



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

BCNMUN 2024

Identity and Conflict

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Topic: Developing measures to mitigate the trafficking of women for purposes of prostitution or forced marriage.

Chair: Aitana Viñuales Carranza

Position: Chair

Introduction

The trafficking of women and young girls has been a prevalent issue for years now, with the practice dating back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Through increasing globalization, population growth, and countries becoming progressively interconnected, traffickers employed a variety of strategies to recruit women and girls to foreign countries. As of 2022, females made up 63% of registered victims of this modern form of slavery. The trafficking of women primarily consists of the selling and exploitation of women for sexual means, such as prostitution or pornography. In addition, another common form of trafficking in young women are arranged marriages, in which women are deceitfully promised a better life. The United Nations Human Rights Committee affirms that “Human trafficking violates and impairs fundamental human rights”, further emphasizing the need to protect women’s rights, and eradicate this global conflict.

Mail-order bride agencies, businesses that arrange partnerships between people, are frequently linked to human trafficking, as many of them act as fronts for criminal organizations that intend to sell women into prostitution, forced marriage, or domestic slavery. Every year, between 100,000 to 150,000 women enlist themselves as mail-order brides, most coming from Asian and Eastern European countries. These women are typically driven by poverty and unsafe living conditions, appealing to inaccurate media representations of Western lifestyles. This tremendous lack of information and unrealistic promise results in many women leaving their home countries in pursuit of a better life. However, this only leads them to increasingly derogatory and a loss of power. Similarly, forced and child marriage is also seen as a prominent form of trafficking, when involving the exploitation of women who are incapable of escaping these circumstances.

In order to strengthen women's and girls' fundamental rights globally, it is imperative to address the trafficking of these individuals for the purposes of prostitution and marriage. To effectively end this worldwide problem, prioritizing a human rights approach is essential.

Definition of Key Terms

Human Trafficking

The illegal practice of coercing or forcing people to perform labor or provide a service in exchange for money, typically in the form of forced labor or sexual exploitation.

Forced Marriage

A marriage in which one or both parties are forcibly married without their consent. Human trafficking and forced marriage frequently coexist, particularly when involving the exploitation of women and girls for labor or reproduction.

Prostitution

The act of engaging in sexual activity in exchange for money or other forms of compensation.

Exploitation

The practice of unfairly utilizing someone for one's personal gain. In trafficking, this includes forced labor, servitude, sexual exploitation, and other forms of abuse in the same context.

Reproductive Slavery

A particular form of exploitation in which trafficked women are coerced into having children. It is often seen in cases of marriage trafficking, where victims are pressured to bear children in order to satisfy their husbands' or traffickers' wants.

Mail-Order Bride Agencies

Businesses known as "mail-order bride agencies" arrange partnerships between people, primarily men from developed countries and women from developing nations, with the goal of

marriage or other committed relationships. These organizations often provide online-based services including arranging meetings, translation, and matchmaking. Despite its main purpose of bringing individuals together, these agencies are frequently condemned for their false promises and forms of manipulation.

Background Information

Origins of the Trafficking of Women

The history of women being trafficked and human trafficking as a whole date back all the way to the 16th century, in which early forms of it were seen through slavery. During the transatlantic slave trade between 1501 and 1867, slave traders of enslaved African people forcibly transported them to the Americas for longterm servitude. In this time period, women were trafficked alongside men for forced labor. However, a common pattern for women during this time was that they were particularly exploited for sexual means as well as domestic servitude, unlike most men. In addition, many enslaved women were often forced into marriages with their slave owners or captors.

Going into the 20th century, the focus turned to the trafficking of European women for prostitution, known as “white slavery”. Though many historians claim that the number of cases were minimal, records indicate substantial activity across Europe. Around this time period is when the question of exploiting women and girls was starting to be seen as a violation of human rights, and the issue gained more and more attention and international support. For instance, in the early 1900s, the 1904 International Agreement for the Suppression of “White Slave Traffic” was put in place, marking one of the very first pushes to act on the matter of trafficking women. Since then, efforts to eradicate the issue have grown significantly, especially with the founding of the United Nations following World War II. Nonetheless, the trafficking of women and girls continues to be a global conflict that persists in numerous societies today.

Current State of the Trafficking of Women

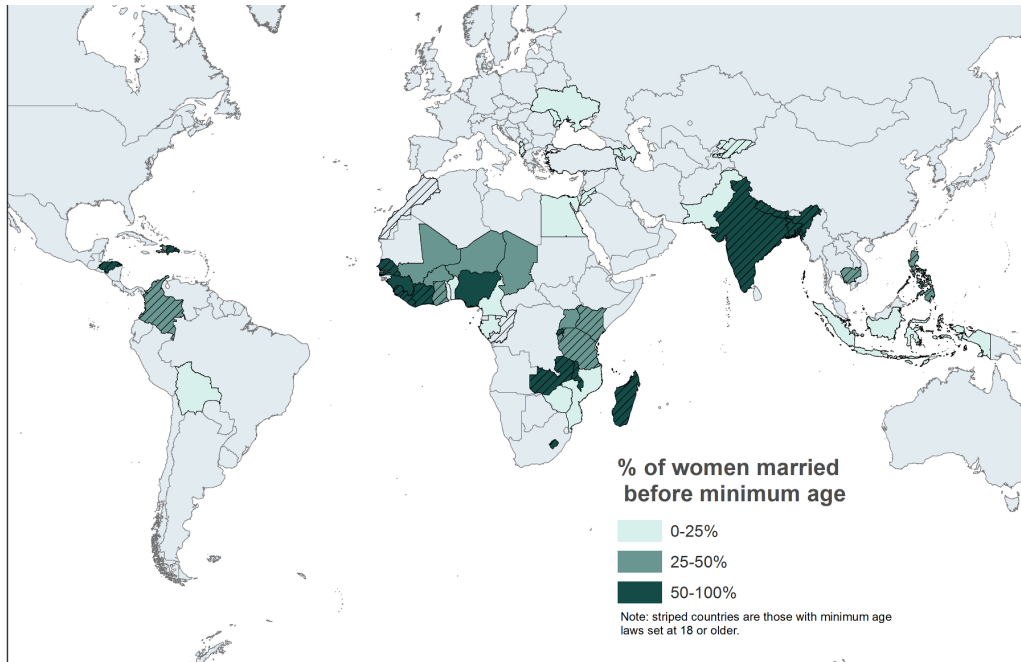
With most identified victims being female, the current state of women and girls being trafficked and exploited continues to be prominent on a global scale. The trend of sexual exploitation of women continues to be the most common, though forced labor exploitation has

risen to nearly equal levels. Social media and the internet have altered human trafficking completely over the years, heavily facilitating recruitment and exploitation on a much larger scale.

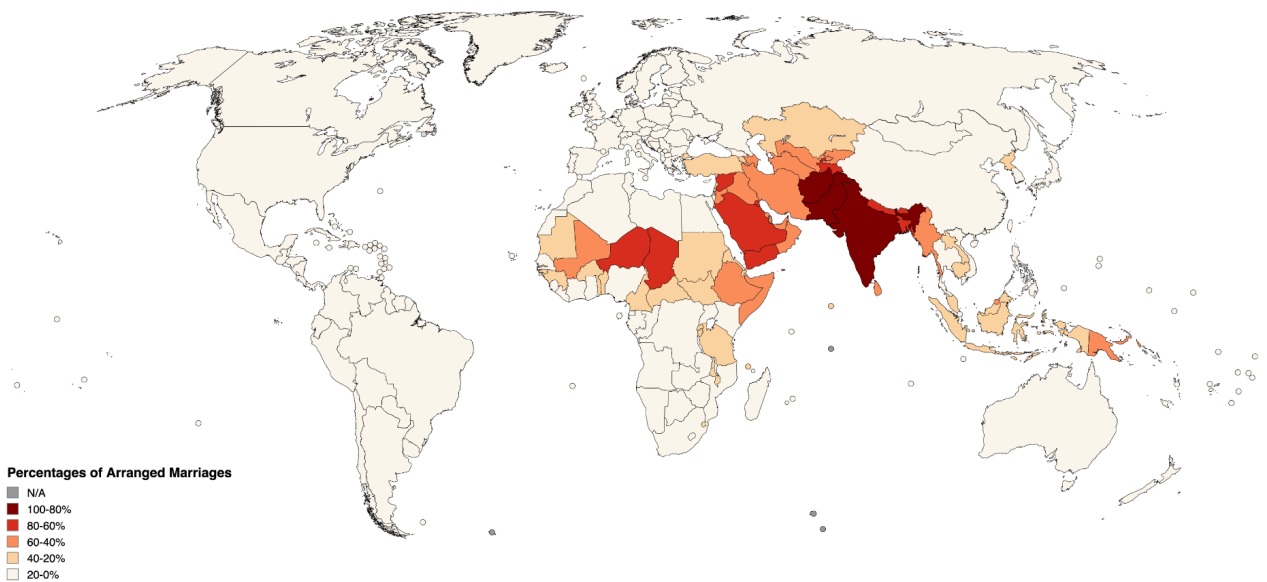
In terms of data available, there are many major regional differences. For instance, Western Europe reports a higher percentage of victims from non-EU nations, whereas Eastern European countries claim a higher number of local victims. The majority of forced laborers worldwide are found in the Asia-Pacific area. Gender inequality, poverty, and limited economic prospects persist in rendering women and girls susceptible to human trafficking. Although it may not formally be recognised as trafficking, the "mail-order bride" sector interacts with sex trafficking and heightens women's vulnerability to exploitation. Underreporting, the changing nature of trafficking, and problems with victim identification are other challenges that society continues to encounter in the fight against the issue. Despite the implementation of various international initiatives, including the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, there are still major differences in how these initiatives are enforced around the world.

According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, globally, over 650 million women alive today were married as children. Each year, at least 12 million girls are forcibly married before reaching the age of 18, amounting to 28 girls every minute. Affected in particular is the Asia-Pacific area, which makes up over half of the global human trafficking market. Between 2013 and 2017, about 7,400 women were sold to men in China in Myanmar alone, and during that same time, an estimated 21,000 women and girls were coerced into marriages. Similar patterns are seen in Cambodia and Vietnam, where hundreds of women are trafficked every year. These startling statistics continue to show the significant need to protect women's rights, and to allow them the freedom of making their own decisions and having a right to their own bodies. As of 2021, an estimated 22 million people worldwide were living in situations of forced marriage, with almost 15 million being women and girls. In addition, this illegal enterprise's economic scale is astounding, with annual profits estimated to be over \$150 billion. The fact that many women who are trafficked into marriage are also exploited in other contexts, such as forced labor and sex exploitation, further emphasizes the complexity of the problem and the multidimensional nature of this worldwide human rights violation.

The map below analyzes which countries are more inclined to entertain forced child marriages below the minimum age. The map shows Africa to have the highest percentage of women married before minimum age, as well as the region of India being included in this percentage.



The following map shows which countries have the highest percentage of arranged marriages. Though India, Pakistan and Afghanistan are the predominant, there is still a good amount of arranged marriages in Africa, as well as some Middle-Eastern and Asian countries.



Created with mapchart.net

Future

The future of women being trafficked globally doesn't seem too bright considering the amount of technological advancements that continue to be developed every day. With the strong persistence of the root causes of the issue, such as gender inequalities, economic differences, and political instability in the main source countries, it seems likely for many women to continue being more susceptible to trafficking. Additionally, traffickers and trafficking agencies now have more access to advanced technology and social media to recruit more victims, and easily facilitate all of the operations that go into trafficking. Likewise, with forced marriage as a form of trafficking becoming more and more prevalent in certain societies, its recognition is increasing significantly along with its victims. Even with continuous help from governments, NGOs, international organizations and even technology such as AI and blockchains to detect and prevent these activities, the question of mitigating the trafficking of women still remains unsolved and in need of more attention.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

Nigeria

Nigeria is a major point of origin and one of the largest source countries for the trafficking of women and girls for sexual exploitation, especially to Europe. The trafficking networks are highly organized, involving multiple roles such as recruiters, transporters, and exploiters. Many women and girls from Nigeria are misled with false promises of legitimate jobs in Europe, often in sectors like hospitality or domestic work. These recruiters often have ties to the victims' communities, sometimes even being acquaintances or relatives. The victims are then trapped in debt bondage, owing amounts between \$30,000 and \$60,000. Libya frequently serves as a transit country, where victims face additional exploitation before reaching destinations like Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, and Germany. In these countries, they are mainly forced into street prostitution and brothels. From 2017 to 2020, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) identified 20,532 Nigerian trafficking victims in 64 countries. In 2020, Nigeria's National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) conducted 1,076 investigations, resulting in 733 prosecutions and 80 convictions.

Thailand

Thailand is a major hub for the trafficking of women for sexual exploitation, both as a source and a destination. The country's strong tourism industry and generally weak law enforcement contribute to its status as a hotspot for sex trafficking. According to the Global Slavery Index, around 610,000 individuals are trapped in modern slavery within Thailand. Economic difficulties drive many Thai women and girls into trafficking, as recruiters exploit their financial struggles with deceptive offers of lucrative jobs in urban areas or abroad. Sometimes, families push women and girls into prostitution to alleviate financial pressures. Within Thailand, many victims are trafficked from rural regions to cities like Bangkok, Pattaya, and Phuket, which are known for their bustling sex industries. Thai women are also trafficked internationally to East Asia, Europe, and North America, ending up in places like Japan, South Korea, Germany, and the United States. They are mostly exploited in indoor venues such as brothels, massage parlors, and karaoke bars, which often mask themselves as legitimate businesses. The country's sex tourism industry, attracting an estimated 4.8 million visitors annually, fuels this trafficking. In 2019, the Royal Thai Police handled 288 trafficking cases, including 77 related to sex trafficking, and in 2020, Thai authorities secured convictions against 141 traffickers, 80 of which were involved in sex trafficking.

India

India is another country where the trafficking of women, particularly young girls, for forced marriage is a significant issue. Recent statistics from the India Child Protection research team, part of the Child Marriage Free India network, reveal that three girls are forced into child marriage every minute in the country. Although reports in 2022 indicated only three child marriages per day, many of these involved grooms who were over 21 years old. Despite India's ban on child marriage dating back to 1929, the practice persists, tying back to societal norms and pushed by factors such as poverty and a tremendous lack of education in the country. Ending child marriage could improve outcomes like infant mortality rates, reduce forced female labor, and address gender inequality. Yet, the data remains troubling: NCRB statistics from 2018-2020 recorded 3,863 child marriages, but broader Census estimates suggest around 4,000 occur daily, indicating significant underreporting. This inconsistency also underscores the scale of the issue and further demonstrates the interplay of socio-economic factors that unfortunately lead to child marriage.

China

China has always been a country that has dealt with the issue of forced marriages, but it is only in recent years that it has worsened notably. Each year, numerous women and girls migrate from South East Asia, often by force or coercion, to marry Chinese men, have children, and take care of the household as a whole. Though many make the choice to move, from countries including Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia and Myanmar, a grand majority of these women are harmed and trapped in these situations in which they are exposed to forced labor, violence, physical and sexual abuse, and overall sexual exploitation. The gender imbalance resulting from China's historical one-child policy and a cultural preference for sons has created a significant increasing demand for brides, particularly in rural areas.

This demand originates from social expectations for men to marry and produce children, which has led to the exploitation of vulnerable women and girls from Southeast Asia. Many of these women are deceived by brokers who promise well-paid jobs or better living conditions, only to find themselves trapped in abusive marriages. These situations are further complicated by the lack of legal protections and the nature of international marriage brokering, which is illegal in China. As a result, these women often lose their passports, face restrictions on their freedom, and are subjected to harsh treatment under terrible living conditions. The issue has been amplified by economic pressures and the need for financial security, which has pushed many families to consent to or even facilitate these exploitative arrangements. Despite some government efforts to address the problem, such as cracking down some trafficking networks and aiding victims, the persistence of these practices highlights the root social and economic challenges that enable the trafficking and forced marriage of women in the region.

Philippines

The Philippines has demonstrated a remarkable leadership in combating human trafficking, specifically aiding women and girls, by implementing a comprehensive strategy that encompasses law enforcement, victim support, and legislation. The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003, along with its resulting revisions, offers a strong legal framework that imposes heavy penalties on traffickers. In an effort to combat cross-border trafficking, specialized anti-trafficking units within law enforcement have been developed to improve investigative and prosecution capabilities.

Furthermore, the Philippines has created comprehensive programs that provide resources including shelters, guidance, legal aid, and job preparation to aid in the recovery and reintegration of survivors of human trafficking. Initiatives to raise public awareness about the risks of human trafficking and the repercussions for offenders are commonly carried out in collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs). By implementing these numerous initiatives, the Philippines has made remarkable advances in victim identification and protection, trafficker prosecution, and building awareness, which supports the worldwide fight to eradicate human trafficking and the trafficking of women.

Netherlands

The Netherlands has emerged as an active role in the global fight against human trafficking, putting a special emphasis on the protection of women and girls. The nation has set forth a comprehensive national plan that consists of strong victim care services, efficient law enforcement, and strict legislation. Trafficking in any form is illegal under the Dutch Penal Code, and those who engage in it face harsh penalties. Effective investigation and prosecution of human trafficking offenders is made possible by the particular focus of public prosecutors and specialized police units to these cases. In order to ensure a thorough approach to victims' recovery, the government offers them full support, including social services, psychological counseling, shelters, and legal aid. In 2022, the Coordination Centre against Human Trafficking (CoMensha) registered 1,232 potential victims, with a notable percentage being women and girls. In order to avert cross-border trafficking, the Netherlands also works closely with foreign partners and organizations, demonstrating its dedication to combating this problem globally. In addition to prevention initiatives, public awareness campaigns and educational initiatives give the Netherlands a key role in helping bring this issue to an end.

Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW)

The Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW) is a coalition of over 100 non-governmental organizations spanning Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and North America. The organization's central office, located in Bangkok, Thailand, coordinates the alliance's efforts, gathers and shares information, and advocates for the network at both national and international assemblies. The members of GAATW include groups advocating for migrant rights,

anti-trafficking initiatives, self-organized groups of migrant workers, domestic workers, trafficking survivors, sex workers, as well as human rights and women's rights organizations, and direct service providers. GAATW views human trafficking as a significant issue within the broader context of labor migration. The organization actively defends the human rights of all migrants and their families, pushing for safety within work sectors. They work collaboratively with member organizations to support the rights of women and girls affected by trafficking and exploitation.

Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW)

The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW) is another organization that aims to eradicate the trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and girls. CATW advocates for stronger laws, helps raise public awareness, and supports survivor leadership globally. The organization, first founded back in 1988, emphasizes the right of every woman and girl to live free from violence and discrimination, addressing the systemic issues that lead to these ongoing cases of trafficking and exploitation. CATW has led a number of movements and has remained extremely involved in finding ways to solve this worldwide issue over the last three decades, and continues to combat the trafficking of women.

United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) plays a critical role in protecting women and other vulnerable groups from trafficking and exploitation worldwide. UNHRC is trained to identify potential victims of trafficking among refugees and displaced persons, as well as utilizing standard operating procedures to facilitate the identification and referral of these victims. In addition, UNHRC works alongside numerous organizations including the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking (ICAT) and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), to help develop legal frameworks addressing the needs of women, and overall combating human trafficking as a whole. Collaborating with countries in need, UNHRC and the United Nations as a whole have both played significant roles in eradicating the issue of trafficking in women and girls, as well as ensuring the provision of aid towards victims in need of help.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of Event
1700s	<p>The Transatlantic Slave Trade and Sexual Exploitation.</p> <p>During the time period of the transatlantic slave trade, African women were trafficked to be exploited sexually in the Americas. The ability for women and girls to serve as both sexual slaves and forced laborers made them a significant target to trafficking for these purposes. This practice and form of slavery facilitated the long-term exploitation of Black women in the Americas, and led to the rise of racialized sexual stereotypes. Additionally, the transatlantic slave trade marks the beginning of a global issue that continues to persist in our society today.</p>
1832	<p>New Orleans City Council regulates prostitution.</p> <p>As recognition of the sex industry in urban regions grew, this act was among the first in the US to help regulate and control prostitution. In an effort to preserve public order and stop the spread of illness, it also established the exploitation of women for prostitution.</p>
1864	<p>The Contagious Diseases Act passed in the UK.</p> <p>These acts, first passed in 1864 and then extended in 1866 and 1869, made it possible for forced medical examinations of suspected prostitutes to be taking place. If a woman was detained or subjected to one of these intrusive examinations, her male clientele would not be held accountable for anything. The passing of this law perfectly demonstrated the public perception of prostitutes as disease carriers rather than innocent women being exploited against their will, bringing to light the double standard in dealing with prostitution in the 19th century.</p>
1869	<p>Josephine Butler's campaign against the Contagious Diseases Acts.</p> <p>The initial feminist movement against regulated prostitution began with Butler's campaign. She asserted that these acts continued the exploitation of women and violated the civil liberties and rights of women. Her efforts changed public</p>

perception, which ultimately resulted in the measures' repeal.

July, 1885

W.T. Stead's "The Maiden Tribute of Modern Babylon".

W.T. Stead's exposé in the Pall Mall Gazette, published in July, 1885, appalled Victorian society when learning of the scope of child prostitution and sex trafficking occurring in London. Through his investigative journalism, he included the staged "purchase" of a young girl to provide a clear example of how simple it was to traffic young children, and how easily accessible vulnerable victims were. This publication resulted in an international outcry and deep concern for the safety of children, particularly young girls, and resulted in numerous legal amendments.

14 August, 1885

Criminal Law Amendment Act in Britain.

The Criminal Law Amendment Act eventually passed in its final form on August 14th, 1885, effectively repealing numerous sections of the Offences against the Person Act 1861 and the whole, and the entire act of 1875. This act made it illegal to procure and traffic women for prostitution or any sexual means using drugs, coercion, or fraud. In addition, it increased the age of consent from 13 to 16, in an attempt to provide more protection to the youth. This act was a direct reaction to Stead's exposé, and signaled a remarkable shift in the way governments and law viewed the topic of child trafficking and sexual exploitation.

1904

International Agreement for the Suppression of the White Slave Traffic.

The International Agreement for the Suppression of the White Slave Traffic is a set of anti-human trafficking treaties that specifically targeted the illegal trade of white people, the first of which was discussed and established in Paris in 1904. This agreement was one of the first global initiatives to combat sex trafficking, particularly for women. Its main focus was on the "procuring of women or girls for immoral purposes abroad," and those who signed it were essentially agreeing to monitor ports and railway stations for potential threats of trafficking activities. Nonetheless, it was relatively limited in enforcement at the time.

1910

Mann Act (White-Slave Traffic Act) in the US.

The Mann Act (or the White-Slave Traffic Act of 1910) is a federal legislation prohibiting the transportation of "any woman or girl for the purpose of prostitution or debauchery, or for any other immoral purpose." This act, passed in June 1910 and named after Illinois Congressman James R, was originally intended to battle and put a stop to the trafficking of women. Nonetheless, it was often disproportionately used, and affected marginalized communities of color. It was also often used to prosecute voluntary interracial partnerships, depriving people of the freedom of choosing who they want to marry.

1921

International Convention for the Suppression of Traffic in Women and Children.

The treaty of the Suppression of Traffic in Women and Children, which was ratified by the League of Nations, broadened the scope of earlier accords to cover the trafficking of minors of both genders. Prosecution of those implicated in the trafficking of women and children was also demanded.

1930s

Increased Awareness and Legislation.

Throughout the period of the 1930s, several nations started to acknowledge the problem of forced marriages associated with human trafficking. During this time, laws protecting women and girls from being trafficked for marriage were passed with more vitality, although enforcement was inconsistent.

December, 1949

UN Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.

The UN Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others came into effect on July 25, 1951, after being passed by the General Assembly on December 2, 1949. Several attempts had been made, including the creation of four international instruments, to repress prostitution-related activities under the guidance of the League of Nations. These documents established certain security precautions for women and girls as well as some repressive actions against traffickers. However, they failed to address the issue of prostitution as a whole, which is a contributing factor to human trafficking. Consolidating earlier international agreements, this convention ruled that

prostitution, exploitation and human trafficking were incompatible with respect for human dignity. In addition, it discussed forced marriages as a type of human trafficking and emphasized the necessity of taking all necessary precautions to stop these customs.

1956

Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery.

The Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery was approved and endorsed by the UN in 1956, addressing acts and conducts that resembled slavery, such as forced marriages, particularly in young girls. Signatories were responsible to take all reasonable and essential legal as well as additional measures to completely abolish and bring these practices to an end.

1979

UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

The CEDAW is the only human rights treaty that upholds women's rights to reproduce while addressing the role of culture and tradition in gender norms and family dynamics. It supports the rights of women to obtain, alter, or keep their nationality, as well as the nationality of their offspring. Forced marriages and other forms of female exploitation were among the numerous topics covered by CEDAW, demanding that states outlaw forced marriages as well as all other types of women trafficking and sexual exploitation.

1993

World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna.

The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action in 1993 acknowledged forced marriages and other forms of abuse against women as violations of human rights, promoting international awareness of these global issues, and marking a major step forward in solving them.

1995

Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action demanded the protection of victims as well as the abolition of the trafficking of women and girls. In addition, it discussed forced marriages as a kind of violence against women and underlined the necessity of taking action to stop these customs.

2000

UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol).

The UN's Palermo Protocol gave rise to the first definition of human trafficking that was accepted globally. The agreement highlights the use of coercion, fraud or force in human trafficking, and covers a number of protection measures for victims. The protocol called for a dramatic change in direction towards an expanded approach to stop human trafficking, especially advocating for women and children. This was the first legally binding protocol on a worldwide scale that defined human trafficking, including forced marriage and prostitution, according to an internationally accepted definition.

2004

The United Nations appoints a Special Rapporteur on Human Trafficking.

This appointment strongly intensified the world's attention and attempts to combat human trafficking, raising awareness on the importance of the topic, mainly the trafficking of women for forced marriage and prostitution.

2015

The UK'S Modern Slavery Act.

The UK's 2015 Modern Slavery Act makes organizations required by law to address and report on modern slavery. Any company operating in the UK that has a yearly revenue of at least £36 million GBP is subject to this rule. This law additionally raises the maximum jail term for human traffickers, contains safeguards against enslavement, and mandates that companies reveal the steps they have taken to guarantee that their supply chains are free of slave labor. The act has extremely significant ramifications for fighting the trafficking of women for forced marriage and prostitution, even if not primarily focused on women.

Relevant UN Treaties and Resolutions

The UN has made significant progress over the years to eradicate the global issue of the trafficking of women, playing a major role in the development of new legislations and amendments passing through. One of the UN's main objectives is to endorse and protect human rights, and bringing human trafficking, particularly in women and girls, to an end is necessary to be able to do so, and to be able to promise a better world for future generations. The following documents are resolutions created by the member states of the UN in an attempt to avert this issue.

Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, adopted by the General Assembly on December 02, 1949.

The "Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others," adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 2, 1949, is an international treaty aimed at combating human trafficking and the exploitation of prostitution. It came into force on July 25, 1951. The resolution encompasses strict prohibition and penalisation of anyone who procures, entices, or exploits another person for the purpose of prostitution. Additionally, it covers the need for international cooperation and information sharing to help identify potential victims. Victim protection and prevention measures are also key components to the resolution, as well as reporting and accountability, and ensuring national implementation among all member states. Specifically, Article 20 takes into account the need to help more vulnerable victims, women and children, in stating: "The Parties to the present Convention shall, if they have not already done so, take the necessary measures for the supervision of employment agencies in order to prevent persons seeking employment, in particular women and children, from being exposed to the danger of prostitution." This document is therefore taking into consideration the grave need to protect women's rights.

Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, adopted by the General Assembly on November 15, 2000.

This resolution, also referred to as the Palermo Protocol, is an extensive international agreement established to prevent human trafficking, with a concentration on women and children. The United Nations defines "Trafficking in persons" as "the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat 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. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or

services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs." The treaty requires that these actions—including efforts and cooperation—be made illegal. It places a strong emphasis on providing recovery assistance, preserving victims' identities and privacy, and taking into account the distinct needs of young victims. It also provides guidelines for the safe reintegration of victims and urges states to allow victims to stay in the receiving state either temporarily or permanently. The resolution emphasizes how crucial information sharing and international cooperation are between states. It also demands extensive preventive measures, such as strengthened border controls, secure travel documentation, and policies that reduce susceptibility and a demand for exploitation. The United Nations Secretary-General is named as the depositary of the protocol, which lays out the procedures for its adoption, modification, and rejection.

[United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, adopted by the General Assembly on July 30, 2010.](#)

The Plan of Action advocates for a comprehensive worldwide effort to stop human trafficking, incorporating this campaign within larger UN development and security initiatives. It suggests creating a voluntary trust fund administered by the UN to aid victims, especially women and children. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon emphasized the need to confront this modern version of slavery immediately, pointing out that over 2.4 million people are being exploited globally. Together with enhancing data and research on the subject, the strategy places a strong emphasis on victim protection, punishment of perpetrators, and prevention. Key components include:

- Incorporating anti-trafficking initiatives into broader UN development and security programs.
- Creating a voluntary trust fund to support trafficking victims, with a focus on women and children.
- Enhancing research and data collection to better inform policy-making.

President of the General Assembly Ali Treki emphasized the violations of human rights associated with human trafficking and called for urgent international action to protect those in need from exploitation and restore the respect they deserve.

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

Despite having laws in place to make human trafficking illegal, Malaysia has encountered numerous challenges in its fight against the activity. Women, children, and adults who have been subjected to forced labor and sexual exploitation are among the victims of human trafficking for whom the nation has served as a destination, source, and transit point. The lack of effective enforcement and coordination between different government departments is a significant challenge faced by Malaysia and numerous affected countries. As a result, victims are not receiving enough protection and the prosecution is moving slowly. Another major challenge for the country has been the corruption that exists among the enforcement authorities. The effectiveness of anti-trafficking initiatives has been further undermined by cases in which officials participated in trafficking activities. Lastly, scarce protection and rehabilitation services have been provided to victims of human trafficking. There have been reports of problems such as limited freedom of movement, inadequate access to healthcare, and limited funding for shelters. Despite Malaysia's efforts to criminalize the practice by passing laws against it, the country's conditions limit it from achieving their objective.

Three main shortcomings are causing solutions to fail in the fight against human trafficking: inaccurate definitions, an absence of trustworthy data, and insufficient funds. Legal and policy solutions are made difficult by the ongoing argument about whether trafficking entails movement or just exploitation similar to that of slavery. Overblown victim estimations have also been a problem for the anti-trafficking campaign, which has damaged their reputation and made it harder to get the funding they need. Even though recent initiatives have increased data accuracy, a major obstacle still remains to be the lack of high-quality research. Furthermore, anti-trafficking programs receive insufficient funding; over a fifteen-year period, the United States spends more on defense in a single day than it does on anti-trafficking efforts combined. Effective action against traffickers who take advantage of vulnerable groups for large profits is impeded by this lack of resources.

Possible Solutions

The UN endorses the protection of human rights as a priority, and encourages international cooperation and coordination among member states to help mitigate the issue of the trafficking of women. The key to tackling this issue once and for all is to have all nations come together and

develop comprehensive solutions, keeping in mind the importance of protecting the basic human rights of women and girls trapped under these circumstances. The following are proposals for solutions that are strongly advocated by the United Nations and other organizations in order to bring this issue to an end.

Strengthen Legislative Frameworks and Enforcement

To effectively stop the trafficking of women for forced marriage and prostitution, it is crucial to strengthen legislative frameworks and enforcement. This strategy involves acquiring comprehensive anti-trafficking laws that align with global standards and impose severe consequences on traffickers, such as lengthy prison sentences and substantial fines. Improving law enforcement training is also essential to ensure that officers can quickly identify and respond to incidents of human trafficking, such as recognizing the signs of exploitation and knowing how to conduct investigations. While this solution may seem obvious, especially since there are already numerous existing laws, enhancing these legal frameworks and their implementation will enable countries to mount a much stronger response against trafficking offenses. This includes not only stricter enforcement of the laws but also ensuring that victims receive the necessary support and protection to escape their situations and rebuild their lives.

Promote Economic Empowerment and Education

Improving and promoting economic empowerment and education is another key preventive measure against the crime of trafficking. By creating livelihood initiatives, such as microfinance programs and vocational training, that provide women with economic possibilities, it becomes easier to lessen the vulnerabilities that human trafficking and mail-order bride agencies frequently take advantage of. Furthermore, giving girls and women better access to education, including making sure they attend classes safely and offering possibilities for adult education, empowers them to make wise decisions and lessens their susceptibilities to trafficking schemes.

Raise Public Awareness and Reduce Demand

Increasing public awareness and lowering the demand are crucial in the battle against the trafficking of women. Implementing broad public awareness campaigns can help make communities aware of the risks that are associated with human trafficking, as well as key signs to keep an eye out

for. By drawing attention to the violations of human rights that occur, these initiatives should also aim to decrease the demand for services that exploit people. Promoting moral consumer behavior, including avoiding the purchase of goods connected to human trafficking, can help reduce the financial incentives that traffickers face.

Enhance Victim Support and Protection

Lastly, improving victim support, protection and aid is critical for both the recovery of survivors as well as for the prevention of re-trafficking. This solution entails offering complete support services, such as health care, mental health counseling, legal assistance, and secure housing. The requirements of women who have been trafficked for forced marriage or prostitution should be taken into consideration when designing these services. Furthermore, it's critical for survivor's long-term recovery and reintegration into society to guarantee that they have access to legal protection and aid, including support with documentation and pursuing justice.

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