

UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



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Letter from the chair

Greetings Delegates,

Welcome to UNODC! My name is Sneha Augustine and I am so excited to serve as your chair for UNODC in person! I am a senior at Glenbrook South and have been involved with Model UN since my sophomore year, currently serving as the director of technology. Model UN has been a huge part of my highschool career, whether it was going to multiple conferences, meeting new people or improving my delegation skills. I'm so glad you are involved in Model UN and I'm super excited to meet each and every delegate in this committee! Apart from MUN, you can catch me co-leading GBS's only Indian dance team- Bhangra Beatz, mentoring freshman as a peer group leader and getting involved with many other student organizations at GBS.

In this committee, we will be discussing two topics that will require strong delegation skills and knowledge of current issues. The first topic is "Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling" and the second topic is "Discrimination in the Criminal Justice System". I will be looking for delegates that demonstrate extensive research and understanding of both topics but are also diplomatic and creative in committee. Delegates must work with other delegates in a respectful manner and remain in policy. Any pre-writing before the committee starts will not be tolerated and can result in consequences.

Delegates will also be expected to do additional research aside from the background guide and must submit a position paper before the committee starts. Please bring a hard copy of your position paper formatted in Times New Roman, 12pt font, and double spaced to be turned in before the committee. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me at 226924@glenbrook225.org. See you in committee!

Thank you,

Sneha Augustine

Introduction to UNODC

UNODC is a United Nations organization dedicated to helping make the world a safer place by combating drugs, organized crime, corruption and terrorism. The organization was established in 1977 and has about 500 staff members across the globe. UNODC's headquarters are established in Vienna.



One of the main objectives of UNODC is to spread awareness and educate others around the globe about the harmful effects of drug abuse and take action against illicit drug trafficking. To do so, UNODC has launched a variety of initiatives such as monitoring illicit crops, many projects that focus on preventing money laundering and creating alternatives to illicit drug crop cultivation. On the other hand, UNODC also works to improve the prevention of crime and assist justice reforms to combat the threats of organized crime and corruption.

Since most of these problems are on a larger scale for countries to deal with, UNODC offers assistance and encourages approaches to action. The organization does so in all parts of the world and global programmes. UNODC is also fully committed in supporting other member states in establishing the 2030 agenda for Sustainable development and the 17 SDGs. UNODC is also an active member of the United Nations Development Group

As of when the organization was created, UNODC has worked with many governments and countries societies to strengthen international cooperation in the areas of criminal justice, international terrorism, political corruption and illicit drugs.

Topic A: Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling

History of the Topic

The African slave trade

The earliest form of human trafficking can be dated back to slavery. The first form of human trafficking known to history began with the African Slave trade. The trade



between different african groups and the europeans can be marked as the earliest flow of human trafficking dated. Throughout the 17th century, many Europeans relied on the exportation of Africans from their native

country to keep as servants. Such was considered cheaper and beneficial as the slaves provided plentiful of labor. Roughly about 7 million Africans were exported to America, most being men and women. Many Africans were exploited to work as servants in the production of crops, tobacco and cotton. However soon the call for slavery's abolition movement was made by the colonists after the American revolution.

White Slavery

White Slavery refers to the trafficking of mainly Europeanas by non-Europeans. Most women from Europe were tricked or forced into prostitution by traffickers and were usually transported to foriegn countries. This form of trafficking originated in the

twentieth century, accompanying the emigration to the New World and was originated by the growing poverty and devastating conditions of white women. Most women who were looking for jobs and wanted to enter the workforce led to many instances of unsupervised prostitution. Many victims were kidnapped, coerced and lured to participate in the heinous crime. Popular and big cities held houses for prostitutes and the governments took no action against the crime that was occurring right under their nose. Women were forced to be medically examined and were registered as prostitutes while their consumers enjoyed the immunity of legal prosecution.

Trafficking of women and children in World War I

Soon white slavery wasn't focused on as the war was the centre of attention. Human trafficking still existed for the purpose of sexual exploitation of women. However after World War I, the alignment of the United Nations played a big role in international efforts to stop trafficking. Countries together signed agreements and eventually signed the multilateral treaty, International Convention for the Suppression of Traffic in Women and Children, in 1921.

Overview of the topic

Human trafficking

Human trafficking is a crime that involves the use of three methods: force, fraud or coercion for purposes of either labor or force prostitution. Most traffickers look for women and children that are either emotionally or psychologically vulnerable, aren't financially stable, have no security, affected by natural disasters or in the midst of a politically unstable region. Traffickers use the promise of a new life or better living conditions to lure women and children to forced labor or prostitution. They will sometimes offer education or even job opportunities and can often use violence to coerce their victims. Individuals from any class, religion or race are at risk but the most vulnerable groups are individuals with low income, children and youth residing in foster care or juvenile justice systems, homeless people, undocumented immigrants and most likely societies with intergenerational trauma.



Across the globe, millions of women and even children are trafficked and are lured by smugglers through various tactics. Common tactics are listed below:

Threats of Force

To coerce vulnerable individuals into trafficking, most traffickers will submit to threats of force or even physical violence. Such can include either physical restraint,

physical harm, and sexual assault. Most victims can be hit, kicked, punches, stangled, shot or raper by traffickers. Victims are also often confined in order to control them and tear down one's resistance. Drugs are also often used as a form of restraint. Traffickers may lock the individuals up in a room, bound them or even physically prevent them from moving around.

Debt manipulation

Traffickers often coerce individuals submerged in debt or manipulate victims by withholding income, and taking on debt for costs such as food, housing and even transportation. like food, housing, or transportation. Women from other countries may also be promised a job as a cook, waitress or massage therapist in the United States, but will then be charged huge amounts of money to enter on valid visas. Traffickers will use schemes to incur more debt and will exploit this opportunity to manipulate and create more instances in which debt is accrued. Such means are used to compel victims to forced labor or commercial sex trafficking. Debt manipulation is extremely psychologically and emotionally hard on victims since it keeps enslaved and in a continuous cycle.

Confiscation of identity documents

A lot of victims face the crime of being robbed of their travel and identity documents, and are told that their families or friends back home may be harmed if they attempt to escape. If victims are not in possession of identity documents, they will have

fewer options to seek assistance when faced with their employer's threats or actions. A lack of awareness and fear of their employers will make it very difficult for them to seek assistance from NGOs or government agencies.

Physiological coercion

Traffickers often use psychological techniques to manipulate their victims. In some cases, traffickers could intimidate victims or their families and threaten to harm them physically. They also coerce victims psychologically by isolating them from family and friends, robbing them of access to social support networks. Being isolated from family and friends exacerbates the power imbalance between victims and their traffickers, making victims feel more vulnerable. Traffickers will often use dehumanizing tactics, including denying them of basic human needs such as food, sleep, and healthcare. They work the women relentlessly for hours on end. In addition to their own abusive behavior, traffickers often show compassion and kindness toward their victims, providing positive motivation for their compliance. Women in trafficking situations lived perpetually in fear of making mistakes and with the hope of pleasing their traffickers to receive an emotional or material reward. They were unable to know when these indulgences would be made available to them, so they lived in perpetual anxiety.

Types of Exploitation

There are a number of forms of exploitation associated with human trafficking, no matter the race, status or religion of the victim. Below are some of the most common

forms of human trafficking.

Sex trafficking

Sex trafficking is a form of human trafficking in which individuals are coerced or cheated into performing commercial sex. Sex traffickers often target victims with lies, debt bondage, or other techniques to keep them enslaved to the industry. Traffickers may also offer false employment opportunities overseas to most individuals. However, upon arrival, these individuals are abused, threatened and sold in the sex industry. In reality, upon arrival these individuals are abused, threatened and sold to the sex industry. In many ways, sex trafficking is similar to the consequences of sexual violence, as it has similar results. Sexual exploitation of victims can have long-term or immediate effects on relationships, mental health, can create health issues (HIV/AIDS), drug addiction, malnutrition, and social isolation.

Labor trafficking

The crime of labor trafficking refers to the practice of forcing individuals to perform either labor or services against their will in a range of industries. The majority of victims work either legally in computer, agriculture, domestic, factory or construction work, while others are involved in illegal activities, such as the drug or arms trade. In several consumer products and good products, elements of forced labor are present. We pay for many products that are sourced from labor trafficking victims. The globalization of economies has made it faster and easier for goods produced with forced labor to enter

the global market

Organ trafficking

Organ trafficking, a global illicit trade, is a less talked about form of human trafficking. Organ trafficking occurs most frequently with organized crime groups due to the high demand and low enforcement rates. Organized criminal groups profit from the desperate state of unemployed people, migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in order to force them into selling organs. Those who have been trafficked for sexual or labor purpose face additional risks as well.

Role of Technology

The development of technology over the years have facilitate human trafficking, especially children as the internet provides a convenient marketing channel for traffickers. The majority of trafficking takes place via fake social media accounts and fake profiles on applications.



Traffickers may communicate through encrypted applications or the "Dark Web" to connect. Using the internet, traffickers can reach a much larger clientele base, which can put victims at a great risk.

A trafficker's actions are highly automated by identifying potential victims through social media, building a relationship of trust, and subsequently entrapping them into exploitative situations. Children are particularly vulnerable since they cannot defend themselves against traffickers. According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, from 2010 to 2015, 846% more reports of suspected child sex trafficking were reported - an increase directly linked to the increased use of online dating sites.

The use of technology may also be used by traffickers as a cover up. Perpetrators' use of technology to conceal their activities is not only harmful to anti-trafficking response systems, but also to actual or potential victims of human trafficking. Human traffickers have traditionally exploited vulnerable victims such as those experiencing poverty, domestic violence, lack of educational opportunities and family support, homelessness, mental or physical disability, migration status, and drug abuse. It may be especially dangerous for children who grow up in families where neglect or abuse is commonplace

Victims exploited through the use of technology also run the risk of re-victimization and face challenges in their rehabilitation. So long as there is technology, trauma and stigma continue to exist and the ability to fully recover for victims is threatened.

Migrant smuggling

Smuggling is the act of facilitating the unlawful entry of migrants into countries where



they are not citizens or residents, for financial or other material gain. The criminals behind this business takes advantage of the need or desire of people to escape not just poverty and unemployment, but also natural disasters, wars or

persecution, to profit from this highly profitable business. Human trafficking, abuse, and other crimes can be a serious threat to smuggled people, who are illegally present on the continents they travel to and often owe heavy debts to their smugglers.

Some migrants are targeted by smugglers because of violence in their home countries; others simply seek a better life or economic opportunities abroad; or they simply want to reunite with the families they have left behind. Immigrants may be subjected to sex or labor trafficking while in transit or at their destination.

In addition to facilitating irregular migration, smugglers use land, sea, and air routes to facilitate illegal migration within the EU as well as outside. Smugglers have earnings estimated at multiple billions of euros annually.

The difference between human trafficking and migrant smuggling

In reality, human trafficking and migrant smuggling often overlap. It is essential that policymakers, law enforcement and immigration officers, as well as civil society organizations, understand their differences. Migrant smuggling, on the other hand, is a crime that only takes place across borders, unlike human trafficking, which occurs domestically and internationally. In this case, the smugglers assist migrants in entering or staying in a country illegally so they can benefit financially or materially. The migrants' desire and/or need to enter a country without valid documentation make this a profitable business.

Role of organized crime

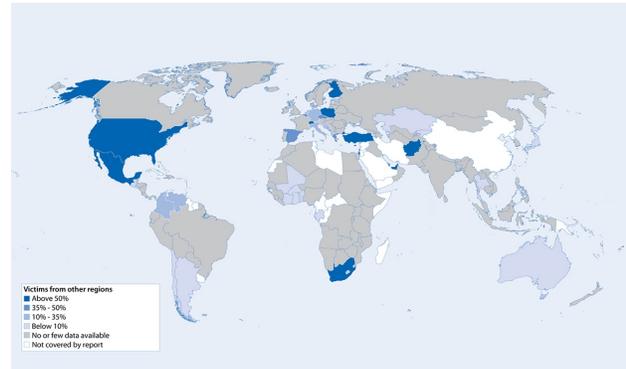
In many instances, migrant smuggling is performed by organized criminal networks, which profit from an illicit activity that is not likely to be detected.

Many smugglers are also legitimate business owners who are involved in migrants smuggling as opportunity carriers or hotel owners who choose not to report it to authorities for personal gain. Consequently, migrant smugglers are becoming increasingly organized, creating professional networks that cross borders and cover all regions in order to expand their operations.

Yet criminals do not seem to be the only ones profiting from this illegal activity. Several American financial institutions also profit from this illegal trade through fees collected on electronic transfers and other forms of payment made by migrants to the United States

Current status

The Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons reports that human trafficking is still a bigger issue in 2021.



It is asserted in the document that the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in sharp increases in unemployment rates, which will likely increase trafficking in persons, especially from countries experiencing steep and persistent reductions in employment. There is a high probability that job seekers from these countries will be more willing to take high risks in the hope of improving their career prospects.

Evidence suggests the poor have been hit the hardest by spiking unemployment during the Pandemic Recession, even in wealthy countries. Low income groups are the most vulnerable groups. There is a likelihood that an increasing number of people will be trafficked from those parts of the world regaining economic strength to those with higher unemployment rates.

Possible Solutions

A country can set up agencies for preventing and combating trafficking in persons, as well as programs that assist victims in order to combat trafficking and smuggling within

its borders. Investigative actions aimed at targeting different forms of this crime may be included in these programs, as well as training of multidisciplinary investigation and prosecution units. Countries may also create anti-trafficking units that will be able to investigate existing online markets and networks proactively, establish human rights compliance with digital forensic evidence, and develop enforcement measures countermeasures. A focus on addressing economic inequalities resulting from genderdiscrimination, and reinforcing social ties and safety nets, may provide many countries and potential victims the best protection against a traffickers' deceptive strategies.

Questions to consider

1. What is your country's government stance on human trafficking and migrant smuggling? Has the government taken any action against this use throughout the existence of your country?
2. How does human trafficking and migrant smuggling exist across different regions in your country?
3. What steps should the UN take to ensure that human trafficking and migrant smuggling are eradicated in your country?
4. What has the UN done in your country to improve conditions for victims of trafficking and smuggling?

Topic B: Discrimination in the Criminal justice system

History of the topic

The United States criminal justice system has a intricate and world-infamous system of discrimination and incarceration and Black people, Black men especially. The



specific type of discrimination against Black and brown Americans was built to target them and essentially socially cripple them. As of 2018, Black adults are 5.9 times more likely to be incarcerated compared to white adults. But this

systemic inequality traces back to the era of Reconstruction, which was just after the American Civil War. The American South, who had lost their means of labor and societal structure(which was slavery) decided to enforce "Black Codes" to imprison Black Americans and suppress them through legislature; it was a means of getting as close to reverting back to white society before slavery as they possibly could. These soon evolved into Jim Crow laws, which further kept Black Americans down. They were an effective means of incarcerating Black Americans and really just non-whites to uplift white supremacy. It got especially bad in the 80s with the introduction of crack cocaine into low income, majority Black and Brown neighborhoods-the War on Drugs saw an unprecedented rise in crime and violence in those neighborhoods, subsequently leading to

over policing of these places and incarcerating Black Americans, particularly Black men, for drug-related crimes that their white counterparts were just as likely to commit.

Types of Racial Disparity in the Criminal Justice System

Policing

Overpolicing heavily contributes to high rates of arrests and police incidents, but is a result of a deeper, intricate issue caused by years of racist legislation. Poverty in majority Black neighborhoods is a result of redlining, a practice that would deny loans to Black people and prevent them from economic prosperity. This type of systemic poverty allows for rampant crime, since most of its inhabitants have no other way of making money, which then leads to over policing to catch these people in the act and lower crime rates. Overpolicing struggles to be effective since there is often no empathy for the people that commit these crimes, and completely ignores other races that commit the same crimes. Policing disproports the data related to crime related to race and makes it easier to stereotype the nonwhite, mostly Black people committing these crimes.

Pretrial

Compared to non-Hispanic whites, African Americans are incarcerated at a rate 3.5 times higher in local jails. The reasons for these disparities result from the policies and practices of policing described earlier as well as the ones introduced at this stage of

processing. Detention before trial increases criminal convictions and detainees may accept less advantageous plea deals, be sentenced to prison, and receive longer sentences if they are detained awaiting trial. A staggering 70% of pretrial releases require a money bond, which poses a significant hurdle for low-income defendants, many of whom are people of color. People of color often suffer from implicit bias in how bail is determined, resulting in worse outcomes than others.

Sentencing

The racial disparities in the criminal justice system are compounded by decisions and several policies that mainly put people of color at a disadvantage due to their race and extremely high rates of socioeconomic disadvantages. Usually, prosecutors charge people of color with crimes with heavy sentences. For example, federal prosecutors charge African Americans twice as often with crimes that carry mandatory minimum sentences than other minorities. Those who are of color are also adversely affected by many existing policies. Additionally, most jurisdictions do not adequately fund their indigent defense programs. While there are many excellent public defender offices throughout the country, indigent individuals are currently represented either by public defenders with excessive caseloads, or by appointed counsel with limited expertise.

Parole

There is evidence that parole boards may be influenced by an applicant's race in their decision making. Among sentences that allow for discretionary parole release, it may be more difficult for people of color. In addition to underinvestment and racial disparities, there is also underinvestment in community supervision - with many parole systems offering supervision without much support. Research also shows that parole and probation officers are more likely to revoke people of color than whites for comparable reasons.

Current status

Many, if not all of the systems put in place against non-white Americans are still alive and persistent. Out of the 2.3 million Americans incarcerated today, 70% of them are non-white. Mass incarceration continues to be a tool of oppression for Black and Brown Americans, even for petty crimes. Since the War on Drugs was so recent, its effects still play a major role in low income neighborhoods and drug-related convictions. Overpolicing is also prevalent in these neighborhoods, which makes people living there, especially young people of color, more likely to be arrested. It's also not uncommon for them to be innocent and/or framed by law enforcement.



The criminal justice system effectively cripples convicts so that if they are freed, they struggle with finding a stable job and often fall back into committing the same crimes that put them in prison. This cycle likely will not end without outside pressures or interventions.

Possible solutions

Since the issue is deeply rooted in a much more complex system, a starting point should be pinpointed. Your country can't really solve one issue without solving another. However, an example of a solution a government can put into place is requiring police, courts, and prison authorities to gather, maintain, and publish statistics that identify race, ethnicity, and descent as well as gender of those involved in criminal justice. Police misconduct based on racism or related intolerance may be prevented, detected and prosecuted by the government by designing, implementing, and enforcing effective programs that prevent, detect, and ensure accountability for such incidents. Officials in the criminal justice system must be held accountable for policies and practices by governments. Furthermore, countries can monitor the conduct of police and provide relief and assistance to victims of discrimination in law and public. Poverty in overpoliced areas might also be a topic for discussion since it is almost directly related to crime.

Questions to consider

1. What is your country's government stance on discrimination in the criminal justice system?
2. Has your country's government taken any action against this issue throughout the existence of your country?
3. What steps should the UN take to ensure that discrimination in the criminal justice system is eradicated from the country?
4. How does your country's government treat previously incarcerated people?

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