

Committee: SOCHUM 1

Topic: The question of human trafficking

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Summary

Human trafficking is a global crime that trades in people and exploits them for profit. People of all genders, ages and backgrounds can become victims of this crime, which occurs in every region of the world. Traffickers use violence, fraudulent employment agencies, and fake promises of education and job opportunities to trick, coerce and deceive their victims. The organized networks or individuals behind this lucrative crime take advantage of people who are vulnerable, desperate or simply seeking a better life. Human trafficking is defined in the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol, which supplements the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, as "the recruitment, transport, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a person by such means as threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud or deception for the purpose of exploitation". With an estimated 27.6 million victims worldwide at any given time, human traffickers' prey on people of all ages, backgrounds, and nationalities, exploiting them for their own profit.

Definition of Key Terms

Human trafficking - The act of trafficking, which means the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons. The means of trafficking which includes threat of or use of force, deception, coercion, abuse of power or position of vulnerability.

The purpose of trafficking which is always exploitation.

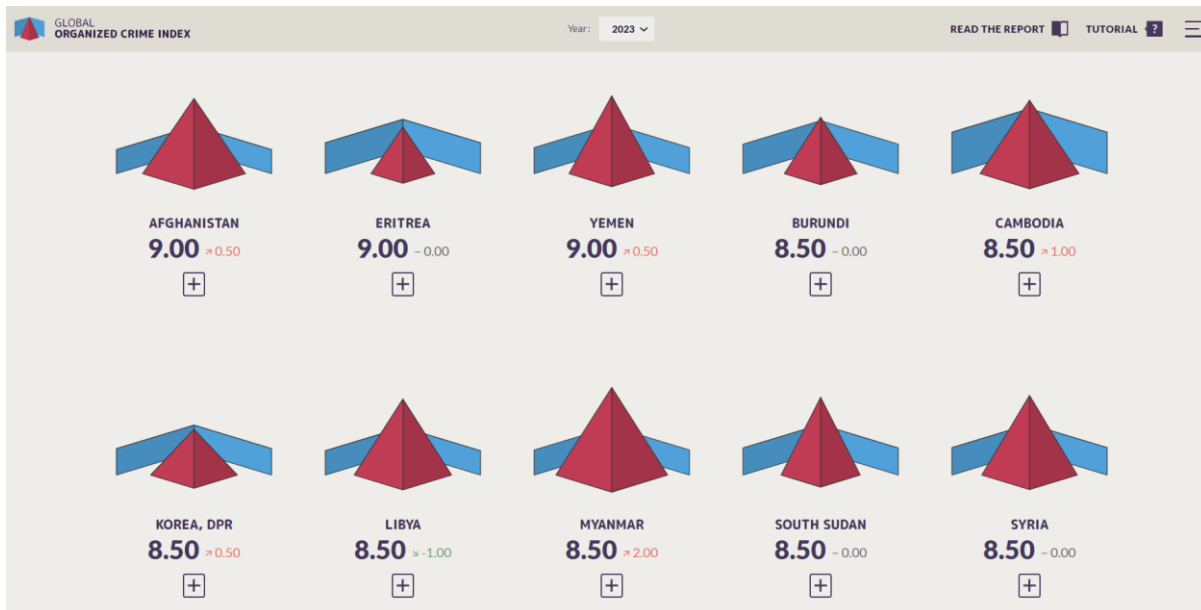
Sexual exploitation- Actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another.

Smuggling - The illegal transportation of objects, substances, information or people, such as out of a house or buildings, into a prison, or across an international border, in violation of applicable laws or other regulations.

Background Information

UNODC's 2022 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons shows that 58 percent of people convicted of human trafficking offences in 2020 were male, although the participation of women is higher compared with other crimes. About one per cent of the total convictions involved traffickers who were under the age of 18. Eastern Europe and Central Asia continue to convict far more females than males, with 85 per cent of convictions involving women in Central Asia in 2020. While many traffickers have criminal backgrounds and use trafficking as a direct source of income, there are also business owners, intimate partners and other family members involved in human trafficking. Court cases reveal instances of parents facilitating the sexual exploitation of their children or forcing them into street begging. UNODC has been collecting international statistics on detected victims of human trafficking since 2003. These show that human trafficking occurs in every region of the world. States can be the origin, transit or destination country for victims, or even a combination of all. The collected data provides information on victims who were in contact with authorities and does not reflect the actual prevalence of the crime or the hidden number of victims. The data collected for the 2022 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons shows that in 2020 about 50,000 human trafficking victims were detected and reported by 141 countries. Europe, the Middle East, North America and some countries in East Asia and the Pacific are destinations for trafficking victims from a wide range of origins. In 2020, 65 per cent of the victims detected in Western and Southern Europe were foreign-born trafficked from a wide variety of origin countries. During the same period, victims from East Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa were detected in a large number of countries in almost every region of the world. Central and South-Eastern European victims were detected in large numbers but mainly in European destinations.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved



Countries by Human trafficking based on: criminality, criminal markets, criminal actors and resilience

UNODC - The leading entity within the United Nations system to address the criminal elements of human trafficking.

National Child Protection Authority or the CPA - Established in Sri Lanka.

Child Safe - formerly known as Alamo Children's Advocacy Center, is stationed in Cambodia, Thailand, Indonesia, France, Germany, Switzerland, and the United States. Child Safe's mission is to "restore dignity, trust and hope to children traumatized by sexual abuse."

The Constitutional Right Project (CRP) - located in Nigeria and was established in November 1990. The main purpose of this organization is to protect people's human rights and to make sure people abide by Nigerian Laws.

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) - founded in 1975. Its mission is to "promote economic integration in "all fields of economic activity, particularly industry, transport, telecommunications, energy, agriculture, natural resources, commerce, monetary and financial questions, social and cultural matters ..."

End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism (ECPAT) - established in 1992. Stationed in Bangkok Thailand, ECPAT's mission statement is "ECPAT International is a global network of organizations and individuals working together for the elimination of child prostitution, child pornography and the trafficking of children for sexual purposes. It seeks to encourage the world community to ensure that children everywhere enjoy their fundamental rights free and secure from all forms of commercial sexual exploitation."

Enfants Solidaires d'Afrique et du Monde (ESAM) - based in Benin, West Africa. ESAM was officially recognized May 17, 1990.

Odanadi-UK - based in Mysore, South India. Founded in 2007, Odanadi-UK's objectives are "to prevent, tackle and eliminate human trafficking and sexual exploitation."

World Association for Orphans (WAO Afrique) - based in Lomé, Togo.

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) - has published three textbooks dealing with combating trafficking in children.

MANNA Freedom - the human trafficking prevention arm of MANNA Worldwide and provides awareness, resources and homes for at-risk children and teens.

Timeline of Events

1875 – Page Act, saw the restriction of movement of 'unwilling persons'

1921 – International convention for the suppression of traffic in women and children

1949 – United Nations Convention for the suppression of the traffic in persons and of the prostitution of others

1956 – India initiated the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act

2000 – United Nations protocol to prevent, surprise and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children

2000 – US congress passed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act

2002 – Polaris project set up to stop human trafficking

2005 – The International Labour Organisation publishes the first global report on forced labour

2007 – United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking launched by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

2009 – United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime publishes first Global Trafficking in Persons

2015 – United Nation adopts 17 Sustainable Development Goals, including eradicating human trafficking

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons - This report is released every year and details about trafficking patterns, flows and covers 141 countries. These reports compare rates of human trafficking compared to previous years and are important to highlight times where human trafficking increased and decreased and why those trends might have occurred.

United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime - This convention, which occurred in the year 2000, outlined many of the protocols the UN uses to this day to tackle transnational organised crime. This is particularly important for human trafficking as its nature is transnational. The majority of the world is a partner to this protocol.

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

In 1997, the Sex Offenders Act broadened certain legislation to include residents and citizens of Great Britain implicated with sex tourism. The act also made it a crime to travel overseas with the intention to partake in sex tourism. The Crimestoppers hot-line is a free hot-line for British tourists to "report child abuse abroad".

The Thirteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution was added to the United States Constitution and ratified on December 6, 1865, making slavery and the trafficking of Humans in America illegal.

In 1994, Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act was passed. Under this Act, it is illegal for a citizen of the United States to travel abroad with the intention of engaging in sex tourism. The penalties for breaching this act include a fine and/or up to ten years of imprisonment.

In 1996, the United States took part in the ECPAT World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.

In 2000, the United States passed the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act.

In 2001, America also joined in the Second World Congress held in Japan.

In 2004, Hawaii passed Act 82 of the House Bill 2020, making "the promotion of travel for the purpose of prostitution a felony and grounds for revoking the license of an offending travel agent."

Possible Solutions

Independent Inquiries - Even though there are reports detailing routes and flows of human trafficking, there are still several reasons for why it happens, which are currently unsurfaced, which would perfectly detail how to better handle the situation and would be more effective in handling the root causes.

Border enforcement

Even though a more radical solution, methods such as border patrol forces are undeniably effective at reducing immigration and therefore, reducing human trafficking. Encouraging coastguards and border checks could stop immigration.

Tackle the source countries - There are a number of countries which most of the industry is, as demonstrated in the diagram above, operating in. By observing the yearly reports, support and institutions could be set up in these countries to cut-down the industry.

Bibliography

(Title of source, author, date of publication – you may also wish to list some useful websites)

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