



DELEGATE BACKGROUND GUIDE

SOCHUM

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Director's Letter

Hey, delegates!

Welcome to the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee at TMUN 2023. My name is Jacob Park-Adair and I am ecstatic to be chairing this committee this year. For TMUN, as well as chairing this committee, I have worked alongside the secretariat in the past 8 months to ensure you have the best experience possible. With that being said, I would like to thank each and every one of them for the dedication and the time they have given up to ensure this conference runs - they truly just wish for you to have the best experience at TMUN. Additionally, a special hand to our Secretary-General Edward Liu for his devotion and sacrifice.



SOCHUM, also known as the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee is the third committee of the UN General Assembly, focused on promoting international cooperation and fundamental rights for all. It encourages discussions and the implementation of legislation surrounding topics such as: the right to life, expression of culture, religion, and political ideology, freedom of political participation, the rights of children, and more. At TMUN 2023, we will be discussing Human Trafficking in South East Asia and the Treatment of LGBTQI+ People in Africa. These topics, while centred around a geographical area for the sake of debate, are complex global issues that require cooperative and creative solutions.

I have been in MUN for the past five years, and I have always loved to debate! In my free time, I play hockey and rugby - come talk to me for a good story about that one. I also am the president of the legal society in my high school, spend a lot of time - money - on bubble tea, and watch/love the Toronto Maple Leafs.

At any time during the conference, feel free to come up to me and chat, I'd love to get to know you all better! Further, if you have any concerns about equity, notify me and I will be sure to address them promptly.

I'll leave you with a slightly inspirational quote I hope you can embody when writing your position paper an hour before the due date, "If you think you are too small to be effective, you have never been in the dark with a mosquito." Anyways, best of luck delegates!

Best of luck,

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Topic A: Human Trafficking in Southeast Asia

Overview

Although many people view slavery as a dark piece of history, it continues to thrive today in the form of human trafficking - defined as the act of transporting an individual by coercion, force, or manipulation to benefit from them typically in the form of sexual exploitation, forced labour, and child trafficking. The United Nations has estimated that this illegal activity generates approximately \$150 billion USD annually for offenders making it the second most profitable criminal enterprise after drug trafficking. Organizations engaged in human trafficking are highly structured, with established clandestine transnational routes, and are equipped with action plans to carry out each stage of the crime.

The most important step in ending human trafficking is concentrating on its root causes. Simply said, the fact that there is still a market for it is the primary factor in the continued occurrence of human trafficking. People all across the world benefit from the sex and labour trafficking industries, regardless of their socioeconomic status, place of residence, or geographic origin. To satisfy this sad urge, people are being trafficked illegally all over the world. Another factor that keeps human trafficking prevalent is economic instability. Families in less affluent parts of the world may knowingly or unknowingly place family members in circumstances involving human trafficking because they are motivated by the frequently false promise of financial benefit. Because runaways, refugees, and displaced individuals are the ones most likely to be picked up, political instability or a government that does not care for its citizens can help to some part fuel trafficking.

The United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, is the most significant step the UN has taken to combat human trafficking. The General Assembly Resolution 55/25, adopted on November 15, 2000 entered into force in December 2003, and it was the first legislation to have a consensus definition of human trafficking. This document's goal is to "create consistency and consensus on the subject of trafficking in persons around the world" by explicitly defining it. Article 5 of the Protocol, states that ratifying it must make the practice illegal under their own domestic laws. The protocol's general goal is to promote global awareness of the issue and provide recommendations for punishing trafficking criminals. This goal goes beyond these particular procedures. The protocol also outlines strategies to safeguard and help those who have been the victims of human trafficking while fully respecting their human rights.

The United Nations is committed to spreading awareness of the problem globally using resources like the protocol mentioned above because it recognizes that human trafficking is a kind of contemporary slavery. The topic of migrant smuggling and other related issues has also been covered. The General Assembly's Resolution 55/25 authorized the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea, and Air, which went into effect on January 28, 2004. This policy acknowledges that migrants have a very high risk of being trafficked since they frequently cross borders illegally in quest of better economic opportunities.

Sex Trafficking

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 50% of detected trafficking victims were trafficked for sexual exploitation subjecting victims to different types of servitude namely pornography or prostitution. Sex traffickers commonly manipulate victims with

appeals of stable employment abroad, however, instead of receiving what they were promised, victims are forced into inhumane conditions upon their entry into the industry. The United Nations estimates that two million people are trafficked yearly worldwide with the overwhelming majority being women and 35% of victims under the age of 18. This demographic is particularly vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections caused by constant physical abuse, sexual assault, and forced abortion; further, they typically have little to no access to basic or adequate healthcare. Unfortunately, women and girls are targets and more vulnerable to trafficking due to their lower social status and lack of access to educational and professional opportunities in trafficking 'zones.' With this in mind, it is critical to acknowledge the gender inequality that exists and the importance of addressing it. Internationally, lawmakers have recognized the significant decrease in women's vulnerability to trafficking when granted with increased accessibility and opportunities to education, employment and legal representation and rights. Nevertheless, it is important to recognize not all trafficked women are uneducated or underprivileged; many have completed primary school or even have post-secondary degrees. For example, in Hong Kong, many Philipinos trapped in servitude were nurses and teachers in their home nation.

The need to address the threat has become more urgent as a result of alarming trends in human trafficking throughout East Asia and the Pacific. According to the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons released by the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, more than 85% of victims were trafficked from within the area (UNODC). From neighboring nations, travel is made to locations like China, Japan, Malaysia, and Thailand. According to the Walk Free Foundation's Global Slavery Index, Thailand is Southeast Asia's top destination for trafficking victims from Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar. Victims from Vietnam, the Philippines, and Indonesia have all ended up in Malaysia.

According to the UNODC data, 51% of victims in East Asia were women, while children made up almost a third. More than 60% of the 7,800 victims that were identified between 2012 and 2014 were trafficked for sexual exploitation. The mothers and children are frequently from isolated, underdeveloped villages. The Mekong area of Cambodia, China, Myanmar, and Vietnam is rife with forced marriages of young women and girls, which typically go hand in hand with sex trafficking.

Organ Trafficking

A less commonly known form of human trafficking is organ trafficking which involves the abduction or deception of individuals to the involuntary extraction of their organs for medical transplantation. Dating back to the late '80s when patients began purchasing organs, specifically kidneys from nations such as India, where cases were overlooked until the early 2000s. This form of trafficking became extremely popular with the demand greatly surpassing the supply causing an ever-growing issue despite government efforts to maximize donor pools. As we continuously see a drop in the number of yearly organ donations, the circumstances of extreme scarcity have caused many anguished patients to obtain organs by other illegal means. With the extrapolating demand, the profitability in the market is growing just as fast, nurturing the desire for people to sell organs in black markets. From this, a new form of tourism has emerged - transplant tourism which refers to patients traveling to other nations for organs or importing illegally collected organs. The issue is that in order to sell organs, the traffickers need to gain organs from someone and usually they are collected from those in forced labour/prostitution positions.

Child Trafficking

Child labour is a widespread problem around the world. Asia is a major area of concern, accounting for 60% of the almost 250 million child workers worldwide. For instance, one in every four minor works in South Asia. Although many people would argue that children should be learning instead of working, the economic and cultural realities in many Asian countries either demand or permit youngsters to work. Few people would disagree, however, that some jobs should not be available to youngsters. The International Labor Organization (ILO) adopted a new Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor at the initiative of its member states that addresses the worst forms of child labour, such as child prostitution and the use of children in pornography, the use of children in illicit activities, particularly the drug trade, and work that could endanger the health, safety, or morals of children. Anyone under the age of 18 is covered by the protection provided for children under the treaty.

Children are trafficked within Bangladesh and across its borders using well-known routes for the purpose of labor exploitation. Children from Bangladesh are trafficked for use as prostitutes, for forced or bonded labour, for camel racing, for marriage, and even for the sale of organs. Boys are typically sent to labour in sweatshops and industrial industries in Pakistan and India, while girls are typically trafficked into domestic or commercial sex work. About 90% of Bangladeshi children are sent to India, with the remaining 10% going to Pakistan and a few Middle Eastern nations. Over 13,320 children are believed to have been victims of trafficking out of Bangladesh between 1993 and 1997, according to the Ministry of Home, Social Welfare, and Women of the nation. About 4,500 Bangladeshi children are reportedly trafficked into Pakistan each year for bonded marriage or bonded labor, according to a separate report by UNICEF and the SAARC.

According to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that work with child prostitutes, 820 children were reportedly trafficked into the commercial sex industry in Bangladesh in 1997. And this is just a small sample of the entire number of juveniles who may be trafficked who operate in Bangladesh's sex business. There are between 15,000 and 20,000 child street prostitutes, according to Bangladeshi police estimates. According to a recent study funded by ESCAP, 68 percent of child prostitutes interviewed reported being coerced into their jobs. It indicates that even more Bangladeshi child prostitutes are employed in the bordering nations. According to research, there are an estimated 200,000 Bangladeshi minors working in Pakistani brothels and another 300,000 in Indian brothels. Over 19,000 boys from the region, ranging in age from two to eleven, have reportedly been trafficked as camel jockeys to the Middle East, a profession that can be fatal, according to Lawyers for Human Rights and Legal Aid (LHRLA) of Pakistan.

Most trafficked minors in Cambodia end up working in the commercial sex industry. Despite a sizable amount of youngsters being trafficked from Viet Nam, the majority of prostitution-related trafficking takes place in Cambodia. The amount of youngsters trafficked into prostitution in Cambodia or even the number of young people engaged in prostitution is unknown. However, we are aware that a sizeable part of the prostitutes in Cambodia are children; estimates range from 15.5 to 33 percent. About three-quarters of the chosen samples were said to be Vietnamese among the prostitutes who were the youngest in this study—those who were between the ages of 9 and 16. While a third of these children were employed in the provinces of Phnom Penh or Battambang, more rural provinces like Takeo and Kampong Chhnang also employed a sizable percentage of child prostitutes; respectively, 47 percent and 37 percent of the total number were under the age of 18. Additionally, at least it has been revealed that as many as 80% of prostitutes in Cambodia are the product of human trafficking.

Children being trafficked into beggar gangs is another significant issue that Cambodia is dealing with. It is known that 500 Cambodian children, mostly boys, work for beggar gangs in Thailand. This phenomenon is also becoming more prevalent in Myanmar.

Both within the country, from rural to urban regions, and over the Thai-Lao border, whether for prostitution or other forms of forced labor, child trafficking happens in Laos. However, reports suggest that a growing percentage of these Laotians who are trafficked into Thailand end up being sent on to other nations as their final destination. Laotian females reportedly being transported into China for forced marriages is another allegation. Additionally, there is unconfirmed information that suggests Laos may be utilized as a stopover country for the trafficking of Vietnamese girls into Thailand. Data on child trafficking are very rare. The number of prostitutes, trafficking victims, or even children in particularly difficult circumstances is not included in Laotian government reports.

A UNICEF report estimates that in 1995, over 15,000 youths in Savannakhet Province alone crossed the border with Thailand in search of employment, with at least 50% of them being under the age of 18. This suggests the possibility of exploitative trafficking. Most of these people entered the country illegally and were young girls under the age of 15. According to a 1995 report by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and UNICEF, more Lao youngsters are being brought to Thailand as slave labour and for sex purposes. Additionally, there are reports that the sexual exploitation of girls in Laos is on the rise. Many analysts think that because of the opening of its borders with other nations and the infrastructure developments that would make migration out of Laos more simple, Laos is well positioned for increasing out-migration and more children becoming victims of trafficking. The number of children trafficked for labor exploitation may rise in the upcoming years as a result of these

changes as well as a number of other factors, including a stagnant economy that does not generate enough jobs, the low educational attainment of the majority of children, and the high percentage of the population that belongs to ethnic minority groups that are thought to be particularly vulnerable to trafficking.

Topic B: The Treatment of LGBTQI+ People In Africa

Overview

The history of LGBTQ rights is a long and winding road, full of struggle and triumph. From early religious beliefs to the modern-day fight for equal rights, LGBTQ individuals have faced many obstacles. The earliest known references to LGBTQ people date back to the Roman province of Egypt, where same-sex relationships between men were documented. Although the extent to which it was acceptable is still up for question, homosexuality was also reported in Ancient Greece, the Roman Empire, and during the Middle Ages.

In the early 16th century, the first legal penalty for same-sex relationships was introduced, with the death penalty and mutilation being applied in some cases. This continued into the 19th century when sodomy laws were implemented across the United States. These laws criminalized same-sex relationships and, in some cases, even the mere appearance of homosexual behavior. In the early 20th century, many organizations for LGBTQ people began to appear, with the first “gay rights” organization being the Society for Human Rights in 1924. This organization was founded by Henry Gerber and advocated for the end of discrimination against homosexuals. By the 1950s, several other organizations existed, including the Mattachine Society, Daughters of Bilitis, and the Homosexual Law Reform Society.

In 1969, the Stonewall Riots took place in New York City, which marked the start of the modern LGBTQ rights movement. This event sparked a wave of activism and protest, with the first Pride march taking place in New York City in 1970. The march was a major success and inspired similar marches across the United States and the world.

In the decades since, LGBTQ rights have continued to advance, with many governments now recognizing same-sex marriage. In addition, many countries have implemented legislation that outlawed discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. Despite the progress that has been made, there is still much work to be done to ensure that LGBTQ individuals are treated equally under the law. While many countries have made strides in this area, there are still many places where LGBTQ individuals are not afforded the same rights and protections as their heterosexual counterparts. The history of LGBTQ rights is long and difficult, but it is also full of progress and hope. The fight for equal rights continues, and there is still much work to be done to ensure that LGBTQ individuals are treated with the same respect and dignity as everyone else.

The LGBTQI+ people of Africa have been subjected to a long history of suppression, marginalization, and maltreatment. For centuries, this population has been treated as second-class citizens, with little to no access to rights and resources that heterosexual individuals enjoy. This has had a detrimental impact on the lives of many individuals with a non-heteronormative sexual orientation or gender identity.

The history of LGBTQI+ rights in Africa is complex and varies greatly from country to country. In some countries, such as South Africa, there have been progressive steps taken to protect and promote the

rights of this population. In 2006, the South African Constitution was amended to include the recognition of same-sex marriage. This was a huge step towards achieving equality and inclusion, and it set a powerful precedent for other countries in the region. However, in many other countries in Africa, LGBTQI+ people still face discrimination and rejection. In places, such as Uganda, the government has enacted legislation which criminalizes homosexuality. This has created an environment of fear and insecurity for many LGBTQI+ individuals. Moreover, in many African countries, LGBTQI+ people face stigma and prejudice from the wider society. It leads to social exclusion and difficulty in accessing basic services, such as health care and education.

Effects of Discrimination

The lack of acceptance and legal recognition of LGBTQI+ people in Africa can have a range of negative consequences. Many individuals who identify as LGBTQI+ are unable to live openly, and lack support networks and a sense of isolation. It is also difficult for LGBTQI+ individuals to access resources, such as employment and housing. This can lead to poverty and other negative social and economic outcomes. In many countries, being LGBTQI+ is actively discouraged, putting a huge strain on the mental health of LGBTQI+ people living within those countries.

Recent History

In recent years, there have been some positive developments in terms of LGBTQI+ rights in Africa. In some countries, such as Mozambique, the legal recognition of same-sex relationships has been granted. Furthermore, there has been an increase in the number of LGBTQI+ organizations and advocacy groups across the continent. These organizations have been instrumental in raising awareness and advocating for the rights of this population. Despite these positive developments,

there is still a long way to go in terms of achieving equality and inclusion for LGBTQI+ people in Africa.

The stigma and prejudice that this population faces is still widespread, and there is a lack of legal protection for LGBTQI+ individuals in many countries. There is a need for greater education and awareness-raising around LGBTQI+ issues in order to foster a more inclusive and accepting society.

Thus, it is evident that LGBTQI+ people have experienced long-standing marginalization and mistreatment in Africa. However, recent advancements in activism and legal recognition have given rise to some optimism for a more welcoming and inclusive future. These initiatives must continue in order to support the rights and welfare of LGBTQI+ people, helping them live their lives without fear and discrimination.

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