

Committee: Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (GA3)

Issue: Eliminating Human Trafficking

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INTRODUCTION

Over the past century, a new and modern form of slavery, which is characterized as human trafficking, has been created. Human trafficking is one of the most widespread and fast-growing crimes in modern day society, which violates fundamental human rights.

Moreover, human trafficking can be generally defined as the transportation, transferring and “trade” of persons in the extent of causing threat to them with the aim of exploitation. However, it is important to realize that the purposes and aims of human trafficking vary. Specifically, the main purposes of human trafficking include sexual exploitation, forced labour, enslavement and removal of organs.

Unfortunately, human trafficking is a crime that concerns the global society. There are millions of people worldwide affected by human trafficking. Currently, almost 20 millions are victims, with 5.5 of them being children according to a 2012 report¹. In fact, all countries are affected by human trafficking due to the fact that they serve as, either solely or combined, countries of origin, transit or destination. What one can understand from this, is that both developing countries and developed countries are affected by human trafficking since traffickers are able to find, as characterized by them, “vulnerable” people, meaning people who are suffering from poverty, war crimes, previous physical and sexual abuses etc.

Keeping the above in mind, one reason that makes human trafficking such a widespread crime is the fact that it is very profitable for traffickers in two dimensions; it is characterized by lucrative profit and almost no risk of arrest. More specifically, human trafficking is often considered as an incognito industry, meaning that most traffickers and their activities are unknown to the authorities.

¹ https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/Trafficking_in_Persons_2012_web.pdf

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Human Trafficking

As defined by the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons (The Protocol) it is “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.”²

Sexual Exploitation

Sexual exploitation is legally defined as the threatening abuse of one’s sexuality, vulnerability and/or attractiveness for sexual purposes with the aim of economic as well as “personal profit”³.

Forced Labour

Forced Labour could be defined as any form of “work or services” which are provided without the immediate volition of the person providing pre-mentioned “work or services”⁴ and is paired with the menace of any form of punitive measures.

Enslavement

Enslavement is defined as the condition of one being coerced as a slave to a person who is less vulnerable and more powerful than the enslaved person. Enslavement is also commonly known as “servitude”⁵.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

As mentioned in the Introduction, in order for one to understand the core of human trafficking it is essential that they understand some core elements and information.

The three elements of human trafficking (A-M-P Model)

According to the definition of human trafficking given by the Protocol to Prevent and Suppress Human Trafficking, human trafficking includes three core elements; the act of human trafficking, the means of human trafficking and the purpose of human trafficking.

² <http://www.osce.org/odihr/19223?download=true>

³ <http://definitions.uslegal.com/s/sexual-exploitation/>

⁴ http://www.antislavery.org/english/slavery_today/forced_labour/default.aspx

⁵ <http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/servitude>

Firstly, the act of human trafficking is generally based on the idea of what acts have been done by the trafficker towards the victim such as “recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons”⁶.

Secondly, the means of human trafficking revolve around the way aforementioned activities are done. According to the definition given in the Protocol to Prevent and Suppress Human Trafficking the means of human trafficking involve the use of force, the threatening of victims, abduction, the trafficker taking advantage of the vulnerability of the victim, fraud, giving money to the trafficker and/or having economic profit from the human trafficking process.

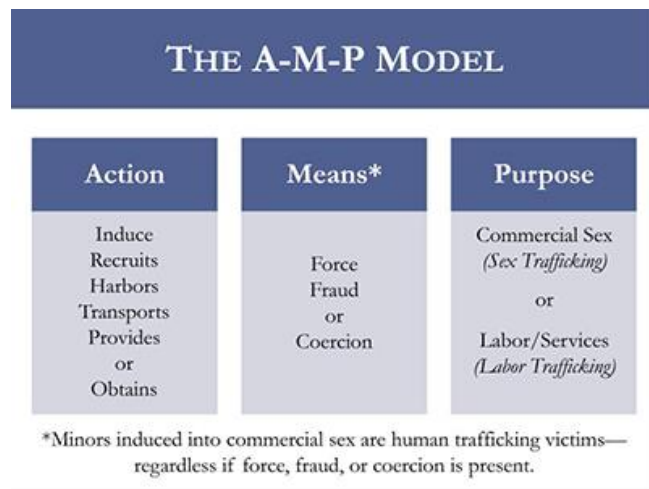


Figure 1: A graph created by the National Human Trafficking Resource Center depicts the A-M-P model in an easy-to-comprehend picture⁷.

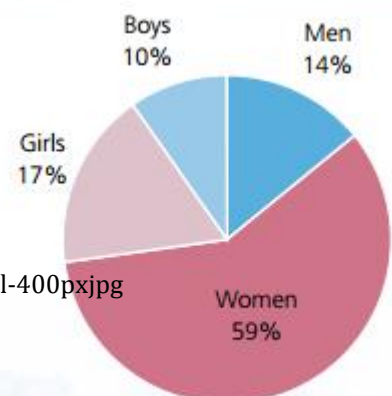
Lastly, the purposes of human trafficking are the result of the two other key elements. Additionally, the purposes of human trafficking can be described as the form of human trafficking and the reasons behind human trafficking. As mentioned in the introduction, the main reason behind this illegal act is generally the exploitation of a vulnerable person. However, it is

crucial that we understand that the most common forms of human trafficking are included under the umbrella of exploitation (sexual exploitation, prostitution, forced labor etc.).

Victims of Human Trafficking

Unfortunately, according to the International Labour Organization it is estimated that about 20.9 million people are currently victims of human trafficking globally. Generally, it is hard to have a clear depiction of the human trafficking victim profile, since victims are present in all ages, sexes and nationalities. However, it is true that females and certain age groups are more prone to being targets of human traffickers.

As a matter of fact, researches show that about 3/4 of human trafficking victims are females and



⁶ <http://www.osce.org/odihr/19223?download=true>

⁷ <http://www.traffickingresourcecenter.org/files/images/amp-model-400px.jpg>

specifically about 1/4 of them consist of underage girls. The rest is divided between men and boys of young age. Furthermore, victims of human trafficking are characterized by different backgrounds. Specifically, the levels of education as well as the socio-economic background of victims vary.

In addition, even though their backgrounds vary, in certain circumstances there are some common traits that tend to characterize victims. Specifically, youth who have either run away from their home or are homeless are “vulnerable” to human trafficking due to the fact that they lack a supportive network of adults (parents etc.) and that their surroundings are unfamiliar to them, making it easier for traffickers to approach them. Moreover, individuals who have previous experiences of violence or abuse such as sexual abuses, domestic violence or even war crimes and poverty are, unfortunately, easier for traffickers to lure since traffickers promise them benefits such as better life standards by means of job positions and sometimes even loving relationships.

In 2012 the UNODC released its global report in human trafficking, creating a graph of the percentage that each gender is affected by human trafficking

Traffickers

Although, experts have distinguished some similarities between traffickers, there is no exact profile which can help us distinguish victims. First and foremost, the number of male human traffickers is disproportional to the number of female traffickers, who represent a smaller number but are still present.

Moreover, we are able to categorize human traffickers in two categories; individual human traffickers and human traffickers who are part of extensive criminal networks. Some common examples are family operations and small businesses such as fake massage businesses in which the victim is most usually drugged and forced into sexual intercourse. Moreover, it is usual that human traffickers and their victims share similar backgrounds (nationality, ethnic, cultural etc.), since the above creates better conditions for traffickers to understand the vulnerabilities of their victim.

Sexual Exploitation

As mentioned in the key-terms section, sexual exploitation is the action in which an individual takes advantage of another person’s sexuality and usually aiming at an economic profit. Moreover, sexual exploitation is one of the two most common forms of human trafficking and the most common victims are women who are used mostly for prostitution. However, not only women fall victims to sexual exploitation since there is large percentage of girl victims in sexual exploitation as well as a smaller number of men. Furthermore, the

conditions in which sexual trafficking victims live are inhumane. More specifically, they are often isolated and are forced to be subjects in commercial sex.

Concerning their physical condition, it is not unusual for victims of sexual exploitation to be diagnosed with AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases as well as pregnancy. However, their physical condition isn't the biggest concern of rescuing experts since victims of human trafficking are in tragic psychological condition. Due to the fact that they are threatened and undermined daily by their traffickers, they most often suffer under psychological traumas, the feeling of embarrassment and are characterized by post-traumatic stress, disorder and disassociation.

Forced Labour

Forced labour is the second most common form of human trafficking. As mentioned above, forced labour is any form of services or work given by the victim most of the time without their volition. It is therefore clear that under the general idea and umbrella of "Forced Labour" there are certain forms one can distinguish. Firstly, the most wide-spread form of forced labour is bonded labour. Bonded labour occurs when a trafficker tricks the victim into offering their services with little or no pay with the pretext of the victim repaying for a loan he/she had previously taken from the trafficker. Specifically, victims sometimes live under the traffickers' surveillance and are threatened by them so as to ensure that they will stay. This method of forced labour has been used for years since it is commonly transferred through the generations.

Other forms of forced labour are domestic servitude in which victims offer services within their traffickers' household.

Forced labour most commonly occurs in the private sector; however, it is shocking that 2.2 million victims are involved in state-imposed forms of forced labour. In the private section it most often occurs in agriculture, such as cocoa and coffee production as well as hunting forestry and fishing activities. It also occurs in the industry sector such as mining and manufacturing.

Child Labour

An aspect of human trafficking which has moved the international community is child labour. It is important to understand that child labour does not refer to any work that is done by children that does not interfere with their education, personal development and health. With that being said, child labour refers to services or any form of work that deprives children from their education (being obligated by traffickers not to attend or even to leave

school prematurely), their potential and dignity (being socially, physically or/and morally dangerous to the children) and is also harmful to their mental and physical development.

It is important to understand that child labour is not a form of human trafficking in itself. Child labour includes both methods of sexual exploitation as well as forced labour. However, what distinguishes it is that it happens to underage people. To be more specific, according to the International Labour Organization forms of child labour include any form of activity or practices which have similarities to slavery such as the transferring of children, the use of children for sexual purposes such as prostitution, forced labour of children, the use of children for illegitimate activities such as drug dealing, child marriage and lastly any form of work which is harmful to the health, social and moral development of children.

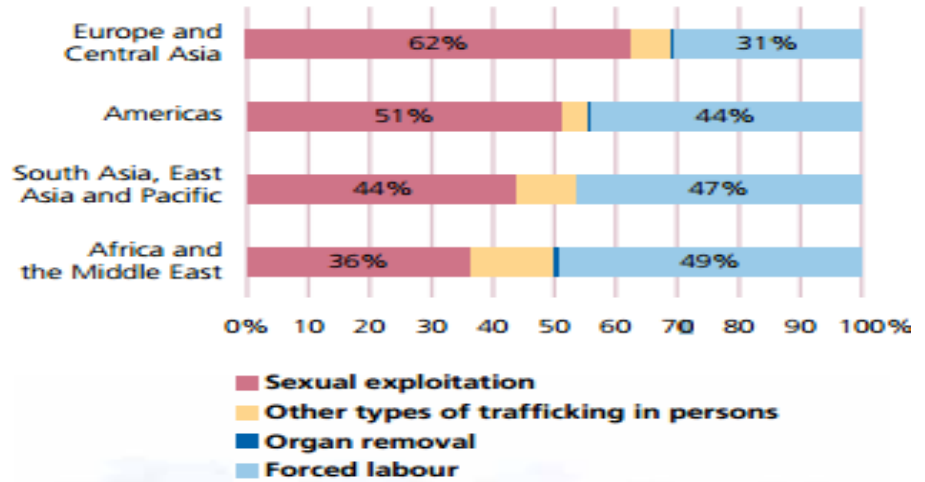
However, the percentage of children victims compared to all human trafficking victims varies around the globe with Europe reporting that about 16% of the total amount of human trafficking victims are children while at the same time in Africa and the Middle East children take up to 68% of total victims.

Other forms of human trafficking and organ removal

In certain regions of the world such as the Middle East, Asia and Latin America, organ removal and other forms of human trafficking exist. Organ trade and removal is an organized crime and there are three main occasions in which it occurs. Firstly, it occurs when traffickers pursue or obligate victims into giving up an organ. Secondly, it can happen when victims and traffickers formally or informally agree on a deal, in which the victim will give up an organ to the trafficker with the aim of economic profit. However, in this occasion traffickers betray victims since they either pay the victims less or not at all for the organ. Lastly, it can occur without the consent and knowledge of the victim of the organ removal.

Other forms of trafficking include forced marriage which occurs when a victim gets married without their free and full volition due to threats by traffickers.

Figure 2: The UNODC 2012 report includes the chart depicted on the right; which shows the percentage different forms of human trafficking take up in different parts of the world. What one can understand from the chart is that in regions where agriculture is a main form of economic profit, forced labour takes up a bigger percentage in comparison with other regions. Additionally, we notice that in regions such as Africa and the Middle East other forms of human trafficking such as forced marriage take up a bigger percentage.



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

China

It is widely accepted that China is a modern and well-planned country which partly consists of large cities. However, it is important to realize that China is a huge country with numerous villages that stand in a lesser economic and social structure. The above creates a huge social gap between people who live in urban areas and people who live in rural areas. Traffickers take advantage of this fact and lure poor people living in rural areas into forced labour. Additionally, it is estimated that around 150 million Chinese people are victims of human trafficking within China's borders. Although, it most commonly occurs within China's borders, victims of forced labour sometimes are forced to migrate overseas.

Bangladesh

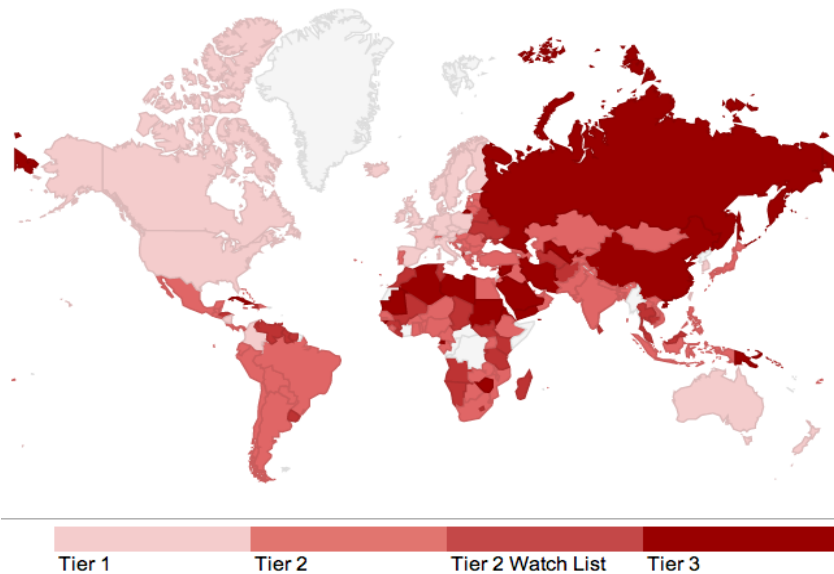
Bangladesh is one of the most affected countries by human trafficking. Bangladesh most commonly serves as a transit country for human trafficking which means that it serves as a "passage" when transferring victims. Furthermore, the fact that less than 10% of children are registered at birth, making it harder for authorities to identify them as victims, is a major reason why Bangladesh is one of the countries who are affected by the problem.

Philippines

The Philippines represent one of the greatest source countries for victims of human trafficking, meaning that Philippino men and women are trafficked in neighboring countries. Traffickers take advantage of the low working opportunities and promise job positions to victims. Moreover, victims are often transferred from urban to rural areas with the purpose of forced labour.

United States of America

The United States of America has played an important role in the fight against human trafficking. In the United States of America there have been countless researches that involve a global aspect of the problem. There is also a significant number of organizations against human trafficking as well as hotlines in order to help victims.



8 *Figure 3: In 2000, the USA government created the Trafficking Victims Protection Act which is a series of Acts that “provide the tools” so as to eliminate human trafficking globally. Based on the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, the USA government creates an annual report that shows which countries follow the TVPA and generally, have an adequate amount of legislation against human trafficking. Countries are divided in Tiers⁹ based on their compliance with the TVPA standards, their efforts in complying with the standards and the amount of victims.*

Coalition against Trafficking in Women (CATW)

The Coalition against Trafficking in Women is a non-governmental organization which was established in 1988 and takes part in the abolition of human trafficking, especially in women and children. It has been recognized as the first non-governmental organization that fights human trafficking in an international level. Its primary programs are based on education, advocacy, victim services and prevention.

⁸ <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2014/226649.htm>

⁹ <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2014/226649.htm>

Anti-Slavery International

Anti-Slavery International is an organization based in the United Kingdom and founded in 1839, making it the oldest anti-trafficking organization. Although it mainly works on a national level it operates in other countries as well.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of Event
17 April 1839	The Anti-Slavery International is established.
1904	The International Agreement for the Suppression of "White Slave Traffic" was put into force and is the first international agreement against human trafficking.
1956	India signs the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, one of the first anti-trafficking acts.
1995	The United Nations organizes the 4 th World Conference focusing on addressing the issue of trafficking in women.
1997	The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is established.
25 December 2003	The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons is signed.
2008	Thailand case in which 57 migrants transported by traffickers were suffocated to death.
2009	In Taipei a large human trafficking "ring" was identified by authorities, in which victim women were prosecuted for fake passports.
11 January 2011	The 11 th of January 2011 is set as USA Human Trafficking Awareness day.

UN INVOLVEMENT: RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC)

The United Nations Office on Drug and Crime is an office that was created in 1997 by the merging of two past United Nations bodies: the United Nations Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention. It is the only United Nations active entity that focuses on crimes such as human trafficking. As far as the UNODC budget is concerned, it mainly depends on voluntary donations from all member states. Lastly, its objectives are to support and help all member states in the fight against crimes, drugs and terrorism through the promotion of human rights. As far as the work against human trafficking is concerned, the UNODC establishes the security of human trafficking victims after their rescue, aids in the review of human trafficking legislation and trains criminal justice work people on the proper protection of human trafficking victims.

United Nations Global Initiative to fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT.HUB)

The UN.GIFT.HUB was established with the aim of supporting the fight against human trafficking by achieving partnerships between governments. It was launched in March 2007 under the scope of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and with the financial aid of the United Arab Emirates. Its primary objective is based on the idea that human trafficking is a crime which cannot be dealt with by individual governments; thus governments should “build bridges” so as to ensure that the fight against human trafficking is effective. The main functioning committee of the UN.GIFT.HUB is the Steering Committee, which consists of the six primary organizations¹⁰ who take part in the anti-trafficking initiative.

Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children¹¹

The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children was signed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2000 under the scope of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto¹². It came into force in 2003 and has been signed by 167 member states. Furthermore, it is the first legally binding protocol that successfully gives a definition for human trafficking with

¹⁰ International Labour Organization, International Organization for Migration, The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, The United Nations Children's Fund, The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

¹¹ <http://www.osce.org/odihr/19223?download=true>

¹² <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/treaties/CTOC/>

the aim of aiding governments into creating frameworks and international crime offenses against human trafficking.

United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons

In August 2010 resolution A/RES/64/293 was adopted, which went hand in hand



with the Fund. The Fund was created so as for governments, organizations and individuals to aid financially the fight against human trafficking. The income provided by the donations is handled by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Figure 4: Official logo for the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

The No Project

The No Project is an internationally recognized campaign against human trafficking. Its primary objective is educating youth about human trafficking through activities such as dancing, music, sports, creative writing, journalism, film and other recreational activities. In

addition, students all around the world organize stands through which they hand out informative leaflets to citizens so as to raise awareness. Another important activity is the organization of concerts in which students compose songs that have an anti-human trafficking content which are sometimes paired with dance performances. The main reason behind focusing on youth is that it is a primary target for traffickers since they are most vulnerable as well as the fact that for the next 40-50 years they will be the consumer buying power.



Figure 5: Official "The No Project" logo.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Human trafficking is one of the most complex crimes when it comes to resolving it. In order to eliminate human trafficking, each state must work both individually and co-operatively with other member states since human trafficking is a transnational crime,

meaning that during its process more than one country is involved. Individually, each government will need to set proper legislation against human trafficking acts based on the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons. If such legislation already exists, governments will have to create measures and ensure they are implemented properly. Although legislation against human trafficking itself is crucial, legislation concerning border control is essential as well since victims are many times illegally transferred into different countries by traffickers. The above might be considered tricky since governments need to find the right balance between border control that ensures safety for victims who are illegally trafficked into other countries and border control that would provoke vulnerable illegal immigrants to seek the help of human smugglers and therefore result in an increase of human trafficking.

Moreover, it is crucial to understand that different forms of human trafficking call for different actions. As far as forced labour is concerned, there needs to be a larger amount of monitoring. Specifically, authorities from each member state should annually hold investigations into each stage of factories production lines as well as agricultural areas.

Another crucial step against human trafficking, is reporting cases of human trafficking. For example, hotlines could be created so as for both victims to be able to get in touch with authorities who might rescue them as well as people who witness a case of human trafficking. However, for hotlines to be effective it needs to be ensured that victims have phone access.

Action concerning, rescuing of victims is crucial. Victim rescue is described by specialists as one of the most complex processes of rehabilitation into society (compared to the majority of international crime). Their rescue requires multidimensional forms of help, which include emergency, social and legal services. Firstly, their rescue needs to include emergency services such medical approaches which meet their psychological needs (counseling meetings with psychologists) as well as medical examinations and pharmaceutical therapy if required. Additionally, a series of basic needs are required to be met immediately such as shelter, food and clothing. Secondly, their rescue requires social services such as infrastructure, which will be used as shelter. Finally, there will need to be legal services that will help them rehabilitate into society.

Furthermore, plans for the economic development of the origin states as well as the improvement of the education opportunities for youth. Conclusively, campaigns should be created so as to raise awareness within societies. If citizens are educated about human trafficking it will be more difficult for traffickers to lure them into this serious crime.

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