

Forum: Human Rights Council II

Issue: Eliminating human trafficking in Europe

Student Officer: Esther Wang

Position: Deputy Chair of Human Rights Council II

Introduction

Human trafficking is a crime against human beings around the globe. Trafficking human beings strips away the rights each and every person deserves. It is inhumane, it is unjust, it is heartless. But what counts as human trafficking? It is when a human being is unwillingly exploited to work at jobs that are degrading, dangerous, and dirty, which includes, prostitution, domestic service, or other forms of forced labor. One of the major sources of human trafficking occurs in central European countries such as Ukraine, Russia, Bulgaria, Romania, etc. It is said by the United Nations that around 270,000 human beings are trafficked within the EU. After human traffickers capture the victims, they are sent to nations in Western Europe, which includes Germany, Belgium, Italy, and the Netherlands. Trafficking in human beings is an issue that should be eliminated completely because it violates each human being's basic human rights, as well as The Universal Declaration of Human Rights. According to the Article 3-5, "Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of persons. No one should be held in slavery or servitude slavery and the slavery trade shall be prohibited in all their forms. No one shall be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

Definition of Key Terms

Human trafficking-

The recruitment, transportation, and transfer of persons, by threat or use of force or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.

Prostitution

The giving or receiving of the body for sexual activities for hire.

Domestic Service

The work of being a servant at someone's house

Forced Labor

When people are employed against their will by the threat of destitution, detention, violence (including death), or other extreme hardship to themselves, or to members of their families.

Debt Bondage

When a person is forced to pay off his/her loan with direct labor instead of currency, over an certain period of time.

General Overview

Countries of Origin for Human Trafficking

There are several nations within Europe, specifically Central Europe, which serves as the starting point for human traffickers. Millions of traffickers lure innocent victims in nations in Central Europe such as Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, and Albania.

Bulgaria

Countless men, women, and children are trafficked from Bulgaria to countries such as Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, Russia, etc. After the victims are trafficked to other countries, they are exposed to sexual exploitation and different forms of forced labor. According to U.S. State Department Trafficking Report in Persons in 2009, 15% identified trafficking are children, rather than women and men. Bulgarian government has been trying to eliminate this issue, but has not been very successful due to their weakness in investigating and punishing government officials that are involved with human trafficking.

Russia

Both women and men from Russia are trafficked to countries within Asia such as China, South Korea, and Japan, but more specifically Russian women are often trafficked to Turkey, Greece, South Africa, etc. for sexual exploitations; whereas the men are trafficked other countries for reasons such as labor in the fishing and agricultural industries. Although the Russian government has been trying to eliminate this issue of human trafficking, they don't comply with the elimination of trafficking. The government needs to create a plan in which covers all the different aspects of trafficking, as well as providing aid to the victims of human trafficking.

Destination Countries for the Victims of Human Trafficking

After human traffickers have already lured their victims from Central Europe, they tend to bring them to Western Europe nations such as Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Belgium.

United States

Each year United States is a place where men, women, and children are trafficked to for forced labor and sexual exploitations. These victims are from Mexico, Central Asia, Africa, and Central Europe. There are even legal citizens of the US that are trafficked within the country for sexual exploitations. United States is still continuing their efforts to eliminate this issue by setting up agencies, as well as funding \$23 in Fiscal Year (FY) to raise awareness of this issue.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
1945-1991	Iron Curtain
20 th century	Human trafficking becomes modern day slavery
2005	15 cases of human trafficking reported in Czech Republic

UN Involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

There has been numerous numbers of organizations that are working towards the elimination of human trafficking not just in Europe, but also around the world in Asia, Africa, and America. Some of the UN organizations include United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT), United Nations on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Council of Europe Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings (COE), International Labor Organization (ILO), and International Organization for Migration (IOM).

- United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, 21 August, 2005
- United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, 25 March, 2007
- United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols, 15 November, 2000

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