



# **HRC** Chair Report

Topic 2: Creating Solutions to Prevent Human Trafficking by Criminal Organizations Across International Borders



# Table of Contents

Personal Statements	3
Chair – Lucas Carrascal	3
Deputy Chair – Holland Barker	3
Introduction	4
Glossary	5
Issue Explanation	6
Perspectives of Parties Involved	9
History of the Topic	11
Potential Solutions for the issue:	14
Bibliography	16



# Personal Statements

## Chair – Lucas Carrascal

Honorable all,

My name is Lucas Carrascal, and I am proud to partake as Chair in the upcoming Mun conference. I am 15 years old, and currently study at the ASB (american school of Bilbao). Throughout my MUN journey, I have participated in 7 conferences, winning 3 honorable mentions. I'm sure we will be able to have a fruitful discussion. I am very excited to chair, and can't wait to see you all delegates!

## Deputy Chair – Holland Barker



Honorable all,

My name is Holland Barker and I am honored to be your deputy chair in the Human Rights Council for MUNISS 2025. I am 15 years old and currently study at the International school of Stuttgart, where I have been participating in MUN conferences since 8th grade. I have gone to 2 conferences as a delegate, and I am very excited to take on this role. I look forward to meeting everyone in April, and I hope we will



have a great conference!



# Introduction

Human trafficking remains one of the most severe human rights violations in the world today. It is a form of modern slavery in which individuals are trafficked for forced labor, sexual exploitation, or other inhumane purposes. Organized criminal networks—such as the Sinaloa Cartel, the Russian Mafia, and human smuggling rings operating in Southeast Asia—exploit weak border regulations, political instability, and widespread corruption to facilitate trafficking across international borders.

Addressing human trafficking is critical, as it not only strips victims of their basic rights and freedoms but also fuels other criminal activities, undermines national security, and weakens legal integrity. Despite global efforts—including initiatives by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), INTERPOL, and regional frameworks like the European Union’s Anti-Trafficking Directive—human trafficking continues to persist.

This report will examine the root causes of human trafficking, present various perspectives, and analyze past and potential solutions. Its goal is to provide delegates with a comprehensive understanding of the issue, fostering a productive debate at the upcoming conference.



# Glossary

**Human trafficking:** The illegal act of transporting people in order to benefit from their work or service.

**Human Smuggling:** The organised, irregular movement of people across borders on a payment-for-service basis

**Transnational organized crime (TOC):** Criminal organizations operating across multiple countries, engaging in illegal trade.

**Interpol:** The International Criminal Police Organization with the mission to enable police around the world to work together to prevent and fight international crime.

**Refugee:** A person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disasters.

**United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC):** UN agency responsible for fighting against illicit drugs and international crime.

**Traffickers:** A person who deals or trades in something illegal.

**Defectors:** A person who has abandoned their country or cause in favour of an opposing one.

**Debt Bondage** – A form of trafficking where victims are forced to work to repay an often fraudulent or impossible debt.



# Issue Explanation

Human trafficking by criminal organizations across international borders is a complex issue. Traffickers prey on vulnerable individuals, often deceiving them with promises of better employment opportunities and an improved future, only to exploit them for forced labor, sexual slavery, or other inhumane purposes. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), nearly 50 million people are trapped in modern slavery, with human trafficking generating over \$150 billion annually in illicit profits.

## Methods of Human Trafficking

- **Deception and Fraud:** Victims are often persuaded with fake job offers, false marriages, or fraudulent education opportunities.
- **Debt Bondage:** Many victims, particularly in South Asia and Africa, are forced to work indefinitely to repay fabricated or exaggerated debts.
- **Forced Kidnapping and Manipulation:** In some cases, traffickers kidnap individuals and use violence, drugs, or threats to obtain forced labor.
- **Online Exploitation:** Social media platforms and online job postings have become major tools for traffickers to groom and lure victims.

## Prevalence of Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a global issue, but some regions experience significantly higher rates:

- **Asia-Pacific:** Home to over 60% of trafficking victims, with forced labor being the most common form.
- **Africa:** High prevalence due to weak law enforcement and ongoing conflicts.
- **Europe & North America:** Major destinations for trafficked individuals, particularly for sexual exploitation and forced labor.
- **Middle East:** Common cases of migrant worker exploitation, particularly in the Gulf region.

## Primary Issues and Consequences



- **Humanitarian Impact:** Victims endure severe physical, psychological, and emotional trauma.
  - Many experience:
    - Sexual violence, forced labor, and inhumane conditions
    - Long-term psychological disorders, such as PTSD and depression
    - Loss of personal identity and legal documentation, making escape difficult
- **Economic Consequences:**
  - Human trafficking is a \$150 billion industry, fueling underground economies
  - Many victims are forced into unpaid labor, further widening economic inequality
- **Security Concerns:**
  - Human trafficking is linked to organized crime, including drug trafficking, arms smuggling, and terrorism financing
  - Weak borders and corrupt officials enable trafficking to flourish without consequence
  - The destabilization of entire regions occurs when trafficking becomes deeply rooted in criminal networks
- **Legal and Political Challenges:**
  - Many countries lack the resources or political will to fully enforce anti-trafficking laws
  - Corrupt officials often collaborate with traffickers, preventing prosecution
  - International cooperation remains weak, as different legal frameworks complicate cross-border enforcement





## **Why This Issue Needs Urgent Action**

If left unaddressed, human trafficking will continue to fuel human rights violations, contribute to global economic instability, and strengthen criminal organizations worldwide. As the trade grows more profitable, it enables the expansion of drug trafficking, arms smuggling, and even terrorism. An efficient and coordinated international response is crucial, as millions of lives remain at risk.



# Perspectives of Parties Involved

- **United Nations:**

- The United Nations plays a central role in coordinating global efforts to combat human trafficking. Through agencies such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), the UN works to:
  - Advocate for the universal implementation of the Palermo Protocol (2000), which sets international standards to prevent trafficking, protect victims and prosecute traffickers.
  - Support law enforcement cooperation between nations through organizations like INTERPOL.
  - Provide funding for victim support programs and research initiatives to better understand trafficking networks.

- **United States & United Kingdom:**

- Prioritize anti-trafficking policies
- The U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) imposes severe penalties on traffickers and provides aid to victims.
- Both nations impose sanctions on countries failing to combat human trafficking, such as those ranked poorly in the U.S. State Department's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report.
- Actively fund anti-trafficking NGOs and conduct rescue operations in conflict zones and at-risk areas.

- **China & Russia:**

- China has been criticized for its inadequate enforcement of anti-trafficking laws, particularly concerning forced labor in industries such as textiles and technology manufacturing. Reports suggest ties between trafficking and the treatment of Uyghur populations in Xinjiang.
- Russia has been accused of tolerating forced labor and human trafficking, particularly in industries like construction, agriculture, and domestic work.



- Both countries resist external interference, arguing that international criticism is often politically motivated.
  
- **Italy & Spain:**
  - Serve as primary entry points for migrants from North Africa and the Middle East, many of whom fall victim to traffickers.
  - Face major challenges in securing maritime borders, particularly concerning trafficking via Mediterranean smuggling routes.
  
- **Thailand & Mexico:**
  - Known as Key trafficking zones
    - Particularly for sexual exploitation and forced labor.
  - Mexico is a major hub for human smuggling into the U.S., with criminal organizations like Los Zetas and the Sinaloa Cartel profiting from the trafficking of vulnerable migrants.

# History of the Topic

Human trafficking has persisted through centuries, with forced labor and slavery happenings as far back as ancient civilizations. However, in today's modern world, political conflicts, and weak border control policies have worsened the issue.

## Key Historical Developments:

- **19th century:** The abolitionist movement led to the end of the transatlantic slave trade, but forced labor and exploitation continued, particularly in colonies. Child labor remained widespread. Despite legal progress, the legislation of slavery abolition was not globally uniform, and many areas still permitted exploitative labor practices.
- **1904:** The International Agreement for the Suppression of the White Slave Traffic marked a significant milestone in combating human trafficking. This was one of the first international treaties to focus on preventing the trafficking of women for sexual exploitation, particularly from Eastern Europe to the Americas and Asia. While this treaty made progress, it focused mainly on the gendered nature of trafficking and did not address broader trafficking issues such as forced labor.
- **1949:** The United Nations accepted the "Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others". This international treaty aimed to tackle the exploitation of women and children through sexual exploitation and forced prostitution. It provided a framework for addressing trafficking but was limited in scope and did not cover forced labor or child trafficking in its entirety.
- **2000:** The UN Palermo Protocol, officially known as the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, was adopted as part of the United Nations Convention



against Transnational Organized Crime. This was a landmark international agreement that:

- Established a comprehensive framework for combating human trafficking across borders.
  - Defined human trafficking for the first time in international law and introduced the three “P”s approach: Prevention, Protection, and Prosecution.
  - Created a global legal obligation for signatories to criminalize trafficking and ensure victim protection.
  - Introduced measures to improve border security, enhance law enforcement cooperation, and ensure victims rights to assistance and protection.
  - Expanded the focus of combating trafficking beyond sexual exploitation to include forced labor, child trafficking and other forms of modern slavery.
- The Palermo Protocol has been important in global efforts to tackle trafficking, and many countries have aligned their domestic laws with it. However, enforcement remains a challenge, especially in regions with corruption, political instability and poor legal systems.
  - **2015:** The United Nations incorporated combating human trafficking as part of its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically Goal 8.7, which calls for the immediate and effective elimination of forced labor, modern slavery, and the trafficking of children. This marked a shift towards integrating human trafficking efforts into broader development and human rights frameworks, focusing on addressing root causes such as poverty, gender inequality, and lack of education.
  - **2020:** The COVID-19 pandemic increased the overall trafficking risks as the economic instability made more people vulnerable.

The U.S. and the U.K. have both conducted international efforts to combat human trafficking, implementing strict anti-trafficking laws and funding global initiatives. The U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) helped establish clear legal frameworks surrounding prosecution and significantly



improved victim support. The U.K.'s Modern Slavery Act further strengthened legal measures against trafficking.

As global awareness of human trafficking increases, nations and international organizations have increased their efforts to combat this ongoing issue. In 2021, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) released a Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, which highlighted trends in human trafficking. Moreover, the report showed that although stricter border controls helped during the COVID-19 pandemic, traffickers began using online platforms to recruit victims. This change in the approach shows the need to enhance digital surveillance and implement stronger cybersecurity policies.

In 2023, the European Union introduced the EU Anti-Trafficking Strategy, aimed at increasing cooperation among member states and strengthening victim protection measures. Countries such as the United States, Canada and Australia also increased their funding for anti-trafficking programs, focusing on law enforcement training and victim rehabilitation.

However, despite the ongoing efforts from many parties, human trafficking networks continue to evolve and expand. The high cooperation of UN member states is essential to solve this issue.



## Potential Solutions for the issue:

Addressing human trafficking by criminal organizations across international borders requires an open minded approach. The following solutions can be used as pillars to give a starting point to the future resolutions.

- Strengthening international cooperation
  - **Improving information sharing processes:** Creating effective communication areas/channels between law enforcement agencies across countries is crucial. This could involve building secure databases for sharing intelligence on suspected traffickers and trafficking routes, such as INTERPOL's global database of human trafficking suspects.
  - **Encouraging joint operations:** Expanding joint operations between INTERPOL and national police forces can help dismantle trafficking networks. Operations like Operation Libra have shown the effectiveness of coordinated action, targeting trafficking networks across borders.
  - **Building legal cooperation:** Strengthening cross-border legal frameworks is essential for the smooth prosecution of traffickers. This includes streamlining extradition processes and enabling faster legal assistance across jurisdictions.
  
- Enhancing legal framework and its enforcement
  - **Strengthening the Palermo Protocol:** Encouraging countries to fully implement the Palermo Protocol is vital. This includes ensuring that all signatory countries have national action plans for combating trafficking and that laws address all forms of trafficking, not just sexual exploitation.
  - **Increasing penalties:** Governments should impose stricter penalties for traffickers and corrupt officials involved in human trafficking. Countries like India and Thailand, where trafficking is common in specific sectors, could benefit from stronger legal deterrents and accountability for public officials enabling trafficking.
  - **Improving law enforcement:** Enhancing training for police and border officials can increase the effectiveness of anti-trafficking



efforts. This includes creating specialized anti-trafficking units within national law enforcement agencies, particularly in countries with high trafficking rates.

- Improving victim protection
  - **Expanding access to services:** Ensuring trafficking victims have access to safe housing, healthcare, and mental health support is essential for their recovery. Expanding services like temporary shelters and recovery programs can help survivors reintegrate into society.
  - **Providing legal assistance:** Governments and NGOs should work together to provide legal representation for trafficking survivors. This can include helping victims navigate immigration systems and assisting them in seeking justice against traffickers.
  
- Addressing the root causes of human trafficking
  - **Improving impoverished areas:** Focusing on poverty alleviation and creating job opportunities in vulnerable areas can reduce trafficking risks. Microfinance programs and skills training can help create economic stability, particularly in regions with high trafficking rates.
  - **Investing in education:** Strengthening access to education, especially for women and children, is key to preventing trafficking. Initiatives should focus on providing educational opportunities and awareness campaigns in regions where trafficking is prevalent.



# Bibliography

What Is Transnational Organized Crime? | United Nations, [www.un.org/en/peace-and-security/transnational-crime](http://www.un.org/en/peace-and-security/transnational-crime). Accessed 16 Feb. 2025.

"Human-Trafficking." Naciones Unidas : Oficina de Las Naciones Unidas Contra La Droga y El Delito, [www.unodc.org/unodc/es/human-Trafficking/Human-Trafficking.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/es/human-Trafficking/Human-Trafficking.html). Accessed 16 Feb. 2025.

"What Is Interpol?" INTERPOL, [www.interpol.int/Who-we-are/What-is-INTERPOL](http://www.interpol.int/Who-we-are/What-is-INTERPOL). Accessed 17 Feb. 2025.

Valentine. "Refugees." UNHCR, [www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/who-we-protect/refugees](http://www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/who-we-protect/refugees). Accessed 17 Feb. 2025.

"ABOUT UNODC." United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime, [www.unodc.org/unodc/en/about-unodc/index.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/about-unodc/index.html). Accessed 17 Feb. 2025.

"Abolitionist Movement - Definition & Famous Abolitionists." History.Com, A&E Television Networks, [www.history.com/topics/black-history/abolitionist-movement](http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/abolitionist-movement). Accessed 21 Feb. 2025.

"UN, United Nations, UN Treaties, Treaties." United Nations, United Nations, [treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg\\_no=VII-8&chapter=7&clang=\\_en](http://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=VII-8&chapter=7&clang=_en). Accessed 21 Feb. 2025.

"EU Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings (2021-2025)." Migration and Home Affairs, [home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/internal-security/organised-crime-and-human-trafficking/together-against-trafficking-human-beings/eu-strategy-combatting-trafficking-human-beings-2021-2025\\_en](http://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/internal-security/organised-crime-and-human-trafficking/together-against-trafficking-human-beings/eu-strategy-combatting-trafficking-human-beings-2021-2025_en). Accessed 21 Feb. 2025.

"Key Legislation." Human Trafficking, 23 Aug. 2023, [www.justice.gov/humantrafficking/key-legislation#:~:text=The%20Trafficking%20Victims%20Protection%20Act%20of%202000%20\(TVPA\)%2C%20Pub,of%20slavery%20domestically%20and%20internationally](http://www.justice.gov/humantrafficking/key-legislation#:~:text=The%20Trafficking%20Victims%20Protection%20Act%20of%202000%20(TVPA)%2C%20Pub,of%20slavery%20domestically%20and%20internationally).



Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others | Ohchr, [www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-suppression-traffic-persons-and-exploitation](http://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-suppression-traffic-persons-and-exploitation). Accessed 21 Feb. 2025.

International Labour Organization (ILO). "Forced Labour, Human Trafficking, and Slavery." ILO, [www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/lang-en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/lang-en/index.htm). Accessed 28 Feb. 2025.

Global Slavery Index. "Global Slavery Index 2018." Walk Free Foundation, [www.walkfree.org/reports/global-slavery-index-2018](http://www.walkfree.org/reports/global-slavery-index-2018). Accessed 28 Feb. 2025.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). "Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2020." UNODC, [www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/glotip.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/glotip.html). Accessed 28 Feb. 2025.

U.S. Department of State. "Trafficking in Persons Report 2023." U.S. Department of State, [www.state.gov/trafficking-in-persons-report/](http://www.state.gov/trafficking-in-persons-report/). Accessed 28 Feb. 2025.

International Organization for Migration (IOM). "Migration and Human Trafficking." IOM, [www.iom.int/migration-and-human-trafficking](http://www.iom.int/migration-and-human-trafficking). Accessed 28 Feb. 2025.

The Guardian. "Human Trafficking: A Growing Crisis." The Guardian, [www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/mar/21/human-trafficking-a-growing-crisis](http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/mar/21/human-trafficking-a-growing-crisis). Accessed 28 Feb. 2025.

