

Forum: Advisory Panel Question

Issue: The Question of human trafficking

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Introduction

Human Trafficking is a crime that brings suffering onto the entire world. There are over 30 million victims of trafficking - each being severely traumatized and tortured - with 80% of the victims being women and children. Several forms of trafficking exist including forced labor, sex trafficking, debt bondage among migrant laborers, involuntary domestic servitude, forced child labor, child soldiers, and child sex trafficking. The human trafficking industry is currently the third largest in the world, producing 32 billion USD every year. Due to the ease and reliability of profit, there are a shocking number of human traffickers with these figures rising, as more traffickers continue to join the market. The scale of the issue and the extreme amount of human trafficking cases causes this issue to be one with no apparent and effective solution.

Human trafficking has existed for several hundreds of years. Slaves have existed since the earliest empires, however since the abolishment of slavery many hoped the issue would come to an end. However, this has had little avail and the issue continues to persist. Today, human trafficking is more abstract, in the way that human trafficking occurs in the black market and illegal crime scene more than it ever had been. Human traffickers and commissioners exist across the world, exploiting people from several countries. Solving this issue proves to be increasingly difficult, due to the fact that the traffickers are extremely unwilling to lose profit in the name of morality. Not to mention, several worldwide companies and chains practice human trafficking by exploiting workers, causing many normal citizens to fund human trafficking by purchasing goods made by slaves. This adds an additional layer to the issue, as the majority of people are oblivious to the fact that they are indirectly supporting slavery. Preventing human trafficking through a variety of means is an essential step to provide safety and security to all.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is the main UN affiliated organization tasked with preventing human trafficking. As the UNODC mandate incorporates crime prevention, human trafficking is a matter of increasing concern due to its rapid expansion within the organized crime world. UNODC is compelled to address the issue of human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants as the main UN body in charge of upholding of the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized

Crime and its protocols on trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling. The UNODC has created several initiatives and calls to action to combat human trafficking; these include the UNODC Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking, the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT), the Smuggling of Migrants Knowledge Portal, the Human Trafficking Knowledge Portal, and the Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants (GLO.ACT).

Definition of Key Terms

Human Trafficking

The recruitment or forced transportation, through violent means, including coercion, abduction, and various other cruel methods, in order to force a person to be under the control of another person, for the purpose of exploitation.

Slave

A person who is the property of someone else- usually forced to work in extremely poor conditions. Slaves are forced against their free will to work for others.

Palermo Protocols

Three protocols, that were adopted by the United Nations, to combat Human Trafficking and help the 2000 Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, also known as the Palermo Conference. The protocols include the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition.

Debt-bondage

A type of human trafficking in which traffickers claim that their victims owe them money, often because of the transportation and living expenses, and that they have to work for them in order to pay back the debt.

Involuntary Domestic Servitude

A type of human trafficking in which traffickers exploit their victims in a nonconsensual manner in an informal workplace. This is because, officials and authorities cannot easily inspect informal workplaces and it can easily isolate the victim.

Background Information

Human Trafficking and slavery has existed for several centuries, however, modern day slavery is substantially different to what it has been in the past. Today, human trafficking is illegal and considered a crime but despite this, there is still an extremely large number of traffickers. Furthermore, several well-known corporations and businesses in the labor industries are exploiting slaves. Despite human trafficking and slavery being illegal, the number of victims continues to rise.

Forms and types of human trafficking

In the world today, several forms of human trafficking exist. They all exploit their victim to get some form of service, whether it is labor, sex, and several others. Sex trafficking and child sex trafficking are two forms of trafficking where victims are forced to partake in sexual intercourse or pornography. This can be extremely distressing and can have an adverse effect on their physical and mental health. Child soldiers- as the name suggests- is the forced recruitment of children into the military. Being a soldier as a young child is highly dangerous exposes them to the harsh realities of war. Debt bondage, bonded labor, and involuntary domestic servitude are all forms of human trafficking where the victims are forced to work in deplorable conditions. 80% of victims are sexually exploited, and 19% of victims involve labor exploitation. All of the forms mentioned above of human trafficking are extremely damaging to their victims' wellbeing and sometimes the consequences are irreversible.

The process of trafficking

There are three elements to human trafficking: the act, the means and the purpose. This system of classifying what human trafficking is and its different stages was developed by the UNODC.

The act involves transporting and receiving trafficked persons: it is the process by which the victims are taken by the trafficker and includes methods such as recruiting, transporting, transferring, harboring and receiving of trafficking victims. The means involves how the victims were forced or tricked to being trafficked and include coercion, threat or force, abduction, abuse and deception. Finally, the purpose is the reason that the person was trafficked and as previously stated, these include sex trafficking, forced labor, child soldiers, and several others.

Modern Day Slavery

As previously stated, labor exploitation is the second most common form of human trafficking and this is a form of human trafficking that is quite easy to exploit by traffickers as it occurs in various different settings. It can occur in cities; it can occur with criminals and criminal gangs; and it can also occur with terrorist organizations. Most of these trades occur through the online black market and the biggest issue is the difficulty in tracing these transactions in order to prevent them.

Trafficking by Terrorists

Terrorists and terrorist organizations use labor exploitation as a means to easily make profit. In addition, terrorist organizations are known to exploit all forms of human trafficking. The job is especially easy for larger terrorist organizations who have 'claimed' their own land as they can exploit the people who live there. Through the black market (which many terrorist organizations already use to make most of their profit) they can trade slaves in an undetectable manner. This worsens the situation as terrorist organizations commonly fund a significant portion of the human trafficking industry.

Trafficking in Cities

In less developed communities and areas, crime occurs at high rates due to the level of monitoring and law enforcement not being adequate enough to prevent crime. As a result, human trafficking is common in these areas as it is almost a guaranteed profit with little risk of being caught. Both criminals and criminal gangs, even ones who are not specifically focusing on human trafficking, can exploit it. To make matter worse, people living in these areas are generally poor and often short of money so they can be persuaded to become a human trafficker to guarantee themselves profit which increases the number of traffickers in the industry.

Cyber Trafficking

With the dawn of the Digital Age, modern human trafficking has raised to an entirely new level. The modern slave industry flourishes through the cyber world: from the sale of laborers forced into the trade by debt and blackmail, to children as young as seven being employed in transnational sex-trafficking empires worth millions of dollars, the invention of the internet and the digital camera has made it possible for any person with malicious intentions to create their own human trafficking network. Making use of global social media networks and elusive virtual currencies, traffickers have been able to develop their trade with relative ease, low-risk and even from the comfort of their own homes. The lack of strong legislation and effective technologies to combat this form of trafficking in many LEDCs allows the cyber trafficking industry to prosper and greatly attracts potential traffickers.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Since its creation in 1997, the UNODC has been the most prominent UN body dedicated to ending the trafficking of people around the world. As the prime custodian of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the UNODC plays a leading role in the ratification

and implementation of the Palermo Protocols. The organization has launched several initiatives to spread awareness of human trafficking, including The Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking and the Blue Heart Campaign. In 2011, the UNODC launched the first global database to document cases of human trafficking with the help of the United States Department of State's Office to monitor and combat Trafficking in Persons (U.S.JTIP). The Comprehensive Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Persons was established by the UNODC in which it set out to fully implement the action points of the Palermo Protocols in all of its member states.

In recent years, the UNODC has partnered with the European Union (EU), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) to provide a permanent solution to the global human trafficking problem, through the Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants. The programme has already been delivered in several countries including South Africa, Cambodia, Nepal and Brazil, and nine other countries have also been selected to take part in the initiative. Having launched the Smuggling of Migrants Knowledge Portal earlier this year, the UNODC had documented and published nearly 1500 human trafficking cases from 101 law enforcement bodies worldwide by 31st October 2017, through its Human Trafficking Case Law Database, which was initiated six years prior.

The Polaris Project

Launched on 14th February 2002, the Polaris Project was founded by Katherine Chon and Derek Ellerman from Brown University. Together, they sought to rid the world of modern day slavery and the trade of people. One of its most notable developments came in December 2007, with the launch of the National Human Trafficking Resource Centre Hotline to efficiently receive and respond to cases of human trafficking throughout the country. The hotline has It has been one of the most successful anti-trafficking initiatives and has consistently received a 4-star rating from the Charity Navigator over the past 6 years. It receives an average of 100 calls each day regarding various cases of human trafficking from all the 50 US states that it operates in. Numerous national and international organizations have funded the project including Carlson Family Foundation, Google and Humanity United with donations of over \$500,000.

Some of the latest developments of the Polaris Project include an initiative to combat trafficking within the hotel industry. It has partnered with the American Hotel and Lodging Association to provide an e-training course for hotel staff to train them to handle all forms of human trafficking within the Baltimore municipality. Another recent success involved the Polaris Initiative to End Trafficking in Illicit Massage Businesses (IMBs), which in collaboration with the Metropolitan Police Department succeeded in putting an end to six IMBs that had been forcing female workers to provide commercial sex to customers. The IMB network was apprehended on 26th October 2016 and all potential victims were directed towards a proper rehabilitation service.

Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT)

ICAT is United Nations platform established for the purpose of creating a global solution to the issue of human trafficking through collaboration between several divisions of the UN, including the UNODC, UNHCR, UNICEF and UN Women. Formed in 2006, ICAT members have had meetings in Geneva in 2011 and Vienna in 2016. Coordinated by the UNODC, ICAT published its first mutual document titled 'An analytical review: 10 years on from the adoption of the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol' on 13th December 2010. The paper outlines the roles of each ICAT member with regards to combating human trafficking, critically analyses the significance of the activities they carried out over the past decade and presents suggestions for possible future initiatives to combat the trafficking of people. ICAT's recommendations for proposed future action against trafficking were based on four main areas: Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnerships. ICAT's first statement of policy; "The International Legal Frameworks concerning Trafficking in Persons," was issued on 16th October 2012 at the Fifth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols. This was soon followed by a second document titled: "Preventing Trafficking in Persons by Addressing Demand," in 2014.

Republic of Belarus

The country of Belarus has witnessed a large number of number sex trafficking and forced labor cases. Growing trends of government-mandated forced labor has become a serious concern for the UN Human Rights Council which passed a resolution in July 2015 condemning the government's violation of the labor rights of the population. The Belarusian government has been faced with profound criticism from the international community for its controversial labor policies, including a 2015 presidential decree which forces unemployed citizens to pay a tax to the government or report to mandatory community service as well as an earlier 2012 decree that called on citizens who worked in the wood-processing industry to pay back the bonuses they receive on wages if they resign; failure to repay these "bonuses" risked a court order forcing the employee to be reinstated into the industry under police supervision. The UN has urged the state to consider significant reform of the country's policies and step-up its efforts in investigating and prosecuting cases of sex trafficking and forced labor within its national borders.

Vietnam

Vietnam has been historically involved in a large number of sex-trafficking cases. The government of Vietnam has laid out a national anti-trafficking action plan to combat trafficking of persons at all level within the country. Vietnam has shown increased efforts to locate victims of human trafficking as well as step-up anti-trafficking training and awareness campaigns for law officials, local government officials and susceptible members of society. The state has also issued guidelines to relevant governmental bodies and district authorities to fully implement the articles of its national action plan. However, the country has lacked in the support available for victims of human trafficking and the protection services available for victims have been poor funded. The goal of its current action plan to

develop measures to reinstate victims back into society and improve its existing anti-trafficking services remains to be seen in practice.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
December 2 nd , 1949	United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons
November 10 th , 2000	United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime signed
February 14 th , 2002	The Polaris Project launched with the goal of eliminating global trafficking
September 24 th , 2005	2005 World Summit Outcome realizes the gravity of global human trafficking
December 7 th , 2007	National Human Trafficking Hotline launched by the Polaris Project
April 9 th , 2008	Ranong human-smuggling incident results in the death of 57 Burmese migrants
March 5 th , 2009	UNODC executive director launches Blue Heart Campaign
June 18 th , 2009	Largest-ever human trafficking ring unveiled; 74 suspects apprehended
August 12 th , 2010	United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons adopted
February 29 th , 2012	UNODC comprises Comprehensive Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Persons
July 30 th , 2014	UNODC recognizes World Human Trafficking Day
January 21 st , 2016	The Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants (2015-2019) launched
October 31 st , 2017	UNODC Case Law Database documents human trafficking cases from more than half of the world's nations

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 10 December 1948 (**A/RES/3/217**)
- Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, 2 December 1949 (**A/RES/4/317**)
- United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 10 November 2000 (**A/RES/55/25**)
- 2005 World Summit, 14 to 16 September 2005 (**A/RES/60/1**)
- Trafficking in persons, especially women and children, 16 June 2009 (**A/HRC/RES/11/3**)
- United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, 12 August 2010 (**A/RES/64/293**)
- Resolution 2331 (2016), 20 December 2016 (**S/RES/2331**)

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

The 2000 Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention) signifies a key milestone in the path towards eradicating global human trafficking. The commitments made by Member States to this Convention oblige them to recognize trafficking in persons as a criminal offence, create afresh or expand on existing law enforcement authorities to combat trafficking at a national level and cooperate in mutual undertakings to neutralize international human trafficking organizations. The convention was accompanied by the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (put into effect on 25 December 2003) and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air (put into effect on 28 January 2004). Together, the Palermo Protocols adopted the General Assembly Resolution A/RES/55/25 define the basis for global cooperation in the battle against international criminal organizations, including those involved in the trade of people. The Protocols aim to protect the rights of human trafficking victims and prosecute and punish the offenders.

The Polaris Project pictured a world without modern day slavery and sought to defuse the growing global network of human trafficking, since its creation in 2002. Beginning with a nationwide helpline for victims of human trafficking, the Polaris Project has grown to become an internationally recognized body dedicated to liberating the world from human trafficking. Their activities include appealing for stricter legislation against trafficking, educating society on the growing concern of human trafficking and cooperating with government agencies to pursue cases of trafficking. The project has documented 31,000 cases human trafficking, reported more than 6,500 cases to law enforcement agencies and trained more than 77,000 legal officers to effectively deal with cases of trafficking to date. Polaris has also helped to pass over 127 anti-trafficking legislative bills in the United States.

Article 38 of the General Assembly Resolution A/RES/64/293: “United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,” called for the establishment of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking. The Fund supports victims of human trafficking through humanitarian, legal and financial aid. The UN Blue Heart Campaign represents a show of solidarity to the victims of trafficking and helps to increase global awareness of the issue. The Fund also coordinates the efforts of governments, NGOs, and individuals to rehabilitate victims and gradually assimilate them back into society.

The UNODC also initiated the “Comprehensive Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants” in 2012 to complete the implementation of the action points of the Palermo Protocols. The Strategy seeks to further the Blue Hearts Campaign to raise awareness of trafficking and increase collaboration between the UNODC and Member States to prevent human trafficking on an international scale. Under this initiative, the UNODC also launched its “Human Trafficking Knowledge Portal” to document instances of global human trafficking incidents in a Case Law Database.

Despite implementation of anti-trafficking policies in many countries, human trafficking has remained a significant problem in many countries due to the strong political influence of organized criminal groups on governments. Nearly two out of every five countries from those mentioned by the UNODC Report 2009 on human trafficking had failed to report any convictions of trafficking that year. Investment of resources including funding also remained low for the anti-trafficking cause. Due to the continued lack of progress, the UNODC and the EU inaugurated the “The Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants;” a joint venture to deliver a profound solution to combat human trafficking in 15 strategically selected countries. Launched on 21st January 2016 in partnership with IOM and UNICEF, the four-year (2015-2019) scheme seeks to provide a comprehensive solution to end commercial trafficking by eliminating the key hubs of the criminal enterprise. By adopting a protection and prevention approach, the project aims to develop national/international legislation, assist governmental authorities to provide aid to all victims of human trafficking and boost regional cooperation to prevent any further growth of the criminal industry. The UNODC's Director of Division for Treaty Affairs, John Brandolino, cherished the project and mentioned that this new global initiative highlights the prevailing connection between the UNODC and the EU. Additionally, Mr. Brandolino noted that "The UNODC's collaboration with IOM and UNICEF is key to successful global action. It will help provide a comprehensive prevention and protection approach to addressing the issue of trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants."

Possible Solutions

Spreading awareness of human trafficking and the severity of the issue across the world, so that citizens of all nations are aware of the problem, is a method of combatting this issue. Additionally, supporting and encouraging the Smuggling of Migrants Knowledge Portal and the Human Trafficking Knowledge Portal UNODC programs to spread awareness of the issue. As many people are unaware that human trafficking exists today and slavery still exploited, they are unlikely to take simple steps to prevent the issue; rather they are more likely to support human trafficking indirectly. Several large companies exploit slavery as a means of cheap labor, and millions of oblivious people buy products from these companies without considering how the product was made. If more citizens were aware of the issue, they would be more likely to support good-hearted corporations and take other steps to prevent human trafficking.

Educating all people - mainly refugees and other citizens who are more susceptible to be victims of human trafficking - about the dangers of human trafficking is another solution. By knowing about the issue of human trafficking and knowing the severe consequences, even people who are desperate for a new life will be less likely to be tricked or forced into human trafficking easily. Additionally, knowing how to suspect human traffickers and keep oneself safe in such situations will be vital in reducing the number of human trafficking victims. Furthermore, as many human trafficking victims willingly trust a possible

trafficking because of a “promise,” with more insight to the crime victims will be more likely to prevent themselves from arriving in the situation where they are trafficked.

Better monitoring of human trafficking should be devised so that relevant organizations and nations can have vital information to combat the issue. One of the main problems of human trafficking is its ambiguity, and that much of the crime is not thoroughly documented in a manner that enables decisive action to be taken. By creating and developing a better system to monitor and consequently prevent human trafficking, the amount of human trafficking cases will see a sharp decline.

Increasing and elevating the quality of life of the refugees and the quality of the refugee camps, so that refugees are likely to reside in these camps and are less likely to leave in seek of a better life and ultimately be trafficked. Many refugees, after landing in a new nation, want to seek a better life, due to the poor quality of the refugee camps and lack of resources and facilities available to refugees, many leave and seek out better jobs. Through this process the refugees are susceptible to being trafficked, by improving the state of these refugee camps through the cooperation with The UNODC Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking the quality of refugee camps will be severely improved. Providing more services within the camps will lessen the amount of refugees that leave the camps, which will ultimately decrease the amount of human trafficking victims.

Reducing crime levels in all nations, especially in poor, less developed areas. Because human trafficking is an easy way to make profit, many criminal and criminal gangs exploit this fact and force victims into the human trafficking industry with low risk. Because in these lesser developed areas there are less law enforces to prevent this crime, it makes the job of the criminals very easy. Additionally, the people who live in these areas are living in lower quality homes and are usually poor; they can be easily fooled by thinking they can make more money if they trust a stranger. By increasing law enforcement and reducing crime levels, human trafficking will drastically decrease across the world.

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Appendix or Appendices

- I. www.un-documents.net/uncatoc.htm (United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime)
- II. www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2016_Global_Report_on_Trafficking_in_Persons.pdf (2016 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons)

- III. <http://undocs.org/S/2016/949> (Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of measures to counter trafficking in persons)