



SPRIMUN

CONFERENCE HANDBOOK

The United Nations Office of the High
Commissioner for Human Rights

SCIENCES PO RENNES INTERNATIONAL
MODEL UNITED NATIONS
RENNES, FRANCE - MARCH 12 TO 15 2024

CONFERENCE HANDBOOK

Sciences Po Rennes International Model United Nations
10th edition

March 12-15, 2024

Institute of Political Studies of Rennes

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SECRETARY GENERAL
NINA LE DEUNF ROCHAS



FOREWORDS FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Dear friends and fellow enthusiasts of diplomacy,

It is with immense enthusiasm that I, on behalf of the entire SPRIMUN team, extend a warm welcome to you to the much-awaited 10th edition of the Sciences Po Rennes Model United Nations - an event that promises to be nothing short of extraordinary.

As Secretary General, I can assure you that we have spared no effort in ensuring the success of this event, making meticulous preparations to guarantee an unforgettable experience for all participants. Our unwavering commitment is to make this event not only enriching but also unforgettable for each one of you. Throughout the MUN, our dedicated team will be readily available to address your needs and support you along your journey.

The Model United Nations is much more than just a diplomatic simulation. It's an exceptional opportunity for you, delegates, to hone your negotiation, diplomacy, and complex problem-solving skills. It's also a unique opportunity to meet people with similar interests, exchange views and build lasting relationships with people from different backgrounds. It is our sincere hope that you will leave the Sciences Po Rennes Model United Nations with newfound inspiration and lasting friendships.

Your willingness to take part in our MUN is a privilege that we deeply appreciate. We look forward to seeing you in Rennes and sharing this very special experience with you all. Should you have any inquiries or concerns leading up to the event, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at your convenience. Meanwhile, prepare yourself with boundless enthusiasm, knowing that our intimate MUN setting fosters a culture of camaraderie and support, where everyone is assured of finding their place naturally.

We eagerly await your presence in March.

Warm regards,

THE SPRIMUN TEAM

BOARD OF ORGANIZATION

SECRETARY GENERAL
NINA LE DEUNF ROCHAS



FINANCE MANAGERS
CHLOE LE DANTEC ET CLÉMENT MAUNY



COMMUNICATION MANAGERS
CLARA LE FRANC
GWADIS LE ROUX

We are all very excited to live an unforgettable experience and celebrate the 10 years of our event in style and all together.

We are looking forwards to meet you on the 12th March. Get ready to become the best delegates Rennes has ever seen!

PARTNERSHIP MANAGERS
CLÉO MARTEL



SELMA CHAUVIN



SOCIAL MANAGERS
KARLA CHERDONNET ET MANON BOSCHER

COMMITTEE MANAGERS



NATHAN HOURDIN



LAUREEN FON ET LUCIE BLANCHAIS



ALEXIA BONNET
BLANCHE GUIMBRETIERE

See you,
the 2024 SPRIMUN
team.

THE CHAIRS

CLAUDE BONNIN



Dear all,

I am Claude (they/them) and very happy to be the co-chair of the OHCHR.

I am originally from Corsica and I study currently at Sciences Po Rennes, in a master focused on research. I am particularly interested in critical autism studies and gender studies.

In 2022, I was the vice-president of the BATNA (organization of Sciences Po Rennes simulating MUNs) and as such have good experience as chair and as delegate. I also was the head of the Rennes delegation to the Xth edition of the URJCMun in Madrid, and I am quite used to the Human Rights Committee.

I am excited to renew the experience with you this year again!

Hey everyone, welcome to the 10th edition of SPRIMUN! My name is Elie but I go by Lilo, and I'm currently in my first year of law and political science at the URI, and I'm originally from Cairo, Egypt. Back in Egypt, I was really into MUNs during my high school years.

I can't wait to have a great time with all of you and make this conference both fun and productive! I really hope each and every one of you has an awesome experience here at SPRIMUN!

Best regards.



ELIE BEDROS

THE CITY OF RENNES

RENNES, BRITTANY



Rennes is the administrative capital of the French department of Ille-et-Vilaine, named after the two rivers that converge within the city. Its name is derived from a Celtic tribe, the Riedones, who first settled in that part of Brittany before being conquered by Julius Caesar in 57 BC. Prior to the integration of the Duchy into the French Kingdom towards the end of the 15th century, Brittany had long been a stronghold of opposition to the monarchy, using its own parliament as a standard for independence and political legitimacy.

In 1720, a major fire swept through the northern part of the city, destroying the largely wooden homes that had until that point been widespread. This prompted a major redesign effort, reconstructing houses in stone and placing them in a uniform grid plan. During the Second World War, Rennes was seriously damaged due to heavy bombing from the Luftwaffe, but from the US and Royal Air Forces in 1940, 1943 and 1944, which claimed the lives of thousands of people. The city was liberated on 4th August 1944 by the forces of General Patton whose efforts were rewarded by the renaming of various streets and public buildings in his honour.

In the second part of the 20th century, the city experienced a new era of urban expansion along with the development of a solid industrial sector, especially in the automotive industry.

Now with a population of 58,000 students out of 240,000 inhabitants, as well as the creation of universities and specialised research institutes, Rennes has placed itself at the forefront of academic and technological excellence.

**AS A THRIVING EUROPEAN CITY,
RENNES IS A MODEL OF FRANCE'S
COMPLEX ARCHITECTURAL STYLES
AND CULTURAL CUSTOMS**

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KEY ADDRESSES

FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOODS



SAINTE-ANNE The epicenter of partying and nightlife in Rennes! Dive into the vibrant energy of Saint-Anne, where bars await to quench your thirst and keep the good times rolling!

LE MAIL An oasis of conviviality along the Vilaine River! Immerse yourself in a warm atmosphere filled with bars and restaurants, promising an unforgettable experience in Rennes.



BARS AND CAFES TO SUIT ALL TASTES

L'ATELIER DE L'ARTISTE A quaint café nestled in the heart of the Saint-Anne district. Let yourself be charmed by its cozy atmosphere and exquisite coffee.

LALOUPERIE Just a stone's throw from Sciences Po Rennes, it's the perfect spot for gatherings with friends.

L'ANNEXE Dive into the exhilarating atmosphere of the "Rue de la soif" with L'Annexe, a lively bar where the party never stops in the Saint-Anne district.

LE MAESTRO Feel the rhythm of the Mojitos in this lively bar, where each drink is a symphony of flavors to savor.

LE DELIRIUM CAFE Prepare for a sensory adventure with over 2000 beer flavors to discover in this lively bar, located in the heart of Rennes.

MAMA SHELTER Elevate your evening to new heights with Mama Shelter and its exclusive rooftop. A chic setting for memorable moments with friends.



WHERE TO EAT

L'EPICERIE, BISTROT A TARTINES Indulge in the temptation of savory and sweet tartines in this cozy bistro, perfect for a gourmet break at reasonable prices.
7-15€

CRÉPERIE LA SAINT GEORGES Immerse yourself in the authenticity of Breton cuisine at this temple of flavors, where every bite is a culinary journey.
8-20€

LA FABRIQUE Explore the flavors of Brittany and classic French cuisine in this exceptional venue, where each dish is a culinary masterpiece.
14-25€

THE UN OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) stands as a distinctive agency within the United Nations, dedicated to addressing human rights challenges at the global level. Founded in 1993, its establishment was driven by the commitment to champion and advance human rights universally, operating under a mandate shaped by various international instruments and treaties. Fundamental to its mission are the principles of recognizing the inherent dignity and equality of all individuals, irrespective of factors such as race, religion, gender, political beliefs, economic status, or social conditions.

The UN OHCHR diligently works to ensure the enjoyment of fundamental rights and freedoms by every person, as dedicated in international human rights law. Emphasizing the interconnectedness of human rights, peace, and security, it underscores the significance of collaborative efforts among individuals and states to safeguard the well-being of all members of the global community.

The agency's objectives encompass:

- Strengthening the protection and promotion of human rights in member nations.
- Elevating standards in education and awareness concerning human rights.
- Advocating for improved conditions in areas such as nutrition, housing, recreation, sanitation, and economic and working conditions.
- Enhancing maternal and child health and welfare.
- Progressing in the field of mental health.
- Encouraging and conducting research on issues related to public health.

Functioning as a guiding and coordinating authority on international human rights, the UN OHCHR serves as a central repository for global human rights information. It actively facilitates the establishment of uniform standards and international regulations, provides advisory services on disease control through a human rights perspective, and sets international benchmarks for critical aspects, including the protection of individuals amid global challenges.

TOPIC 1: TRANSNATIONAL COMPANIES AND FORCED CHILD LABOR

INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC

Transnational companies play a pivotal role in shaping the global economy. These entities operate across borders, transcending national boundaries to conduct business on an international scale. While contributing significantly to economic growth and development, these corporations often face scrutiny for their practices, particularly in the realm of labor rights.

Forced child labor is an alarming manifestation of human rights abuses, raising ethical concerns that demand urgent attention and collective action. As we navigate through the discussions, it is essential to understand the intricacies of this issue, examining the root causes, consequences, and potential solutions within the framework of international cooperation and collaboration.

In contrast, the 2022 UN ODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons covers 141 countries, offering an overview of responses to trafficking by analyzing cases detected between 2018 and 2021. The United States Department of State estimates that globally, there are approximately 27.6 million victims of human trafficking, with an additional 160 million children, constituting 1 in 10 children worldwide, engaged in child labor.

Although human trafficking and child labor have historical roots, they have gained international recognition in recent decades. The United Nations Protocol against Trafficking in Persons, a pivotal agreement adopted in 2000, signifies a significant global acknowledgment of human trafficking. In contrast, the International Labor Organization (ILO), established in 1919, took a major step in 1999 by adopting Convention No. 182, specifically targeting the eradication of the worst forms of child labor.

The 2023 campaign for World Day Against Trafficking in Persons aimed to raise awareness on several disturbing trends identified by the United Nations, indicating sustained efforts to combat human trafficking. The same year, the "2023 Trafficking in Persons Report" from the United States Department of State also put forward powerful partnerships worldwide working to address this issue.

Despite the grim reality of human trafficking and child labor, hope is evident through the work of organizations like Hope for Justice and Hope Against Trafficking. These entities actively engage in preventing exploitation, rescuing victims, and restoring lives. For instance, Hope for Justice provides education and community empowerment to safeguard families against traffickers, offering survivor aftercare and contributing to an improved response to human trafficking. Similarly, Hope Against Trafficking focuses on comprehensive programs for survivors, including legal advocacy, education, life skills, and vocational support. Additionally, the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking provides on-the-ground legal and financial aid, enabling victims to begin a new life free from slavery.

These collective efforts, coupled with global recognition, underscore a growing movement to combat child labor and human trafficking. While these issues persist in many countries, the work of organizations and international community support offers hope for victims and contributes to the ongoing fight against exploitation.

KEY DEFINITIONS

Human Trafficking refers to the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons through force, fraud, or coercion, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation may include forced labor, slavery, servitude, or the removal of organs. Human trafficking is a grave violation of human rights and can take various forms, such as sex trafficking, forced labor, or the exploitation of individuals for purposes like forced begging or child soldiers.

Child Labor is the involvement of children in any work that deprives them of their childhood, interferes with their ability to attend regular schools, and is mentally, physically, socially, or morally harmful. The OHCHR emphasizes that children have the right to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous, interfere with their education, or be harmful to their health or development.

Transnational companies also known as transnational corporations (TNCs), are large businesses with a home base and headquarters that operate in multiple countries. They are controlled from their home country but have significant operations in other territories, involving international production, foreign investments, and assets management. TNCs aim to maximize profits and lower costs, and they are responsible for a significant portion of global trade. These companies have a global reach and often set up factories in developing countries to take advantage of cheaper labor and resources. TNCs have a substantial impact on the global business landscape and play a significant role in global development.

Some examples of transnational companies (TNCs) include Apple, Microsoft, Nestlé, Shell, Nike, Amazon, Walmart, Sony, The Coca-Cola Company



Debt bondage also referred to as bonded labor or debt slavery, constitutes a contemporary form of slavery wherein an individual is coerced into labor to settle a debt. In this scenario, the individual usually borrows money under exploitative terms and conditions intentionally structured to make reasonable repayment difficult. Consequently, the debtor finds themselves ensnared in an ongoing cycle of indebtedness, frequently exacerbated by inflated interest rates, and is obligated to engage in work under circumstances that could be stringent, exploitative, and occasionally abusive.

The link between transnational companies and forced child labor refers to the association between multinational corporations and the exploitation of underage individuals for work, often under hazardous conditions. This connection arises when transnational companies, operating across borders, engage in supply chain activities that involve the production or manufacturing of goods in regions where child labor is prevalent. Such exploitation can occur directly within the company's operations or indirectly through their suppliers and subcontractors.

Transnational companies may contribute to forced child labor through various mechanisms, including cost-cutting measures, lack of proper oversight in supply chains, and reliance on subcontractors who may exploit child labor to meet production demands. These practices are often driven by the pursuit of lower production costs and increased profit margins.

Examples of the link between transnational companies and forced child labor include instances where major apparel brands source garments from countries with lax labor regulations. In the textile and garment industry for instance “H&M, Adidas” and many more, have been accused of cases of child labor in countries like Bangladesh, where subcontractors working for well-known brands have been found to employ underage workers in unsafe conditions.

Similarly, the electronics industry such as “Apple, Microsoft” and many more has faced scrutiny for the use of forced child labor in the extraction of minerals like coltan in certain African countries, hence what has been happening in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Transnational companies that rely on these minerals for their products may inadvertently contribute to the exploitation of children in these mining operations.

WHAT KIND OF CHILD LABOR VIOLATION

Child labor is generally seen in a negative light due to the potential harm it can cause children, both physically and academically. However, it's important to distinguish between regular, healthy work experiences and forced child labor. Involvement in age-appropriate work, such as a 12-year-old delivering newspapers or walking dogs, can contribute positively to a child's development by instilling responsibility, work ethic, and financial understanding that may prove valuable in adulthood.

Nonetheless, forced child labor is a serious issue actively addressed by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Approximately 1 in 10 children worldwide is caught in forced child labor, where children are compelled to work under exploitative conditions, often infringing on their basic human rights.

Forced child labor has severe effects on children's physical, mental, and academic well-being. Physically, children engaged in forced labor may be subjected to hazardous conditions, leading to injuries, health problems, and stunted growth. Mentally, the stress and trauma associated with forced labor can have lasting psychological consequences.

Academically, forced child labor denies children the opportunity for a proper education, limiting their prospects and perpetuating cycles of poverty. The OHCHR defines forced child labor as any work performed involuntarily and under coercion, robbing children of their childhood and violating their basic human rights.

The UNCRC published General Comment No. 17 in 2013 on the right of the child to rest, leisure, play, recreational activities, cultural life and the arts (art. 31). This document seeks to enhance the understanding of the importance of article 31 for children's well-being and development.

CASE STUDY: CONGO'S COBALT MINES

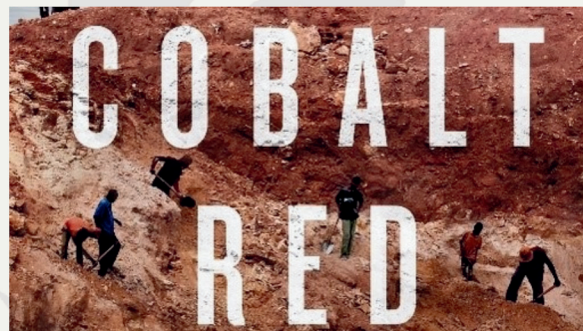
Siddharth Kara is an author and anti-slavery activist who has dedicated his work to documenting and exposing the realities of modern slavery around the world. He has conducted extensive research on various forms of slavery, including labor trafficking and sex trafficking, and has written several notable works on the subject, such as "Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery" (2009), "Bonded Labor: Tackling the System of Slavery in South Asia" (2012), and "Modern Slavery: A Global Perspective" (2017).

Kara's most recent book, "Cobalt Red: How the Blood of the Congo Powers Our Lives" (2023), sheds light on the use of cobalt in rechargeable batteries and its connection to modern-day slavery in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In this book, he discusses the exploitation of workers, including children, in the cobalt mining industry, emphasizing the lack of a "clean" supply chain for cobalt from the DRC.

- A UNICEF report "The State of the World's Children" reveals that 29% of boys and 34% of girls aged between 5 and 14 are engaged in forced child labor in the DRC.
- An article from the Wilson Center indicates that out of the 255,000 Congolese mining (only for cobalt), 40,000 are children, some as young as six years old.

WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMON FORMS OF CHILD LABOR IN THE DRC?

- **Forced Mining:** Children are often forced to work in the mining of gold, cobalt, cassiterite (tin ore), and wolframite (tungsten ore). It is reported that nearly a third of Congolese employed in the informal mining sector are children.
- **Agricultural Labor:** Child labor is prevalent in subsistence agriculture, with many rural children working in mines, stone quarries, and on farms.
- **Street Vending and Domestic Servitude:** In urban areas, children work as street vendors, water sellers, and in establishments such as bars, hotels, and domestic servitude.
- **Prostitution:** There are reports that many children, particularly girls, are engaged in prostitution, sometimes encouraged by their families.



TREATIES, CONFERENCES & CONCRETE SOLUTIONS

TREATIES:

- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC): This treaty sets out the civil, political, economic, social, health, and cultural rights of children. It has been ratified by 196 countries, making it the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history.
- The International Labor Organization (ILO) Conventions: The ILO has several conventions related to child labor, such as the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138): "15 as the minimum age for work in general."
- The Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention, 1999 (No. 182). These conventions aim to eliminate child labor and provide a framework for action. "To prohibit and eliminate the worst forms of child labor, including slavery, child prostitution, use of children in criminal activities, and dangerous labor."

CONFERENCES:

- Global Child Labor Conference: conferences like the Global Child Labor Conference bring together governments, employers' & workers' organizations, and civil society to share policies and good practices in the fight against child labor.
- Sustainable Development Conferences: events such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Summits often address the issue of child labor in the context of broader sustainable development goals.

CONCRETE SOLUTIONS:

- Supply Chain Monitoring and Certification Programs: many companies have implemented supply chain monitoring and certification programs to ensure that their products are not being made through child labor.
- Community Development Initiatives: some transnational companies have invested in community development initiatives in areas where child labor is prevalent, aiming to address the root causes of child labor and provide alternative livelihoods for families.

WORK OF OHCHR

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is actively involved in addressing the issue of forced child labor, particularly in the agriculture sector. UN experts have urged governments to take rapid and effective action to improve working conditions on farms and plantations, as well as to ensure that business enterprises have due diligence processes in place to prevent child labor and hold all relevant parties accountable in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Additionally, the OHCHR has issued a call for input on the use of technology in facilitating and preventing contemporary forms of slavery, including forced labor and the worst forms of child labor. This indicates a focus on leveraging technology to combat these issues. The OHCHR also works on the role of workers' organizations in preventing and addressing contemporary forms of slavery, which encompasses forced child labor. These initiatives demonstrate the OHCHR's commitment to eradicate forced child labor through various channels, including policy advocacy and the use of technology.

The OHCHR's efforts align with international instruments such as the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, which recognizes the importance of protecting the interests of migrant workers and their families, including addressing issues related to child labor. Moreover, joint research findings and conclusions on child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking linked to global supply chains have been presented, emphasizing the need to address the root causes of these labor rights violations to effectively eliminate them.

CONCRETE MEASURES:

- Urging Governments and Businesses: the OHCHR, through UN experts, has urged governments to rapidly and effectively improve working conditions on farms and plantations, particularly in the agriculture sector, to provide decent employment.
- Due Diligence Processes: firms are encouraged to have due diligence processes in place to ensure that there is no child labor within their operations and to hold all relevant parties accountable in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.
- Call for Input on Technology and Workers' Organizations: the OHCHR has issued a call for input on the use of technology in preventing contemporary forms of slavery, including forced child labor, and on the role of workers' organizations in addressing contemporary forms of slavery.

DATA:

- Global Child Labor Statistics: in 2020, the number of children in child labor around the world rose to 160 million, with around 79 million children engaged in hazardous work. Seventy percent of child labor is concentrated in the agriculture sector, with an estimated 108 million children involved.
- Regional Specificities: the prevalence and extent of child labor (as forced labor and human trafficking) vary greatly across regions. The available data provides insights into the regional specificities of how child labor is related to global supply chains.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- 1- What measures can transnational companies take to ensure that their supply chains are free from forced child labor?
- 2- How can transnational companies collaborate with local stakeholders to address the root causes of forced child labor in their supply chains?
- 3-What role do international organizations play in setting and enforcing standards to combat forced child labor globally?
- 4- In what ways can international organizations collaborate with transnational companies to monitor, and address forced child labor in global supply chains?
- 5- What are the most effective strategies to empower children and their communities so they can resist and report instances of forced child labor?
- 6- How can countries incentivize transnational companies to prioritize ethical sourcing and production practices that eliminate forced child labor?

TOPIC 2: EXPLOITATION OF HUMAN BEINGS IN INTERNATIONAL ORGAN TRAFFICKING

INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC

Organ transplantation is a medical operation that, especially during the past decades, is being performed casually by surgeons worldwide. However, the World Health Organization estimated in 2007 that 5-10% of organ transplants were illegal, that 10% of kidney transplants, more specifically, were a result of transplant tourism and that “every sixty minutes an organ is sold in the black market” (Y. Shimazino, Bulletin of the WHO; The state of the international organ trade; a provisional picture based on integration of available information, 2007-8). In 2011, the profits of organ trade were estimated from 600 million up to 1.2 billion USD per year.

It underlines the fact that massive developments in medicine and technological advancements, such as saving a life by transplanting organs from a person or cadaver to a patient, unfortunately go hand in hand with organized crime actions that take advantage of the human body and underestimate a person’s self-determination.

The great gap between the supply and the demand of organs in most waiting lists globally has given a huge push to the black market to spread its dynamic in organ trade as well. The need for organs is quite large, since it has been officially reported that 20 people die each day due to organ shortage and every 10 minutes another person is added to a waiting list for organ transplantation.

Over the past decade, human trafficking has moved from the margins to the mainstream of international concern. Virtually every country in the world is affected by these crimes. The challenge for all countries, richer and poorer, is to target the criminals who exploit vulnerable people, including through effective international cooperation, and to protect and assist victims of trafficking and smuggled migrants, many of whom endure unimaginable hardships in their bid for a better life.

There is a vast scale of criminal actions that are part of organ trafficking- they vary from an illicit kidney removal that occurs after the donor’s –or victim’s- coercion and the exploitation of an agent to the point of murdering a victim to remove a vital organ, such as the heart. Before introducing anything else, it should be clear that trafficking in human organs and trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal are two separate crimes of a different nature and they shall not be viewed as one. Having mentioned that, it should be stated that those two crimes are sometimes, if not most of the times, committed inseparably.

Trafficking is almost always a form of organized crime and should be dealt with using criminal powers to investigate and prosecute offenders for trafficking and any other criminal activities in which they engage. Trafficked persons should also be seen as victims of crime. Support and protection of victims is a humanitarian objective and also of great importance when it comes to ensuring that victims are willing and able to assist in criminal cases.

Poorness and its exploitation are an essential aspect of human organ trafficking. According to a UN Report in 2006, “the general trend is for the routes of organ trafficking to lead from South to North, from poor to rich- mostly targeting the poor and the vulnerable members of the population» (Preventing, combating and punishing trafficking in human organs, Report of the Secretary General UN Economic and Social Council, paragraph 8 pp.4 (2006))

Include here table 4

Like other forms of organised crime, trafficking has gone global. Groups formerly active in specific routes or regions have expanded the geographical scope of their activities to explore new markets. Some have merged or formed cooperative relationships, expanding their geographical reach and range of criminal activities. Trafficking victims have become another commodity in a larger realm of criminal commerce involving other commodities, such as narcotic drugs and firearms or weapons and money laundering that generate illicit revenues or seek to reduce risks for traffickers.

When it comes to prevention of human trafficking, we must act on two fronts: both the countries of origin and the transit and destination countries

It is important to understand that prevention of human trafficking is a global challenge and not a national one.

Therefore, the issue under discussion is a great example of the effects of globalization and actually its negative effects, that truly expands all over the world with very few-if any- exceptions and all Member-States are urged to be involved in its solution. It is, in other words, a public health issue that touches everyone in the international community and lives off the incapacities of national health systems, the gap between supply and demand of organs and the lack of appropriate regulatory frameworks.

Even though a solid legal and policy framework to combat trafficking in persons is in place at the international level, there are still many grey zones with regards to trafficking and the most efficient means to eliminate it. Selling human organs and trafficking in persons to harvest their organs is a scheme of rather high complexity, brutality and dispersion.

The UN Human Rights Office addresses the issue of trafficking through the lens of the human rights-based approach. This approach stems from international human rights conventions and other international legal frameworks on trafficking.

This approach seeks to both identify and redress the discriminatory practices and the unequal distribution of power that underlie trafficking, which maintain impunity for traffickers and deny justice to their exploitation.

On a very practical level, a human rights based approach to trafficking requires an acknowledgement that trafficking is, first and foremost, a violation of human rights. Trafficking disproportionately affects those whose rights may already be seriously compromised, including women, children, migrants, refugees and persons with disabilities. A human rights approach to trafficking also demands that we acknowledge the responsibility of Governments to protect and promote the rights of all persons within their jurisdiction, including non-citizens.

A human rights approach to trafficking means that all those involved in anti-trafficking efforts should integrate human rights into their analysis of the problem and into their responses. It is necessary to ensure that trafficking is not simply reduced to a problem of migration, a problem of public order or a problem of organized crime.

KEY DEFINITIONS

HUMAN TRAFFICKING:

The act of recruiting, transporting, transferring, harboring, or receiving persons through force, coercion, or other means with the intention of exploiting them.

Human trafficking consists of three constituent elements:

- The Act : Recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons
- The Means : Threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability, or giving payments or benefits to a person in control of the victim
- The Purpose : For the purpose of exploitation, which includes exploiting the prostitution of others, sexual exploitation, forced labor, slavery or similar practices and the removal of organs

ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION:

The World Health Organization defines organ transplantation as “often the only treatment for end state organ failure, such as liver and heart failure. Although end stage renal disease patients can be treated through other renal replacement therapies, kidney transplantation is generally accepted as the best treatment both for quality of life and cost effectiveness. The procurement of organs for transplantation involves the removal of organs from the bodies of deceased persons. This removal must follow legal requirements, including the definition of death and consent. Kidney donation by well selected living donors with good health coverage carries negligible risks. This can only be ensured through rigorous selection procedures, careful surgical nephrectomy and follow up of the donor to ensure the optimal management of untoward consequences.”

ORGAN CRIME:

Organ crime occurs in 3 categories:

- 1.victims are forced or deceived to give their organ
- 2.victims formally/informally give up their organ but are cheated in the end
- 3.victims are given a wrong diagnosis for organ removal (scenario- doctor tells the patient that their kidney must be removed because it is infected but the truth is that it is perfectly healthy; they will remove it and sell it)

TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN ORGANS, TISSUES OR CELLS AND TRANSPLANT COMMERCIALISM (THOTC):

THOTC may be defined as the handling of any human organ, tissue or cell obtained and transacted outside the legal national system for organ transplantation.

The term 'trafficking in Organs Tissues and Cells (OTC)' focuses on the trafficking of human body parts deriving from either living or deceased persons (donors). This kind of trafficking has a wide scope: it may occur as buying and selling of organs/tissues from living persons, but also as stealing organs/tissues from deceased persons (at autopsy, in the morgue).

TRANSPLANT COMMERCIALISM:

Transplant commercialism is "a policy or practice in which an organ is treated as a commodity, including by being bought or sold or used for material gain."

ORGAN TRAFFICKING:

Organ trafficking is the recruitment, transport, transfer, harboring or receipt of living or deceased persons or their organs 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 to, or the receiving by, a third party of payments or benefits to achieve the transfer of control over the potential donor, for the purpose of exploitation by the removal of organs for transplantation"

TRAVEL FOR TRANSPLANTATION:

"Travel for transplantation is the movement of organs, donors, recipients or transplant professionals across jurisdictional borders for transplantation purposes. Travel for transplantation becomes transplant tourism if it involves organ trafficking and/or transplant commercialism or if the resources (organs, professionals and transplant centres) devoted to providing transplants to patients from outside a country undermine the country's ability to provide transplant services for its own population."

SUPPLY COUNTRIES:

Organ-exporting or supply countries are those countries "where organs from local donors are regularly transplanted to foreigners through sale and purchase", such as India, Pakistan, China, Nepal, Republic of Moldova, Brazil, Israel, Turkey and others

DEMAND COUNTRIES:

Organ-importing or demand countries are "the countries of origin of the patients going overseas to purchase organs for transplantation", such as Australia, Canada, Japan, Saudi Arabia the United States of America and others.

ORGANIZED CRIME:

Organized crime refers to criminal activities which involve large numbers of people and are organized and controlled by a small group. A criminal organization is characterized by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime as;

- "a group of three or more persons that was not randomly formed;
- existing for a period of time;
- acting in concert with the aim of committing at least one crime punishable by at least four years' incarceration;
- in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit."

The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (also referred to as the Trafficking Protocol or UN TIP Protocol), supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

It entered into force on 25 December 2003 and was adopted by a General Assembly resolution on November 2000. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is responsible for implementing said protocol.

It is the first legally binding instrument with an internationally recognized definition of human trafficking. This definition provides a vital tool for the identification of victims, whether men, women or children, and for the detection of all forms of exploitation which constitute human trafficking. Countries that ratify this treaty must criminalize human trafficking and develop anti-trafficking laws in line with the Protocol's legal provisions.

This protocol answers the need for a universal instrument that addresses all aspects of trafficking in persons. Indeed, despite the existence of a variety of international instruments containing rules and practical measures to combat the exploitation of persons, the lack of universality renders the protection of vulnerable persons insufficient. As a matter of fact, this text emphasizes the necessity to adopt a comprehensive international approach to prevent and combat human trafficking. It is designed as an international instrument for the prevention, suppression and punishment of human trafficking. It guarantees the protection of the persons victim of the crimes hereby defined by this protocol, because each state ensures the privacy of the victims by making the legal procedures confidential. Furthermore, States Parties shall demonstrate their effort to alleviate the factors that make persons, especially women and children, vulnerable to trafficking, such as poverty, underdevelopment and lack of equal opportunity. As of November 2022, it has been ratified by 180 parties.

The Declaration of Istanbul on Organ Trafficking and Transplant Tourism (2008) : Guidelines on human rights and trafficking for the purpose of organ removal. The [GA resolution A/71/L.80](#) mandates OHCHR, in collaboration with WHO and UNODC, to develop international guidelines on the health, criminal and human rights aspects relating to trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal and trafficking in human organs.

Engagement with the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT):

It is a policy forum mandated by the UN General Assembly to improve coordination among UN agencies to facilitate a comprehensive approach to preventing and combating trafficking in persons.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

As you research, you will realize that this topic encompasses a lot of information. For the purposes of this committee delegates should touch base on some the following issues:

- How can the commercialization and purchase of human organs be tackled and instead how can altruistic and ethical means of organ donating become the only means of giving and receiving an organ?
- What are the ways to raise awareness among target groups and prevent their further exploitation
- How does the country you represent generally ensures the protection of the victims ?
- What measures to criminalize smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons does the country you represent have ?
- How can follow-up medical care (physical, mental) of the suppliers be ensured?
- By what means may the participation of victims in the economic and social sphere be ensured after an organ removal?
- In what ways may victims that cannot work due to medical malfunctions after illegal organ transplants live decently?
- How can the liability of legal persons (i.e. hospitals, doctors) be established?
- What measures does the country you represent promote regarding the sanction of customers/benefactors of organ trafficking?
- In what way may organ removal from vulnerable persons (children, refugees, prisoners) be combated?
- How will organized criminal networks be targeted and how will their illicit actions end?
- In what ways legal frameworks on organ trade and trafficking in persons for organ removal be updated and enhanced?
- How could the strengthening of local, regional and international cooperation be achieved?
- Should there be international laws dictating trafficking issues or do domestic policies hold more precedent?
- How can the United Nations counteract trafficking in human organs and trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal?

LINKS AND USEFUL RESOURCES

- Trafficking in Persons <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/data-and-analysis/glotip.html> International Labor Organization (UNICEF) https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---ipec/documents/publication/wcms_797515.pdf
- Hold companies accountable for forced labor in supply chains! (Video) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmRsYMR8PMQ>
- How 'modern-day slavery' in the Congo powers the rechargeable battery economy <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2023/02/01/1152893248/red-cobalt-congo-drc-mining-siddharth-kara>
- Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Worst_Forms_of_Child_Labour_Convention
- China: US Law Against Uyghur Forced Labor Takes Effect <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/06/20/china-us-law-against-uyghur-forced-labor-takes-effect>
- Israel 'profiting' from Palestinian child labor <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/4/13/israel-profiting-from-palestinian-child-labour>
- China: End Child Labor in State Schools <https://www.hrw.org/news/2007/12/03/china-end-child-labor-state-schools>
- Organ Trafficking: The Unseen Form of Human Trafficking <https://www.acamstoday.org/organ-trafficking-the-unseen-form-of-human-trafficking/>
- EU Report about organ trafficking [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2015/549055/EXPO_STU\(2015\)549](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2015/549055/EXPO_STU(2015)549)
- Preventing, combating and punishing trafficking in human organs. (2006).
- 055_EN.pdf Trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal: https://icat.un.org/sites/g/files/tmzbd1461/files/publications/icat_brief_tip_for_or_final.pdf
- Y. Shimazino, Bulletin of the WHO; The state of the international organ trade; a provisional picture based on integration of available information, 2007-8
- Video "Human trafficking victims forced to sell their organs share harrowing stories" <https://youtu.be/yUsd7Qs4NOK?si=fZcVPUU4n-cwepyc>
- Video : "Buying Organs on the Black Market | The Business of Crime" <https://youtu.be/XmD8tLIDz0g?si=GzwISOuyE5gAgYUV>

PARTNERS





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