

Committee Name



SOCIAL COMMITTEE

IOWA YOUTH SYMPOSIUM ON THE UNITED NATIONS

Iowa State Capitol

Des Moines, Iowa

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Social Topic

Addressing the Rise of the Organ Trafficking Market

Topic Background

Organ trafficking, also known as human trafficking for organ removal, is the illegal practice of obtaining, transporting, or selling human organs through exploitative or coercive means. It is common that victims may appear to consent to the removal of an organ, but that consent is considered invalid when deception, fraud, or abuse is involved. Organ trafficking remains most problematic in regions where poverty, conflict, and displacement create high vulnerability, including parts of North Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, and areas experiencing forced migration. Criminal networks often recruit or mislead individuals with false promises of payment or support and bypass the legal transplant system. To help countries respond to this crime, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) offers technical and legislative assistance, supporting stronger criminal justice systems and contributing to global efforts to prevent organ trafficking and protect victims. Currently, there is no single global standard regulating organ transplant, but several international frameworks and guidelines shape national levels law and policies for medical procedures. Global frameworks such as the WHO Guiding Principles on Human Cell, Tissue and Organ Transplantation and the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons to strengthen international cooperation, oversight, and data-sharing. These tools offer guidance for improving transparency, establishing ethical national transplant systems, and harmonizing prevention efforts across borders.

Committee Members

Member States in the Social Committee are listed by Regional Groups below. These groups were formed to ensure equitable geographic distribution of seats but do not necessarily indicate alliances. To research bloc groups, visit the [United Nations Group of Member States](#) page to view the political groups.

- **African Group:** Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, South Africa
- **Asia-Pacific Group:** Bangladesh, China, India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia

- **Eastern European Group:** Russia, Serbia, Ukraine
- **Latin America and Caribbean Group:** Brazil, Mexico
- **Western European and Others Group:** France, Germany, Israel, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States

Questions to Consider

- What international laws are currently in place to fight organ trafficking, and why are countries failing to enforce them?
- How can nations choose legal loopholes that are allowing for medical tourism for illegal transplants?
- Should countries adopt presumed consent for organ donation to reduce the black market demand?
- What sanctions should the UN apply to nations that ignore illegal organ trading within their borders?
- How do poverty and debt force vulnerable people to sell their organs out of desperation?

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