



Committee: Human Rights

Question of: The question of the legalization of sex work and the controlled human traffic in this field

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Introduction:

Human trafficking is a global problem and one of the world's most shameful crimes, affecting the lives of millions of people around the world and robbing them of their dignity.

Traffickers deceive women, men and children from all corners of the world and force them into exploitative situations every day. While the best-known form of human trafficking is for the purpose of sexual exploitation, hundreds of thousands of victims are trafficked for the purposes of forced labour, domestic servitude, child begging or the removal of their organs.

Organised crime - profiting from the exploitation of human beings. The exploitation of human beings can be highly lucrative for organised criminal groups.

In Europe, over 140,000 victims are trapped in a situation of violence and degradation for sexual exploitation and up to one in seven sex workers in the region may have been enslaved into prostitution through trafficking. Victims are generally misled or forced by organized criminal networks into a situation of abuse from which it is difficult to escape; they might be beaten or raped or their families might be threatened if they try to get away.

The Issue:

The most common form of human trafficking detected by national authorities is trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. In 2006, this form accounted for an estimated 79 per cent of all cases globally. The remaining 21 percent of victims were thought to be trafficked for the purpose of forced labour or other forms of exploitation. It should, however, be noted that these figures are not definitive and may be distorted, given the prominence and visibility of some forms of exploitation over others.

For instance, sex workers who are victims of human trafficking may be easier to identify than trafficked labourers on farms or in factories. Additionally, a misperception may exist that men are not victims of human trafficking, which further distorts ratios. More recent data show an increase in the detection of trafficking for forced labour and other forms of exploitation.

Globally, one in five victims of human trafficking are children, although in poorer regions and subregions, such as Africa and Greater Mekong, they make up the majority of trafficked persons. Children are exploited for the purposes of forced begging, child pornography or sex. Children are sometimes favoured as labourers as their small hands are deemed better for untangling fishing nets, sewing luxury goods or picking cocoa. Children are also enslaved as child soldiers in war zones.

Women make up two thirds of the world's human trafficking victims. The vast majority of these female victims are young women who are lured with false promises of employment and then raped, drugged, imprisoned, beaten or threatened with violence, have debt imposed on them, have their passport confiscated and/or are blackmailed.

Men and boys may be victims of human trafficking for the purposes of forced labour, forced begging and sexual exploitation, and as child soldiers. The percentage of identified male victims is disproportionately lower than that of women for a number of reasons, including the fact that for many years anti-human trafficking legislation around the world tended to focus on trafficking in women and children or trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, of which most victims are women.

Consensual sex work and trafficking are different concepts, often interconnected due to socio-economic, legal and cultural factors. Here are some key points that highlight the relationship between sex work and human trafficking:

1. Exploitation in sex work:

- In some cases, people may engage in sex work on a consensual basis, but face conditions of exploitation and abuse. This may include situations where they are forced to work in degrading conditions, without legal protection, access to health services or the ability to make independent decisions.

2. Vulnerability and Trafficking:

- People in vulnerable situations, such as poverty, lack of opportunities, discrimination or forced migration, are more likely to be trafficked. Traffickers may take advantage of these circumstances to exploit people in the sex work industry.

3. Coercion and Deception:

- In many cases of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, victims are recruited through deception, coerced or forced into sex work against their will. They may be misled with offers of legitimate employment, only to find themselves in exploitative situations once they arrive at their destination.

4. Migration Routes:

- Migratory routes can be used by traffickers to move people from place to place, exploiting them on the way or once they reach their destination. Migrants, particularly those without legal documentation, may be particularly vulnerable to trafficking for sexual exploitation.

5. Regulation and Unprotection:

- Lack of regulation and legal protection for sex work may create an environment conducive to human trafficking. When sex work is illegal or stigmatized, people may fear reporting exploitative situations for fear of legal persecution.

6. Laws and Policies:

- Government laws and policies regarding sex work and human trafficking may influence the prevalence and nature of these practices. In some places, effective preventive and protective measures can help to reduce the incidence of trafficking for sexual exploitation.

It was essential to address both sex work and trafficking in persons from a holistic perspective that ensured human rights, the protection of vulnerable persons and the punishment of those who perpetrated exploitation. This may include approaches that decriminalize consensual sex work, provide support to people in vulnerable situations and actively combat human trafficking through legal and social measures.

The outlawing of trafficking in persons is a key component of international efforts to combat this crime and protect human rights. Here are some key aspects related to the outlawing of human trafficking:

1. International legal framework:

- There is an international legal framework to address trafficking in persons. The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Protocol), is the main international instrument addressing trafficking in persons.

2. Legal definition:

- The outlawing of trafficking entails the inclusion of clear and precise definitions of the offence in national laws. This helps to ensure that specific actions constituting trafficking in persons are clearly identified and penalised.

3. Criminal sanctions:

- Countries often establish criminal sanctions for those involved in trafficking in persons, whether as recruiters, intermediaries, ultimate exploiters or other actors in the criminal chain. These sanctions may include imprisonment, significant fines and other punishments.

4. International cooperation:

- Given the transnational nature of trafficking in persons, international cooperation is essential. Countries work together to investigate and prosecute cases, exchange information and adopt common strategies to prevent and combat trafficking.

5. Protection of Victims:

- Laws should also include provisions to protect victims of trafficking. This may involve access to support services, the non-penalization of victims for activities related to their own exploitation and the provision of security measures.

6. Prevention and awareness-raising:

- Illegalization of trafficking in persons must be accompanied by prevention and awareness-raising measures. This involves educating society about the risks and signs of trafficking, as well as implementing strategies to address the underlying causes that make people vulnerable.

7. Monitoring and Evaluation:

- Countries should establish effective mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the implementation of their anti-trafficking laws. This includes data collection, assessment of the effectiveness of strategies, and continuous adaptation of laws and policies to address emerging challenges.

The outlawing of trafficking in persons is a key step in preventing and punishing this crime, but it is also important to address the underlying conditions that contribute to people's vulnerability. This involves holistic approaches that address poverty, discrimination, lack of opportunities and other factors that facilitate the exploitation of human beings.

Statistics

- **49.6 million** people were living in modern slavery in 2021, of which **27.6 million** were in forced labour and **22 million** in forced marriage.
- Of the 27.6 million people in forced labour, **17.3 million** are exploited in the private sector; **6.3 million** in forced commercial sexual exploitation, and **3.9 million** in forced labour imposed by the state.
- Women and girls account for **4.9 million** of those in forced commercial sexual exploitation, and for **6 million** of those in forced labour in other economic sectors. **12%** of all those in forced labour are children. **More than half** of these children are in commercial sexual exploitation
- The Asia and the Pacific region has the highest number of people in forced labour (**15.1 million**) and the Arab States the highest prevalence (**5.3 per thousand people**).
- **Addressing decent work deficits** in the informal economy, as part of broader efforts towards economic formalisation, **is a priority** for progress against forced labour.

Key Events

Event/Date	Explanation
Resolution S/RES/2388	Calls upon the UN system organisations to step up their efforts to strengthen protections against human trafficking in all UN procurement.

Resolution 10/3	Calls upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to perform its mandate to further support Member States in their implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol

Possible Solutions

- **Strengthening legislation and law enforcement:**

Increase penalties for traffickers and sex exploiters.
 Improve cooperation between countries in the prosecution of transnational criminals.
 Ensure the protection of victims and witnesses.

- **Education and awareness-raising:**

Implement educational campaigns to raise public awareness of the risks and consequences of human trafficking.
 Provide information on how to identify and report cases of sexual exploitation.

- **Economic development and education:**

Address the economic and social roots that contribute to trafficking in persons, such as poverty and lack of access to education.
 Provide training programs and job opportunities for vulnerable communities.

- **International cooperation:**

Encourage collaboration between countries to share information and coordinate efforts in the fight against trafficking in persons.
 Establish international intervention and rescue protocols.

- **Assistance to victims:**

Develop comprehensive support programs for victims, including mental health services, legal counselling, shelter and rehabilitation.
 Ensure that victims have access to basic services and a legal status to rebuild their lives.

- **Monitoring and technology:**

Use advanced technologies to track and combat human trafficking networks.

Establish databases and tracking systems to identify patterns and prevent future cases.

- **Collaboration with non-governmental organisations (NGOs):**

Work closely with NGOs specialising in prevention, rescue and rehabilitation of victims.
Facilitate the active involvement of civil society in identifying and addressing cases.

- **Border control:**

Strengthen border security to prevent the illegal movement of persons.

Implement more efficient and technologically advanced border controls.

- **Gender mainstreaming:**

Address gender inequalities that contribute to sexual exploitation and human trafficking.
Promote gender equality in all areas, including access to education and employment opportunities.

- **Economic and financial sanctions:**

Impose economic and financial sanctions on those who profit economically from trafficking in persons.

Trace and freeze assets related to organised crime.

It is essential to address these issues holistically, involving governments, NGOs, civil society and the private sector to achieve sustainable impact.



Bibliography

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- [Resolution 10/3](#)
- [Resolution S/RES/2388](#).