



Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Committee

Topic 2: Tackling the issue of human trafficking and immigration fraud, which leads to work exploitation as well as commercial sexual exploitation

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1. Definition of Key Terms

Persecution: hostility and ill-treatment, especially because of race, political or religious beliefs.

Accountability: The obligation of an individual or organization to account for its activities, accept responsibility for them, and to disclose the results in a transparent manner.

Legislation: laws, considered collectively.

2. Introduction

Human trafficking is the trade of person for different purpose, especially criminal. People can be trafficked for many forms of exploitation such as forced prostitution, forced labour, forced marriage, forced criminality, domestic servitude and forced organ removal. The initial consent by a person is usually obtained by means of fraud, deception or coercion and so it is considered irrelevant.

During the last few decades, the world has witnessed a major increase of clandestine nature of human trafficking.

It is very difficult to be exact about numbers, however an estimated number of people are trafficked globally each year. The victims most affected by this phenomenon are women and children.

Since this issue has become a global problem, mainly due to the large number of people moving, states and governments need to cooperate with each other to deal with this phenomenon and its consequences.

3. Background information

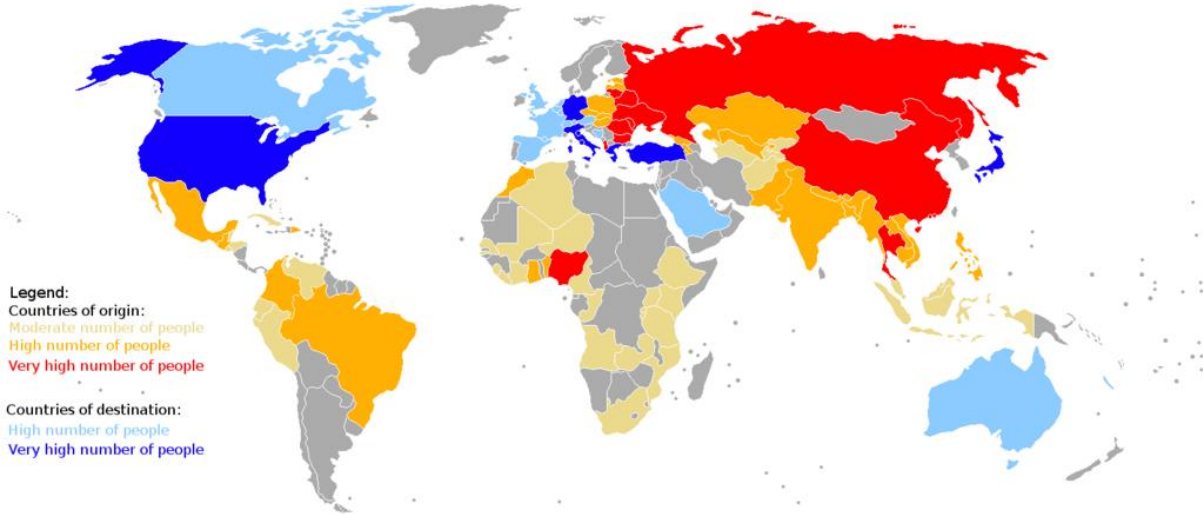


Figure 1: A schematic showing global human trafficking from countries of origin and destination

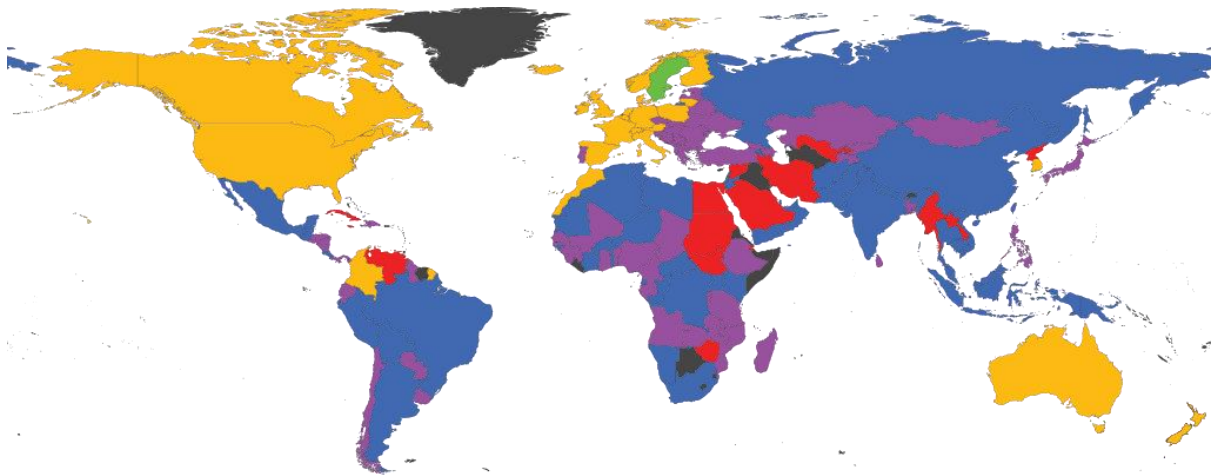


Figure 2: A world map showing the legislative situation in different countries to prevent female trafficking as of 2009 according to WomanStats Project.

Legend:

Grey: No data

Green: Trafficking is illegal and rare

Yellow: Trafficking is illegal but problems still exist

Purple: Trafficking is illegal but is still practiced

Blue: Trafficking is limitedly illegal and is practiced

Red: Trafficking is not illegal and is commonly practiced



History of the topic

The history of this phenomenon begins before the 15th century, when forms of slavery already existed. 1400 while Europeans have started to trade slaves in Africa and the Portuguese have decided to transport people from Africa to their country, in order to enslave them.

During the 20th century there have been many turning points about the traffic of humans.

For example, in 1904 the International Agreement for the Suppression of "White Slave Traffic" was signed and put into action. The intention was to protect women, young and old, from being involved in "white slave traffic". 23 years later, in 1927, the League of Nations was founded after the WWI, and had the purpose of maintaining world peace and focusing on international issues such as human trafficking. The Suppression of White Slave Traffic was changed to "traffic in women and children" so that everyone was included with no discrimination to race. During the Second World War, exactly in 1932, Japan had set up a horrifying and outrageous system where women from Asia were forced into sexual slavery. Almost 20 years later, in 1956, trafficking in India had to be regulated so that women and children especially were not exploited. After several years, in 1995 there was a striking episode, which saw as protagonists The United Nations. They held the fourth World Conference to address the issue of trafficking of women. Trafficking was recognized as an act of violence against women.

At the very beginning of 21st century, true in 2002, Katherine Chon and Derek Ellerman founded Polaris Project and they began to envision a society where modern-day slavery is eliminated. Six years later, in 2008, several immigrants were found to be illegal smuggled into Thailand by traffickers. The following year a lot of human trafficking ring was busted in Taiwan. The case involved several young females who were brought to the U.S. illegally with fake passports. To conclude, in 2011 President Obama declared that January is the month of awareness of trafficking in human beings and 11 January 2011 was named National Day for the awareness of trafficking in human beings.

4. Major Countries Involved

2017's Worst Countries for Human Trafficking

In 2017 a ranking of the 10 worst countries has been drawn up. According to "The Blog" in the first position, there is Belarus. The majority of human trafficking victims remain there or in Russia; criminals smuggle the other to various country in Eurasia and Middle East. Belarusian women seeking foreign jobs in entertainment and adult hotels are often prey to sex traffickers. Belarus is followed by Central African Republic, where several human trafficking victims are citizens exploited within the country. Young women in urban centers are at great risk of being entered in the commercial sex trade. These girls are usually forced to marriages and become sexual slavery. China occupies the third position. Men and women with developmental disabilities or children whose parents have migrated to the cities and left them with relatives are forced to work and they are used for sexual purposes. Eritrea follows China. Many Eritrean, particularly young women and girls, who go to the Gulf States, Israel, Sudan or South Sudan for domestic work, are instead victims of sexual trafficking rings. Then



Iran is present, with its criminal organizations, that subject women and children to sex trafficking, not only in Iran but also in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, Afghanistan, Pakistan, United Arab Emirates and Europe. Iran is followed by North Korea, which holds an estimated number of prisoners in camps with no crime. These detainees often die, because of the lack of medical care and food and their bodies are incinerated in furnaces and dumped in mass graves. Then there is Russia. It holds between 5 and 12 million migrants working there in conditions of slavery. Russia facilitates the entry of migrants into the country for exploitation and the government has not undertaken efforts to protect human trafficking victims. Russia is followed by Sudan, which is usually involved in child sex trafficking rings. Even though Sudanese law prohibits the recruitment of children, Sudanese non-governmental armed groups and militias often use these as combatants. Syria is located at penultimate place. There, the circumstances have deteriorated throughout the ongoing civil war. Sub-state armed groups of varying ideologies exerted control over vast geographic areas of the country's territory. In December 2014, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria published public guidelines on how to capture, detain and sexually abuse slaves. ISIS soldiers routinely subject women and girls from minority groups to forced marriages, domestic servitude, systematic rapes and sexual violence. Venezuela is in the last place, among those trafficked out of this country, just over half are adults, followed by young girls and in fewer young boys. Attracted by the promises of well-paid jobs, they instead are sent to countries in the Caribbean, where are forced by traffickers into the sex trade or domestic servitude.

5. UN Involvement

The European Union (EU) and UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) have launched the Global Action to Prevent and address trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants. There are several solutions or initiatives, led by UN.

The Human Trafficking Knowledge Portal, for example, is an initiative to facilitate the dissemination of information on the implementation of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

The Human Trafficking Knowledge Portal also hosts a database on jurisprudence on officially documented court cases relating to trafficking in persons and a database on legislation.

On the other hand, the Smuggling of Migrants Knowledge Portal plays a very important role. It is a venture to facilitate the dissemination of information about the implementation of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

The Smuggling of Migrants Knowledge Portal hosts a Case Law Database on smuggling of migrants and a Database on Legislation.

The Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT) is a political forum mandated by the UN General Assembly to improve coordination between UN agencies and other relevant international organizations to facilitate a holistic and comprehensive approach to preventing and fighting trafficking in persons, including protection and support to victims.



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The UNODC Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking provides basic humanitarian, legal and financial assistance to victims of trafficking through governmental, intergovernmental and civil society organizations.



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6. Useful links

https://www.apireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Human-Trafficking_An-Introduction.pdf

<http://www.eden.rutgers.edu/~yongpatr/425/final/timeline.htm>

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

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/index.html>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_trafficking