



SOCHUM - WSHSMUN VI

Topic: Human Trafficking in Latin America

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIRS



Chair: Sofia Gosain

Hey everyone! Welcome to WSHSMUN VI. My name is Sofia Gosain, and I'm so excited to be your chair for the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee. I've been a member of Model UN since freshman year, and it's through this community that I've been able to grow as a speaker and collaborator. Participating in conferences like this one were invaluable to my improvement as a delegate, and I hope all of you will be able to have similar experiences in your collaboration with each other. Due to COVID-19, White Station has not been able to host its conference in three years, so

I'm very excited to be back, meet everyone in committee, and hear your ideas! If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at gosain.sofia1@gmail.com.



Co-chair: Sari Richmond

Welcome to WSHSMUN VI! My name is Sari Richmond, and I'll be serving as your chair of the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural committee. I'm super thrilled that you guys are coming to WSHSMUN this year, and I'm excited to discuss these important issues throughout the world and listen to your new perspectives and solutions.

I started Model UN my freshman year, and since then, I have garnered many fond memories and valuable skills. I have definitely improved my speaking and debating skills through Model UN, and I hope to foster and develop your skills through this experience.

Feel free to reach out to me with any possible questions: sariramawy@gmail.com.

BACKGROUND GUIDE

Introduction

The Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian Committee, also known as SOCHUM or the third committee of the United Nations General Assembly, deals with “human rights, humanitarian affairs and social matters.” The Committee discusses questions relating to the advancement of women, the protection of children, indigenous issues, the treatment of refugees, the promotion of fundamental freedoms through the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, and the right to self-determination. The Committee also addresses important social development questions such as issues related to youth, family, aging, persons with disabilities, crime prevention, criminal justice, and international drug control.

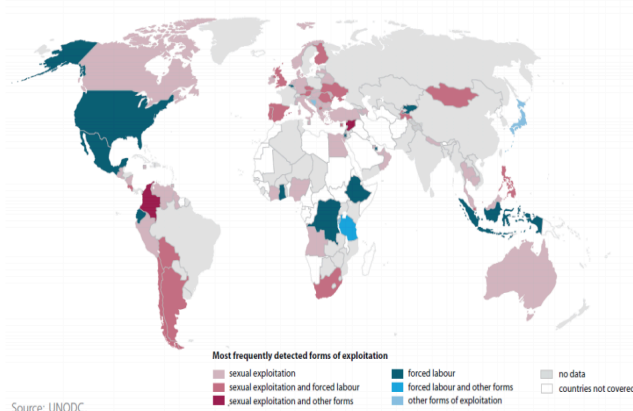
HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN LATIN AMERICA

General Information/History

Human trafficking has been defined as modern day slavery, and it occurs when one person uses manipulation, threats and/or violence to control another person in order to take advantage of them for economic gain.¹ Through sexual,

¹<https://alliesagainstsavery.org/the-problem/?cs6rvnJsQ1V4zNV--fxuQN4KOb46RejXVjJQxo>

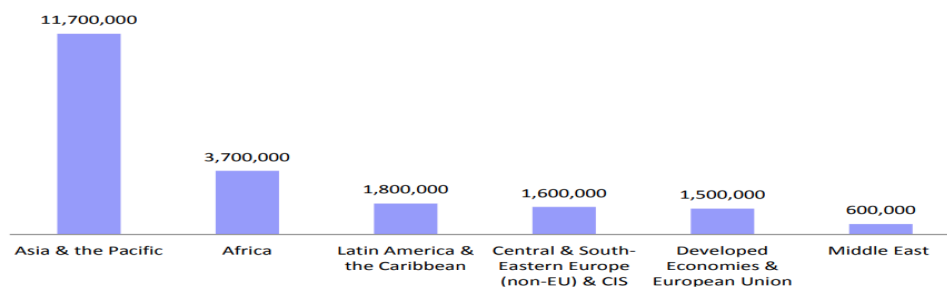
MAP 4: Main forms of exploitation, by proportion of detected victims, by country, 2007-2010



psychological, and physical violence, trafficked persons are often forced to perform under slavery-like conditions. Human trafficking is not contained to one area in the world as it exists in nearly all countries. In 2012, The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimated that 20.9 million men, women, and children worldwide are victims of forced labour globally, which includes victims of human trafficking for labour and sexual exploitation.² Of these 20.9 million people, the ILO estimates that some 1.8 million victims are in Latin America.³

Human trafficking continues to be a growing problem in the Latin American region. In addition, Latin America has been noted to be the third highest source of human trafficking, falling just behind the Asia-Pacific region and Africa.⁴ Some major countries who supply the majority of trafficked women in particular are the following countries: Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua.⁵

Figure 5. Estimate of forced labour by region



In Latin America, several different individuals play a role when it comes to human trafficking in this region. It ranges from individual criminals to large criminal organizations. Also, the private sector plays a large role in facilitating and maintaining human trafficking for sexual exploitation. These include the media, tourism, transportation, and entertainment and

² https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/Trafficking_in_Persons_2012_web.pdf

³ <https://fas.org/sqp/crs/row/RL33200.pdf>

⁴ https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_182004.pdf

⁵ https://scholarship.shu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1728&context=student_scholarship

legal industries. Furthermore, taxi drivers, rickshaw drivers, and truck drivers play a large role in the movement and transportation of women to and between places of exploitation. The internet is also a major method to encourage the demand for commercial sexual services. This can be done

Map 10: Trafficking flows of women and girls in Central America, 2011



through online chat rooms, sex tourism guides, and many more services available to the public. Hotel and motels are often used as “safe houses” for migrants and human trafficking victims.

Human trafficking has several different stages as it is a “complex form of trade involving movement of victims from one place to another.”⁶ The first stage is known as the recruitment/abduction process. During this intensive process, victims are recruited into slavery by fraud, force or coercion. Exploiters often lure victims with the promise of a better life. Some of these methods could include guaranteeing employment, education or travel. After the recruitment, the transportation phase follows. During this phase, several logistical challenges for traffickers arise. One major issue they face is the transportation of the victims across borders without getting caught. In order to carry out this phase, traffickers have developed structured practices for them to successfully transport victims across borders. This method involves trafficking routes.

⁶ <https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/who-are-human-traffickers>



Lastly, several personal and external factors have contributed to human trafficking within the region of Latin America. According to the World Bank, Latin America in the past few decades has faced lagging economic growth, persistent poverty, and income inequality. Thus, studies have found that certain individual risk factors significantly contribute to making people vulnerable to trafficking. Among these are unemployment, lack of education, illiteracy, family disintegration, and drug abuse.⁷

Recommendations and United Nations Work

In order to combat this problem in a quick and effective manner, recommendations have been given by several different UN bodies and researchers in the local area. The first recommendation being “Collaboration in the Region.” Since human trafficking is considered a transnational crime, countries in Latin America would greatly benefit if they joined efforts and create a regional framework.⁸ The second recommendation being “Law Enforcement Improvement,” which includes improving and fixing the penalties and sentencing guidelines to reflect the seriousness of human trafficking.

⁷https://law.depaul.edu/about/centers-and-institutes/international-human-rights-law-institute/publications/Documents/modern_bondage_2_edition.pdf

⁸https://qmro.qmul.ac.uk/xmlui/bitstream/handle/123456789/31854/Manavalan_S_PhD_final_191217.pdf?sequence=1

In the past 20 years, the United Nations has taken numerous efforts to aid and address the problem of human trafficking in not only Latin America but throughout the world. In 2000, the United Nations adopted the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.⁹ This document was then supplemented by two protocols: The Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons. With the trafficking protocol, Countries were provided with policies to help them combat human trafficking, assist the victims, and promote the cooperation among countries. In addition, the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons was adopted by the General Assembly on July 30 to urge Governments worldwide to take coordinated and consistent measures to try and defeat the scourge.¹⁰

Questions to Consider During Debate

1. What are your nation's ties to any human trafficking related issues in Latin America? If there are any, how do they affect your country as a whole?
2. What methods can be implemented to combat each stage of the human trafficking system?
3. How can the government address all the individuals who play a role in the human trafficking crisis occurring in Latin America?
4. How the governments of developed countries and developing countries will be able to work together to solve this global issue?

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<https://www.mensenhandelweb.nl/system/files/documents/25%20jan%202017/European%20Parliament%20-%20THB%20from%20a%20Gender%20Perspective%20Directive%202011-36-EU%20-%202016-04.pdf>

¹⁰<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2010/September/un-launches-global-plan-of-action-against-human-trafficking.html>