

Executive Summary

The Impact of Vietnamese MSHT and OIC on the UK

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Summary

1. This paper has been commissioned by the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner to assess the extent to which both modern slavery and human trafficking (MSHT) and organised immigration crime (OIC) involving ethnic Vietnamese organised crime groups (OCGs) and Vietnamese nationals impacts the UK. It considers the risks and harms faced by Vietnamese irregular migrants, and the harms to the state of irregular migration, illegal working and exploitation.

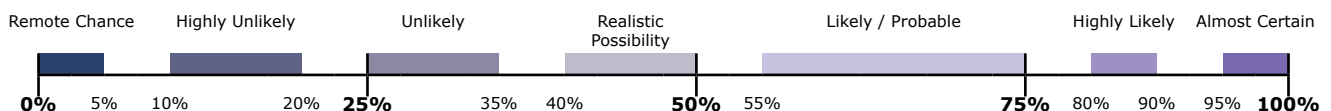
Context

2. Evidence recorded in 2019 and 2020 has shown that Vietnamese irregular migrants are at risk of exploitation and other harms both en route to and on arrival in the UK.
3. The impact of COVID-19 on Vietnamese irregular migration and the exploitation of Vietnamese nationals in the UK is not considered as a standalone question in this paper. However, where it is assessed that the pandemic or associated measures, restrictions and economic impacts have had a direct or significant indirect effect, it has been considered in this summary.
4. It is a realistic possibility that increases in clandestine detections in March 2020 were indicative of both decreasing aversion to clandestine facilitation by Vietnamese migrants and increased pressure from facilitators. However, restrictions around travel as result of COVID-19 led to severe disruption to and reduction of irregular migration across all routes and methods from late March 2020, limiting our understanding of the longer-term impact of the deaths at Grays, Essex in October 2019 on the demand for clandestine facilitation.

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Language of Probability: Throughout this paper, language of probability is used, which is defined by the Professional Head of Intelligence Assessment (PHIA) 'Probability Yardstick'. The probability ranges for such terms are as follows:



Comment

5. It is almost certain that the majority of Vietnamese irregular migration to the UK, including that which results in exploitation, is facilitated by OIC groups and offenders.
6. It is highly likely that the majority of Vietnamese irregular migration to the UK is not intended to be permanent, and is predominantly undertaken with the intention of establishing a better life in Vietnam for the migrant and their family.
7. It is highly likely that the greatest risk of physical harm to Vietnamese irregular migrants and victims of trafficking is in transit to the UK.
8. In terms of migrant perception, it is likely that detection, either in transit or within the UK, is considered to pose the most likely and significant risk. Detection resulting in return to Vietnam is highly likely to result in substantial financial loss to migrants.
9. The creation of debt bondage through the artificial inflation of costs for travel by facilitators is the most significant defining factor in the exploitation of Vietnamese irregular migrants.
10. It is highly unlikely that COVID-19 will have a notable impact on irregular migration to the UK from Vietnam.
11. Although the deaths of Vietnamese nationals at Grays were widely and extensively reported in Vietnam, it is highly unlikely that the event has had a notable impact on the intent of prospective migrants seeking to reach the UK.

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