

Dear Delegates,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the third General Assembly, the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM) at UGA's 27th Model United Nations Conference. My co-chair Sydney and I are looking forward to a weekend full of fabulous and informed debates. My name is Catherine Shih (she), and I will be your Chair. I am a first-year intended International Business and Marketing major from Johns Creek, Georgia. In addition to Model UN, I am involved in the Atlas Business Society. In my free time, I enjoy watching cooking videos, finding good music, and discovering new ways to make life more interesting. I have been involved in Model United Nations throughout all four years of high school, from leading our club to traveling the country and attending conferences. In fact, Sydney and I competed against each other at UGAMUNC her senior year of high school. Although I am not pursuing a major directly related to MUN, it has certainly helped me grow as a speaker and person and continues to teach me new things everyday.

My co-chair this year is Sydney Thornton. Sydney is a second year Anthropology student with a minor in Japanese and is pursuing two certificates, one in sustainability and the other in Global Studies. Sydney enjoys teaching outdoor skills, having been a volunteer with the Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts of the United States for over ten years. In addition to the Model UN team, Sydney is the historian for UGA's Alpha Lambda Delta Chapter, volunteers at the UGArden, and helps out at many community events. In her free time, when she has it, she loves to travel and write her own fictional stories. She is just as excited as I am to help chair this committee and hear all of your wonderful solutions to these important issues!

We invite you to read this background guide and develop a plan that will best showcase your abilities at this conference. Please be respectful as these topics contain sensitive issues. Compete in this committee with integrity and approach these topics with an open mind and be ready to have some fun!

In regards to position papers, please focus your research within the scope of your country and maintain that focus during the committee. Your work and speeches should align with your country's ideals. The resolutions drafted should reflect the work of SOCHUM and its mission. We will review parliamentary procedure with you at the beginning of the conference but we implore you to look through the UGAMUNC rules on our website, <https://www.ugamunc.com/>, especially given our new changes in regards to COVID. My email is catherineshih@uga.edu if you need my help. Please email your position papers to Sydney at smt12493@uga.edu **by February 1 at 11:59 PM**. Come prepared, do your research, and get ready for an awesome weekend!

We can't wait to see you in committee! Sincerely,
Catherine Shih and Sydney Thornton

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1 An Introduction to SOCHUM

The Third General Assembly of the United Nations aims to address social, humanitarian, and cultural issues (SOCHUM). This committee “discusses questions relating to the advancement of women, the protection of children, indigenous issues, the treatment of refugees, the promotion of fundamental freedoms through the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, and the right to self-determination on the behalf of the United Nations. Conflicts that involve political matters are meant to be addressed by the Fourth General Assembly, which was created to address Special Political and Decolonization issues (SPECPOL). Therefore, our committee cannot deal with political matters. Our resolutions must cover the result of these issues, not their political roots. For example, Topic 2 of this committee addresses the right to protest and whether governments are humanely treating those who use their right to freedom of speech, not the political events that started these protests. You must keep in mind the abilities of this committee as the conference moves forward.

Human rights are the core of this committee. Many of these rights correspond with the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHCR). This council was established by the General Assembly in 2006 in order to affirm human rights and bring violations to the global stage. Our basic rights are something that need to be protected and the rights of others must be defended.

This assembly believes that the rights of the disparished need to be focused on. The topics of this committee deal with sensitive issues like unequal access to healthcare, systemic racism, trafficking and abuse, and more. While these are contentious topics, it is important to remember that this assembly has created numerous resolutions that have helped people facing these issues and more. This assembly has helped millions of people with its work and will continue to do so in an ever tumultuous world.

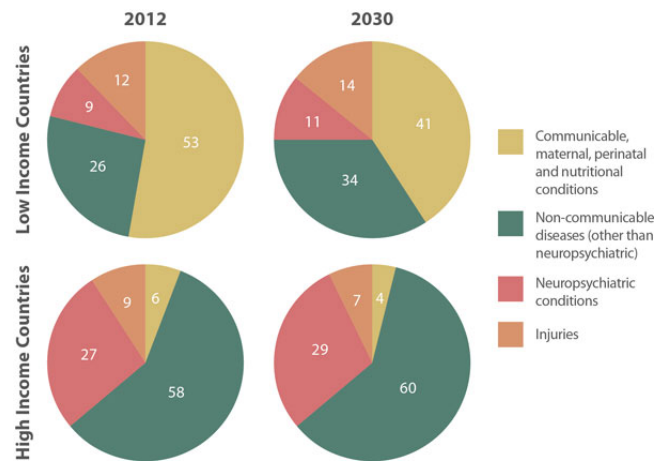
We now invite you to step in and immerse yourself in the third General Assembly. As a delegate, you have the ability to create legislation that will solve some of the most pressing global issues on the planet. We expect respectfulness, class, professionalism, and an open mind in regard to finding appropriate solutions. In a world rapidly facing change, we encourage you to embrace that change and bring about positive ideas to make the world a better place.

This committee covers a wide range of issues. Some of these issues have never been seen prior to the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic. But with this background guide, you are expected to take your country’s stance on these issues plaguing our world. Take into the account the abilities of SOCHUM and develop a plan of attack to cover all sides of these issues. We look forward to seeing your debate and the solutions you bring to the table.

2 Topic A: Destigmatizing Mental Health across the globe

2.1 Introduction:

Mental health is a relatively new topic to be discussed on a global scale. Most people who live their entire lives with mental illness have been blamed for their condition and often told that they can control their mental illness. Many people are often discriminated against and deprived of justice. One of the largest issues that we hope to see resolved within this committee is dissolving negative stigma which prevents people from seeking the help they need as well as gaining a route to living a normalized life in which they are treated fairly. Additionally, within many nations, mental health services are insufficient and limited options force many people to turn to alternative coping methods such as drugs in order to alleviate the pain they feel from their mental health.



Within middle income countries and low income countries we see how health systems lack access to high-quality mental health services. Stigma, human resource shortages, lack of research, and inadequate service delivery models all contribute to a mental health treatment gap within these nations. We hope to see how nations will come together and collaborate in resolving this issue.

2.2 Background Information

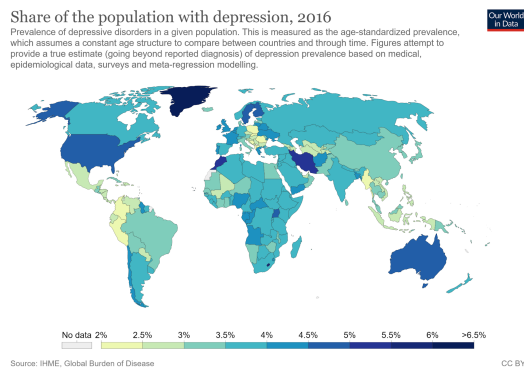


Figure 1: 2016 Global Depression Rates.¹

the system. Additionally multiple studies with NHIC's indicate that mental disorders are more effectively treated using different forms of testing, however, that's forms of testing are relatively expensive and difficult to implement in all nations.³

The World Health Assembly adopted the comprehensive mental health action plan for the years of 2013 to 2020. This committed United Nations member states to provide mental health care that will be integrated into primary care for both common and severe mental disorders. Additionally, the United Kingdom Department for International Development created an assortment of both research institutions and ministries of health in five of LMICs in Ethiopia, India, Nepal, South Africa, and Uganda². These are a prime example of creating different evaluation and cost measurement methodologies for integrating mental health into healthcare context, as many of these nations are working towards utilizing modern technologies into their healthcare systems. Many of the best practices that are being used around the world have been identified through these different organizations and used to customize mental health services into

²9 Ways to Fight Mental Health Stigma. (n.d.). Retrieved October 21, 2020, from <https://www.nami.org/blogs/nami-blog/october-2017/9-ways-to-fight-mental-health-stigma>

³Wainberg, M., Scorza, P., Shultz, J., Helpman, L., Mootz, J., Johnson, K., . . . Arbuckle, M. (2017, May). Challenges and Opportunities in Global Mental Health: A Research-to-Practice Perspective. Retrieved October 21, 2020, from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5553319/>

The world health organization has created a world mental health day which is observed on October 10 every year. This is the day that provides an opportunity for all people working within the mental health sphere to talk about their work and share more scientific research done in relation to mental health. Mental health is one of the most neglected areas of public health. And now due to the issues of the COVID-19 pandemic, many have suffered more from their mental health as many are stuck in their homes and unable to leave. More than 75% of people with mental disorders or substance use disorders receive no treatment due to the fact that they are unable to meet their therapist or health care provider face-to-face. On average countries spend only 2% of their health budgets on mental health. However many nations do not know that when there is an increase in development assistance for mental health, and more investment in treatment for mental disorders, there is a return in improved health and productivity within the workplace. Discovering the relations between improved mental health and the economy will further create conversation within how investing in the mental health industry will provide opportunities for people around the world to be encouraged to join the workforce and share their own experiences with mental health.

2.3 Vocabulary:

- **Mental Health:** the psychological state of someone who is functioning at a satisfactory level of emotional and behavioral adjustment
- **Clinical Social Worker:** Provides mental health services for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders in individuals, families, and groups.
- **Underinvestment:** a situation in which less money is spent on something over a long period of time than is needed.
- **Social Stigma:** Social stigma is the disapproval of, or discrimination against, a person based on perceivable social characteristics that serve to distinguish them from other members of a society.

2.4 Questions to Consider:

- How will this committee provide access to mental health resources?
- How will cultural stigmas in regard to mental health be addressed?
- How will people be protected in cultures that demonize mental health?
- How will education be provided in regard to different mental illnesses and disorders and what incentives, if any, should be looked into?

3 Topic B: The Protection Over the Right to Protest

3.1 Introduction:

In 2020, many countries have seen protests arise over a number of different issues. School children protesting climate changes, calls for recounts in seemingly illegitimate elections, and outcries for police reform. Almost every continent has had some sort of major protest that received global attention this year. Tear gas, arrests, beatings, and more have marked these outcries for change.

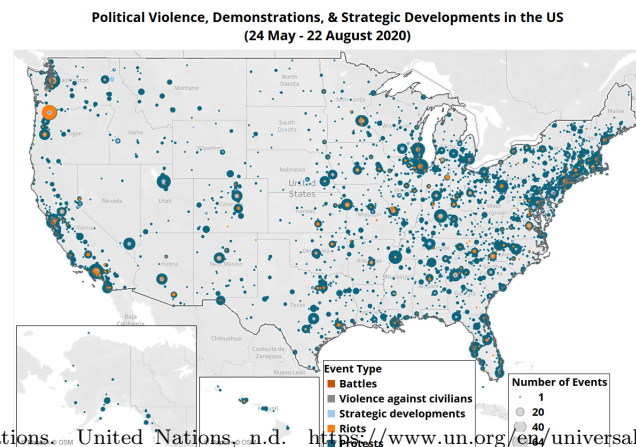
In a world that's facing more and more trouble each day, it calls into question whether or not the right to free speech is globally ensured. Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression⁴." As more people are being harmed for their opinion, it begs the question "what protects free speech?"

3.2 Topic Background:

The year started with protests that continued from 2019. For example, in April 2019, the Chinese government introduced a bill to allow extradition from Hong Kong to mainland China⁵. While the bill was withdrawn after protests first erupted, they continued and grew more and more violent. Police first fired on protestors and used water cannons to try and subdue protestors⁶. Things have not improved as protests grew larger and larger, with pepper spray being used on crowds that gathered on the one year anniversary of the protests beginning⁷.

The original contention of these protests were over China's overstep in governmental policy. Hong Kong was originally a British colony that was handed to the Chinese government under the notion that they would still be able to have their own judicial and legal system. Many counties have called into question whether that system has been maintained, with the US revoking Hong Kong's "special status," an action that brought about Chinese threat⁸.

Hong Kong is not the only part of the world experiencing protests about police reform. Throughout 2020, the United States has been facing calls for police reform in regards to the mistreatment of African American citizens. The protests came as a result of the killings of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, and many more. This sparked outcry across the country, causing protests in an already pressured population from the constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic. Similar to the people of Hong Kong, protesters wanted police reform after being systematically oppressed by the people in power. Tear gas¹⁰, rubber bullets, water cannons, and more were used by police on people



⁴"Universal Declaration of Human Rights." United Nations. United Nations, n.d. <https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>.

⁵"The Hong Kong Protests Explained in 100 and 500 Words." BBC News. BBC, November 28, 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-49317695>.

⁶Leung, Yan Zhao and Jasmine. "Hong Kong Police Fire First Gunshot, Water Cannon in Protest Clashes." Yahoo! News. Yahoo!, August 25, 2019. <https://news.yahoo.com/hong-kong-police-water-cannon-latest-clashes-113026680.html>.

⁷"Pepper Spray Used as Hundreds Gather in Downtown Hong Kong." South China Morning Post, June 10, 2020. <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/politics/article/3088249/hong-kong-protests-hundreds-gather-central-mark-first>.

⁸Zhang, Zoey. "US Revokes Hong Kong's Special Status: What Are the Implications?" China Briefing News, August 14, 2020. <https://www.china-briefing.com/news/us-revokes-hong-kongs-special-status-implications-trade-business/>.

¹⁰Al Jazeera. "US Federal Agents Use Tear Gas to Disperse Portland's BLM Protest." US & Canada | Al Jazeera. Al Jazeera, July 25, 2020. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/7/25/us-federal-agents-use-tear-gas-to-disperse-portlands-blm-protest>.

Figure 2: Protests & calls for change⁹

that were protesting peacefully. Some experts cite the rise in American protests as the result of multiple social and political stressors. The last few years have consisted of large amounts of mass shootings¹¹, rise in violent crimes¹², and more. The 2020 election was already on people's minds by spring 2020, resulting in high amounts of contention and stress amongst US citizens.

Two of the most influential nations on the planet have had a year racked with outcries and international concern over whether either truly uphold the ideal of freedom of speech. With protestors in both nations being brutally attacked, resulting in injuries on thousands of people, it calls to question whether or not that right is being protected on a global scale¹³.

3.3 Other Global Movements:

These two nations have not been the only ones to experience protests. In fact, there have been many global movements occurring as people find themselves fighting for what they believe in.

In August of 2018, Swedish activist Greta Thunberg began a strike on going to school to advocate for climate change policies, hoping to bring about change in a world rapidly being affected by climate change¹⁴. She soon began gathering global attention, bringing about strikes across the world as young people live in fear of what will happen to their planet. As of September 2020, Thunberg has entered her 110th week of protest¹⁵, calling for students to strike from their now online classes and having the support of notable businesses like Ben and Jerry's, Patagonia, and more¹⁶. Critics have said that Thunberg and the millions of her supporters are too young to understand, which brings to question at what age one is allowed to protest and have their views be considered valid.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, people across the world are being forced to face a new reality. Mask mandates have been put out by governments across the world, nasal swab testing is now a regular procedure for most, and most aspects of a person's life have been moved online. As a result, many have decided to voice their anger with this new reality by using their right to protest. While the virus is not a hoax, some believe the mandates to wear a mask violate their personal freedoms, resulting in marches across the world. From the US¹⁷, to Spain¹⁸, and more, people have gathered around the idea that governments cannot force people into quarantines or force them to wear masks as that violates their freedom of choice as an individual.

¹¹Silverstein, Jason. "There Were More Mass Shootings than Days in 2019." CBS News. CBS Interactive, January 2, 2020. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/mass-shootings-2019-more-than-days-365/>.

¹²Al Jazeera. "Hate Crime Violence in US Hit 16-Year High in 2018: FBI." US & Canada | Al Jazeera. Al Jazeera, November 14, 2019. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/11/14/hate-crime-violence-in-us-hit-16-year-high-in-2018-fbi/>.

¹³Chan, Melissa. "For Protesters Injured by Police, There's No Real Recovery." Time. Time, October 9, 2020. <https://time.com/5894356/protesters-injured-police/>.

¹⁴"Greta Thunberg." Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica, inc., September 8, 2020. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Greta-Thunberg>.

¹⁵Harvey, Fiona. "Young People Resume Global Climate Strikes Calling for Urgent Action." The Guardian. Guardian News and Media, September 25, 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/sep/25/young-people-resume-global-climate-strikes-calling-urgent-action-greta-thunberg>.

¹⁶Nguyen, Terry. "Some Brands Are Closing Stores for the Global Climate Strike. That's a Big Deal." Vox. Vox, September 20, 2019. <https://www.vox.com/the-goods/2019/9/20/20876098/brands-global-climate-strike-closing>.

¹⁷Beer, Tommy. "Anti-Mask Rallies Continue In U.S. Amid Rising Coronavirus Cases And Deaths." Forbes. Forbes Magazine, July 16, 2020. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/tommybeer/2020/07/16/anti-mask-rallies-continue-in-us-amid-rising-coronavirus-cases-and-deaths/>.

¹⁸"Coronavirus: Hundreds Gather in Madrid for Anti-Mask Protest." BBC News. BBC. Accessed October 20, 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-europe-53802226>.

3.4 What does this mean?:

In an increasingly divided world, we face the question of how well the right to protest is protected. While people are allowed to disagree with others and with government actions, when does someone's personal safety become a common factor? When is someone allowed to protest and what is done if that right is being violated? It has been witnessed across 2020 that some governments will not hesitate to harm its citizens. When the UN can step in is up to the debate of this committee.

3.5 Vocabulary:

- **Special Status:** When a land or community is distinguished from a larger governing body.
- **Climate Change:** A change in global temperature patterns as a result of human activity

3.6 Questions to Consider:

- To what degree can the UN protect an abstract concept like freedom of speech?
- What efforts can countries take to protect their citizen's right to free speech?
- How would these proposed solutions be monitored and enforced?
- What if protests are against the government of a nation? How would the UN help without defying the governing body?
- How does this right remain protected if it poses a threat to the health and safety of others?

3.7 Suggested Readings:

- <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-49317695>
- <https://civilrights.findlaw.com/enforcing-your-civil-rights/is-there-a-right-to-peaceful-protest.html>
- https://tulsaworld.com/news/local/do-mask-requirements-violate-civil-rights-how-can-businesses-accollection_9f3c8e04-c69d-11ea-a360-dbb91d095424.html#3
- <https://theconversation.com/why-protesting-racism-during-a-pandemic-is-important-an-epidemiologist>
- <https://globalclimatestrike.net/>
- <https://news.un.org/en/tags/protests>

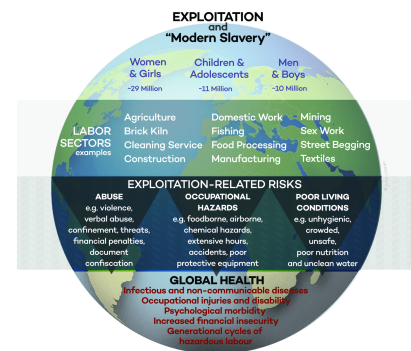
4 Topic C : Human Trafficking in Southeast Asia

4.1 Introduction

As economies continue to grow, human trafficking is predicted to increase exponentially in the next few years as demand for a human workforce in the industrial sector grows. It is expected that a mix of impoverished individuals and the desire for more wealth creates an environment for human traffickers to benefit in Southeast Asia, as many families are desperate to provide for their families. Although many nations within the region have taken preventive measures to end human trafficking, the issue is still prevalent today.

4.2 Topic Background

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in their Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons document defines human trafficking as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.” This definition applies to harvesting of organs, slavery or forced labor, and the sexual exploitation of both men and women. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), a recent report based on national surveys reported, as recently as 2012 that over twenty million people were being held against their will in various forms of human trafficking labor around the world. Unfortunately, a majority of these laborers were women. The sex trade has contributed significantly to this percent and the results are devastating as young girls around the age of five are being taken or sold. Contributing to the complexity of this issue, it is both a difficult issue to solve as there are many hidden disadvantages to rescuing these girls and providing a safe route out of the trafficking circle. Beyond Southeast Asia, the Asia-Pacific region contains the largest number of forced laborers anywhere in the world but only has a prevalence rate of 3.3 per 1000, which is relatively low as the population is much denser in these regions. Within Southeast Asia, human trafficking is widely regarded as interregional with laborers being collected from countries within the region and ultimately working within the region. Victims from Southeast Asia have also been found in many other countries around the globe. In Southeast Asia human trafficking consists of forced sexual labor¹⁹.



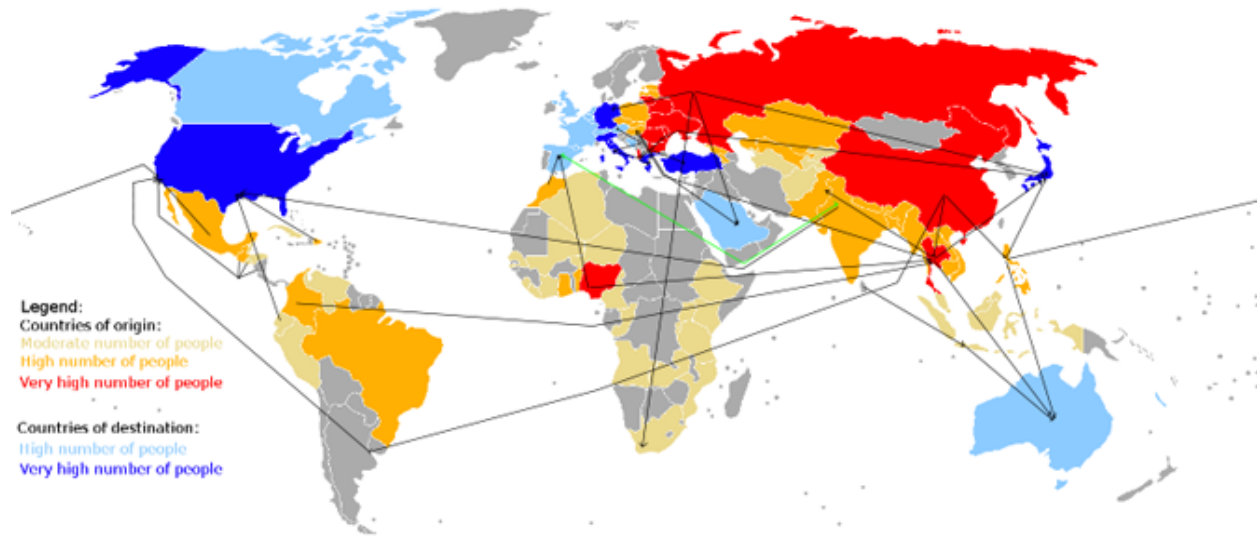
Depending on the country, different forms of human trafficking are more common and as a result require different solutions. In Thailand and Malaysia trafficking mainly takes the form of sexual exploitation, while in Indonesia forced labor is more prevalent, but both forms of sexual and forced labor can be found.

4.3 Global Movements and Previous Actions

In September 2010 the United Nations created a global plan to combat trafficking in persons. It was created to urge governments worldwide to create certain measures that were both consistent and effective in order to defeat the continuation of human trafficking around the world. It called for a creation of a United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking including women and children. As of right now, philanthropists as well as countries are contributing to the new fund for trafficking victims. This fund includes the creation of inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations to protect their physical and social recovery. Providing different forms of therapy as well as healthcare can often be relatively expensive, therefore, preventing many nations from providing equal access to their citizens. We hope that this committee can work together

¹⁹Stelter, L., Says, T., Sadulski, J., & Contributor, I. (2017, March 22). Know the Language of Human Trafficking: A Glossary of Sex Trafficking Terms. Retrieved from <https://inpublicsafety.com/2014/07/know-the-language-of-human-trafficking-a-glossary-of-sex-trafficking-terms>

to create an inclusive and comprehensive resolution to reduce de continuation of human trafficking²⁰.



4.4 Vocabulary

- **Branding:** A tattoo or carving on a victim that indicates ownership by a trafficker/pimp/gang.
- **Circuit:** A series of cities among which prostituted people are moved. One example would be the West Coast circuit of San Diego, Las Vegas, Portland, and the cities in between. The term can also refer to a chain of states such as the “Minnesota pipeline” by which victims are moved through a series of locations from Minnesota to markets in New York.
- **Coercion:** Threats or perceived threats of serious harm to or physical constraints against any person; a scheme intended to cause a person to believe that failure to perform will result in serious harm to or physical restraint against any person.
- **Commercial Sex Act:** Any sex act on account of which anything of value is given to or received by any person.
- **Exit Fee:** The money a pimp will demand from a victim who is thinking about trying to leave. It will be an exorbitant sum, to discourage her from leaving. Most pimps never let their victims leave freely.
- **Facilitators:** It is important to realize that human trafficking operations often intersect or exist alongside legitimate businesses. As a result, certain industries may help to enable, support, or facilitate human trafficking. This “support structure” may include a wide range of individuals, organizations, businesses and corporations, and Internet sites and practices. Common facilitators on which traffickers frequently rely include:
 - Hotels and Motels
 - Landlords
 - Labor brokers
 - Taxi and other driving services
- **Fraud:** Knowingly misrepresenting the truth or concealing an actual fact for the purpose of inducing another person to act to her/his detriment. Examples of fraud include false promises for specific

²⁰United Nations launches global plan of action against human trafficking. (n.d.). Retrieved October 21, 2020, from <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2010/September/un-launches-global-plan-of-action-against-human-trafficking.html>

employment, being promised a certain amount of money that is never paid, working conditions are not as promised, being told she or he would receive legitimate immigration papers or a green card to work but the documents are not obtained.

- **Human smuggling:** The facilitation, transportation, attempted transportation, or illegal entry of a person or persons across an international border, in violation of one or more countries' laws, either clandestinely or through deception, such as the use of fraudulent documents.
- **Quota:** A set amount of money that a trafficking victim must make each night before she can come "home." Quotas are often set between \$300 and \$2000. If the victim returns without meeting the quota, she is typically beaten and sent back out on the street to earn the rest. Quotas vary according to geographic region, local events, etc.
- **Seasoning:** A combination of psychological manipulation, intimidation, gang rape, sodomy, beatings, deprivation of food or sleep, isolation from friends or family and other sources of support, and threatening or holding hostage of a victim's children. Seasoning is designed to break down a victim's resistance and ensure compliance.
- **Traffickers:** Traffickers are people who exploit others for profit. They can be any demographic, individuals and groups, street gangs and organized crime, businesses or contractors.
- **The Wire:** (1) A pimp hotline, like a phone tree pimps use to get the word around, to find out which city is on/off. (2) Wiring money from victim to pimp in different cities/states ("put it on the wire").

4.5 Questions to Consider

- Are there any possible ways to warn potential victims of the dangers of trafficking, raise awareness and discourage demand?
- Have any comprehensive national policies and programs been successful, and how can they continue to be improved?
- How can police, prosecutors, and judges be trained in fighting trafficking?
- What are methods of identifying victims in how will investigations be carried out to ensure safety for these victims?
- With national sovereignty in mind, what are ways in which nations can work together and collaborate to end human trafficking?