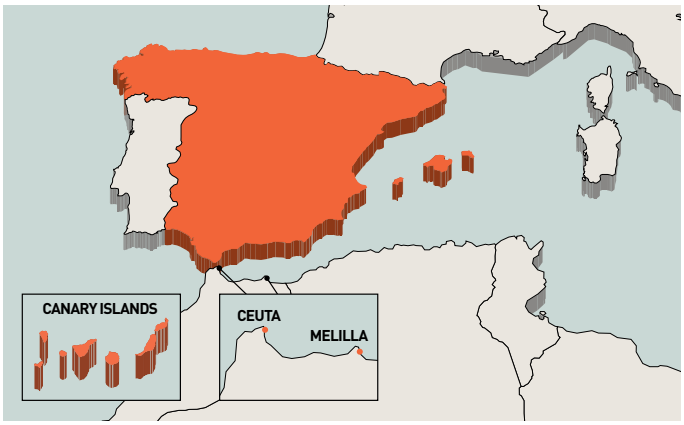
IMPACT REPORT 2023

SPAIN

Spain sits on the Iberian Peninsula in the south of Europe, bordering France to the north and Portugal to the west, approximately 14 kilometres from Africa. It is also part of the Schengen area, in which the citizens of 29 countries can travel freely. Spain is both a destination and transit country for human trafficking, attributed in part to cultural connections with Latin America and its location near Africa.[1] According to data collected by the Ministry of the Interior, between 2018 and 2022, a total of 1,467 victims of human trafficking were identified in Spain.[2] A report by the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) states this data doesn't represent the full scale of human trafficking in Spain.[3] Among the victims identified by law enforcement, 847 were victims of sexual exploitation (95% women and girls), 525 were victims of labour trafficking (57% men and boys), 11 were victims of forced marriage, 50 were victims of forced criminality and 34 were victims of forced begging.[4]



The same GRETA report highlights that false job offers continue to be one of the most common methods used to recruit victims. Recruitment online has increased significantly in recent years, especially through social networks.[5] High-risk sectors include agriculture, fishing, domestic work, and the hotel and catering industry.[6]

MIGRATION

During 2023, Spain's population grew to 48,446,594, an increase of around 120,000 from the previous year.[7] This population growth is primarily attributed to the rise in immigration, with Colombian and Moroccan nationalities being among the greatest number of immigrants arriving in Spain during this period.[8]

According to a report by the Spanish Commission for Refugee Aid (CEAR), in recent years, Spain has witnessed a notable increase in applications for asylum and international protection, led by people from Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, Honduras, Cuba and Morocco.[9] In 2023, the country registered over 163,220 asylum applications, a 37% increase from the previous year, achieving a consecutive historical record in this type of application.[10]

Vulnerability factors increase for migrants, especially those seeking asylum and international protection in Spain. These factors include a lack of language knowledge, information about their rights and legal documentation and a distrust of local authorities. A lack of human trafficking understanding and awareness can contribute to perpetuating vulnerability and exploitation. As such, raising awareness amongst the general public, non-human trafficking non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and professionals working with migrant populations is an important aspect of A21's counter-trafficking strategy.

A21'S RESPONSE

A21 Spain (A21) officially opened its office in 2018, although individuals have informally participated in A21's global events in Spain since 2012. Since its inception, A21 has collaborated with public institutions, specialised entities in countering human trafficking, associations, private industry and other key actors in the fight against human trafficking. Historically, A21 has focused on awareness, prevention and professional training. In 2023, A21 expanded its initiatives against human trafficking by launching the Anti-Human Trafficking Hotline, Teléfono de Ayuda Contra la Trata, 900 759 759 (The Hotline). The Hotline, which operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, nationally throughout Spain, is dedicated exclusively to addressing enquiries and providing aid related to human trafficking concerns.

PREVENTION & AWARENESS

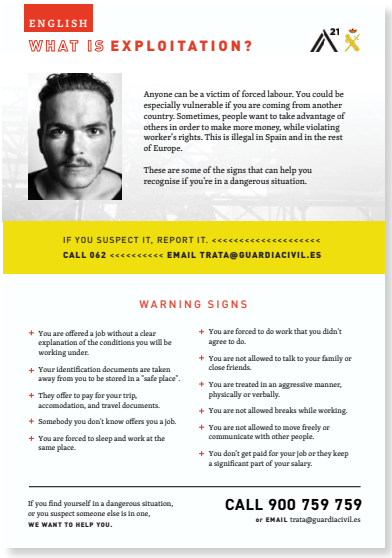
Since 2018, A21 has focused on human trafficking prevention, awareness and education for the general public in Spain. A21's awareness campaign materials and media outreach have resulted in 42,344,299 impressions and 637,384 individuals reached with prevention education. In 2023 alone, A21 reached over 115,000 people through 131 in-person activities in schools, associations, universities, community groups, businesses and the distribution of resources.



For several years, GRETA and the U.S. State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report have noted a lack of prevention materials and campaigns addressing labour trafficking in Spain.[11] In response, A21 signed a collaboration agreement with the Civil Guard in 2019 to create a 'Passport to Indicators of Trafficking' prevention resource to address labour trafficking in all sectors. The content of this resource explains forced labour and includes potential signs of labour exploitation to identify possible trafficking situations. It also outlines support channels for the vulnerable or those acquainted with the at-risk population. This resource was purposefully designed as a passport-sized booklet, accessible in nine languages (English, French, Romanian, Ukrainian, Bulgarian, Russian, Spanish, Chinese and Arabic) to enhance the efficient distribution and dissemination of information to at-risk communities and the general public.

Since its launch in July 2019 and continuing through 2023, A21 and the Civil Guard have distributed more than 19,000 of this passport resource across Spain in strategic locations such as airports, ports, borders, embassies, consulates and agricultural areas. The Civil Guard also distributed the passport resource to vulnerable communities during labour inspections as a prevention strategy. In 2023, A21 actively focused on human trafficking prevention initiatives and collaborations, by conducting 38 face-to-face presentations with different populations, and distributing 100,000 digital safety leaflets for minors with the National Police, reaching 103,793 minors and 3,305 adults. These efforts focused on educating vulnerable groups on their rights and providing guidance to avoid the risks associated with human trafficking.





During the reporting year, A21 collaborated closely with the Immigrant Participation and Integration Centres, accompaniment centres, and associations specialised in assisting people at risk of social exclusion, such as immigrants, asylum seekers and those in need of international protection. As part of this collaboration, A21 provided prevention and awareness resources, materials and staff training.



A21 COLLABORATES WITH THE NATIONAL POLICE TO PREVENT ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

In 2020, A21 Spain continued to strengthen its partnerships by signing a General Action Protocol with the National Police and collaborating to prevent online child sexual exploitation that continues to be operational. This partnership produced a digital safety leaflet for minors to understand and know how to protect themselves from situations of sextortion, grooming, live-streaming for exploitation, or being recruited for the creation of child sexual abuse material.

This joint preventative initiative includes the digital safety leaflet for minors, two Parent Guides (one for parents of children aged six to twelve and another for parents of teens ages 13 to 18) and the adaptation of the *Can You See Me?* campaign[12] short film depicting the story of a teenage victim of online child sexual exploitation.

The collaboration between A21 and specialised officers from the Citizen Participation Division of the National Police resulted in the national distribution of approximately 403,000 prevention materials from November 2020 to December 2023. In 2023, the National Police and A21 distributed 100,000 digital safety leaflets for minors and 3,292 Parent Guides in educational centres, day centres for minors and integration centres, among other locations.



WALK FOR FREEDOM

Spain first participated in A21's annual global awareness event, Walk For Freedom[13] (WFF), in 2014, with a walk in Barcelona led by passionate volunteers. It has since continued annually, with WFF becoming one of the largest initiatives to raise awareness about human trafficking in Spain, with active participation and support from civil society, police forces and specialised entities.

In 2023, 17 cities in Spain hosted a WFF event, resulting in the mobilisation of thousands of people for this global human trafficking awareness event. In Madrid, various stakeholders collaborated and participated in WFF including the Intelligence Centre Against Terrorism and Organised Crime, the Ministry of the Interior, the National Police, the Civil Guard, the Embassy of the Dominican Republic in Spain, associations dedicated to caring for vulnerable populations and Marriott International. A21, along with volunteers and partners, distributed 75,000 leaflets containing information about human trafficking during the event.



IDENTIFICATION & INTERVENTION

As A21's presence expanded in Spain, its audience broadened from the general public to include 'frontline professionals', individuals most likely to encounter victims of trafficking within their official duties. During the last five years, A21 has trained 1,564 frontline professionals, including 318 trained in 2023. In partnership with Marriott International, A21 Spain delivered training to over 415 hotel employees over the last four years.

In 2023, A21 focused on training airline staff operating flights from key countries of origin for foreign national victims of trafficking in Spain. These training sessions educated cabin and ground crew on recognising and appropriately responding to suspected human trafficking on flights. Continuing with this strategy, A21 proactively formed relationships with embassies and consulates of Latin American countries identified as the primary countries of origin for those trafficked in Spain. Based on A21's experience, embassies and consulates play a fundamental role with the migrant population in the country, being one of the few places where potential victims can establish external contact and find a safe space. In addition, A21 trained professionals from associations that offer services to vulnerable populations, including refugees, asylum seekers and those at risk of social exclusion. As a result of this training, consular staff reached out to A21 Spain on two separate occasions for guidance after noticing certain unusual signs to signal possible exploitation amongst those being assisted.

VICTIM IDENTIFICATION

To support efforts in identifying trafficking victims, A21 has established strategic partnerships with law enforcement and relevant government institutions. A21 has actively participated in operations led by the corresponding authorities to detect potential victims in environments where there is suspected human trafficking, delivering immediate attention and support to victims and potential victims of trafficking.

In 2023, a joint operation with A21 Spain, A21 Greece, the Spanish National Police and Greek law enforcement, assisted victims originating from Colombia and Venezuela and then transported through Spain to ultimately be sexually exploited in Greece. The operation resulted in the dismantling of an internationally operated trafficking ring and the recovery of dozens of sex trafficking victims. A21 Spain played a significant role in providing additional intelligence to the ongoing investigation in Greece, highlighting the importance of cross-country collaboration.

SPANISH ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE

In July 2023, A21 Spain launched the Teléfono de Ayuda Contra la Trata, 900 759 759 (The Hotline), a nationally operated hotline dedicated solely to responding to human trafficking reports and requests for assistance. Representatives from various government ministries attended the launch event, including the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Justice, the National Rapporteur Against Human Trafficking, the National Police, and representatives from the embassies and

consulates of the United States, New Zealand, Colombia, Paraguay and the Dominican Republic, as well as other specialised entities that work against human trafficking. During this event, A21 signed a collaboration agreement with the National Police, a key leader in the fight against trafficking in Spain. The agreement highlighted the collaboration in combatting trafficking, the utilisation of the Hotline to connect direct services care to victims and interpretation services, and cooperation in investigations while maintaining the confidentiality of information received through the Hotline.

The Hotline serves as a resource line for victims and potential victims of trafficking to report their exploitation, request assistance in leaving an exploitative situation or be connected to direct services. The Hotline also receives reports of suspected trafficking situations from the general public. It operates nationally throughout Spain, 24 hours a day, every day of the year. All call specialists receive specialised training on human trafficking and are bilingual, speaking Spanish and English. In addition, the Hotline offers valuable services, such as serving as a referral mechanism, not only for victims or potential victims of trafficking but also for organisations and public entities.

As human trafficking victims in Spain are often foreign nationals, the Hotline offers a simultaneous interpretation service in over 230 languages.[14] This tool is critical to enable callers to express themselves comfortably in their native language. The interpretation service is not only available for victims or potential victims but also for anyone contacting the Hotline about human trafficking.

The Hotline also provides a 'job vetting' service, where call specialists provide preliminary assessments about the legitimacy of an employment opportunity. Given the prevalence of false job offers as a recruitment tool used by traffickers, this 'job vetting' service is a critical feature of the Hotline.

Additionally, the Hotline collaborates with a broad network of counter-human trafficking organisations. This network includes entities that offer direct services to human trafficking survivors, to which the Hotline can provide referrals. The organisations within this network offer their programs and resources to address the needs of survivors, ensuring their assistance and support. Likewise, the Hotline sends tips about possible trafficking cases to law enforcement.

Since its launch in mid-2023, the Hotline has received 151 contacts, 112 of which were directly related to human trafficking, resulting in 64 reports of individuals potentially in a trafficking situation. In sum, the Hotline submitted 17 reports of suspected cases of human trafficking to law enforcement for investigation, and 11 organisations requested collaboration with the Hotline for their services.



A21'S NEWLY LAUNCHED COUNTER-HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE ASSISTS IN THE IDENTIFICATION AND ASSISTANCE OF THREE LABOUR TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS

Shortly after the Hotline's launch, law enforcement contacted the Hotline to request interpreter services as three foreign nationals had self-identified and contacted law enforcement to report the trafficker. Using the interpreter services offered by the Hotline, call specialists assisted law enforcement in confirming these men were survivors of labour trafficking and obtaining a description of the trafficker. After the interview, call specialists reiterated the availability of the Hotline to the survivors for any future needs.

A few weeks later, one of the men contacted the Hotline again to report another possible trafficking situation. This time, he reported a suspected trafficking situation in his country of origin. The new case shared the same recruitment method he experienced, which helped to expand the information about the case under investigation.

A21 worked with law enforcement and an association specialising in legal assistance to support the three survivors in their application to be recognised as trafficking victims, and to obtain a residence permit. The official recognition of these men as victims of trafficking provided these male survivors with access to a residence permit and other vital resources critical to their recovery and reintegration. This collaboration not only facilitated the official recognition of these survivors as trafficking victims but also ensured they received the comprehensive support necessary to begin their process of recovery and reintegration into society.

ENDNOTES

[1] Ministerio del Interior | Situación en España. (n.d.). https://www.interior.gob.es/opencms/gl/servicios-al-ciudadano/trata/situacion-en-espana/

[2] Trata y explotación de seres humanos en España" Balance Estadístico 2018-2022, Centro de Inteligencia Contra el Terrorismo y el Crimen Organizado, Secretaría de Estado de Seguridad.

[3] Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA). (2023). *Evaluation Report - Spain: Access to justice and effective remedies for victims of trafficking in human beings.* Council of Europe. Published June 12, 2023. Retrieved February 2, 2024, from https://rm.coe.int/greta-evaluation-report-on-spain-3rd-evaluation-round-greta-2023-
10-ac/1680ab8d0f
'Evaluation Report - Spain: Access to justice and effective remedies for victims of trafficking in human beings.' should be in italics

[4] Ministerio del Interior | Situación en España. (n.d.). https://www.interior.gob.es/opencms/gl/servicios-al-ciudadano/trata/situacion-en-espana/

[5] Ibid.

[6] Ibid.

[7] Instituto Nacional de Estadística. (2023, November 7). *Estadística Continua de Población (ECP) a 1 de octubre de 2023* [Press release]. Retrieved February 2, 2024, from https://www.ine.es/daco/daco42/ecp/ecp0323.pdf

[8] Ibid.

[9] Refugiados más que cifras - CEAR. https://www.masquecifras.org/

[10] Ibid.

[11] Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA). (2023). *Evaluation Report - Spain: Access to justice and effective remedies for victims of trafficking in human beings.* Council of Europe. Published June 12, 2023. Retrieved February 2, 2024, from https://rm.coe.int/greta-evaluation-report-on-spain-3rd-evaluation-round-greta-2023-
10-ac/1680ab8d0f
'Evaluation Report - Spain: Access to justice and effective remedies for victims of trafficking in human beings.' should be in italics

[12] The *Can You See Me?* campaign is A21's global campaign intended to equip the general public on recognising human trafficking and reporting suspected trafficking to the country's relevant hotline. The real life scenarios depicted through the campaign attempt to bring awareness of the millions of men, women and children currently trapped in modern day slavery across the world. By partnering with law enforcement, governments, businesses and NGOs, the goal is to turn awareness into action.

[13] Walk for Freedom is a day of 'global awareness and local action' in the fight against human trafficking, where individuals engage their community through local walk events to raise awareness about human trafficking in their cities and collectively result in a ripple effect around the world.

[14] Trata y explotación de seres humanos en España" Balance Estadístico 2018-2022, Centro de Inteligencia Contra el Terrorismo y el Crimen Organizado, Secretaría de Estado de Seguridad.

© A21 USA, INC. 2024. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.