

# Research Report

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General Assembly

Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian  
and Cultural)

International cooperation for the prevention of  
human trafficking with special regard to minors



# MUNISH



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<b>Forum</b>	GA3: Social, Humanitarian and Cultural
<b>Issue:</b>	International cooperation for the prevention of human trafficking with special regard to minors
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## Introduction

From the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, agreements have been signed and bills have been passed in order to try and eradicate the act of trafficking people. It was only after the First World War when the League of Nations decided to discuss the issues of international importance that the trafficking of women and children was held to a degree where the importance of their rescue was not based upon their race. Nowadays we highlight the attention that must be drawn to the issues of Human Trafficking by holding January as Human Trafficking Awareness Month while January 11<sup>th</sup> is Human Trafficking Awareness Day.

Virtually every country in the world is affected by the crimes of human trafficking. It is considered a form of modern day slavery as others profit from the exploitation of these people. The act of human trafficking is considered a crime under international law.

Throughout the world, minors are being moved across international borders and are bought and sold by traffickers who force them into being exploited for both sexual purposes and labor.

Knowing that the children of today are the most integral components needed to building a stable and just future, the struggle lies in operating in such a manner through which their exploitation by trafficking is stopped on an international scale.

Countries that feel the strain of human trafficking the most more often than not tend to be Lesser Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs). This is due to the fact that traffickers can often latch onto the financial instability and impoverished state and use that vulnerability to their advantage. The majority of trafficking occurs nationally or regionally, but there are examples of long distance trafficking. Europe is shown to be the most popular destination for traffickers to relocate their abducted victims to, while victims from Asia are often the most



trafficked and to the widest range of destinations. The Americas are also prominent in both the location for abduction and relocation of victims of human trafficking.

## Definition of Key Terms

### Minors

A minor is a person who is under the age of full legal responsibility. The United Nations defines a minor as a child, which is “A human being below the age of 18 years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier”.

### Human Trafficking

“The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of threats 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 or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.” - Article 3, paragraph (a) of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons.

## General Overview

Thousands of men, women and children fall into the hands of traffickers within their own country borders and abroad. An estimation made by the US government places the number of adults and children trafficked across international borders between 600,000 and 800,000 per year. Overall 80% of all people trafficked from LEDCs are women and children, highlighting the importance in regards to the protection of minors.

### Elements of Human Trafficking

Trafficking in persons is made up of three main elements in accordance to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol. These are:

#### The Act

The act is what is done to the people in order to obtain them and then exploit them. This involves the numerous ways through which people, particularly minors, are found and exchanged either within or across borders.



## The Means

The means is the manner through which the people are obtained and kept. This revolves around how the people are acquired and how they are kept. When dealing with minors, these means are often things such as blackmail against the child's family, the murder of the child's family allowing them for no escape, the abuse of power or authority or the use of fraud and abduction.

## The Purpose

What their use through such exploitation is. Often the purpose of trafficking is for sheer exploitation, which can take form in the prostitution of others, sexual exploitation, organ harvesting, slavery and forced labor.

The challenges faced in the battle against human trafficking are numerous. The first problem countries face in combating human trafficking in the actual acquisition of the numbers and statistics involved. This is due to the illegal nature of the crime itself. Furthermore it must be understood from the UNODC's work in the criminal justice sector that human trafficking is often but one of many illegal activities of highly sophisticated and extensive international crime networks.

Ultimately it must be understood that regardless of the varying priorities of different member states, the fight against the heinous crime of human trafficking should be of high importance to all as it is a crime that has monumental impact on the international community.

## Major Parties Involved and Their Views

### United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

The primary function of the UNODC is to work as the global leader in the fight against illicit drugs and international crime. They were established in the late 1990's as a result of a merger between the United Nations Drug Control Program (UNDCP) and the Center for International Crime Prevention (CICP). The three pillars of their work program are field based technical cooperation projects, research, analytical and normative work as well as aiding States in implementation and ratification of relevant international treaties. They act as a guardian of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and thereby help states in their efforts to implement the Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

In order to properly assist the victims of human trafficking, the UNODC strives for increasing the level of protection and assistance provided to victims of human trafficking



crimes. This is often carried out through relevant technical assistance such as Assisting the review and revision of the legislation concerning said human trafficking victims, training practitioners of criminal justice as well as service providers on how to protect human trafficking victims, supporting countries by aiding their provision of social, psychological and physical recovery to the victims and then ultimately securing the safety of the victims as they reenter society.

### Inter-Agency Groups

The Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT), United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT), Global Migration Group (GMG) and the UN Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons are all inter-agency groups run by, supported by or partnered with the UNODC which all work in efforts to eradicate the problem.

### Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
2000	UN Member States agreed to combat the smuggling of migrants by land, sea and air and to prevent and punish trafficking in persons
December 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2003	The UN General Assembly enforces the Trafficking Protocol
April 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	The UN.GIFT launches the publication Combating Trafficking in Persons: A Handbook for Parliamentarians
March 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> , 2010	Six member states increase the international cooperation against human trafficking
April 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2011	The Crime Commission addresses the protection of trafficked children from exploitation on the web

### UN involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

- The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons
- UNODC's Thematic Program Against Transnational Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking (2011-2013)

### Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue



The UNODC Protocol is most likely the most effective protocol that has been set in place regarding the issue of human trafficking. Even so, there are significant setbacks. Although many member states have signed and ratified the protocol, there is still a number that have yet to do so. Furthermore problems arise when attempting to translate theory into practice, as many of the criminals are not convicted and most of the victims are never even identified or found as the illegal nature makes it difficult to track.

## Possible Solutions

There are several different possible solutions that are yet to be implemented that could potentially have an effect on decreasing the level of trafficking of minors. One possibility would be the creation of a database wherein information of anything pertaining to the issue of human trafficking may be stored. Said information would then be accessible to law enforcement who are in need of data on found people, missing people and known traffickers alike. Such a database should be internationally available, but still provide the possibility to narrow searches based on nation.

Something else that might hold way to improve the situation would be to penalize the found traffickers more harshly based on whether they have been guilty of trafficking children. The penalties overall should become more intense as member states specifically criminalize the practice of human trafficking based on various different trafficking crimes.

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