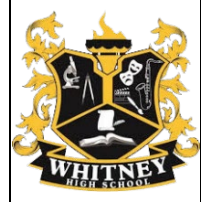


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WHSMUN XX CONFERENCE

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Novice General Assembly (GA)

Human Trafficking in Developing Countries

Background

Human Trafficking is the trading and exploitation of people of all ages and sexes for profit. Oftentimes this crime is conducted by an organized crime group with power and international connections which allows them to target people who are desperately seeking a better life. According to data from 148 countries, the targets of human trafficking tend to be women and children. Girls are mainly trafficked for sexual exploitations, while the boys are used for forced labor. However, in recent years the number of male victims has risen from around 10% in 2003 to 20% in 2018. According to data from the 2020 Global report on trafficking in persons, about 50,000 cases of human trafficking victims were recorded in 2018. As human trafficking became more widespread over the years and more prevalent in every country, the punishments of convicted traffickers had gotten significantly more severe than in the previous years. In this committee, we will come up with mechanisms and provide guidance to various countries for them to better prepare to investigate and prosecute human trafficking cases, and to dismantle the root criminal networks that are behind such crimes.



United Nations Involvement

The adoption of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish the Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, strengthened the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in 2000 and was a breakthrough that provided the first internationally agreed definition of “trafficking in persons” establishing a victim-centered approach to trafficking. It has since been signed by 177 countries. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has also been continuously collecting data on trafficking for more than a decade, with a broad range of indicators for the root of this problem. The protocol that was established by UNODC set guidelines that every nation should follow and emphasizes the importance of “preventing and combat trafficking in persons, protecting and assist[ing] victims of human trafficking respecting their human rights at all times, promot[ing] international cooperation among States Parties and other stakeholders to achieve the above objectives”. Administered by UNODC, there is a Trust Fund mandate from the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (UNVTF) to provide humanitarian and financial aid to victims of trafficking through governmental, nongovernmental, and intergovernmental organizations. The UNODC is also in partnership with

the European Union and the International Organization for Migration through a program called the Global Action against Trafficking in Persona and the Smuggling of Migrants (GLO.ACT) to assist governmental authorities and community organizations in targeted regions. They review legislation and directly support human trafficking victims by offering identification assistance, governmental referrals, and basic defense strategies. There is another sector of the GLO.ACT program makes two forms of the program, one targeting the Middle East and Asia and the other in Bangladesh.



Bloc Positions

Western Bloc:

Though Human Trafficking is a prevalent issue in Western Bloc states, neither the government nor the media present it as such. Most news on this issue is presented through stories in newspapers and occasional reports on criminal news sites. These reports rarely reach the mainstream population and are presented as individual cases rather than as a massive issue. As a result of these types of news outlets, the general perception of the majority of the population in these states is negatively biased against the victims of human trafficking. Journalists and law enforcement officers portray the victims in a negative light and act as if they deserve what happened to them.

Latin American and Caribbean Bloc:

The Latin American and Caribbean Bloc is dealing with a growing concern of human trafficking, due to the region containing many destination countries for victims of trafficking. Outside and individual factors have led to human trafficking in and out of this region. Outside factors include the demand for domestic servants, the existence of established trafficking networks, public corruption, restrictive immigration policies in destination countries, and limited economic opportunities for women in this region. Individual risk factors include unemployment, membership in an indigenous group, illiteracy, drug use, and gang membership.

African Bloc:

The African Bloc was informed of the human trafficking taking place in the region by Non-Governmental Organizations and civil societies. These organizations brought to light the increase of human trafficking over the last several decades, predominantly in Western Africa. This increase has been caused due to capacity gaps in the management of economic cooperation among African states. This caused interventions by policy makers, however even with these new policies in place many African countries still struggle to combat human trafficking due to the lack of political will and political corruption and other socio-economic problems.

Eastern European Bloc:

Human trafficking in Eastern Europe is found in three forms: sexual trafficking, labor trafficking, and drug trafficking. The majority of identified human trafficking in Eastern Europe is well financed and protected by local crime, and mafia industries. Being protected by these types of industries makes it almost impossible to identify and prosecute human traffickers. Due to this solutions and operations such as integrating policies and performing, sting operations have little impact in this region. In total there is estimated to be a known 300,000+ human trafficking victims per year in Eastern Europe.

Asia-Pacific Bloc:

In the Asia-Pacific Bloc human trafficking is connected to debt bondage and migration. Due to the increasing costs of regular migration for those wanting to gain work opportunities, these migrants stockpile loans that compel these individuals to seek help from smugglers to reach their final destinations. This causes them into bonded labor until their debts are fully paid off. This type of trafficking and forced labor is present in the sectors of domestic work, manufacturing, and agriculture in this region.



Questions to Consider

1. What is the impact of COVID on human trafficking?
2. Where does this problem stem from?
3. What are the consequences of this problem?
4. What are the differences in how human trafficking occurs in underdeveloped countries, developing countries, and developed countries?
5. What are new problems that arise from this dilemma?



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