

What is Organ Harvesting?

Forced organ harvesting is a form of [modern slavery](#) where an individual's organs are surgically removed for sale on the black market. Organ transplants are becoming increasingly commonplace.

This is due to a multitude of advances: better seatbelts meaning less young road traffic deaths; safer transplant procedures; better post-transplant management. However, this increasing demand is not matched by a similar surge in supply. Consequently, through desperation, many sick individuals are turning to the black market to source their organs, facilitating a hotbed of criminal activity. Forced organ harvesting is a dangerous and illegal practice.

The Risks of Organ Harvesting

Surgically extracting an organ involves major surgery and accordingly, there are major risks involved. Whilst the extraction of some organs (frequently kidneys) is performed on living donors, it poses a substantial risk to life and subsequent quality of life. For example, risks of kidney donation from a living donor include:

- Severe pain
- Blood clots
- Incisional herniation
- Serious infection
- Adverse drug reactions
- Pneumonia
- Lung collapse
- Psychological symptoms
- Death

As well as the standard risks of major surgery, the status of this practice as illegal means that protocol and hygiene appreciation may be questionable. This increases the risk of infection and endangers victims.

Victims of Organ Harvesting

Some people voluntarily sell their organs to traffickers on the black market in exchange for money. It is a lucrative business and kidneys, for example, are bought for an average of \$150,000. In theory, healthy individuals with two fully functioning kidneys and can continue to live healthily when one is removed, however this is not always the case. There is only one country in which it is legal to buy and sell kidneys: Iran. Elsewhere you can altruistically donate some of your organs (including kidneys) but not for monetary gain. People most often donate kidneys to their loved ones and family, but it is also legal to donate your organs to strangers as an act of compassion. There is no exchange of money and this should not be confused with forced organ harvesting.

Contrastingly, some victims have their organs forcefully removed. For example:

- Victims may be kidnapped and have an organ forcefully removed.

- Some victims are tricked into believing they require an operation and whilst under anaesthetic they will have an organ removed, without their knowledge or consent.
- In light of the influx of political refugees arriving in Europe, numerous individuals have been offered assurance of safe passage to Europe in return for an organ.
- Many victims of forced organ harvesting have previously been human trafficked, another form of modern slavery.
- Other victims are murdered on demand and have their organs removed to fulfil an order.

Organ Harvesting in China

Organ harvesting is practiced throughout the world, including within the UK. However, it is extremely prevalent in China. Traditionally, China has met its demand for organ transplantation through harvesting executed prisoner's organs. Many of the affected were prisoners of conscience (e.g. Falun Gong, a Buddhism-based spiritual practice), these are individuals with political or religious views that are not tolerated in China. This practice was supposedly abolished in 2014, however multiple investigations have demonstrated that it is still in practice. In February 2017, a top Chinese transplant official stated that they had stopped using executed prisoners' organs, however the figures given by multiple government officials do not match up. Coupled with organ wait times of a couple of weeks for a kidney transplant in China (compared to years in the UK and the rest of the world) it is clear unlawful organ sources are being utilised. Falun Gong have reportedly been kept in concentration camps until an order comes in for an organ that matches their tissue type. Upon demand the victim will then have surgery to remove their organ, or be killed and their vital organs extracted.

The Scale of the Crime

Due to the aforementioned factors, the incidence of forced organ harvesting is rising worldwide. The World Health Organisation (WHO) predicts that more than one illegal organ transaction is made every hour worldwide. There is an increasing demand for kidney transplants, in part due to the rising level of diabetes worldwide. Consequently, it is estimated that 5-10% of all kidney transplants worldwide rely upon the black market sale of organs. Increasing awareness of and remaining vigilant to modern slavery, such as organ harvesting, helps to facilitate outlaw of the inhumane practices. One way to achieve such recognition is through regular modern slavery training courses.

<https://www.delta-net.com/compliance/modern-slavery/faqs/what-is-organ-harvesting>

8 Countries Where Human Organs Are Harvested

It is a well known fact that humans have an instinctive ability to strive for survival especially if you're dying from organ failure. Imagine if you could afford \$10,000(China) for a kidney instead of waiting in line at the hospital; you'd most likely head to China as soon as possible before you kick the bucket.

This is an issued that China, Brazil, India and many countries live with everyday. The industry has grown and can only keep growing as more and more people fall into the sick and desperate situation where selling or buying organs becomes a need. The prices of human organs vary from country to country however the most disturbing news is that people are being scammed and murdered for their organs.

1. Moldova

Besides poverty and sex slavery, Moldova is one of the top countries in the world for organ harvesting.

2. China

You won't find another place like China because unlike other countries, China actually condones organ harvesting.

3. Egypt

Egypt has no current laws to prevent organ harvesters.

4. Pakistan

With the abundance of poverty, Pakistan truly has a big problem on their hands. Most people find it hard to make money let alone pay off their debts. The only valuable assets these Pakistanis have are their kidneys which have been priced at around \$3,000.

5. India

Organ trafficking rings have been running in India for the past 12 years.

6. Israel / Palestine

Being called the holy land for the birth place of Jesus, Israel has seen countless carnage, war and poverty. It is also a place where organ trafficking takes place often. Up till a few months ago Israel did not have any proper laws to prevent organ trafficking.

There are strict laws to prevent human trafficking in Israel however the law on organ trafficking is not solid enough and thus the trafficking of organs continues.

7. Mozambique

Mozambique south of Africa, is believed to be one of the main countries where organ trafficking existed.

8. Kosovo

Kosovo is known for human trafficking and organ harvesting. In 1999 after the Kosovo war, new evidence claims that the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) abducted 400 Kosovo residents, mostly Serbs, and illegally harvested their organs before killing them.

There are other countries such as Russia, Singapore, Philippines, Colombia, Turkey, South Korea, and Taiwan that illegal organ trafficking still exist. And due to poverty and high profits (\$50 million / year) on organ brokering, this world issue continues.

<https://thebloodyyellowhouse.wordpress.com/2009/05/17/8-countries-where-human-organs-are-harvested/>

What is organ trafficking?

Organ trafficking — the sale and purchase of human organs for transplantation — is a widespread crime. Estimates put the worldwide number of commercial transplantations — transplantations that involve payment for the organ — at about 10,000 annually, roughly 10 percent of all transplantations. In most cases, the organ is a kidney, sold by a living person — illegally. Many countries have laws that prohibit the selling and buying of organs and ban physicians from transplanting organs obtained through payment. This practice is also banned by the World Health Organization, which requires organ donation to be altruistic.

What fuels the organ trade?

The shortage of organs for transplantation is a persistent worldwide problem: Demand for organs significantly outstrips supply. Consider the following statistics. As of early 2016, 100,791 people were waiting for lifesaving kidney transplants in the United States. Yet in 2014, only 17,107 kidney transplants took place there. That year, 4,761 Americans died while waiting for a kidney transplant.

Unable to obtain an organ at home, patients from rich countries might choose to travel to developing countries, where they can buy the organ and have it transplanted. In the developing countries, organ brokers lure poor, uneducated individuals into selling their kidney through the promise of financial gain and a better future. Economic need drives most organ sellers, but in some cases — as in the Pakistani case above — actual coercion is used. Such cross-border form of organ trafficking is known as “transplant tourism.”

Which countries are involved?

The organ trade typically takes place in developing countries whose hospitals are advanced enough to offer transplant services. It originated in India in the 1980s; in the following years, Pakistan, the Philippines, Egypt and China (where the organs were [alleged to have come from executed prisoners](#)) became [hubs](#) of commercial transplants. Such illegal transplants are also known to have been done in Turkey, Kosovo, South Africa and other sites. The patients typically come from the rich countries of East Asia (e.g., Japan and Taiwan), the rich countries of the Middle East (e.g., Saudi Arabia and Israel), as well as the United States and Western Europe.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/12/07/organ-traffickers-lock-up-people-to-harvest-their-kidneys-here-are-the-politics-behind-the-organ-trade/>