



MUNDP 2022
COMMITMENT TO DEVELOPMENT

RESEARCH REPORT

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)

**TAKING MEASURES AGAINST ALL FORMS OF
SEX TRAFFICKING**

ALP ARDITI





Basic Overview of the Issue

Sex trafficking is defined by the Trafficking Victims Protection act of 2000 as “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act.” It involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to make an adult engage in commercial sex acts. However, any commercial sexual activity with a minor, even without force, fraud, or coercion, is considered trafficking. It has been called a form of modern slavery because of the way victims are forced into sexual acts non-consensually. Perpetrators of the crime are called sex traffickers or pimps, people who manipulate or force victims for the crime. Often victims (even though all ages and sexes are targeted in the crime) are individuals from low income or unfortunate living conditions. Domestic relationships, kidnapping or other forms of all labor of sexual acts may count as sex trafficking. In recent years the number of children trafficked have tripled. The criminals for the act must be recognized by the government and punished adequately, which unfortunately is not always the case where law and order is not enforced by governmental institutions by strong borders. Furthermore, these traumatized individuals (victims of the act) must be reintegrated into society via psychological and physical therapy.

Explanation of Important Terms

Human Trafficking

According to the OHCHR human trafficking is the recruitment and the transfer of individuals by threat or force for financial income. The trade of humans for the purpose of forced labor, sexual slavery or commercial sexual exploitation for the trafficker or others. The business steals freedom for profit and exploits people with lower income or unfortunate living circumstances.

Sex Trafficking

According to TVPA sex trafficking is a major branch of human trafficking as it is exploiting an individual without their consent for monetary gains.

Forced Labour

According to ILO (International Labour Organization) forced labour is working involuntarily and being forced to work by violence. All forms of slavery, including forced sexual exploitation is forced labour.



Debt Bondage

Debt Bondage is guaranteeing an individual's services as a security for the debt that they borrowed. Generally the lenders put harsh conditions on the payback form and schedule of the debt in order to control the borrowers in the long run.

Detailed Background of the Issue

Lack of Law Enforcement

In certain courts, there is a type of abatement named the "good conduct abatement", which overall implies that the rapist or criminal receives a shortened time in jail or less punishment due to his/her appearance. Many domestic crimes such as violence and rape are also not regarded to the max due to authority bias for (mostly male) populations. Often this will be the case in countries with weaker law enforcement systems, and high corruption. Sex trafficking is a recently created term and it is analyzed under the term Human Trafficking. Sex trafficking is around since the start of human existence and it is basically forcing someone to have a sexual relationship with another person. Throughout the years sex trafficking evolved into a major business. According to the UNODC the Sex Trafficking industry generated 32 billion dollars a year in 2005. Countries like China, India, Belarus, Venezuela, Syria, Eritrea, Central African Republic and Thailand are the leaders for both human and sex trafficking. These countries either have an ongoing conflict or a complicated political or social class which provides room and gives courage to the criminals. Both sex and Human trafficking is illegal around the world. Although it is illegal sex trafficking is booming with the help of government officials and other powerful figures who are looking to earn some money. With the help of the authorities trafficking individuals between continents is now easier than ever before. This situation harms the victims even more. In order to tackle the issue, global corporation is a must.

The usual recruitment of the crime includes traffickers who look for girls and young women, ages 12 to 25, and offer them job activity in a big city and a so-called better life. The victims often are people who were exposed to some sort of abuse they intend to escape, such as domestic violence.



Sexually Transmitted Diseases

The victims of sexual trafficking or rape are often exposed to unprotected interactions which causes STD (Sexually Transmitted Diseases). Many of these illnesses have a partial cure that either slows down the sickness, though some do not. The victims do not have easy Access to healthcare under inhumane circumstances and are physically deprived from their right to Access for healthcare. As one of the STG's (Sustainable Development Goals) is to contribute to access for healthcare for all, this is also an issue that must be addressed and worked upon. Unfortunately, some victims have cases in which they encounter unwanted pregnancy, which many states such as Portugal or Argentina have banned this right for women due to religious reasons.

Education and Reinforcement of Victims

The best way to tackle the issue is to empower education. In Finland, for example, the crime rates are extremely low, which decreases job insecurity or precarity in the workplaces. Thus, there is more equal amount of educational know-how and public contribution to legal job fields and no need for such crime acts. Using people's precarity of life security and financial income, the traffickers of this crime target those with less clue about how they are exploited. Often people are left with no other option but to comply, but these individuals must be guided back into education and a more secure foundation for the work areas.

How Covid-19 Made Sex Trafficking in Latin America Worse

Sex trafficking in Latin America has increased with the pandemic, according to the church activists who support the victims of sexual labor exploitation in the region. Perpetrators have also changed how they lure and abuse young women, mainly by using digital devices. "Many women are homeless, so they have to prostitute themselves to pay the rent", says Ugarte Garcia, the coordinator of Red Rahamim, a Mexican network of religious people who work to support victims.

Traffickers are located to have been transporting women and men from Central and South America through Mexico, and even though travel through Latin America is now restricted because of the pandemic, traffickers continue their networking by victimizing migrants and refugees. In addition, domestic forced sexual labour (by these individuals' parents or husbands) is also an unfortunate reality. In Colombia, many of the exploited



women are Venezuelan immigrants. The same situation happens with Central American immigrants and Salvadoran women who have been deported from Mexico and the US.

The pre stages of the pandemic, after hotels had shut down, trafficked women were forced to meet men in the streets or in their homes. In rural regions, there has been an increase in violence against women and children as well. Furthermore, as Ugarte reports, the confinement brought by the pandemic boosted digital forms of recruitment and abuse of the younger generation ; many reported incidents were concerning fake modeling agencies that required the girls to expose themselves through a webcam, which would be suffice for traffickers to pressure their victims to comply to their demands.

Overall, the lack of control and surveillance on Latin American borders has long facilitated human trafficking in the region. The pandemic left victims more and more vulnerable each day with the rising economic insecurity among the public, despite authorities who have in many cases closed the borders and deployed teams to enforce anti-pandemic protocols.

Major Parties Involved

Stop the Traffik

Stop the Traffik was established in 2006 by Steve Chalke. Organization was founded with the aim of finding the roots of human trafficking, and it analyzed the causes for trafficking and the problems faced in combatting the crime. This organization is important because it is one of the first organizations to take action so publicly and effectively, and the mobilization of communities among raising awareness was partially achieved.

India

India is the world leader for sex trafficking victim with 20 million people. Human trafficking is the second largest organized crime in India. 16 million women and girls are victims of sex trafficking. In India bride trafficking is also very common. In the 92 villages located in the Tayrana state 9 out of 10 villagers bought their wives from poor families.



China

With the world's second largest population, China has the second highest number of human trafficking victims in the world and most of these victims are originated as ethnic minorities from China. Citizens have been trafficked to the various provinces of China as well as other countries. Some have even been trafficked overseas, especially into places where there is demand for Chinese male laborers and construction workers. China's internal minorities are more vulnerable due to the fact that they are provided with less aid and assistance from their local government.

Pakistan

Pakistan is ranked third after China and India with 2.1 million victims. Pakistan is also a transit destination for human trafficking because of its perfect location between Asia and Middle East. Pakistan's biggest human trafficking problem is bonded labor in Sind and Punjab regions. The US State Department located the country in Tier 2 Watchlist.

Brazil

Human trafficking is an ongoing issue in Brazil. Sex trafficking and forced prostitution is very common for women and girls both in the country and abroad. Also, forced labor is very common between men and boys in Brazil. A new UNODC report on human trafficking trends in Brazil highlights how socio-economic vulnerability and the lack of decent employment opportunities are leading people to the hands of criminal networks who exploit them for profit.

Thailand

According to the Global Slavery index 610.000 people are victims of modern slavery and human trafficking. Thailand is a source, transit and a destination for human trafficking victims. Every year thousands of sex trafficking victims enter into Thailand.

Russia

Human trafficking in Russia concerns the region and the countries surrounding it such as; Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine and Moldova. Individuals from these countries are first trafficked to Russia. Following their arrival in Russia they are either



shipped to other countries for sexual exploitation or forced labor, or they are trafficked inside Russia for the same purposes.

Syria

Syria is a hub for human trafficking. Most of the individuals trafficked are Iraqi refugees. Also women from Somalia and Eastern Europe are the victims of sex trafficking in Syria. The Syrian civil war left many vulnerable, homeless and refugees from their homeland. Many women and citizens were held hostage by terrorist organizations. Additionally, Women from Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Indonesia and Philippines are recruited for sex trafficking in Syria.

Chronology of Important Events

1949	United Nations International Convention for the Suppression of Traffic in Women and Children.
2000	The United States passes TVPA.
2000	United Nations protocol to Prevent, suppress and punish Trafficking is passed.
2001	The members of the Economic Community of Western African States agree on an action plan to tackle slavery and human trafficking in the region, in order to ease the process of trade and other economic activities.
2004	The United Nations appoints a special rapporteur on Human Trafficking in order to increase their attention about the topic.
2008	The Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in



	Human Beings comes into force. The convention is the first international law to define trafficking as a violation of human rights, and it guarantees minimum standards of protection to victims.
2015	The United Nations adopts 17 Sustainable Development Goals, including a target of ending slavery and eradicating forced labour and human trafficking.

Relevant International Documents

(A/RES/71/167) Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2016

(A/RES/71/80) Resolution Adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2016

(A/RES/10/3) Resolution Adopted by the General Assembly on 15 July 1997

Past Attempts to Resolve the Issue

Throughout the years human and sex trafficking was seen as an unwanted activity by different nations. Because of its multinational roots, solving this problem required a multinational approach and good planning. Both governments and individuals created agencies and NGOs to combat this issue. An example of this is Stop the Traffik. Other NGOs and agencies were also created to combat the problem. United Nations increased its support and funding for educating women in areas like South East Asia and Africa where both Human and Sex trafficking is very common. The Start Freedom project was created in order to raise awareness about the topic around the world. Also, Active Communities Against Trafficking (ACT) was formed with the aim of increasing cooperation and communication between the communities at risk. Additionally, the Chocolate Campaign was created in order to showcase the child labor used by worlds large cocoa producers in Ivory Coast.

Solution Alternatives

In order to solve the issue sex trafficking governments can take different actions. First



of all, governments should solve their interior issues. For example, corruption is a very big problem in the countries where human and sex trafficking is very common. To solve this the bank accounts and other daily lives of the government workers should be watched more carefully. Also, the police force can be increased in order to combat traffickers who usually outnumber the government forces. Also governments should educate their citizens starting from middle school in order to create a common knowledge. Also, the reasons which forces the individuals to pursue sex trafficking should be analyzed for better solutions.

One more stance that is crucial to take is to reintegrate victims of this crime back into societies. The physical and psychological damage should be assisted via government free service and access for citizens. The organized crime groups behind this act should furthermore be eliminated.

Bibliography

Foundation, Thomson Reuters. "Timeline -Milestones in the Fight against Modern Slavery." *News.trust.org*, <https://news.trust.org/item/20160530230430-42x1r/>.

General Assembly 21 October 2015 - United Nations.
https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_70_1_E.pdf.

"Global Report on Trafficking in Persons." *United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime*, <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/global-report-on-trafficking-in-persons.html>.

History Lesson Plan - Projectstarfish.education. <http://projectstarfish.education/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/History-Lesson-Plan.pdf>.

"International and Domestic Law - United States Department of State." *U.S. Department of State*, U.S. Department of State, 9 Jan. 2021, <https://www.state.gov/international-and-domestic-law/>.

"Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons." *OHCHR*, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/protocoltraffickinginpersons.aspx>.

Committee Name: Economical and Social Council
Student Officer: Alp Ardit
Agenda Item: Taking measures against all forms of sex trafficking

Useful Links

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/sexualviolence/trafficking.html>

<https://borgenproject.org/tag/worst-countries-for-human-trafficking/>

<https://www.ice.gov/features/human-trafficking-2020>

<https://restorationhousekc.org/6-human-trafficking-terms-you-should-know/>

<https://www.corteidh.or.cr/tablas/R22424.pdf>

