

The New Anti-trafficking Policy Index Says that Countries Improve Punishing Human Traffickers While Lacking Human Rights Protection for Trafficking Victims
An Index Measuring Anti-trafficking Policies in 177 Countries for the 2000-2009 Period
Developed by Researchers at the University of Goettingen and the LSE

Human trafficking is one of the dark sides of globalization, having rapidly grown worldwide in the last few decades. Interpol (2009) estimates that human trafficking is the third largest transnational crime, following drug and arms trafficking. In response to the emergence of human trafficking as an area of international policy, three university researchers have recently developed the Anti-trafficking Policy Index (3P Index), evaluating government policy efforts to fight human trafficking in 177 countries from 2000 to 2009. The developers of the Index are Prof. Axel Dreher and Seo-Young Cho (Economics, University of Goettingen, Germany) and Prof. Eric Neumayer (Environment and Development, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK). The Index Project was financed by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Justice, Freedom and Security (Prevention of and Fight against Crime Programme).

The policy level is evaluated using a five-point scale, where a score of five indicates the best policy practice, while score 1 is the worst. This scale is used to analyze the main three anti-trafficking policy areas: (i) prosecuting (criminalizing) traffickers, (ii) protecting victims, and (iii) preventing the crime of human trafficking. Each sub-index of prosecution, protection and prevention is aggregated to the overall index with an unweighted sum, with the overall index ranging from a score of 3 (worst) to 15 (best). It is available for up to 177 countries over the 2000-2009 period (on an annual basis).

As can be seen in the figures below, the outcome of the Index shows that anti-trafficking policy has improved overall in the past 10 years. Improvement is prominent in the prosecution and prevention areas worldwide. An exception is protection policy, which shows a modest deterioration in recent years. This finding indicates that many countries are reluctant to protect trafficking victims – who are mostly foreign nationals – probably because they are afraid of increased human trafficking inflows if providing better protection for victims.

Figure 1. Anti-trafficking Policy worldwide, 2000-2009

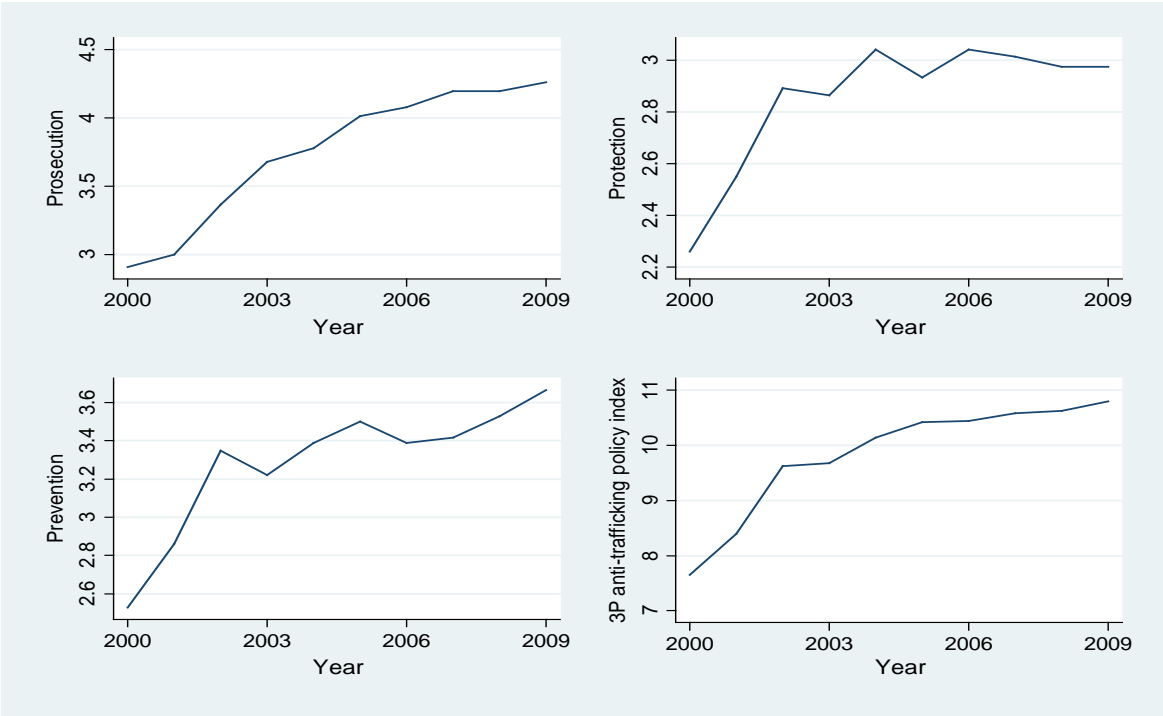
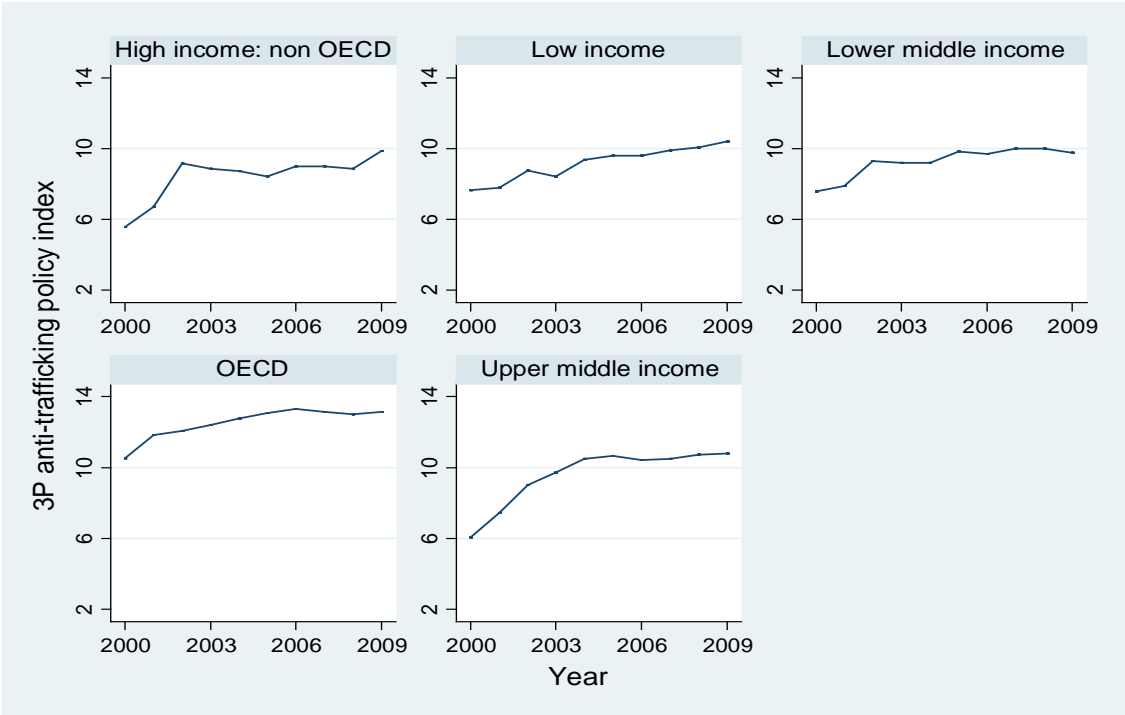


Figure 2: Compliance with anti-trafficking policies across regions and time



Figure 3. Compliance with anti-trafficking policies across income groups and time



The table below shows that, in 2009 (the most recent year of the evaluation), seven countries demonstrate the highest possible performance in policies for all three dimensions (overall score 15). These countries are Germany, Australia, the Netherlands, Italy, Belgium, Sweden and the US. The second best performing group (overall score 14) consists of France, Norway, South Korea, Croatia, Canada, Austria, Slovenia and Nigeria. Interestingly, most countries in this group (except Norway and Slovenia) failed to achieve the highest score due to their performance in protection policy (receiving score 4), indicating that even countries with sound anti-trafficking policy are less willing to provide victim protection as far as anti-trafficking policy is concerned. The advancement of Nigeria is remarkable, improving its policy performance from score 8 in 2000 to 14 in 2009. This has been an excellent response to a growing problem of human trafficking in the country. The worst performing country in 2009 was North Korea, receiving the lowest score in all dimensions (overall score 3), followed by Somalia.

The Index was constructed based on an evaluation of policy requirements prescribed by the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (2000). The raw data employed for this evaluation were sourced from two reports on human trafficking, the Annual Report of Trafficking in Persons (United States State Department, 2001-2010) and the Report on Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns

(United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2006 and 2009). To quantify the level of government policy, a decomposition method – disaggregating evaluation into several key policy requirements and determining a final score based on this disaggregated evaluation – was employed. For the Prosecution Index, the adoption of national anti-trafficking law and law enforcement are considered most important, while no punishment of trafficking victims and the provision of assistance services (such as housing, medical and legal assistance) are key to the evaluation for Protection. Anti-trafficking public awareness campaigns, relevant training of governmental officials, border controls and international cooperation are the main components in evaluating prevention policy.

In the background paper introducing this new Index - The Spread of Anti-trafficking Policies – Evidence from a New Index (Cho, Dreher and Neumayer 2011), the developers propose the mechanisms through which anti-trafficking policies have been spread worldwide over the last ten years. The empirical results of their econometric analysis show that countries improve their anti-trafficking policies (i) if their neighboring countries adopted better policy in the previous year; and (ii) if other countries sharing political and cultural similarities improved their policy in the previous year. The results imply that if stricter anti-trafficking policies are implemented in a country, traffickers are likely to change their area of operation to a neighboring country, either as a destination, point of origin or transit for human trafficking flows. These negative externalities from neighbors' policy therefore alarm countries to adopt better anti-trafficking policies. Additionally, it seems that countries learn from peer countries with political and cultural similarities, both in terms of designing and implementing anti-trafficking policy. This is probably because anti-trafficking policies are a relatively new policy arena and thus countries need cues/information/references from early adopters.

The Anti-trafficking Policy Index will continue to be annually updated and the new ranking for 2010 will be released this summer. On the Index's website, www.human-trafficking-research.org, one can find detailed information about the methodology behind its construction, the full set of annual scores for each country (in each year and in each dimension of the policies), the background paper, as well as more graphical illustrations of the Index.

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Table: Ranking of the Anti-trafficking Policy Index (2009), 177 countries

Scale 3 (worst) to 15 (best) for the Overall Index

Scale 1 (worst) to 5 (best) for Prosecution, Protection and Prevention, respectively

Country	Overall 3P Index	Prosecution Index	Protection Index	Prevention Index
Germany	15	5	5	5
Australia	15	5	5	5
Italy	15	5	5	5
Belgium	15	5	5	5
Netherlands, the	15	5	5	5
Sweden	15	5	5	5
United States of America	15	5	5	5
Slovenia	14	4	5	5
Canada	14	5	4	5
Austria	14	5	4	5
France	14	5	4	5
Korea, Republik of	14	5	4	5
Norway	14	5	5	4
Nigeria	14	5	4	5
Croatia	14	5	4	5
Bosnia and Herzegovina	13	5	4	4
Czech Republic	13	5	4	4
Luxembourg	13	5	4	4
Turkey	13	5	4	4
Vietnam	13	5	4	4
Georgia	13	5	4	4
Colombia	13	5	4	4

Greece	13	5	4	4
New Zealand	13	5	4	4
Chile	13	5	4	4
Spain	13	5	4	4
Poland	13	5	4	4
Denmark	13	5	4	4
Finland	13	4	4	5
Albania	13	5	4	4
Taiwan	13	5	4	4
Macedonia	12	4	3	5
Mauritius	12	5	3	4
Kazakhstan	12	5	3	4
Ecuador	12	5	4	3
Bulgaria	12	5	2	5
Hungary	12	5	3	4
Uzbekistan	12	5	4	3
Gabon	12	4	4	4
Latvia	12	5	4	3
Brazil	12	4	3	5
Portugal	12	5	4	3
United Kingdom	12	5	2	5
Burkina Faso	12	4	4	4
Jamaica	12	4	4	4
Montenegro	12	4	4	4
Moldova	12	5	4	3
Uruguay	12	4	4	4
Ireland	12	4	4	4
Phillipines	12	4	4	4
Thailand	11	4	4	3
Senegal	11	4	4	3
Rwanda	11	4	3	4
Oman	11	5	2	4
Bangladesh	11	5	3	3
Bolivia	11	5	3	3
Romania	11	5	2	4
Serbia	11	5	3	3
Zambia	11	4	3	4
Ghana	11	4	3	4
Guatemala	11	4	3	4
Argentina	11	4	4	3

Malawi	11	4	3	4
Togo	11	5	3	3
Honduras	11	5	3	3
Ethiopia	11	4	3	4
Peru	11	5	3	3
Cambodia	11	5	3	3
Mexico	11	4	4	3
Costa Rica	11	5	2	4
Panama	11	4	3	4
Lithuania	11	5	3	3
Armenia	11	5	3	3
El Salvador	11	5	3	3
United Arab Emirates	11	5	2	4
Israel	11	5	2	4
Belarus	11	5	3	3
Switzerland	11	4	4	3
Iceland	11	5	2	4
Benin	11	3	4	4
Slovak Republic	11	4	4	3
Paraguay	11	4	4	3
Kosovo	10	4	2	4
Guyana	10	4	3	3
Burundi	10	4	3	3
Tajikistan	10	4	3	3
Malta	10	4	3	3
Russia	10	5	2	3
Ukraine	10	4	3	3
Cyprus	10	4	3	3
Netherlands,Antilles	10	5	2	3
Indonesia	10	5	2	3
Burma/Myanmar	10	5	2	3
Estonia	10	3	4	3
China	10	5	2	3
Suriname	10	5	2	3
Kyrgyz Republic	10	4	3	3
Pakistan	10	4	2	4
Liberia	10	4	3	3
Timor.Leste	10	4	3	3
Venezuela	10	4	3	3
Laos	10	4	3	3

Uganda	10	4	2	4
Sri Lanka	9	4	2	3
Azerbaijan	9	5	2	2
Saudi Arabia	9	4	2	3
Mongolia	9	4	2	3
Japan	9	4	2	3
Kenya	9	4	2	3
Tanzania	9	4	2	3
Macau	9	4	2	3
Nepal	9	4	2	3
Jordan	9	4	1	4
Bahrain	9	4	2	3
Gambia, the	9	4	2	3
India	9	4	2	3
Fiji	9	4	2	3
Mozambique	9	4	3	2
Belize	9	2	4	3
Madagascar	8	2	3	3
Zimbabwe	8	2	3	3
Malaysia	8	4	1	3
Hong Kong	8	3	2	3
South Africa	8	2	2	4
Mali	8	2	3	3
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	8	2	3	3
Singapore	8	4	2	2
Angola	8	2	2	4
Nicaragua	8	4	2	2
Dominican Republic	8	2	3	3
Morocco	8	4	1	3
Palau	8	4	2	2
Niger	8	2	3	3
Sierra Leone	8	4	2	2
Congo, Republic of the	7	2	2	3
Papua New Guinea	7	2	2	3
Lesotho	7	2	1	4
Chad	7	2	2	3
Afghanistan	7	2	2	3
Guinea-Bissau	7	2	3	2
Botswana	7	2	2	3

Namibia	7	2	2	3
Qatar	7	2	2	3
Antigua and Barbuda	7	2	2	3
Guinea	7	4	1	2
The Bahamas	7	2	2	3
Djibouti	7	2	2	3
Trinidad & Tobago	7	2	2	3
Swaziland	7	2	2	3
Central African Republic	7	2	2	3
Egypt	7	4	1	2
Cameroon	7	2	2	3
Yemen	7	2	2	3
Cote d'Ivoire	7	2	2	3
Iran	6	4	1	1
Barbados	6	2	2	2
Equatorial Guinea	6	2	1	3
Syria	6	2	2	2
Iraq	6	2	2	2
Mauritania	6	2	2	2
Kuwait	6	2	2	2
Lebanon	5	2	1	2
Sudan	5	2	1	2
Cuba	5	2	2	1
Micronesia, Federal State	5	2	1	2
Algeria	5	2	1	2
Tunisia	5	2	2	1
Turkmenistan	5	2	1	2
Brunei	5	2	1	2
Libya	4	1	1	2
Kiribati	4	2	1	1
Maldives	4	1	1	2
Eritrea	4	2	1	1
Somalia	4	1	1	2
North Korea	3	1	1	1
St. Vincent	.	2	.	2
Haiti	.	2	2	.