

Topic A: Human Trafficking in the Middle East

With increasing globalization, the world has seen the proliferation of human trafficking. Human trafficking now affects 161 countries as locations of source, transit, or destination (Facts). According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), human trafficking is defined as the “an act of recruiting, transporting, transferring, harboring, or receiving a person through a use of force, coercion, or other means, for the purpose of exploiting them” (Human). Furthermore, human trafficking is comprised of three elements: the act, the means, and the purpose (Human). The act, or what is done, includes the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, and receipt of persons. Meanwhile, the means, or how the act of trafficking is done, can involve but is not limited to threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power, and payments to a person in control of the victim. The purpose is for exploitation, which includes sexual exploitation, forced labor, slavery, and the removal of organs. Despite the attention given to the legal definitions of human trafficking, the issue remains widespread, having a global annual profit of USD 31.6 billion (Facts).

As the third largest crime in the world, human trafficking affects 2.5 million victims at any time (Factsheet, Facts). 79% of victims are trafficked for sexual exploitation, in particular prostitution, which claims 43% of the sexually exploited persons (Factsheet, Facts). To a lesser yet still substantial extent, the categories of human trafficking include slavery and forced labor, labor exploitation, the removal of organs, and child trafficking. Women remain the largest group trafficked with 98% of the prostituted victims being women and girls (Facts). Annually, 1.2 million children are trafficked across the world (Facts). In addition, migrant workers are also targeted due to their possession of few rights in their destination country, poor language skills,

and often desperation for work. Though relatively rare, men sometimes are trafficked as well. Nevertheless, the act of human trafficking, for whatever purpose or whoever the victim, is a severe violation of human rights. Article 4 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) states, “No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms” (Universal). Moreover, 95% of trafficking victims reported sexual or physical abuse (Facts). This treatment violates Article 5 of the UDHR, which states “no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment” (Universal).

Despite the atrocities, human trafficking continues to increase. The factors driving this rise are expanding globalization, widespread poverty, economic difficulties, recent political unrest, and the demand for cheap labor. For example, the average cost of a slave is \$90 (11 Facts). Adding to this problem, some nations chose to not recognize prostitution, the main reason for the increase, as a form of human trafficking. In addition, some nations have little or lax law enforcement regarding this issue. As a matter of fact, in 2006 there were only 5, 808 prosecutions and 3,160 convictions globally for the crime of human trafficking (Facts). This means only 1 out of 800 traffickers faces conviction (Facts).

In particular, the Middle East has experienced unusually high growth rates of human trafficking. At any given time, there are 230,000 victims trafficked throughout the Middle East and North Africa, contributing to an industry worth USD 1.5 billion (Facts). The Middle East serves as both an origin and destination location. Many Middle Easterners are targeted to be trafficked to Europe and Africa. However, this region is prominently a destination region as there is a great demand for cheap labor in the oil and sex industries. A significant source of victims

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comes from the 13 million people who comprise the region's migrant worker population (Factsheet). Reasons contributing to the upsurge in human trafficking incidents include the recent political unrest, decolonization, and economic struggles. In some areas, the level of poverty is so severe that children as young as ages 11 and 12 are sold by their parents into the sex market for up to USD 30,000 (Factsheet). Furthermore, the practice of prominent traditions, culture, and religion in the Middle East have aided in the proliferation of human trafficking. For example, patriarchal religions like Islam give male elders the control over women and children. Having very little rights and power, these women and children can be forced or sold into marriage or the sex industry at the male elder's whim. Likewise, the common cultural practices of forced, temporary, and child marriages produce vulnerable victims for traffickers to target. As a matter of fact, in 2006 half of the women in Yemen and Palestine are reported to be married under the age of 18 (Factsheet). Camel racing, a traditional sport similar to horse racing in the United States, especially has a high incidence of child jockeys who have been trafficked due to their lower weight. These children often face physical violence and malnourishment in order to win races. Other factors that further contribute to the high rate of human trafficking are minimal law enforcement due to government reforms, the failure to report these incidents, and the overall lack of understanding of what constitutes human trafficking. Therefore, it is crucial that the SPECPOL committee addresses the multifaceted issue of human trafficking in the Middle East.

Within the United Nations (UN), the UNODC plays the prominent role in combating human trafficking. The United Nations' efforts began on November 15, 2000 with General Assembly (GA) Resolution 55/25 that established the UN Convention Against Transnational Crime (UN Convention). To supplement this convention, the GA Resolution 55/25 also adopted

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the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children on December 25, 2003 (UN Convention). The Protocol is the first legally binding global treaty that offered an agreed definition of human trafficking in order to facilitate union between nations in battling this issue. Despite 147 member states having signed and ratified it, there have been very few convictions of traffickers. Moreover, the UNODC addresses human trafficking issues and implements the Protocol through the Global Programme Against Trafficking in Persons (Human). To effectively combat trafficking, the UNODC issues a comprehensive strategic program known as the Thematic Programme Against Transnational Organized Crime And Illicit Trafficking (Human).

The UNODC's strategic approach to combating human trafficking is comprised of three components: "(1) research and awareness raising; (2) promotion of the Protocols and capacity-building; and, (3) the strengthening of partnerships and coordination" (Human). In regards to the first component, the UNODC published the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons in December 2012 and plans to continue its publishing biennially afterwards (Human). In addition, the UNODC provides research papers and implements awareness-raising programs involving the issue of human trafficking with the Blue Heart Campaign Against Human Trafficking being its most notable (Human). In the case of the second component, The UNODC's focus on "promoting the Protocols and capacity-building engages with Member States and working-level practitioners in providing legislative assistance, strategic planning and policy development, technical assistance for strengthened criminal justice responses, and protection and support to victims of trafficking in persons and smuggled migrants" (Human). Lastly, the UNODC strengthens partnership and coordination through its administration of the UN Trust Fund for

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Victims of Trafficking in Persons and active participation in inter-agency organizations including ICAT, UN.GIFT, and GMG (Human).

Aiding the UNODC in the battle against human trafficking is the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). With a special attention to human rights, the OHCHR adopted decision 2004/110 to appoint a special rapporteur to address the issue of trafficking in persons, especially in women and children (Special). Given the success of the rapporteur in taking action against violations of human rights committed on trafficked persons and visiting countries in order to assess their situations and provide recommendations for preventing and combating trafficking, the mandate of the special rapporteur was renewed for another three-year term by the OHCHR resolution 8/12 (Special).

While the UNODC, OHCHR, and other UN bodies have accomplished significant progress in combating human trafficking, much more actions can be taken. In particular, the focus should be on trafficking in the Middle East, where the issue is proliferating at an alarming rate.

Human trafficking is one of Serbia's direst problems. Serbia serves as a source, transit, and destination country for trafficked persons. The majority of victims are women targeted for sexual exploitation, yet children and men are increasingly victimized for their labor. To combat this issue, Serbia established its first multi-disciplinary anti-trafficking organization, the Yugoslav Team for Combating Human Trafficking, in May 2001 (Trafficking in Serbia). The team was comprised of members from governmental institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and international bodies. 11 months later, the National Team for Combating Human Trafficking was developed with the same participants but to operate at a

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national level (Trafficking in Serbia). After Serbia's ratification of Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children, the Criminal Law of the Republic of Serbia was amended in April 2003 to include the criminal offence of human trafficking, outlined in Article 111b and in compliance with the Protocol (Trafficking in Serbia). However, the law failed to distinguish between human trafficking and people smuggling, therefore the new Criminal Code of Serbia was published on January 1, 2006 (Trafficking in Serbia). Now officially separated, the human trafficking is governed by the provisions of Article 388 and people smuggling by the provisions of Article 350 (Trafficking in Serbia). In addition, the new Criminal Code included Article 389, which describes trafficking of children for adoption (Trafficking in Serbia). The minimal penalty for trafficking a minority was also reduced to 3 years in prison rather than 5. In March 2004, the Agency for Coordination of Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking was created under the auspices of the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Policy in order to coordinate all organizations and agencies involved in the counter-trafficking effort in Serbia (Trafficking in Serbia). To protect witnesses of human trafficking, the Serbian government adopted the Witness Protection Law on January 1, 2006 (Trafficking in Serbia). Furthermore, the Republic of Serbia's Anti-Trafficking Strategy was implemented in December 2006 in order to provide a series of measures and programs to suppress the issue of human trafficking (Trafficking in Serbia). This strategy has not yet achieved its goal, but it is a proud manifestation of the Republic of Serbia's commitment to combating the atrocity of human trafficking.

On an international level, the Republic of Serbia has ratified many anti-trafficking treaties and participates in counter-trafficking organizations. For example, not only is Serbia a

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signatory to both the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, but the Criminal Law of the Republic of Serbia was amended twice in order to be in compliance with the Protocol (Report, Trafficking in Serbia). Additionally, as of March 3, 2004, Serbia has signed and ratified the Council of Europe's Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (Convention). Not to mention, the Republic of Serbia has appointed Dragoljub Popovic to be a judge on the European Court of Human Rights since January 26, 2005 (Composition). Lastly, the government of Serbia receives counter-trafficking aid from the UNODC Regional Programme Office for South East Europe (RPOSEE), UNHCR Mission to Serbia, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Mission to Serbia (Joint).

Certain legal measures must be taken in order to effectively combat human trafficking in the Middle East. First and foremost, the Republic of Serbia highly encourages the signing and ratification of the numerous anti- and counter-trafficking treaties available if nations have not done so already. Furthermore, many Middle Eastern countries, despite ratifying several of the mentioned treaties, have not of yet modified their national laws to comply with those treaties. This must be done in order to ensure an international and regional unification in the opposition to human trafficking. In light of cultural practices such as child and forced marriages, Serbia proposes the adoptions of laws that set an age limit for marriage. Similarly, appropriate age and health body mass index (BMI) standards should be placed on camel-racing jockeys. These limitations will hopefully eliminate the practices of using children for the jockeys and starving them. Serbia greatly endorses legal counter-trafficking measures, as they have proven effective in the Republic of Serbia.

Much political turmoil has devastated the Middle East as of recently, which allowed traffickers to take advantage of the vulnerabilities of the people affected. In order to stabilize the region, Serbia proposes aiding governments in reforming, achieving political stability, and developing infrastructures for counter-trafficking efforts. Also, a body of the government should be set up to investigate into employment recruitment agencies, because these agencies have been known to falsely recruit migrant workers and then exploit them. Once a stable government has been established, it can begin to develop more counter-trafficking measures on its own.

Education and awareness are crucial to the prevention of human trafficking. Educational programs with the aims to promote women's social standing and provide economic opportunities for women should be implemented in this region. If women were to have more financial independence and higher social standing, then far less women would be controlled by male elders and be vulnerable to sale into the sex industry or marriage. In addition, international media-awareness programs could educate the public about the seriousness of this issue, encourage donations and activism, and inform people on how they can recognize human trafficking and report these incidents. Prevention, by far, would be the most effective method of combating this issue.

With the current global recession, funding for projects, especially ones on a regional or international scale, are extremely hard to find. However, the Republic of Serbia encourages developed nations with the financial means to donate to the counter-trafficking efforts of less-developed countries. Also, the media-awareness programs can provide a substantial source of donations. Likewise, there are various foundations dedicated to human rights and combating

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human trafficking that are willing to donate funds, such as the UN Foundation, Face Foundation, and Human Trafficking Foundation.

In conclusion, the Republic of Serbia proposes these potential solutions in the hopes of eradicating human trafficking not just in the Middle East but also internationally.

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Topic B: The Right to Education During Emergency Situations

The Republic of Serbia has faced many dire conflicts in the recent past; many have shaken its education system. However, Serbia believes that the right to education must be addressed and protected in all emergency situations.

During times of conflict, education is affected in many ways; military and political forces often exploit the school curriculum to make loyal followers out of students, which can decrease the demand for education. School buildings are often war targets during armed conflicts. Some militaries convert schools into temporary bases. Children are dissuaded from attending due to their fears of kidnap, rape, gunshot, or land mine. Social and economic roles are changed as life becomes a game of survival and entrepreneurial skill and education is overlooked.

Article 32 of the Serbian Constitution declares the right to education. In Serbia, primary and secondary education is mandatory and free, while tertiary education is free for talented individuals of low property status.

From 1991 to 2000, Serbia experienced a terrible time of religious and ethnic war with neighboring countries. All Serbian children aged twelve and older have experienced the war in their own ways; some carry psychological trauma due to the tragedies that occurred. Hatred between ethnic groups still carries on despite the war being over.

The violence of the 1990s ravaged Serbia's education and commonwealth. We faced countless challenges during repair operations. Many schools were in need of extensive repair. Well-trained educational staff was hard to come by. There was a great shortage of educational

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supplies, and the assistance of UNICEF was required due to the crippled Serbian economy and economic embargoes. The education system needed both physically and strategically. In order to do this, international assistance was necessary.

In June 2001, international donors met in Brussels to negotiate financial aid for Serbia and Kosovo. Over \$1.2 billion USD was allocated to the former Yugoslavia, most of which was dedicated to the education sector to pay instructors modest salaries, repair damaged facilities, and procure needed educational supplies.

Serbia's emergency education measures focus on preparedness and the safety of youth. During wars, schools are often destroyed by bombings; children lose their lives and parents become fearful, keeping their children out of the education system. For this reason, the primary objective is to establish secure facilities for children and adolescents to learn.

The financial aid given to Serbia allowed it to effectively recover from the damaging years of war. Cross-culture respect and tolerance have been implemented into the national curriculum to facilitate the eradication of ethnic hatred and inequity. We firmly believe that the right to education must be preserved under all circumstances; education is necessary to properly recover from an emergency situation.

Preparedness is an important step in addressing the preservation of the right to education. Analysis of potential vulnerabilities and careful planning can help countries maintain or reach the EFA objectives after a national crisis. A primary concern of this committee is the preservation of literary competence. Serbia proposes that a precautionary emergency curriculum be established in member states; means of obtaining substitute-learning materials must be established. In addition,

full sets of textbooks must be guarded. Many emergency situations involve a complete outage of literary texts.

Wars often result in the displacement of thousands of men, women, and children. These refugees have educational needs that are almost never met. Serbia believes that IDP camps are an effective means of providing education to refugees. Young individuals that reside in these camps have a much higher literacy rate and chance of receiving basic education than their counterparts living in random areas. By concentrating IDPs, specialized educational curricula can be taught more effectively. Many nations do not wish to account for IDPs; this is a serious concern and must be addressed. Serbia believes that incentives are necessary to ensure the proper treatment and sheltering of IDPs.

UNICEF and UNESCO-PEER have called for the utilization of school kits for young students. Initially developed by Gonzalo Retarnal in 1991, the Teacher Emergency Package (TEP) provided pre-packed educational supplies and teaching utilities “aimed at swiftly providing short-term literacy and numeracy education during the early emergency phase. A slightly different UNICEF version was later developed and called ‘School-in-a-Box.’”

School kits can be extremely useful in the education of IDPs due to their simplicity and interpretability. However, they provide a limited amount of resources and can only be used as a temporary fix. Assistance through NGOs including the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) can provide a broader spectrum of learning materials for IDPs and local people.

EFA goals cannot be met until major donors actively and passionately facilitate education during and after emergencies. INEE, UNESCO are the driving force of many projects that are addressing this issue. Nations must develop versatile national curricula that can be used by students on either side of a conflict.

While materials, curricula and facilities are all important, they would most likely fail without the help of teachers. Ensuring that a sufficient amount of able teachers are ready at all times is paramount in preserving literacy and education. Providing these teachers with psychosocial skills and regular salaries is also important.

In emergency and post-emergency situations, the enrollment of female youth in school is alarmingly low; Serbia believes that pre-primary education (preschool) can create a higher female student enrollment rate and increase the time that girls remain in school. However, such programs can be impractical in nations struck by violence; the dangers of sending daughters to school dissuade parents from doing so. The utilization of distance education can be a possible solution to this issue. Attention must also be given to young males; while they are not often subject to sexual exploitation, they can suffer if they are not provided with a safe learning environment.

SPECPOL can play an important role in establishing education as a human right. By enlisting the help of other committees in the UN and implementing innovative programs through indispensable NGOs, Serbia hopes to work toward a future in which Education For All standards are met.

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