



Background Paper

Committee: Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian Committee

Topic A: An International Push for the End of Human Trafficking

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Modern slavery is a problem in which the most vulnerable part of society is affected. A problem where unconsciously we are all affected. The approaches taken to end human trafficking are not nearly enough to subside what is currently going on. From that small kid, denied from childhood to that woman being forced to offer her dignity and be shamed by hundreds, to that man, working his life away in a foreign country, shows how just how much work has to be done, in order to provide those people with a worthy life.

According to the United Nations, human trafficking is defined as the recruitment, transfer, or harboring of people with the aim of exploiting them for profit, taking advantage of the vulnerability of those victims.

Every single man, woman, and child on this globe can be a victim of human trafficking, no mattering the background or situation of said person.

Human trafficking occurs in various forms, some of them being stealing and selling people for prostitution, domestic services, and hard work labor. Traffickers prey on vulnerable people such as the poor, weak, and isolated; this makes it easier for traffickers to convince these types of people to go with them, using fake promises of good profit, education, or better opportunities, or by simply taking their rights of freedom away and kidnapping them.

Human trafficking has physical, emotional, and psychological effects on everyone involved; modern slavery has the power to impact the victim's life forever. Mental and physical trauma, ostracism, and lack of independent living skills are only a few of the effects trafficking leaves behind on the victims that manage to survive. In the past, slavery was an accepted economic practice that systematically exploited specific groups of people. Now, human

trafficking is a criminal, punished activity but that doesn't take away the fact that every year from 600,000 to 800,000 people is exploited.

In order to approach this ongoing crime, UNODC created the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT). The UN.GIFT aims to take action against human trafficking by several approaches, including raising awareness, reducing demand, supporting and protecting the victims. Some of the countries with the most cases of trafficking are China, Russia, North Korea, Iran, Venezuela, and India. These countries have taken little to no action in giving solutions to their people, making them hearth locations to import and export their victims.

To make a change, there needs to be not only innovative and working solutions but also a change in society, a change in how things are viewed. Denormalization of the poor treatment of people that we see every day is vital to make a change and guarantee everyone's well-being and integrity. "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter"

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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