership of sex workers in projects and programs.
      - Learn from local organizations who are consistently on the ground and work within the nuances of the state-sex worker dynamic daily.
      - Allow for sex workers to define the terms of engagement in projects and programs designed to assist sex worker communities.
-

# Child Exploitation

---

“Child Exploitation and the FIFA World Cup: A review of risks and protective interventions”

By: Brackenridge et al. (2013)

- Review findings:
  - There are significant risks to children around major sporting events (MSEs).
  - There is no data to determine whether, how, and to what extent those risks translate into harm.
  - Most attention is given to trafficking and sexual exploitation when labor and displacement are probably bigger problems.
  - Little attention is paid to the impact on children of being “collateral damage” to the injustices visited on the adults around them.
  - It should not be assumed that no data equals no problem.
- Suggested correlates of risks to children at World Cups and other MSEs:
  - Unemployment
  - Poverty
  - Lack of access to services including education and healthcare
  - HIV/AIDS resulting in orphans and child-headed households
  - Conflict
  - Alcohol and drug fueled social crime and violence
  - Porous borders
  - Poor law enforcement
  - Forced displacement and migration
  - Gender inequality
  - local cultural, societal and religious practices - for example the normalizing of sexual violence, the subordination of children, and hegemonic masculinity commonly associated with some participants in football culture.
- The literature suggests that child labor has been the most long-standing form of child exploitation associated with MSEs. Evidence of this has been found at MSEs including:
  - 1989 FIFA World Cup in France
  - Greece 2004 Olympics
  - Beijing 2008 Olympics
  - 2010 Commonwealth Games in India
  - 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa
  - London 2012 Olympics
- Displacement of communities through forced eviction for infrastructure development and street clearances is common before MSEs.
- Regarding child sexual exploitation (CSE), credible data of this taking place before and during MSEs is scarce and the examples found indicate *risk* as opposed to *incidence* of CSE.
- Advice for event planners based on review findings include:

- Establish a coalition of all relevant partners as early as possible and develop a coherent strategy.
- Ensure all interventions have robust monitoring and evaluation plan built in.
- Involve and listen to children from a range of demographic backgrounds in the design and delivery of all child-protective interventions.

---

“Protection of children from sexual exploitation in the context of major sports events”

By: United Nations (2014)

- Main conclusions of the event as summarized by the Special Rapporteur:
  - It is generally agreed that major sports events place children at greater risk of being victims of sexual exploitation;
  - Evidence in this regard is still lacking;
  - The Polish and Brazilian Governments have proven through their engagement in prevention campaigns that a country does not stigmatize itself by committing to fight against sexual exploitation of children in the context of MSEs;
  - MSEs can be a catalyst to implement child protective strategies and strengthen cooperation among various stakeholders; and
  - It is essential that the stakeholders involved in the campaigns deliver joint, common messages to enhance impact.

---

## Domestic Violence

“After The Whistle: How NFL Games Affect Domestic Violence Rates”

By: Kim (2024)

- Police receive increased calls reporting domestic violence (DV) every Sunday during football season.
- These spikes are linked to teams losing a game.
- Domestic violence incidents rise about 10% on days where NFL games are played, usually occurring in family homes and most commonly affecting women.
- While alcohol does not cause DV, it can exacerbate it.
  - Alcohol is involved in about 40–60% of DV cases.
  - Men with alcohol use problems are 2 to 4 times more likely to abuse their partners.

---

“Can the FIFA World Cup Football (Soccer) Tournament Be Associated with an Increase in Domestic Abuse?”

By: Kirby et al. (2014)

- DV incidents reported to Lancashire Constabulary (police) across three separate tournaments (2002, 2006, and 2010) were analyzed, finding:
    - Risk for DV increased by 26% on the days England's National team won or drew.
    - Risk increased by 38% when England lost.
- 

“Domestic abuse rises almost 50 per cent after England win at World Cup”

By: Warwick Business School (2022)

- Researchers from Warwick Business School used 10 years of crime data from West Midlands Police findings:
    - Reported cases of alcohol-related domestic abuse rose 47% on the day of an England victory at either the World Cup or European Championship.
    - The day after an England match, alcohol-related cases were also 18% higher on average.
    - No increase in reports for non-alcohol-related domestic abuse on the days England played.
    - No evidence of alternative explanations such as increased policing on match days, or awareness campaigns.
- 

“Football [soccer], alcohol, and domestic abuse”

By: Ivandić et al. (2024)

- Purpose: To study the role of alcohol and emotions in understanding the dynamics in domestic abuse following major football games.
- Data from a major police force in the United Kingdom- the Greater Manchester Police- over an 8-year period, with almost 800 games during that timeframe.
- Findings:
  - A 5% decrease in domestic abuse (DA) incidents is observed during the 2-hour duration of the game. DA incidents between current partners start increasing after the game and peak about 10-12 hours later.
  - Domestic abuse increases are driven by alcohol-related incidents following earlier games, while DA caused by perpetrators who have not been drinking remains stable. Games scheduled later in the day also do not lead to an increase in abuse.
  - The increase in DV were driven entirely by male-on-female abuse.
  - Changes in domestic abuse in relation to football are mainly driven by alcohol consumption, not the direct effect of the emotions triggered by the games.
    - No evidence that game outcome affects probability of abuse.

- Football games affect the dynamics of intimate partner violence (IPV) among current partners but does not increase the severity of abuse- it instead shifts it to later in the day.
    - Games earlier in the day enable perpetrators to start drinking sooner and continue throughout the day, leading to a peak in DV by those under the influence of alcohol in the late evening.
  - Conclude that DV does depend on the occurrence of games, but it is through the mechanism of alcohol consumption that early games especially reinforce the size of the effects.
    - Delaying game starts until the evening and scheduling them on weekdays could help prevent a considerable amount of abuse.
- 

“Major sports events and domestic violence: A systematic review”

By: Forsdike et al. (2022)

- Results of their review suggest that it’s not just a major sporting event that is associated with an increase in DV, but the culture of a particular sport in a particular country, compounded by the rivalry between teams, and the importance, or emotional salience, of the game.
  - While there appears to be a strong correlation between MSEs and DV, the reason why this correlation exists and its context is still unclear and needs more research.
- 

## Structural Barriers

---

“Access Denied: Barriers to Legal Protection for Immigrant Survivors of Human Trafficking”

By: Julie Dahlstrom & Heba Gowayed (2022)

- Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA)
  - First comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation passed by Congress to establish new human trafficking crimes, create important protections for trafficking survivors, and enable efforts to prevent human trafficking.
- T visa
  - Established due to the TVPA
  - T nonimmigrant status, a special form of immigration status for survivors of human trafficking. Upon qualification, can provide immigrant survivors access to work authorization, a pathway to permanent legal residence, and the ability to petition for eligible family members.
  - Two purposes:
    1. Ensure survivors could access immigration protections

2. Encourage survivors to cooperate with human trafficking investigations and prosecutions
- Denials of T visas are rising in recent years
    - In fiscal year 2015, 28% of T visa applications were denied, while 42% were denied in 2020.
  - New policies established more obstacles for survivors applying for T visas. While they were all eventually stopped, their full impact on T visa applicants is unknown.
    - NTA (notice to appear) Policy
    - Blank Spaces Policy
    - Fee Waiver Changes
    - Physical Presence Requirement
  - The data found corroborates concerns raised by advocates about the T visa program—it demonstrated the difficulty faced by survivors seeking legal protection. The survey found evidence of:
    - Elongated wait times
    - Rising evidentiary requests, denials, rejections
    - A real and present fear of deportation
- 

“Institutionalizing human rights in sports mega events: a case study of the United 2026 FIFA Men’s World Cup”

By: McCloskey et al. (2026)

- The institutional logic of human rights faces significant challenges in gaining traction due to FIFA’s entrenched corporate imperatives.
- Tension between FIFA’s human rights logics and its commercial imperatives which dominate its agenda.
- Meaningful implementation is hindered at the executive and local level.
  - Executive level:
    - Resistance to change and prioritization of corporate interests
  - Local level:
    - The efficacy of human rights operational structures across multiple host cities varies significantly and is constrained by differences in expertise, resources, politics, inconsistent stakeholder engagement, and transparency.

## References

- Ahmed, A., & Seshu, M. (2012). "We Have the Right Not to Be Rescued...": When Anti-Trafficking Programmes Undermine the Health and Well-Being of Sex Workers. *Anti-Trafficking Review*, June 2012(1), 149.
- Brackenridge, C., Palmer-Felgate, S., Rhind, D., Hills, L., Kay, T., Tiivas, A., Faulkner, L., & Lindsay, I. (2013). *Child Exploitation and the FIFA World Cup: A review of risks and protective interventions*.  
<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Children/SR/HRC25/FlorenceBruce.pdf>
- CDC. (2022, November 17). *Ending Gender-based Violence Globally | Global Health | CDC*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.  
[https://archive.cdc.gov/www\\_cdc\\_gov/globalhealth/topics/gbv/index.html](https://archive.cdc.gov/www_cdc_gov/globalhealth/topics/gbv/index.html)
- Cimitile, M. (2025, February 4). *Does the Super Bowl increase human trafficking in host city?* University of South Florida St. Petersburg.  
<https://www.stpetersburg.usf.edu/news/2025/does-the-super-bowl-increase-human-trafficking-in-host-city.aspx>
- Crown Prosecution Service. (2022, November 21). *The World Cup: 'There is no excuse for domestic abuse' | The Crown Prosecution Service*. Crown Prosecution Service.  
<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/world-cup-there-no-excuse-domestic-abuse>
- Dahlstrom, J., & Gowayed, H. (2022, December). *Access Denied: Barriers to Legal Protection for Immigrant Survivors of Human Trafficking*. Boston University.  
[https://www.bu.edu/law/files/2022/12/AccessDenied\\_Final\\_120422.pdf](https://www.bu.edu/law/files/2022/12/AccessDenied_Final_120422.pdf)
- DHS. (2025, September 23). *What is Forced Labor? | Homeland Security*. Blue Campaign.  
<https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/forced-labor>
- Forsdike, K., O'Sullivan, G., & Hooker, L. (2022, September 21). *Major sports events and domestic violence: A systematic review—Forsdike—2022—Health & Social Care in the Community—Wiley Online Library*. Wiley Online Library. <https://doi.org/doi.org/10.1111/hsc.14028>
- Huang, X., Yoder, B. R., Tsoukalas, A., Entress, R. M., & Sadiq, A.-A. (2024). Exploring the relationship between super bowls and potential online sex trafficking. *Trends in Organized Crime*, 27(1), 77–99. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12117-022-09472-z>
- Human Trafficking*. (n.d.). Federal Bureau of Investigation. Retrieved April 9, 2026, from <https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/violent-crime/human-trafficking>
- IRC Anti-Trafficking Response. (2025). *Labor Exploitation vs. Labor Trafficking*. Anti-Trafficking Response. <https://www.antitraffickingresponse.org/educational-material/labor-exploitation-vs-labor-trafficking/>

- Ivandić, R., Kirchmaier, T., Saeidi, Y., & Torres Blas, N. (2024). Football, alcohol, and domestic abuse. *Journal of Public Economics*, 230, 105031. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpubeco.2023.105031>
- Kim. (2024, December 10). *After The Whistle: How NFL Games Affect Domestic Violence Rates - National Organization for Women*. <https://now.org/blog/after-the-whistle-how-nfl-games-affect-domestic-violence-rates/>
- Kirby, S., Francis, B., & O'Flaherty, R. (2014). Can the FIFA World Cup Football (Soccer) Tournament Be Associated with an Increase in Domestic Abuse? *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 51(3), 259–276. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022427813494843>
- Kokroo, A. (2024). SCREAMS HIDDEN BY CHEERS: LABOR TRAFFICKING CONCERNS AMIDST THE 2026 WORLD CUP GAMES AND BEYOND. 16(2). <https://drexel.edu/law/lawreview/issues/Archives/v16-2/kokroo/>
- Lancaster University. (2014, June 11). *World Cup football is a risk factor for domestic violence | Lancaster University*. <http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/news/articles/2014/world-cup-football-is-a-risk-factor-for-domestic-violence/>
- Martin, L., & Hill, A. (2019). Debunking the Myth of ‘Super Bowl Sex Trafficking’: Media hype or evidenced-based coverage. *Anti-Trafficking Review*, (13), 13–29. <https://doi.org/10.14197/atr.201219132>
- Matkinson. (n.d.). *What is Child Exploitation? | ChildFund Australia*. July 16, 2024. ChildFund Australia. Retrieved April 14, 2026, from <https://www.childfund.org.au/news-and-stories/what-is-child-exploitation/>
- McCloskey, C., McGillivray, D., McPherson, G., & Talbot, A. (2026). Institutionalizing human rights in sports mega events: A case study of the United 2026 FIFA Men’s World Cup. *Soccer & Society*, 0(0), 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14660970.2026.2640517>
- National Human Trafficking Hotline. (n.d.). *Labor Trafficking | National Human Trafficking Hotline [National Human Trafficking Hotline]*. Retrieved April 16, 2026, from <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/en/human-trafficking/labor-trafficking>
- NWG. (n.d.). *What is Child Exploitation? NWG Network*. Retrieved April 14, 2026, from <https://nwgnetwork.org/what-is-child-exploitation/>
- Oliver, B. J., & De Lisio, A. (2023). Rights, not rescue: Trafficking (in)securities at the sport mega-event. *Frontiers in Sports and Active Living*, 5, 1207595. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fspor.2023.1207595>
- OVC. (n.d.). *T-VSTTA | Human Trafficking | OVC*. Office for Victims of Crime. Retrieved April 17, 2026, from <https://ovc.ojp.gov/t-vstta/human-trafficking>

- Roan, D. (2024, November 30). *Fifa rejects own committee's call to compensate Qatar workers*. BBC Sport. <https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/articles/cm2728j9r7zo>
- Scopp, M. (2025, April 10). *The Role of Major Sporting Events in Human Rights Violations: FIFA, the Olympics, and Beyond*. HRRC. <https://www.humanrightsresearch.org/post/the-role-of-major-sporting-events-in-human-rights-violations-fifa-the-olympics-and-beyond>
- Sex Trafficking vs Sex Work: Understanding The Difference. (2018, September 24). STOP THE TRAFFIK. <https://stopthetraffik.org/sex-trafficking-vs-sex-work-understanding-difference/>
- Smith, A. (2020, January). *The Underprosecution of Labor Trafficking*. *South Carolina Law Review*. <https://sclawreview.org/article/the-underprosecution-of-labor-trafficking/>
- TAT. (n.d.). *Labor Trafficking*. TAT. Retrieved April 16, 2026, from <https://tatnonprofit.org/labor-trafficking/>
- The Advocates for Human Rights. (2016). *Asking the Right Questions A Human Rights Approach to Ending Trafficking and Exploitation in the Workplace*. [https://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/Res/asking\\_the\\_right\\_questions\\_2%203.pdf](https://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/Res/asking_the_right_questions_2%203.pdf)
- Understanding Human Trafficking—Polaris*. (2019, October 16). <https://polarisproject.org/understanding-human-trafficking/>
- UNICEF. (n.d.). *Gender-based violence | UNICEF*. UNICEF. Retrieved April 17, 2026, from <https://www.unicef.org/protection/gender-based-violence-in-emergencies>
- United Nations. (2014, March 11). *Protection of children from sexual exploitation in the context of major sports events*. United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-sale-of-children/protection-children-sexual-exploitation-context-major-sports-events>
- United States Code. (2000, October 8). 18 USC 1589: *Forced labor*. Office of the Law Revisional Counsel United States Code. <https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=granuleid:USC-2000-title18-section1589&num=0&edition=2000>
- Valencia, G., Premakumar, J. J., & See, E. (2026, January 30). *The Dark Side of the Olympics: Forced Labor and Sex Trafficking*. Chil Advocacy Center. <https://www.cacfaync.org/who-we-are/news-events/blog-posts.html/article/2026/01/30/the-dark-side-of-the-olympics-forced-labor-and-sex-trafficking>

Warwick Business School. (2022, December 8). *Domestic abuse increases almost 50 per cent after England win at World Cup* | News. Warwick Business School.  
<https://www.wbs.ac.uk/news/domestic-abuse-increases-almost-50-per-cent-after-england-win-at-world-cup/>

## Tables

**Table 1**

*Examples of Labor Exploitation and Labor Trafficking*

Labor Exploitation	Labor Trafficking
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wage theft/underpayment</li> <li>• Excessive hours</li> <li>• No meal breaks</li> <li>• Hazardous work environments</li> <li>• Unsanitary working conditions</li> <li>• No written contract</li> <li>• Working without proper permits or certifications</li> <li>• Withholding or delaying pay, statements, tax returns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical assault</li> <li>• Sexual assault</li> <li>• Lying about conditions of work or laws</li> <li>• Held against will</li> <li>• Debt bondage</li> <li>• Threats (arrest, deportation, physical, psychological, financial)</li> <li>• Confinement, isolation, and/or control of movement</li> <li>• Deprivation of food, water, sleep</li> <li>• Instilling fear about bystanders, the public, or law enforcement</li> <li>• Forced labor</li> </ul>
Key difference	
Able to leave freely	Unable to leave due to fraud, force, or coercion

(IRC Anti-Trafficking Response, 2025; National Human Trafficking Hotline, n.d.; TAT, n.d.)