

**1944 - 1989**

Emigration banned and internal migration tightly regulated. Exit barriers to leaving Albania and prison sentences for those caught trying

**1985-1990**

Six brothers and sisters of the Popa family enter the Italian embassy and live there for 5 years

**1945 - 1988**

11,800 people fled Albania

**1989 - 2001**

Estimated that twice as many people migrated internationally than over internally across district borders

**1944**

Establishment of Communist Regime

**1985-1990**

Communist leader Hoxha dies and is replaced by Ramiz Alia

**1944 - 1989**

Labour Party of Albania is the only ruling party of the country

**1989**

Communist rule in Eastern Europe collapses:

- Fall of Berlin Wall
- Execution of Romania Communist leader Ceausescu and his wife

— Albania Foreign minister

Malile addressed the UN General Assembly and stressed the country's commitment to "the process of Balkan cooperation" to forge closer ties with its neighbours

— Albania hosted a meeting of deputy foreign ministers of Balkan nations

— After having virtually no contact with the rest of the world for years, Albania begins to develop limited commercial links with Austria, Italy, West Germany and the UK

— Albania invited heads of several UN agencies to visit the country

1945

1985

**'VULNERABILITY' TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING: A STUDY OF VIET NAM, ALBANIA, NIGERIA AND THE UK**

University of Bedfordshire in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Timeline devised during Shared Learning Event – for further detail see: [www.beds.ac.uk/trafficking](http://www.beds.ac.uk/trafficking)

## 1990

The government rescinded several criminal laws used for political persecution. The crime of unauthorised flight from Albania was downgraded from treason to 'illegal border trespassing'

By late 1990 passports for foreign travel were being made available to ordinary citizens for the first time

- Albanians granted right to travel abroad
- Ismail Kadare sought political refuge in France
- The Popa family is allowed to leave Albania to Italy
- Mass departures of Albanians across the Otranto Strait to southern Italy and over the southern mountains to Greece

## 1991 - 1992

First peak in emigration

## 1991 - 1993

Estimated 200,000 - 300,000 Albanians entered Greece

## 1991

An estimated 20,000 Albanians took every boat in Durres, Vlore and Shengjin harbours and sailed to Italy

Estimated 45,000 Albanians entered Italy

## 1992

IOM began operating in Albania

— Ratification of the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 UN Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees

— Ratification of the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

## 1990s

Lack of reliable or appropriate information on migration procedures

## 1993

Terre des Hommes started work in Albania

## 1990

UN General Secretary visits Albania

— The first Roman Catholic mass was celebrated in November, before an estimated 40,000 people

— The crime of religious propaganda was rescinded

— The number of crimes punishable by the death penalty was reduced from 34 to 11, and the death penalty was abolished for women and for juveniles under the age of 18

## 1991

Students go on hunger strike

— Demonstrators topple bronze statue of Enver Hoxha

— The first team of independent human rights investigators visit the country officially

—

Diplomatic ties with US resumed

— First multi-party elections. Four opposition parties actively campaigning: the Democratic Party, Republican Party, Ecological Party and Agrarian Party

— Socialist Party of Albania created

## 1991 - 2005

Albania changes government cabinet 15 times

## 1992

Democratic Party wins election

# 1990

## 1995

Human trafficking became a criminal act

## 1997

Second peak in emigration

—  
30,000 left Albania for Italy and 40,000 to Greece (IOM, n.d.)

## 1997-1998

An estimated 150,000 Albanians emigrated after the collapse of the pyramid investment scheme

## 1998

Unrest in Kosovo sends refugees into Albania

—  
Kosovo - Albanians begin seeking asylum in EU countries

## 1999

Third peak in emigration

## 1999 - 2004

IOM supports the opening of Reception and Reintegration Centres for Albanian 'victims' of trafficking and irregular migrants stranded in Albania

## 1996

IOM shelter database of 'Victims of Trafficking' or 'Potential Victims of Trafficking' set up

## 1995

Albania becomes part of Council of Europe

## 1996-1997

Transition of power / civil uprising due to financial crisis - Anarchy!

## 1999

Vatra started to function

## 1997

Pyramid investment scheme collapses and triggers anti-government protests

## 1999

Unrest in Kosovo

1995

2000

## 2001

Human trafficking becomes a criminal act

—  
National Strategy against Human Trafficking 2001-2004 is approved

—  
Vatra is registered in Vlora

## 2002

Albania ratifies the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol

—  
IOM opens a reintegration Centre for Albanian Victims of Trafficking

—  
Tjeter Vision is registered in Elbasan

—  
An amendment to the Strategy against Trafficking is made through DCM No.361, dated 18 July 2002

## 2003

The National Reception Centre for Victims of Trafficking funded by the government and starts assisting people

## 2004

Amendments to Criminal Code (7-15 year sentences introduced)

—  
Change from 'trafficking of people' to 'trafficking of persons' for three categories: adult persons; adult females; and children

—  
Different & Equal is registered in Tirana

## 2005

National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator appointed

—  
National Strategy on Migration and National Action Plan on Migration (2005-2010) drafted

—  
Albanian government approves Cooperation Agreement on the National Referral Mechanism

—  
Ratification of ILO Migrant Workers Convention

## 2002

Foundation of Tjeter Vizion Organisation (TVO)

## 2004

Approval Anti-mafia legislation

## 2005

ARSIS was established in Albania

## 2005

The establishment of the Office of the National Anti Trafficking Coordinator

2005

## 2006

IOM, National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator and UODC establish first toll-free National Helpline on safe migration and counter trafficking

—  
Law No.9642 dated 20 November

2016: On the ratification of the Convention of Council of Europe Measures against Trafficking in Human Beings

## 2007

Human Beings National Coalition of Anti-Trafficking Shelters established

—  
Highest sum of remittances - \$1,295 million (King and Vullnetari, 2011)

—  
Ratification of the UN Migrant Workers Convention

## 2007 - 2009

IOM support implementation of National Action Plan on Migration and the National Action Plan on Remittances

## 2008 - 2010

National Albanian Strategy of the Fight Against Human Trafficking

## 2008 - 2009

120,000 returnees to Albania

## 2008 - 2011

IOM supports elaboration of the Standard Operating Procedures for Identification and Referral of Victims of Trafficking and Potential Victims of Trafficking

## 2011

Standard Operating Procedures are compiled and approved

## 2010

National Coalition of AntiTrafficking Shelters report published

## 2006

The Responsible Authority for the Identification and Referral of 'Victims of Trafficking' and 'Potential Victims of Trafficking' established

—  
Law 9669 on Measures against Violence in Family Relations

## 2007

National Coalition of Anti Trafficking Shelters (NCATS) established

## 2010 onwards

Young people ANOMIE lack of hope for the future

## 2011

State finances the services of NGOs (food) for 'Victims of Trafficking'

## 2011

Multidisciplinary group on Victims of Domestic Violence – agreement signed

## 2012

Agreement for the Functioning of the Referral Mechanism

## 2012

SIVET system – database for 'Victims of Trafficking' and 'Potential Victims of Trafficking' set up

## 2007 - 2008

World financial crisis

## 2009

Albania joins NATO and applies for membership of the EU

## 2010

EU rejects Albania's application for EU membership, but eases visa requirements for Albanians

## 2010

## 2012

Signed revised version of NRM Cooperation Agreement for the functioning of the National Referral Mechanism for Victims and Potential Victims of Trafficking in Persons between: Ministry of Interior  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Education and Science  
Ministry of Health  
Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities  
General Prosecution Office

International Organization for Migration (IOM), Tirana  
International organization: World Vision  
Non profit organization: ARSIS, Tirana  
Nonprofit organization: Different & Equal, Tirana  
National Reception Centre for Victims of Trafficking, Tirana  
Nonprofit organization: Psycho Social Center, VATRA, Vlora  
Nonprofit organization: Tjetër Vizion, Elbasan

## 2016

IOM joins the UN during the New York summit for refugees and migrants, as the 'UN migration agency'

## 2014

Albania ratifies Council of Europe Convention on trafficking of organs

## 2014

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with UK on intensification of cooperation in the fight against Trafficking in Persons

—  
Enlargement of Responsible Authority with members from the Ministry of Education and Science (MAS) and Ministry of Health (MSH)

—  
Additional Protocol with Montenegro

## 2014

26 November 2014 – Decision of Council of Ministers (DCM 814) Approval of the Strategy and Action Plan for the fight against Trafficking in Persons

## 2015

Government financing for shelters

## 2016

Signed SOPs between Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro on the Identification, Referral and Treatment of Victims of Trafficking

—  
Laws approved on:

- Social Care services
- Rights and Protection of Children

## May 2016

Signing of Internal Inter-Institutional Order on Cooperation Framework of the Action Plan for Children in Street Situations

## 18 October 2016

Anti-Trafficking month events on International Anti-trafficking Day.

## 13 March 2016

Vlora Municipality signed Action Plan for Children in Street Situations

## 2017

The Law on the Rights and Protection of Children

## 2013

Socialist Party wins general election

## 2014

EU recommends Albania as candidate for EU membership

## 2016

Albanian women as a 'particular social group' within the terms of the 1951 Refugee Convention

## 2017

Socialist Party wins general election

## 13 October 2017

Roma population officially recognised as a national minority according to Law No. 96/2017 on the Protection of National Minorities in the Republic of Albania, adopted by the Albanian Parliament

## 2015