

Human Rights

Topic A: Human Trafficking

Background :

Trafficking or trafficking in persons is characterized by the recruitment, transfer and accommodation of any person, through different methods. It may also involve appealing to force or any other form of restriction, by means of kidnapping, deceit or fraud, as well as abuse of authority. The offer and acceptance of rewards or benefits to obtain the consent of the victim (or the person having authority over it) are also unlawful acts.

It is estimated that every day 4,000 children are victims of child trafficking. According to calculations made by the International Organization for Migration, the gains generated from trafficking in persons, particularly women and children, reach US \$ 10 billion annually. These victims, reduced to silence and treated as slaves, become the objects of an illegal and immoral business.

According to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children child trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of children for the purpose of exploitation. It is a violation of their rights, their wellbeing and denies them the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Human trafficking is considered a modern –day slavery. It is the use of fraud, force, or coercion to exploit a person for profit. The estimate vary, but there anywhere from 12 million to 27 million people enslaved in the world. There are more slaves today than during any other time in human history.

Examples of human trafficking include:

Children abducted to fight as child soldiers.

One person sold to another to serve as slave or bonded laborer.

The illegal sell of organs. (Previously extracted of children)

Children from rural areas of poverty, sold or stolen away to serve as sex slaves in brothels.

At least 2 million children are trafficked annually for child labor and sexual exploitation.

Current situation

Human trafficking is a global problem and one of the world's most shameful crimes, affecting the lives of millions of people around the world and robbing them of their dignity. Traffickers deceive women, men and children from all corners of the world and force them into exploitative situations every day. While the best-known form of human trafficking is for the purpose of sexual exploitation, hundreds of thousands of

victims are trafficked for the purposes of forced labour, domestic servitude, child begging or the removal of their organs.

Nearly every country in the world is affected by human trafficking, as a point of origin, transit or destination, and victims from at least 127 countries have been reported to have been exploited in 137 States.

Human trafficking is one of the most lucrative illicit businesses in Europe, with criminal groups making about \$3 billion from it per year, making it a considerable criminal business that preys on the world's most marginalized persons.

In Europe, over 140,000 victims are trapped in a situation of violence and degradation for sexual exploitation and up to one in seven sex workers in the region may have been enslaved into prostitution through trafficking.

Globally, one in five victims of human trafficking are children, although in poorer regions and subregions, such as Africa and Greater Mekong, they make up the majority of trafficked persons. Women meanwhile make up two thirds of the world's human trafficking victims.

Discussion Lines:

How is human trafficking different from migrant smuggling?

What if a trafficked person consents?

How widespread is human trafficking?

Which countries are affected the most by human trafficking?

What is the most commonly identified form of trafficking?

Who are the victims and culprits of human trafficking?

What is the role of transnational organised crime groups in human trafficking?

What types of industries are involved with human trafficking?

Is there a legal instrument to tackle human trafficking?

What does UNODC do to assist victims of trafficking?

What countries are part of UNODC?

What are the major challenges faced in the battle against human trafficking?

Do many traffickers get caught and convicted?

What can each delegation do to help fight human trafficking?

Topic B: Difference in the Criminal Justice System

Background:

Across the world there are many different types of criminal justice systems to keep order and peace in their countries by creating a code of conduct, named law. The criminal justice system tries to stop people from disrupting this peace and order by pressuring them with the possibility of punishment and in this way forcing the individual to obey to the law. These punishments can be punitive or rehabilitative. By doing so, the criminal justice system has certain power to control the society by political means. Politics play an important role in the criminal justice system as it is the first step to criminal proceedings, followed by an investigation, judgment and finally punishment if it is needed. The criminal justice system can be categorized in three parts; policing where the investigation is held, the courts for judgement and corrections where the type of punishment is looked over by the authorities.

There are many reasons why people escape from being punished for murdering, torturing, kidnapping, raping, among other crimes. The main two reasons are because there is a lack of political will to investigate and judge those who committed the crime and because their criminal justice system is not strong enough. The International Criminal Court investigates and judges those crimes whose local authorities are not willing to look after. Until, the ICC has taken part in Uganda, Darfur, Sudan, Kenia, Libya, Mali, and so on. But recently, the ICC has started to make preliminary tests in Afghanistan, Colombia, Georgia, Guinea, Honduras, Iraq, Nigeria and Ukraine.

Current Situation:

As hard as it is to believe, and despite the increasingly world-round known human rights, even nowadays there are a great number of unfair criminal justice systems around the world. And although they have been proven time after time to be systems that corrupt the above mentioned human rights, many countries still use these old-fashioned criminal justice systems.

Besides, and perhaps more importantly, there is a considerably big number of countries where justice systems are a synonym of corruption. Therefore, criminals are not punished with proper justice because of ineffective systems that take too long before arriving to verdict and that easily ignore the law because of political or/and economic affairs.

On January 2013, several United Nation's members asked for assistance to ensure that all countries have fair and proper justice systems and established specific objectives in order to achieve this goal. Some of those objectives are:

- Improving access to justice: there are many countries where only a few, generally those who have enough money to afford it or that belong to a certain social class, get access to real justice. It is intended to break this wall between people and justice, which also includes providing access to legal aid to every single person who needs it.
- Provide assistance to victims and witness of crimes: the necessity of helping criminal victims in a faster way has become more and more important. This does not include taking the case all the way through a fair punishment for the criminal, but providing victims with psychological and health services and a sentence that allows them to recover any lost material objects resulting from the crime.
- Promoting justice for children and supporting prison reforms and alternatives to imprisonment: in many countries, there are still many prisons where sentenced people face torture and undignified life conditions in an illegal way. Furthermore, there are governments around the world that publicly approve and call prisons to make this kind of violent practices towards prisoners.
- Preventing gender-based violence: many justice systems arrive to wrong and unfair verdicts that are based on disqualifying attitudes towards women because of their gender. Besides, there are prisons where women are at a very vulnerable position, as they are assaulted in different ways by men.

At the time being, the United Nations has about 43 projects in more than 30 different countries concerning justice systems issues. Such projects go from assessments of the current justice systems to a wide variety of more specific actions in diverse locations.

Despite these efforts, there still many cases of unfair justice systems. In Vietnam, for example, there is a lazy criminal justice system that allows violence to go on, and where many women suffer aggression by partners or former partners. Therefore, it is necessary to teach the law authorities how to prevent and respond more effectively and with greater sensitivity.

Efforts have to be put together as well in Egypt, a place where youth crime rates are within the top ten of the world, in order to provide readapting help to young criminals, through psychological aid and improvement of their economic conditions.

All along South America, there are terrible corruption issues that do not allow justice systems to work properly. The solution of these problems is crucial in order to get justice access to all of the population, without any exception. On the other hand, prisoners face inhuman life conditions behind bars. Often, prisons are overpopulated and guards attack prisoners physically, as well as taking away their right to legal help or many other rights.

Besides, criminals having relationships with important political characters or with great economic power and influence, often get special privileges out of place for a prisoner and that prevent the justice systems to run properly.

Perhaps the most important justice systems issues are found in Asia and Middle East, where countries like North Korea, have tough dictatorships or political organizations that sentence innocent people to prison, just because they disagree with the government politics or with the president himself. Besides prison, they sometimes suffer torture, blackmailing, threats or other violent practices.

Discussion Lines:

- All the countries must be in favour of the ICC, otherwise many criminals will get the chance to fly away to a different country in which they do not have any care for these laws and where there is a very big chance for them to be set free or not even judged.
- All criminals must be treated and punished the same way, regardless of where they were in the moment they committed the crime, their nationality, culture or gender.