



UK Issues Sanctions on Global Migrant Smuggling Networks

[Source: TOI](#)

In a global first, the UK has launched a sanctions regime specifically targeting individuals and networks involved in **illegal migrant smuggling** across the world.

- The regime targets **gangs, middlemen, and enablers** involved in cross-border [illegal immigration](#) activities. Sanctions include asset freezes, travel bans, and cutting access to the UK financial system.
 - The initiative aims to **disrupt smuggling operations**, though experts remain skeptical about its effectiveness without international cooperation.
- **Migrant Smuggling: [UN Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air](#)** defines migrant smuggling as the act of facilitating a person's illegal entry into a country of which they are **not a national or permanent resident**, in exchange for **financial or material benefit**.
 - It is a crime focused on **profit, not humanitarian** reasons, and undermines the sovereignty of states over their borders.
 - **Unlike human trafficking**, which involves exploitation, migrant smuggling focuses on **profiting from illegal border crossings**.
 - Migrant smuggling involves crossing national borders, trafficking can happen within one country.
 - Smuggled migrants can later become trafficking victims if deceived or forced into exploitation.

Read more: [Menace of Illegal Migration](#)

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