* COVID-19 generated conditions that increased the number of people who experienced vulnerabilities to human trafficking and interrupted existing and planned anti-trafficking interventions.
* As COVID-19 caused a global economic downturn and increased the number of individuals vulnerable to human trafficking, traffickers adapted their existing tactics to take advantage of the unique circumstances of the pandemic
* Some examples include: ∙ In India and Nepal, young girls from poor and rural areas were often expected to leave school to help support their families during the economic hardship—some were forced into marriage in exchange for money, while others were forced to work to supplement lost income.
* COVID-19 generated conditions that increased the number of people who experienced vulnerabilities to human trafficking and interrupted existing and planned anti-trafficking interventions.
* As COVID-19 caused a global economic downturn and increased the number of individuals vulnerable to human trafficking, traffickers adapted their existing tactics to take advantage of the unique circumstances of the pandemic
* Some examples include: ∙ In India and Nepal, young girls from poor and rural areas were often expected to leave school to help support their families during the economic hardship—some were forced into marriage in exchange for money, while others were forced to work to supplement lost income.
* Governments, donors, and civil society organizations faced practical and ethical dilemmas reconciling pandemic mitigation strategies with the implementation of anti-trafficking activities
* Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, governments faced the predicament of shifting priorities to focus on growing health and economic concerns, which drew attention and resources away from anti-trafficking efforts
* Due to school closures, some children lacked access to education, shelter, and/ or food.

Secretary of State Blinken issued the 2021 Trafficking in Persons (TiP) Report on July 1, an annual publication that documents government efforts to combat human trafficking in 188 nations and territories, including the United States. The TiP Report rates such efforts, including the US government's, against minimal requirements that track the Palermo Protocol's "3Ps": prosecution of traffickers, protection of trafficking victims, and prevention of human trafficking.

“Human Trafficking in the Context of a Global Pandemic” is the theme of this year's TiP Report. The Report examines how the epidemic increased the number of persons vulnerable to human trafficking and disrupted existing and planned anti-trafficking efforts in its introductory section.

The study cautions for the first time against the risks of systemic racism and recognizes the continuation of discriminatory policies.

After spending three years on the Tier 2 monitoring list, the 2021 report downgrades guinea-bissau and Malaysia to a Tier 3, which is the lowest level. As Reuters has observed, the downgrading of Malaysia follows on from a range of law groups and United States officials complaining about the abuse of migrant labor in plantations and industry. the Government of Afghanistan, China, Cuba, Eritrea, Iran, Russia, South Sudan, Syria, Turkmenistan North Korea dictatorship and the government of

From international organizations to local NGOs, governments, and survivor leaders, the report highlights examples of leadership, resilience, and adaptability in the anti-trafficking community.

Despite the fact that the international community made progress in combating the epidemic, the impact on survivors and casualties remain a major source of worry.

The report makes it clear that children and their right to education have been severly impacted by COVID 19 and resulting security vacuum which was fully expolited by human traffickers. Furthermore, this situation has dramatically increased the number of children who fell prey to child abuse amid Covid Pandemic. Unfortunately, some countries have failed to adopt measures to prevent child abuse. TIP report names fourteen such countries which are not Party to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking In Persons, Especially Women and Children.

As a result of increased online activity and usage of social media, new patterns of exploitation have evolved. There is evidence that this resulted in an upsurge in online trafficking. Online pornography, particularly child sexual exploitation materials, is in high demand. There are also reports that human traffickers are increasingly using cameras and live-streaming child sexual exploitation. At the height of the pandemic, the FBI issued a press statement advising parents to be more attentive about the prospect of their children being targeted by sexual predators.

During a pandemic, schools were shuttered, while youngsters spent more time online in circumstances where they were exposed to sexual abuse and trafficking. As some schools supplied computers or comparable devices to impoverished pupils who could not afford them, the number of children online at home increased. Moreover, the devices offered did not, on the whole, come with software to protect youngsters.

TIP report lists countries according to their TIER rankings which shows how each country addressed the problem of human trafficking. This TIER classification enables us to compare goverments’ efforts to combat trafficking by years. This classification is quite useful as it offers the readers concrete data over the scale and impact of human trafficking and child abuse on vulnerable groups such as children and women. To give an example, if a country is in the TIER 2 list, this is the snapsis of the country’s TIER ranking.

“The Government of X does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making significant efforts to do so. These efforts included undertaking awareness raising efforts and reaffirming its commitment to enact anti-trafficking legislations. However, the government did not demonstrate overall increasing efforts compared to the previous reporting period. The government did not show evidence of overall progress in prosecuting and punishing trafficking offenders and identifying victims of trafficking. Therefore, X remained on Tier 2 Watch List for the second consecutive year.”

The report goes on analysing the TIER rankings of the countries in an alphabetical order. From this point on we will highlight two main issues, child abuse and education, from the each country’s narratives.

**AFGHANISTAN: TIER 3**

Unsurprisingly, Afghanistan finds itself in TIER 3 category. Afghanistan does not completely fulfil and does not make substantial measures to eliminate trafficking, even in view of their influence on its anti trafficking capabilities of the COVID-19 pandemic**.** The incidents of child abuse in Afghanistan is so appalling that the practise of bacha bazi—a practice in which men exploit boys for social and sexual entertainment takes place in government compounds. Furthermore, children are still recruited and used as soldiers in increasing numbers. Afghan government does not address such abuses sufficently. It even punishes penalize, and abuse many trafficking victims, including punishing sex trafficking victims for “moral crimes” and sexually assaulting victims who attempted to report trafficking crimes to law enforcement officials. The report makes it clear that even though there are laws prohibiting human trafficking,

enforcement of these laws aren’t adequate and in most cases civil servants such as police officers are involved in child abuses. What is even more horrifying is the fact that Afghan security forces are still recruiting children in combat and non combat roles.

In addition to civil servants, some parents are also complicit in child trafficking. Afghan government’s response to such cases further dramatizes the victims’ sufferings. According to the report, “In cases of parental complicity in child trafficking, authorities often returned children to their parents without sufficient efforts to ensure parents would not subject their children to trafficking again. MOI reported it returned 35 children removed from child soldiering to their families in Uruzgan province; it did not report if it had determined if the child’s home was safe for their return”

Afghanistan needs to address human trafficking seriously and introduce deterring laws that will blow a heavy deal to human traffickers.

**ALBANIA TIER 2**

As can easily be seen from its tier category, Albania’s situation regarding human trafficking is slightly better than Afghanistan. According to the report even though Albanian government demonstrated overall increasing efforts compared to the previous reporting period, it still hasn’t met the minimum standards in several areas.

Children remain vulnerable to risks posed by human traffickers. There were 43 cases of human trafficking in 2019. Of these 43 cases 13 of them was about child trafficking. According to the report, none of the defendants in child trafficking cases were convicted.

The report also makes it clear that Albania should enhance victim protection efforts by allocating more resources to victim support services.

**ALGERIA TIER 3**

Algeria’ performs as poorly as Afghanistan and finds himself in Tier 3 category. Even though Algerian government has taken some steps to address trafficking, it doesn’t fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so.

Despite the existence of laws in Algeria’s penal code which penalizes most forms of sex trafficking, there are still inconsistencies in penal code with international law.