

**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**  
**(UNHCR)**

*Thomas Jefferson Model United Nations Conference*

TechMUN XXXII



Middle School General Assembly

Chairs: Jitsu Marupudi & Rishi Pathuri

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology

April 11th-12th, 2025

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to TechMUN XXXII, but better than that, welcome to UNHCR! We are your chairs for this conference, and we are excited to see how you decide to tackle some of the biggest topics in the world. This committee takes place in 2025 amid the current global issues that are taking place. All of you represent a country from the United Nations, some big and powerful and others small but mighty. Despite the size of your country, you all are equally representative. It is important for you to remember your country, and stay with that as it will be how you will be distinguished. At today's conference, the first topic is mitigating the human trafficking in third world countries and how you can help as a member of UNHCR, and the second topic discusses the diamond mining crisis in the Congo.

We are looking for enthusiastic delegates, with good research done prior to the conference who are able to communicate properly to get their solutions across. We want to focus on diplomacy, and want to see delegates who work with others and don't try to make a committee just for them. Make sure to participate and raise your placard as much as possible, we love to see that kind of behavior. Don't be afraid to try new things, and even if mistakes are made, it is not the end and more participation will be looked positively upon. We all do Model UN to have a great time, and we want to ensure that you all have the best time at TechMUN. No matter how much experience you have, if it's your first or your tenth, we want to make this conference your best one yet and one for your books. Please do not hesitate to email us at [unhrctechmun2025@gmail.com](mailto:unhrctechmun2025@gmail.com) if you have any questions or concerns.

**Jitsu Marupudi & Rishi Pathuri**

Co-Chairs, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees UNHCR

## **Topic 1: Human Trafficking in Third World Countries**

### ***Background***

Human trafficking is a grave global problem that is most prominent in third world countries. It is an illegal trade that takes advantage of vulnerable individuals, normally by subjecting them to forced labor, sexual exploitation, and forced servitude. Traffickers take advantage of poverty, low education, and unstable politics to recruit or coerce victims into trafficking. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) contends that human trafficking is one of the most lucrative criminal endeavors on the planet, with billions of dollars in profit annually. Abject poverty and economic instability in third world countries are among the main reasons for human trafficking. The majority of the families are so poor that they fall prey to easy targets of traffickers who promise work or better living conditions. The victims would willingly go with such promises unaware of the hidden agendas of the offers. Children are also commonly trafficked since it is believed that they would be less resistant to fighting back or trying to escape. Moreover, corruption and weak law enforcement also enable human trafficking rings to thrive in these regions. In some cases, local government officials can turn a blind eye or even work with traffickers as a way of getting bribes. This impunity creates a situation where it is hard to break up trafficking rings, and there are many victims being kept under horrific conditions. Limited policing and victim care resources also hinder preemption of trafficking, as well as rescue of the victims.

Furthermore, human trafficking imposes atrocious effects on people and societies. Trafficking victims often endure physical and emotional violence, starvation, and untreated medical conditions. Most victims lose contact with their families and suffer from long-term psychological trauma. Societies are also adversely affected by losing members to traffickers and

due to the social repercussions of increased criminal activity and broken families. In order to combat human trafficking, governments, NGOs, and international agencies must join hands to target the root causes. Measures must be directed towards reducing poverty, improving access to education, and strengthening legal frameworks to prosecute traffickers. Raising awareness and assistance to vulnerable groups can also deter individuals from falling prey to trafficking. Human trafficking remains a severe issue in third world countries, fueled by poverty, corruption, and weak law enforcement. The global community must prioritize combating this crisis through preventive measures, victim support, and legal reforms. Only with collective effort can we hope to end this human rights violation and protect vulnerable populations worldwide.

***Current Situation:***

Human trafficking is a global crisis that overwhelmingly affects third world countries. The illegal business exists upon the exploitation of vulnerable individuals, most often through forced labor, sexual exploitation, and servitude. Poverty, illiteracy, and unstable political environments are used by traffickers to recruit or coerce victims. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reports that human trafficking is among the most lucrative criminal enterprises globally, earning billions of dollars annually.

Past efforts to counter human trafficking in third world countries have focused on increasing international awareness and enacting anti-trafficking laws. Governments and agencies have tried to establish legal frameworks for prosecuting traffickers and serving victims. These efforts generally include criminal sanctions against traffickers, victim service programs, and efforts to dismantle trafficking organizations. Enforcement remains patchy, however, despite these efforts, due to corruption, inadequate resources, and a lack of country coordination. Current

initiatives combat the root causes of human trafficking and improve existing laws and support systems. Education and economic empowerment for vulnerable groups are now prioritized by most international organizations, aiming to reduce the desperation traffickers exploit.

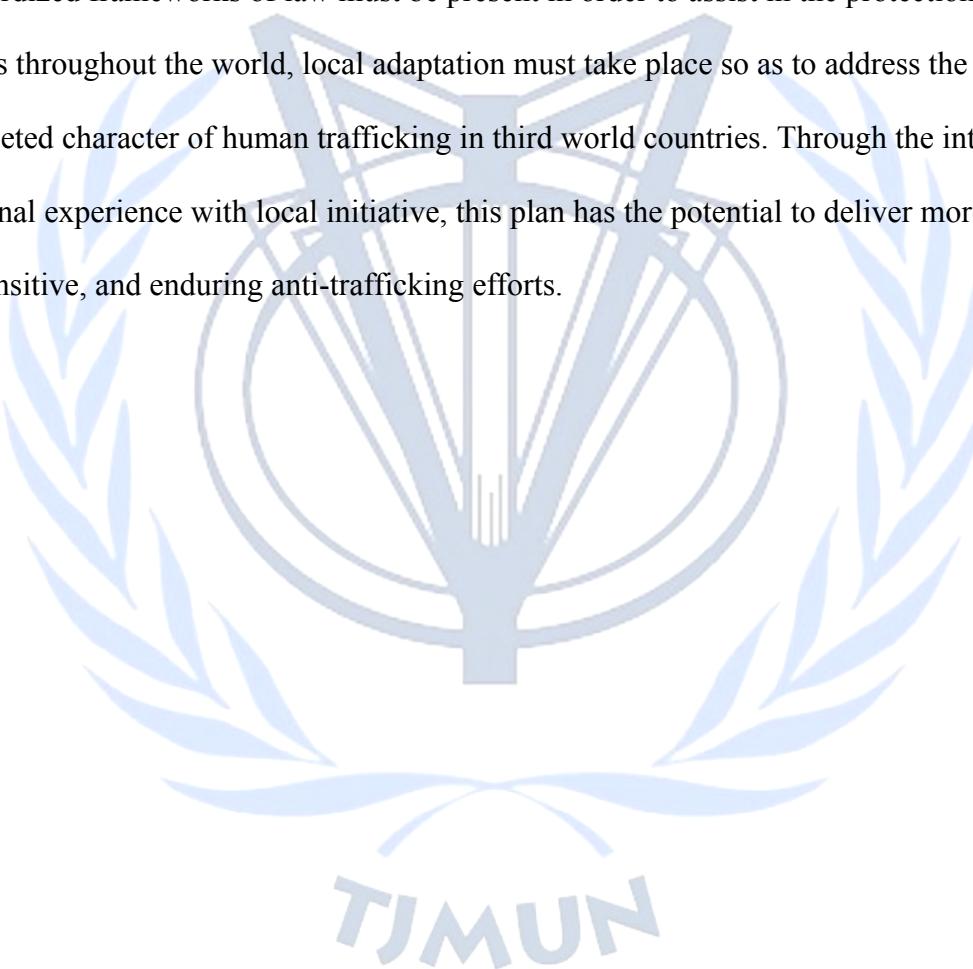
Technological advancement is also being integrated into anti-trafficking efforts, such as data analysis to track trafficking trends and internet monitoring to disrupt recruitment methods.

Cultural awareness initiatives and community events also aim to reverse negative norms and mobilize vulnerable groups.

### ***Possible Solutions***

One of the likely solutions to avoiding human trafficking in third-world countries is more of an open, multi-faceted, but not strict, multi-pronged plan. How that would operate is to define universal general human rights and anti-trafficking policy norms, but with more latitude to local societies and institutions in how to implement them. Thus, the local institutions are able to balance methods with their specific social, cultural, and economic realities. This is a flexibility that enables the regions to tackle specific vulnerabilities and consolidate different perspectives, including those of survivors and the community. To supplement this strategy, governments, NGOs, and international organizations can provide guidance, funding, and resources to facilitate local counter-trafficking efforts. This can include providing professional training for health workers, social workers, and law enforcement to improve victim identification and services. In addition, increased cross-border cooperation can improve intelligence sharing, best practices, and innovative solutions to more effectively disrupt trafficking networks. Enabling collaboration among firms, local populations, and global agencies has the potential to foster innovation and sustainability in counter-trafficking activities. For example, local and indigenous leaders can

collaborate with technology companies to develop data-driven platforms to track trafficking patterns, and indigenous community leaders can spearhead culturally appropriate prevention campaigns. Such collaboration integrates international best practice with indigenous resilience, and efforts are made to project effects that are high-impact and locally appropriate. This plan supports reconciliation between global governance and local agency. It is a compromise wherein while standardized frameworks of law must be present in order to assist in the protection of human rights throughout the world, local adaptation must take place so as to address the diverse and multifaceted character of human trafficking in third world countries. Through the integration of international experience with local initiative, this plan has the potential to deliver more effective, sensitive, and enduring anti-trafficking efforts.



### ***Questions to Consider***

- 1) How can international organizations and local governments ensure that anti-trafficking strategies remain effective and adaptable, especially as traffickers evolve their methods with new technologies and global economic shifts?
- 2) What strategies can global and local efforts implement to balance the need for international standards with the flexibility required to address region-specific vulnerabilities and cultural differences?
- 3) How can anti-trafficking initiatives incorporate diverse perspectives including survivors, local communities, and cultural leaders to promote inclusivity and equity, while ensuring the approaches are effective, respectful, and sustainable?

### ***Helpful Links:***

- <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/global-report-on-trafficking-in-persons.html>  
<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/fandd/issues/2018/09/human-trafficking-in-southeast-asia-caballero>
- <https://www.migrationdataportal.org/themes/human-trafficking>

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## **Topic 2: Diamond Mining Crisis in the Congo**

### ***Background***

Different regions of the Congo are under immense pressure from the diamond mining crisis through exploitative policies, violence, and corruption. All this troubles policymakers, environmentalists, and human rights activists about what becomes of the local population, security for workers, and economic stability. The Congo diamond mining sector can be an economic development engine, but uncontrolled and illegal mining threatens to destroy this potential. Rather than financing growth, such operations are likely to finance armed conflicts, facilitate the exploitation of children and soil the environment. The impact does not only get felt in the Congo but also by global diamond companies and global supply chains. Consumers and companies globally are founded on ethical sourcing, yet when the diamond is produced from conflict areas, it contaminates the whole market. The second human cost of this disaster cannot be overlooked. Miners, including children, face risky conditions where no or minimal compensation is offered, since the benefits more often than not go to warlords or bribe takers. The ravaging of the environment is barely less lurid, with forest loss, river pollution, and land erosion leaving lasting signatures on local vegetation and farm output. Halting this plague demands international and national collaboration. International organizations, states, and business executives need to advance human rights, implement ethical sourcing practices, and support sustainable economic options for stricken communities. The future of diamond mining in the Congo rests on the balance scale of economic interest, human dignity, and environmental integrity. Greater transparency, local empowerment, and the equitable application of good labor practice are what will break the cycle of exploitation — to allow the resources of the Congo to benefit its people, and not its exploiters.

### ***Relevant Issues***

For the future of diamond mining in the Congo, several factors are paramount. One is the conflict between economic interests and human rights. Diamond mining is motivated by demand, but it constantly runs afoul of basic principles of ethical labor practices, environmental sustainability, and social justice. This paradox raises essential questions about the true cost of diamond mining — particularly when it pays for conflict, exploitation, and environmental degradation. Furthermore, the effects of the crisis extend far beyond the mines. Uncontrolled diamond mining worsens poverty, destabilizes communities, and funds armed groups. This cycle of corruption and violence prevents the country from progressing towards stability and mutual economic growth. The lack of regulation and transparency within the diamond supply chain continues global ignorance of the source of such gems and the suffering they may represent, pre-empting international action towards ethical consumption and sustainability. For those that work in the mining industry — often under brutal and dangerous conditions — the practical challenges are dire. Miners, some of whom are children, take life-threatening risks with little or no protection and fair compensation. Squaring the need for economic survival with the reality of forced labor and exploitation is a moral and logistical challenge. Addressing this requires more than cosmetic changes; it requires systemic change that puts human dignity over profit.

### ***Possible Solutions***

The Congo diamond mine crisis needs to be tackled on several fronts if it has to be stopped. There must be international cooperation between international bodies, national states, campaign organizations, and entrepreneurs. The diamond supply chain system of regulation and

transparency must be reinforced so that diamonds from conflict areas cannot enter the markets of the world. An opportunity for Congolese citizens to receive reasonable compensation, safe working conditions, and environmentally sustainable mining to bring an end to the exploitation cycle is another. Public information campaigns can make consumers demand ethically sourced diamonds by popularizing the human and environmental cost of Congo's diamond trade. Finally, the opening of dialogue, support to initiatives in bringing about the end of the war, and attempts at system restructuring are all key milestones toward closing the crisis and toward a more responsible, accountable diamond industry.



### ***Questions to Consider***

- 1) How does the ongoing diamond mining crisis in the Congo affect the integrity and transparency of the global diamond supply chain?
- 2) What are the implications of illegal and exploitative mining practices on the economic development and stability of local Congolese communities?
- 3) How can international organizations and governments support local efforts to regulate diamond mining while promoting ethical sourcing and sustainable practices?
- 4) What role do advocacy groups, corporations, and policymakers play in addressing human rights violations and environmental destruction linked to diamond mining in the Congo?
- 5) What are the potential long-term consequences of the diamond mining crisis on Congo's economy, the environment, and global perceptions of the diamond industry?

### ***Helpful Links:***

- <https://www.usip.org/publications/2024/03/congo-peace-means-halt-brutal-illegal-mining>
- <https://time.com/blood-diamonds/>
- <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2024/10/why-is-the-democratic-republic-of-congo-wracked-by-conflict/>

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