



2019 Global Call for Evidence on Children's Institutions and Human Trafficking Guidelines

Thank you for responding to Lumos' Global Call for Evidence on Children's Institutions and Human Trafficking. In these guidelines, you can find more information on the aim and methodology of the call for evidence, definitions of institutions and trafficking, child and data protection issues, and research at Lumos.

The goal of this call for evidence

The purpose of gathering evidence through this call is to understand the links between children's institutions and human trafficking in diverse contexts around the world. Lumos is collecting examples, information, knowledge and resources about trafficking into, out of or after leaving children's institutions as well as practice in tackling this serious problem. We draw on the collective expertise and experience of practitioners, policymakers, researchers, advocates and others across the fields of child protection and anti-trafficking.

What is a children's institution?

The term 'children's institution' covers residential facilities, which may be known as 'orphanages', compound/cluster facilities, 'reception centres' for unaccompanied migrant children, residential health facilities, psychiatric wards, residential 'special schools', and boarding schools.

Although not all children's institutions look or operate in the same way – some may be run by the state, others by private providers, some may be materially well resourced, others struggling to provide the basics – they are all characterised by the same 'institutional culture' that prevails. They deny children their freedom, isolate them from their families and communities, leave children without sufficient control over their lives and over decisions which affect them and often deny them their right to an identity. It is common for the requirements of the institution itself take precedence over the children's individual needs.

What is human trafficking?

The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, also known as the Trafficking Protocol, provides an internationally accepted definition of trafficking. Trafficking in children is defined in article 3(c) as:

*'The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child **for the purpose of exploitation** shall be considered 'trafficking in persons' [...]*



Article 3(a) further outlines that:

*‘Exploitation shall include, **at a minimum**, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.’*

Methodology

Lumos invites everyone with relevant examples, information, knowledge and resources to respond to the call for evidence by completing the [online survey](#). Given the diversity of knowledge and experiences, respondents are free to structure their submission in the way they deem most suitable. The submissions are divided into two parts:

- **Part I:** Examples, information and knowledge about human trafficking linked to children's institutions
- **Part II:** Examples, information and knowledge about countering human trafficking linked to children's institutions

Respondents are also able to include publications or other resources in support of each submission.¹

People are encouraged to complete all sections that are applicable to their submission; the other sections can be left blank. The online survey allows for up to three submissions in each of the two parts. Additional submissions can be made by completing a second survey. Alternatively, they can be sent directly to Lumos (see Contact Information at the end of these Guidelines).

Example of submission

Let's say you want to provide information about the story of an individual child who was trafficked into an orphanage. You can describe the details and events as a submission in Part I. If you also wanted to share your experiences of protecting this child and reintegrating her with her family, you would complete the text box in Part II. If you recently came across an article in a local newspaper about child exploitation in the same orphanage and how the police are treating this, you could upload this as a publication/resource in support of your submission in Part I or II, seeing as it is relevant to both.

How the submissions will be used

Lumos is grateful for all submissions, and we will carefully analyse them to increase our understanding of patterns, dynamics, risks and drivers. This information will be published and disseminated to provide evidence for strategies, interventions and policies for preventing and tackling trafficking in the context of children's institutions. Your submissions will contribute to addressing some of the major gaps in the global evidence base and help strengthen the child protection sector to improve the lives of children. The submissions and the lessons drawn from them will be a central feature in a forthcoming Lumos research publication on children's institutions and human trafficking.

¹ Relevant resources may include: published or unpublished research papers, articles, policy briefs, presentations, reviews, evaluations, fact sheets, manuals, policies, strategies, news media, conference papers and dissertations.



At the end of the online survey, you will be asked to indicate whether you want us to use your or your organisation's name when citing or paraphrasing your submissions. If you wish, we are happy to give full credit but can also ensure your submissions remain anonymous.

Child protection and safeguarding

The safety and protection of children, both online and offline, is always Lumos' highest priority. Lumos has a duty to report any concerns about the safety and well-being of children and vulnerable adults that may be used through this call for evidence. We, therefore, request respondents not to disclose personally identifiable information on individual children or adults, including names and exact locations. The only exception is information that is readily available in the public domain, such as publicly available legal proceedings, media articles or publications.

In instances where you are concerned that someone is in immediate danger, we would recommend that you contact the police or relevant social services agency in your country. If you would like to discuss any concerns with Lumos directly, please contact our Safeguarding Adviser, Naomi Deutsch: naomi.deutsch@wearelumos.org.

Privacy and data protection

Lumos strongly values privacy and data protection and is cognisant of the pressures and risks faced by anti-trafficking practitioners, advocates and researchers around the world. Respondents are asked to indicate in what way they allow their submissions to be used, presented and communicated by Lumos. We also enable the option of making an anonymous submission, which can be done by leaving the contact information fields blank.

For more information, please read the [Lumos Privacy Policy](#), which sets out how we use and protect any personal data that are shared with us, as well as the [SurveyMonkey Privacy Policy](#).

Children's institutions and human trafficking: the evidence gap

Around the world, there is growing international recognition that children are at higher risk of being exploited and trafficked when they are in institutions, as well as upon leaving institutional care. Research has shown that children's physical, cognitive and emotional development is severely damaged through institutionalisation, rendering them more vulnerable to trafficking. Numerous child protection and anti-trafficking stakeholders, including advocates and researchers, are mobilising themselves to develop effective responses in practice, policy and law. This also encompasses issues such as *orphanage voluntourism* and international funding flows.



The relationship between institutionalisation and trafficking is complex and manifold. Four cycles or types of trafficking in the context of children's institutions can generally be differentiated:

- Known or suspected child victims of trafficking or separated migrant children are accommodated in institutional care, for any or multiple forms of exploitation, including the phenomenon of 'orphanage trafficking'
- Children are trafficked out of institutions, for any or multiple forms of exploitation
- Child victims of trafficking are placed (back) into institutions
- Those who have lived in children's institutions become victims of trafficking

Forms of exploitation include, at a minimum: forced labour, begging, sexual exploitation, illegal adoption, domestic servitude, criminal exploitation, organ harvesting, etc.

In spite of growing awareness in international policy, practice, advocacy, research and funding circles, there is a significant gap in available evidence and information on the links between children's institutions and human trafficking. This paucity makes it a silent, global injustice. Lumos undertakes to address the evidence gap by focusing on five overarching themes:

1. Scale, patterns and dynamics (including recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, receipt and exploitation of the children into, inside and/or out of institutions)
2. Vulnerabilities and risks of particular children and families
3. Drivers and causes (such as *voluntourism* and funding)
4. Harms and effects of institutionalisation and trafficking on children
5. Best practices, policies, laws and systems interventions

About Lumos

Named after the light-giving spell in Harry Potter, Lumos is an international children's organisation founded by J.K. Rowling in 2005. We work to end the institutionalisation of children worldwide. Lumos seeks to better understand and tackle the root causes of family separation – trafficking, poverty and discrimination – and transform care systems in diverse contexts. The Lumos Evidence Unit generates evidence for change by contributing to different areas of the global evidence base on transforming child protection policy and practice. The Evidence Unit and Anti-Trafficking, Modern Slavery & Voluntourism team are undertaking research on the nexus between trafficking and institutions in order to strengthen and develop the global evidence base, of which this call for evidence is a key component.

Contact details

For any question or comments about the call for evidence or these guidelines, please contact us at callforevidence@wearelumos.org.