



CCPCJ Chair Report

Topic 1: Addressing the Growing Threat of Human Trafficking.

Chair: Connor Henrich

Deputy Chair: Claire Oh



Personal Statements

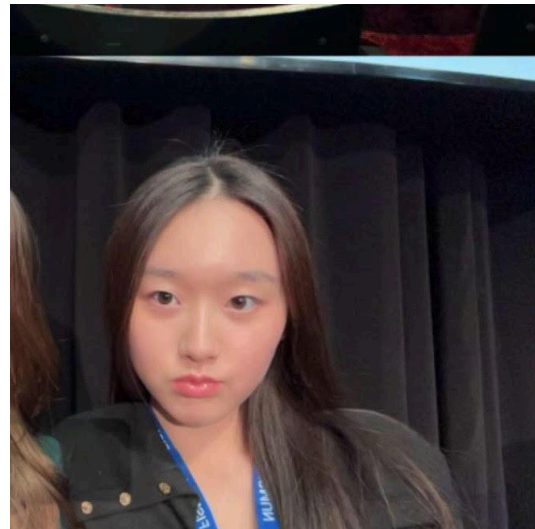
Chair – Connor Henrich

Honorable Delegates, my name is Connor Henrich and I'm 14 years old attending the International School of Stuttgart. This will be my 5th conference and I'm very excited to be the head chair for CCPCJ at this year's MUNISS. I hope to make this an enjoyable experience for all, and I look forward to meeting all of you. Hopefully this report will be of good use. If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to reach out connorj.henrich@gmail.com or henric27@issev.de



Deputy Chair – Claire Oh

Honorable Delegates, my name is Claire Oh, and I am a 16-year-old student attending Frankfurt International School. This is my 5th conference, and it is an honor to serve as your chair for CCPCJ at MUNISS 2024! I am eager to meet all of you and excited to engage in insightful debates together. If you have any preliminary questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to chaewon_oh@fis.edu



Introduction

“Many times, human trafficking happens under the guise of legal businesses.”

– Suman Kakar, associate professor of criminology and criminal science

Millions of human trafficking victims pass in front of us every day, but many of them remain unrecognized globally. Trafficking victims have no legal status in a country where they come in search of a better life. They are oftentimes shackled by the false promises of traffickers. The issue of human trafficking has emerged as a formidable threat to human rights, demanding global action and international collaboration. More than 50 percent of cases of human trafficking are brought forward by victims or their families, with authorities struggling to detect and protect trafficking victims (UN News). This is a concerning new trend compared to previous years.

According to the 2022 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, men and boys are increasingly being used as tools for forced labor and illegal activity, while women and girls, who make up about 60% of identified victims, are more likely to experience sexual exploitation and higher levels of violence at the hands of their captors.

International cooperation is required of partner nations in order to create more potent solutions to human trafficking and migrant smuggling. This can also be achieved nationally through the combined efforts of all societal sectors, including healthcare, to social services to law enforcement.



Glossary

Human Trafficking “is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of people through force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them for profit. Men, women and children of all ages and from all backgrounds can become victims of this crime, which occurs in every region of the world”. (*Human-Trafficking*, n.d.)

Modern Slavery “ is the recruitment, movement, harboring or receiving of children, women or men through the use of force, coercion, abuse of vulnerability, deception or other means for the purpose of exploitation.” (*Modern Slavery and Public Health*, 2020)

Forced Labor “can be understood as work that is performed involuntarily and under the menace of any penalty. It refers to situations in which persons are coerced to work through the use of violence or intimidation, or by more subtle means such as manipulated debt, retention of identity papers or threats of denunciation to immigration authorities.” (*What Are Forced Labour, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking?* (*Forced Labour, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking*), n.d.)

Child Trafficking “is a form of human trafficking and is defined by the United Nations as the “recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, and/or receipt” kidnapping of a child for the purpose of slavery, forced labor, and exploitation.” (*Oxford Languages and Google - English | Oxford Languages*, 2024)



Issue Explanation

There are an estimated 27.6 million victims of human trafficking around the world at any given moment (“About Human Trafficking”). Human trafficking is considered the second largest growing criminal industry in the globe, only after drug trafficking (Valencia). In recent years, the prevalence of child victims of human trafficking have increased significantly. Surprisingly, this is not simply a problem in economically developing countries. It is common across countries such as the United States and happens everywhere to people of all cultures and socioeconomic levels.

Individuals suffering from poverty and vulnerability are the most likely to be at risk of becoming a human trafficking victim. Since social media and the internet have made the issue worse, it is crucial that people become more aware of the strategies used to undergo and promote human trafficking. Offenders of human trafficking exploit the human nature of wanting to seek instant gratification out of poverty, and examples include free meals or promises of jobs offering high wages (Valencia).

It is important to note that anyone can become a victim of human trafficking regardless of their race, nationality, disability, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, education level, or citizenship status. However, vulnerable individuals who are members of marginalized communities are often preyed upon by human traffickers. These include children in the child welfare system, runaways and homeless youth, unaccompanied children, persons who do not have lawful immigration status in the United States, Black people and other people of color, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and other indigenous peoples of North America, LGBTQI+ individuals, migrant laborers, persons with disabilities, and individuals with substance use disorder (“What Is Human Trafficking?”).

To achieve the goal of eradicating human trafficking and restoring the dignity and independence of victims, nations should strive to incorporate survivors’ perspectives, identify victims, hold traffickers accountable, and build capacity to address human trafficking.



Historical Background

African slave trade was the earliest form of global human trafficking and the first known international flow of human trafficking. This trade was both legal and government-tolerated, before the first law against slavery by the British in 1807, and by the United States in 1820 (Oster). At the time, decisions binding many nations were not possible because there were no international organizations.

The issue of the recruitment of white women or girls for prostitution became known after the African slave trade was stopped. In 1899 and then in 1902, international conferences against white slavery were organized in Paris, and the International Agreement for the Suppression of "White Slave Traffic," the first international agreement on human trafficking, was signed in 1904 (Oster). The criminalization of white slavery did not occur until the 1910 signing of the International Convention for the Suppression of the White Slave Trade (Oster).

After the First World War, the first international organization of nations, the League of Nations was made. This brought attention to the international trafficking in women and children. In 1921, 33 countries at a League of Nations international conference signed the International Convention for the Suppression of Traffic in Women and Children (Oster).

After the Second World War, the member-nations of the United Nations adopted the United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others in 1949, the first legally binding international agreement on human trafficking (Oster).

Over the following few years, various forms of exploitation expanded to include labor trafficking and the harvesting of organs. Eventually, in 2000, the United Nations adopted the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (Oster). It was the first agreement to recognize both the existence of contemporary slavery and the potential for men to become victims of human trafficking.



Involved Parties

Afghanistan

Afghanistan is a modern source of and transit point/destination for human trafficking. Most of the trafficking happens within the country's borders. Men, women and children are exploited for forced labor in areas such as smuggling, brick making, drug cultivation and harvesting. Men are often trafficked for forced labor in agriculture and construction, particularly to Iran, Pakistan and the Gulf, and boys are also at risk of forced recruitment as child soldiers and of being sexually exploited through Bacha Bazi, in which young boys are sexually exploited by men for entertainment ("The Organized Crime Index"). For women and girls, forced marriage remains a threat, particularly since the Taliban's takeover.

Why does Afghanistan have high human trafficking rates?

The socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and a reduction in international aid and financial sanctions against the Taliban regime have all contributed to an increase in the risk of bonded labor ("The Organized Crime Index"). The downfall of the former Afghan government has especially been attributed to high levels of crime and corruption. The Taliban relies heavily on criminal markets for financing. Even officials are largely linked to the criminal industry.

Cambodia

Human trafficking is a severe concern in Cambodia. In Cambodia, traffickers are often people known to the victim, such as parents, relatives, friends or neighbors ("The Organized Crime Index"). Men are typically trafficked for forced labor, while Cambodian and ethnic Vietnamese girls and women are trafficked for sexual exploitation. Debt bondage is also a common factor that traps victims in exploitative labor, and during the pandemic, illegal online gambling increased, creating a new way of human trafficking ("The Organized Crime Index"). Many workers have been tricked into working for scams. Cambodia is also a key destination for sexual exploitation of children, with victims sold by their parents and lured by false job offers that force prostitution.

Why does Cambodia have high human trafficking rates?

In Cambodia, Mafia-style groups are increasingly powerful. They hold the most power in real estate, casinos, and cryptocurrency business dealings throughout the region, while



collaborating with foreign partners in drug and human trafficking. In recent years, the rapidly growing and unregulated presence of national-owned casinos, entertainment establishments, and other commercial enterprises in Preah Sihanouk Province led to an increase of local sex trafficking and forced labor among Cambodian women and girls (“The Organized Crime Index”).

KOK - German NGO Network against Trafficking in Human Beings (1999)

The KOK is a German NGO that works to eradicate human trafficking and promotes the rights and protection of human trafficking victims. It was established in 1999 and is the only nationwide coordination network of NGOs in Germany and Europe for the issue of human trafficking (“German NGO Network against Trafficking in Human Beings”). KOK maintains a database of human trafficking and exploitation cases.

The A21 Campaign

A21 is a global non-profit NGO that works to abolish injustice such as exploitation and human trafficking. The strategy employed by the A21 Campaign involves reaching out to vulnerable populations through educational initiatives and providing support to survivors of human trafficking (A21).

UNODC

UNODC aims to implement national and international efficient responses to human trafficking. Being a United Nations office, UNODC supports the UN and protects human rights through the prevention of drug related crime, human trafficking, and corruption. Meanwhile, the strategy of the GLO.ACT project is to sustain effective strategies and policies, enhance the knowledge of criminal justice practitioners on human trafficking, and develop support programmes for vulnerable victims of trafficking (UNODC).



Media Contribution

Many people's knowledge of human trafficking comes from what they read or see in the media. The media plays an important role in shaping societal perceptions of human trafficking. However, the media also contributes to distorted narratives and sensationalism, focusing excessively on clickable stories and details (Virkus). While raising awareness is important, it is equally essential to portray the realities of human trafficking accurately. Society often places blame on the victims, perceiving them as responsible for their circumstances. This perspective fails to recognize the manipulation and power imbalances that are inherent in trafficking crimes.

Speaking of the role of media in addressing human trafficking, Dr Sarah Macharia noted that, "The mass media are key drivers for the spread of information, or misinformation about human trafficking. What we know or do not know determines our response to it, what is reported and how it is reported, goes some way in shaping the policy and State action agenda, and has implications for the traffickers and the trafficked."

"Journalistic responsibility lies in effective communication of relevant news stories. Considerations include the reporting angle, sensitivity to language that victimizes subjects and the extent to which the crime is exposed or camouflaged," she added ("Human Trafficking and the Role of Media.").



Previous attempts to solve the issue

Several efforts have been made to solve this issue of human trafficking.

Advertising campaigns have been launched in public spaces such as airports, movie theaters, hospitals and shopping malls. A well-defined legal infrastructure for the prosecution of possible human trafficking offenses and improved law enforcement efforts are working toward combating human trafficking.

Victim advocacy groups are training individuals to identify the possible signs of human trafficking and to avoid becoming involved in such situations.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000

The TVPA equipped the U.S. Government with new resources to mount a comprehensive and coordinated campaign to eliminate modern forms of slavery domestically and internationally. The TVPA established the framework for the “3 P’s” of the fight against human trafficking: protection, prevention, and prosecution.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003

The TVPRA refined federal criminal provisions against trafficking, to include adding human trafficking crimes as a Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO) predicate, and enabled trafficking victims to file lawsuits against their traffickers in federal district court. In addition, the TVPRA 2003 mandated an annual report from the Attorney General to the U.S. Congress regarding U.S. governmental efforts to implement the TVPA.

The William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008

This act featured new measures to prevent and deter trafficking. The TVPRA 2008 imposed appropriate penalties on those who obstruct the investigation and prosecution of trafficking crimes. It also permitted the prosecution of sex traffickers who disregard the fact that force, fraud, or coercion would be used against the victim. The TVPRA 2008 directed the government to provide information about workers’ rights to all people applying for work and education-based visas.



The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015

This act clarified that there is no need to prove that the defendant knew or disregarded the fact that a sex trafficking victim was a minor if the defendant had a reasonable opportunity to observe the victim. It also added the production of child pornography to the definition of “illicit sexual conduct”.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2017

This act provided additional funding and mandates to support victims of trafficking, and to increase transparency of the federal government’s anti-trafficking work.

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Serbia)

The Criminal Code of the Republic of Serbia includes criminalizations relating to the use of children in prostitution and pornography, effectively protecting minors from sexual exploitation and trafficking. It further restricts the transfer of organs of children and the pressuring of children to forced labor.



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