



JejuMUN X

Background Guide

United Nations Human Rights Council

1 | Combating the trafficking of refugees

SDG: 9. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, 10. Reduced Inequality, 16. Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

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Committee Introduction

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is an intergovernmental body in the United Nations (UN) that is dedicated to promoting and protecting human rights globally. It was established on March 15, 2006, by the United Nations General Assembly through Resolution 60/251 as a replacement for the previous United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

With 47 member states, it provides a platform for constructive dialogue on a wide range of issues, including civil and political rights, economic and social rights, women's and children's rights, and freedom of expression. UNHRC engages in reviewing and monitoring of all these multifaceted issues in order to establish mechanisms to address them and draw international attention. Through resolutions, recommendations, and initiatives, the UNHRC aims to contribute to the larger mission of the United Nations, fostering international justice.

As a subsidiary body of the UN General Assembly, the UNHRC holds a unique position within the United Nations system. It reports directly to the General Assembly, enabling it to focus specifically on human rights issues. The decisions and recommendations made by the UNHRC act as a catalyst for change.

The UNHRC embraces a comprehensive approach to human rights, recognizing the importance of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights. This holistic perspective ensures that no aspect of human rights is overlooked in any of the UN's deliberations. Additionally, the UNHRC utilizes the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism. The UPR is a peer-review process that assesses the human rights records of all UN member states, providing an opportunity for constructive engagement, sharing best practices, and identifying areas for improvement. This unique mechanism ensures that all member states are held accountable for their human rights obligations.

Agenda Introduction

The human trafficking crisis happens all around the world. As stated by the head of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), "Human beings are sold, bought, and traded much like objects." According to UNICEF, human trafficking has many victims being held for ransom, or to pay off debt through forced labor. Also, victims often lose community network services and are isolated culturally and socially. This crisis is also impacted by violence and persecution. Though human rights are protected under the law, refugees are vulnerable to being trafficked to serious crimes and human rights violations.

Our committee's goal is to combat the human trafficking of refugees and respond to the problems surrounding it. There are a significant number of issues that contribute to the crisis, including but not limited to border control, immigration policies, international and regional cooperation, and specific solutions for the prosecution of human trafficking refugees. These are just some of the various issues related to the crisis that Delegates could choose to address. As the point of the issue is specific, Delegates are encouraged to aim for the main points to approach the conference with a meticulous solution by applying it to a wide number of regions with high rates of human trafficking issues.

There is overall supportive data on the human trafficking issue of refugees around the world. UNHRC, through this agenda, aims to promote international and regional cooperation to come up with solutions and mechanisms in order to combat the crisis: Human trafficking of refugees.

Letter from the Chairs

Dear Delegates,

Hello, and welcome to JejuMUN X! We are Hyerin Shin, Whonhee Park, and Sage Lee from Korea International School Jeju. It is an honor to serve as your chairs at the United Nations Human Rights Council committee.

In this committee, you will be discussing upon the agenda “Combating the Human Trafficking of Refugees”: a topic commonly discussed in many United Nations Organizations, being closely affiliated with human rights and crime issues. Despite being a well-known and traditional topic of the UNHRC, we encourage you to take bold actions and creative approaches to reach a final resolution.

Some things we would like to remind you; the agenda is not about human trafficking in general but specifically on trafficking of refugees. Deliberate research on the topic of refugees will assist you throughout the conference. Also, we recommend that you come informed about topics such as the international refugee law, the status quo of refugees, and similar.

We guarantee this conference will be a fruitful experience for all; yes, there will be those who are more experienced or assertive than others. However, this is an opportunity to share your opinion and experience new perspectives, and there is no need to be afraid.

Please feel free to contact us for inquiries if you have any!

Sincerely,

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Key Terms

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking, also known as modern-day slavery, is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of people through force, fraud or deception, to exploit them for profit. Anyone can be a victim of this criminal act regardless of their sex, age, background, or region. Traffickers' strategies vary, but they mainly use violence or false promises of occupation or education to trick and coerce their victims.

Refugee

A refugee is a person who has been forced to flee their home country because of persecution, war, or violence. They have numerous factors preventing them from returning home. The term "Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)" is often used interchangeably with refugees, but unlike refugees, an IDP is someone who has been forced to flee their home but never cross an international border.

Vulnerability

In the context of human trafficking of refugees, vulnerability refers to the condition or state of being susceptible to exploitation, abuse, or victimization due to the circumstances surrounding forced displacement and migration. Refugees, who have been forced to flee their home countries due to conflict, persecution, or other forms of violence, often face numerous challenges and vulnerabilities that make them attractive targets for human traffickers.

Organized Crime

Organized crime refers to a structured and persistent criminal enterprise that involves a group or network of individuals engaging in illegal activities for financial gain and power. These criminal organizations operate systematically, often across multiple jurisdictions, and have well-defined roles, hierarchies, and strategies to carry out their illicit operations.

Prosecution

The institution and conducting of legal proceedings against someone in respect of a criminal charge.

Border Control

Border control refers to the measures and activities undertaken by a country or jurisdiction to monitor, regulate, and manage the movement of people, goods, and vehicles across its borders. Border control measures related to human trafficking of refugees include identification, screening and interviews, and protection.

Immigration Policies

Immigration policies refer to the set of rules, regulations, and laws established by a country or jurisdiction to govern the entry, stay, and legal status of foreign nationals within its borders by considering factors such as national security and humanitarian concerns. These policies determine the criteria and procedures for immigration, including the admission of immigrants, the granting of visas and permits, and the enforcement of immigration laws.

The 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol

The 1951 Refugee Convention provides the internationally recognized definition of “refugees” and outlines the legal protection they are entitled to receive. The 1967 removed the geographical and restrictions of the 1951 Convention by ensuring that countries that ratify it agree to abide by the 1951 Convention as well.

Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children

The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, establishes the first common international definition of “trafficking in persons”. It is intended to prevent and combat such crime and facilitate international cooperation against it.

Historical Background

Year	Event
1905	Aliens Act Refugees existed during the migration from Britain. During the period of majority migrations from European Countries, cultural difference and fear toward refugees increased
mid-19th century	Revolutions across Europe in France, German, and Italy were seeking for refugees.
19th-20th century	Abolishment of all forms of slavery and an increase in the understanding of human trafficking
1919	International labor organization was formed to protect labors and their standard
1921	International Convention for the Suppression of Traffic in Women and Children Signed by 33 countries in the 1921 League of Nations international conference, the article outlines the actions the member nations should take in preventing traffic on women and children. The agreement expands the scope into children of both genders and people regardless of race, reaching beyond the scope of white slavery.
1951	The 1951 Refugee Convention This outlines the However, the range 1951 Convention was limited to the aftermath of the World War, protecting only the European refugees mentioned from the phrase “events occurring before 1 January 1951”.
1967	The 1967 Protocol The 1967 Protocol expands the definition of refugees beyond those from Europe after World War II to protect all people fleeing conflict and danger.
2000	United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children The protocol is the first to acknowledge human trafficking on men and modern-day slavery. Organ harvesting, slavery, and forced labor was changed to be included in the definition of human trafficking.
2007	UN.GIFT: United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime launched the UN.GIFT to gather communal effort in battling human trafficking on a global scale.

Current State of Affairs

Refugees have always been vulnerable to human trafficking in persons due to their irregular traveling and lack of legal rights. To make matters worse, the ongoing years of COVID-19 have exacerbated the human trafficking of refugees in numerous ways. Due to the disrupted migration routes caused by travel restrictions and border closures, refugees were forced to take alternative and more dangerous paths that made them more likely to rely on smugglers or traffickers who exploit their vulnerability. The economic impact of the pandemic also made them more susceptible to offers of exploitative labor or trafficking.

Moreover, the Russian government's continuing aggression against Ukraine created significant vulnerabilities to trafficking for refugees who have fled Ukraine. In order to mitigate the pressing issue, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and Thomson Reuters Company collaborated to create the BeSafe campaign, which educated the signs of human trafficking and provided resources for more than 15,000 Ukrainians. Private sector partners such as Vodafone and Uber also used their platforms to promulgate the campaign.

Currently, the UN TIP Protocol and the United States' Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 give guidelines to nations regarding what measures must be taken in order to meet the minimum standards for eliminating trafficking. They emphasize the importance of the "3P" framework, which stands for "Protection, Prevention, and Prosecution." Furthermore, they recognize the strategic partnerships between nations and organizations as a crucial part of the global efforts to fight human trafficking. In 2010, the UN General Assembly adopted the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, which detailed the range and types of partnerships needed to combat trafficking globally.

Receiving international protection is especially challenging for refugees. For instance, legislative, regulatory or policy shortcomings may mean that immigration authorities, courts, or even NGOs only view identified victims of trafficking as eligible for national protection programs, and not as eligible for protection as refugees. In addition, victims of trafficking may be unaware of their right to apply for asylum or how to do so. Language barriers and stigmatization pose additional problems to refugees, for it makes it difficult for them to navigate the legal and support systems prepared to combat the issue.

Therefore, it is pertinent to search for solutions that not only encompass the "3 P's", but also build stronger partnerships between governments, businesses, survivor leaders, and NGOs. We believe that through meaningful discussions, our committee would be able to find initiatives that can help eradicate human trafficking from this world.

Stances of Parties

Afghanistan

Afghanistan has had 22 years of conflict, beginning with the struggle against the Soviet occupation. Afghanistan is the country that does not fully meet the minimum standard for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts. Despite the significant efforts, the Tablivan shutdown shelters and protective services for victims of crime including trafficking victims without support. Taliban still undermine the rights of women, minorities, and other vulnerable groups of people and increase trafficking.

Argentina

Argentina has 84% of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. The trafficking of people for sexual exploitation almost exclusively affects women (91%). There is a low rate of conviction for human trafficking-related crime, and in general traffickers have earned the complicity of police forces and political power. A United Nations international protocol against human trafficking has been signed by 117 countries, among them Argentina. This treaty obligates the countries to prevent and combat human trafficking and protect the victims.

Bangladesh

Although the government of Bangladesh falls short of the minimum standards for eliminating trafficking, it is still making major efforts. Compared to past reports, the government demonstrates an overall increase in efforts, despite the impact COVID-19 had on combating trafficking. The seven Anti-Trafficking Tribunals reopened in August 2021. Also, the Rangpur and Rajshahi tribunals became the third and fourth to start recording trafficking convictions.

Brazil

The Government of Brazil does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making significant efforts to do so. The government demonstrated overall increasing efforts compared with the previous reporting period. The government treated forced labor as a distinct crime from human trafficking. Labor inspectors and labor prosecutors had primary authority over cases of slave labor and could apply civil penalties.

Canada

Canada is the country that had 1.4 incidents per 100,000 population in 2021 which shows a notably high rate of human trafficking. Police reported over 3,500 incidents of human trafficking in Canada and human trafficking accounted for 0.01% of all police-reported crimes.

The vast majority (96%) of victims were women and girls, while 8 in 10 accused persons were men and boys. Trafficking in persons, also referred to as human trafficking, is a complex crime that is often difficult to detect.

China

The government made some efforts to address the issue of trafficking by pursuing and convicting traffickers. They also maintain consultative mechanisms with law enforcement counterparts in other countries. Authorities persisted in enforcing these policies in other provinces as well. Additionally, they focused on religious minorities as well as attempting to coerce the internment and repatriation of religious and ethnic minorities living abroad by monitoring, harassing, threatening, and making extradition requests.

Colombia

The government maintained mixed prosecution efforts for sex trafficking cases and did not investigate, prosecute, or convict any cases of forced labor, despite the identification of victims of such crimes. The law criminalized forced child recruitment and forced criminal activity by illegal armed groups under separate statutes.

Egypt

In 2022, the government reported that it had identified 272 probable trafficking victims, including 30 sex trafficking victims and 209 victims of forced labor. The 2010 anti-trafficking law made sex and labor trafficking crimes and outlined punishments. The punishments were severe enough and, in terms of sex trafficking, comparable to those set down for other major offenses like rape. The government intensified its attempts to identify and protect victims, but services for male and international victims remained insufficient, and unidentified victims continued to be punished for the crimes that their traffickers forced them to commit.

France

The government continued to lack legal safeguards to protect victims from prosecution for unlawful acts traffickers compelled them to commit and did not report awarding compensation or restitution to any victims in 2021. In order to protect victims, they are trying to coordinate and centralize the timely collection of trafficking data across the government, including sufficiently disaggregating data between trafficking and other forms of exploitation, as well as between sex and labor trafficking. In 2020, a decrease compared with 235 in 2019 and 196 in 2018. In 2020, the government reported investigating and dismantling 53 networks involved in facilitating human trafficking and commercial sex crimes, leading to the arrests of 875 suspects.

Germany

Police and customs officials across Germany responded to some 510 cases of human trafficking in 2021, according to a report published by the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) on Friday. This represents a 10% increase over the previous year. The report also detailed human trafficking in Germany for purposes of labor exploitation. The sector most affected by modern slavery was in care jobs such as homes for the elderly.

India

Between 12,000 and 50,000 women and children are trafficked into the country annually from neighbouring nations as a part of the sex trade. There are an estimated 300,000 child beggars in India. In response to the trafficking risks the government provided support and guidance to state governments to combat trafficking for officials. The government activate the penalty by involving an adult victim, and 10 years' to life imprisonment and a fine for those involving a child victim; these penalties were sufficiently stringent and, with respect to sex trafficking.

Italy

In Italy, there are between 24,000 and 27,000 victims of trafficking. Children make up between 5 and 8 percent (2,000 to 3,600). The government's efforts to enforce the law were inconsistent. Through a cooperative collaboration, the government assisted in international law enforcement investigations with Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, and Moldova, which led to the identification of 25 offenders and 148 victims. An international group was still receiving financing from the government for a programme to combat trafficking.

Lebanon

Among the estimated 1.5 million Syrian refugees in Lebanon, both adults and children face a significant risk of being pushed into forced labor and sex trafficking. Syrians are more susceptible to trafficking as a result of restrictions on their ability to work lawfully in Lebanon and the tight implementation of visa and residency permit requirements. Syrians frequently take part in the exploitation of other Syrians in Lebanon, focusing on those who have fled the violence. Among the Syrian refugee population, child labor and forced child labor are on the rise, especially in the fields of agriculture, construction, street vending, and begging. These kids are most vulnerable to being used as slaves.

Mexico

El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Venezuela account for the bulk of foreign victims of forced labor and sex trafficking in Mexico, and the number of Venezuelan victims has grown recently. Along Mexico's southern border, traffickers took advantage of some of these victims. At drug rehab facilities, women's shelters, and government facilities for the

disabled, observers observed possible trafficking by organized crime groups and government personnel.

Myanmar

In terms of forced labor, prostitution, and forced marriage, there were 22 cases of domestic trafficking in people during that time. A total of 13,000 individuals, including some children, were detained by the administration using the police as a tool to stifle the pro-democracy movement, and 9,000 of them were still being held as of March 2022. As a result, the populace lost trust in the regime's law enforcement agencies and generally feared interacting with the police. The 2005 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law made it a crime to engage in any form of labor trafficking, as well as some types of sex trafficking. It also imposed penalties ranging from five to ten years in prison and a fine for crimes involving male victims of trafficking, and from ten years to life in prison for those involving female or child victims.

Poland

Poland is a both source and destination of human trafficking, especially in forced labor and prostitution. People trafficked from Poland are usually traveled within Europe for forced labor and prostitution, mainly in Italy and Sweden. People trafficked from all over the globe are also brought into Poland; those from European regions or near—including Belarus, Romania, Türkiye, and more—are found in conditions of prostitution, and those from Bangladesh, China, and the Philippines are found in forced labor.

Russia

Forced labor is the most dominant form in Russia, with its victims placed in debt bondage and labor in agricultural and industrial sectors. Many women are subjected to conditions of sex trafficking or forced prostitution, and children are in danger of forced prostitution or begging. Western Russia has been a tourism destination for purposes of child sex tourism, and the government has increased aggressive police investigations with foreign cooperation to decrease child trafficking.

Saudi Arabia

Although many travel to Saudi Arabia voluntarily for job opportunities, a large number are put under involuntary servitude and abuse (physical/sexual) with low/no wages. Victims are mainly subjected to forced labor; according to the most recent comprehensive data provided by the government, out of the 377 alleged traffickers investigated, 162 were for forced labor and 197 were for “slavery-like practices” such as begging. The Saudi Arabian Government enacted anti-trafficking laws, including increased fine/penalty and a reporting committee.

South Korea

Domestically, runaway children and women are subjected to commercial sex, with the traffickers often utilizing online platforms for payment and threatening. The government's encouragement for Korean men to marry foreign women in rural areas brings some to domestic servitude. Many victims are verbally/physically abused with inadequate rest and wage. Physically/Intellectually disabled Korean men or migrant workers have been reported to work in fisheries, industrial/agricultural sectors, or servitude.

South Sudan

Females are victims of exploitation in domestic servitude, early marriage, and/or inter-ethnic killings, especially those in rural regions. Many girls are vulnerable to forced prostitution in urban centres and children are often coerced into works that do not require skills, such as construction, delivery service, begging, and mining. Business owners recruit people from within the country and from nearby nations such as the DRC, Kenya, and Uganda. The government also recruits child soldiers, and the number is assessed to be between 7,000 to 19,000.

Spain

Online platforms and the use of private residence has increased since the pandemic, and the main victims of sex trafficking are recruited from South America using fake, non-existent jobs or customary beliefs. Organizations report a rise in forms of labor trafficking—also within the pandemic era—in agriculture and cannabis plantations. The government is evaluated to have fully met the minimum standards of elimination for trafficking and maintains efforts in increased law enforcement, mixed protection, and prevention.

Switzerland

Trafficking and exploitation through online platforms has increased significantly. Many traffickers in Switzerland are often affiliated with criminal networks and are supported by groups, increasing the involvement with other types of crimes and the traffickers' adaptability and mobility. Many victims are exploited in labor forms or in commercial sex; in 2021, out of the 207 victims identified, two-thirds were identified to be involved in sexual activity.

Syria

Following the years of war, the trafficking issue in Syria has significantly worsened; trafficking and exploitation from known people is at a relatively low level, but many children are vulnerable to trafficking for labor and sexual exploitation. Many females are subjected to forced marriage and domestic servitude by the ISIS as they used the system to oppress the Syrian people. It is also common for children to be taken to war sites as disposable items to be used in combat.

Thailand

Children from Thailand or neighboring regions, migrant families, or unemployed are trafficked for commercial sex; some are exploited in person, and others are used to produce online contents. Many children, also including a large number forced by their parents, are placed in dangerous industrial sites and are subject to trafficking. A high number of forced labor is reported in agriculture/manufacture/fishing industries, many trafficked from nearby regions such as Thailand.

Türkiye

Many victims of exploitation in Türkiye were exploited from mainly Central and South Asia and Eastern Europe. Recruitment through online platforms have increased using social media or job advertisements. Hosting approximately 4 million refugees, the refugee population is subject to trafficking; there have been reported cases of camp officials cooperating with criminal networks to provide children, and many children are vulnerable to servitude or sexual harassment in the camps.

United Kingdom

Labor trafficking—including involvement in crimes—is the most common form of exploitation for victims of human trafficking, mostly in production industries or agriculture. Unaccompanied children are vulnerable to trafficking and are often used in labor exploitation or couriers in gang activities. Sex trafficking victims are sought using internet platforms.

United States of America

In the United States, the victims were mainly from the US, Mexico, and Honduras. The traffickers targeted those traveling without legal status, experienced discrimination, without strong protection, or suffered from violence, luring them into workplaces that could be illicit or connected to commercial sex.

Ukraine

Cases of Ukrainian victims are being increasingly exploited among EU nations, many of those in forced labor or begging. Since the conflict with Russia began in 2015, human trafficking increased in conflicting regions, younger male victims exploited in forced labor and crimes, and females in sex trafficking, both in Russia and Ukraine. As over half of the population was displaced, trafficking attempts utilizing online platforms have significantly increased.

Venezuela

From the internal and external crises, a large number of the displaced population is vulnerable to human trafficking; many are attracted to safe immigration promises, and women

and girls were reported to be especially vulnerable to sex trafficking using job opportunities. Along national borderlines, many children were recruited as soldiers or criminals for combat or strengthening of power. Many female victims are used for commercial sex, including sex tourism and domestic servitude.

Vietnam

Because a large portion of the population works in the informal sector of the industry, many are not protected by the law and highly vulnerable to human trafficking; those who migrate to other countries for jobs are especially vulnerable. Using job opportunity promises, many women or unemployed personnel from the pandemic are made illicit migrants/refugees and trafficked.

Possible Solutions

Strengthen Border Monitoring and Security

It is crucial to enhance border monitoring and security measures to prevent traffickers from exploiting disrupted migration routes. Some ways to achieve it are investing in advanced surveillance technology, cooperation among countries through sharing intelligence, and providing extensive training to border patrol officers.

Provide Legal Aid and Support

It is also an idea to create legal aid services that are especially suited to the needs of refugees, ensuring that they have access to counsel and are informed of their legal rights, including their ability to request asylum. NGOs and legal organizations can be quite helpful in offering assistance and navigating the legal systems.

Improve Partnerships Between Various Organizations

As greatly emphasized in the US 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report, fostering stronger partnerships between governments, businesses, survivor leaders, and NGOs to combat human trafficking is the part that needs the most improvement. Encourage collaborations similar to the BeSafe campaign, where private sector partners use their platforms to raise awareness and provide resources.

Enhance Victim Protection

Victim protection ensures that survivors of human trafficking are prevented from being re-victimized. Thus, it is critical to strengthen victim protection measures, including safe shelters, medical care, and psychological support services. These services should be culturally sensitive, language-accessible, and address the specific needs of trafficked refugees.

Questions to Consider

- Which are the main sites of human trafficking?
- How will the rescued refugees be relocated/ensured safety?
- What are the possible outcomes of human trafficking?
- How can laws protect people's rights from human trafficking?
- How will the resources to strengthen borderlines be contributed from neighboring countries?
- How could the ongoing wars affect this crisis?
- What will motivate nations to decrease human trafficking/contribute to global actions?
- How will the countries cooperate in terms of remaining resources and their status quo?

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