

Forum: The United Nations Human Rights Council

Question of: Fighting against Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking as a Violation of Human Rights

Submitted by: France



Co-submitted by: Argentina, Belgium, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Finland, Gambia, Honduras, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Montenegro, Paraguay, Romania, Ukraine, United States of America,

1 *The United Nations Human Rights Council,*

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3 *Deeply concerned* by the exploitation and recruitment of an estimated number of 25 million
4 people, mostly women and children, with the proportion of children who are victims of
5 trafficking has tripled in 15 years according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

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7 *Recognizing* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that all individuals are
8 entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forward in this Declaration, without differentiating
9 between race, gender, religion, national or social origin, property, political view, or other status,

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11 *Reaffirming* the significance of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized
12 Crimes (UNTOC) which aims to prevent as well as punish trafficking in individuals, especially
13 women and children, and requests states to consider trafficking a crime, contains provisions on
14 victim protection, and sets out international cooperation mechanisms on prosecution and
15 suppression,

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17 *Affirming* the importance of worldwide cooperation in the fight against modern slavery and
18 human trafficking, and the significance of the Global Plan of Action to combat Trafficking in
19 persons approved by the General Assembly in the year of 2010,

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21 *Recognizing* the diversity of religions and cultures worldwide,

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23 *Aware of* the alarming fact that 50% of human trafficking victims are subjected to sexual
24 exploitation,

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26 *Deeply concerned* about the significant increase in refugees and migration in recent years,

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28 *Alarmed by* the rise of forced marriages resulting from the economic collapse post-COVID-19,

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30 *Realizing* that poverty, lack of education, and inadequate healthcare are major drivers of forced
31 marriages,

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33 *Noting further* that criminal exploitation is a form of modern slavery,

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Expecting all nations to take immediate actions, irrespective of their migration policies,

Acknowledging the urgency of addressing this issue,

1. **Urges** all member states to enhance their legislative frameworks and enforcement mechanisms, which should include:
 - a. enacting laws that criminalize all manifestations of trafficking,
 - b. formulating and executing inclusive national action plans, which encompass preventive, protective, and prosecutorial measures, in order to effectively combat human trafficking and modern slavery;

2. **Suggests** ensuring the allocation of sufficient resources for the provision of comprehensive support services to victims of human trafficking and ensuring their safety when they express willingness to collaborate with law enforcement authorities in the investigation and prosecution of individuals involved in trafficking activities, encompassing essential aspects such as:
 - a. shelter,
 - b. healthcare,
 - c. legal aid,
 - d. psychological support,
 - e. safeguards;

3. **Welcomes** every member state to actively advance the promotion of public awareness campaigns and educational initiatives specifically designed to prevent human trafficking and modern slavery, which endeavors should be strategically directed towards vulnerable groups while simultaneously fostering heightened awareness among the broader population;

4. **Requests** to conscientiously address the nuanced aspects related to gender in the context of human trafficking and modern slavery, specifically acknowledging the disproportionate consequences endured by women and girls and to diligently implement responses that are attuned to gender considerations and promote inclusivity to address the gender-specific aspects of human trafficking and modern slavery, including the disproportionate impact on women and girls, and to ensure gender-sensitive responses;

5. **Implores** for the establishment of an all-encompassing monitoring and reporting mechanism within the Human Rights Council, with the objective of evaluating the endeavors of member states in their fight against human trafficking and modern slavery;

6. **Requests** the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to assist and support member states as they strive to combat human trafficking and modern slavery with:
 - a. technical assistance,
 - b. support for capacity-building;

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7. **Urges** all member states to add the issue of human trafficking to the public debate, especially:
 - a. raising awareness among young people at risk of exploitation,
 - b. engaging men on this issue, with the aim of them changing harmful social norms,
 - c. engaging in conversations about the commodification of women in their social circles,
 - d. calling upon all member states to raise the minimum age for marriage to 18, which will:
 - i. drastically reduce rates of child marriage, recognized by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) as a form of forced marriage,
 - ii. alleviate forced labor poverty, as child brides often become victims of modern slavery due to early pregnancies, who commonly escape in search of a job, and work under unfair circumstances, which causes generational poverty;
8. **Considers** the establishment of a new Area of Responsibility (AOR) specifically for anti-slavery and anti-trafficking to ensure the incorporation of such interventions into humanitarian action;
9. **Encourages** all nations to provide financial aid for countries which are especially affected by human trafficking and modern slavery for:
 - a. proper training and resources for law enforcement so that they can fight trafficking and identify its victims,
 - b. supporting efforts in the preventive sections of both trafficking and modern slavery;
10. **Encourages** raising awareness and calling for involvement of the public, for instance by:
 - a. supporting campaigns such as the “Blue Heart campaign”,
 - b. organizations like United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Labor Organization (ILO), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and other relevant organizations and mechanisms encountering human trafficking and modern slavery as well as providing them with adequate resources and political support;
11. **Calls on** countries to provide enough money and resources:
 - a. to prevent modern slavery and human trafficking,
 - b. to run campaigns to educate and warn people who are at risk (women, children, migrants, and workers in dangerous jobs),
 - c. to give them full support and protection, such as medical care, legal help, emotional support, and safe places to stay,
 - d. to empower survivors and help them reintegrate into society,

- 124 e. to work with others to provide education, job training, and ways for survivors to
125 have a stable and independent life,
126 f. urging the countries that have colonized other countries in the former colonial
127 era to pay reparations to their former colonies in the form of a funding to fight
128 slavery;

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130 **12. Encourages** all nations to consider the decriminalization of prostitution and monitor
131 this working field to combat forced prostitution and sex trafficking, which will:

- 132 a. provide a safer environment for sex workers, protecting them from abuse and
133 trafficking,
134 b. reduce the demand for underground sex workers, which often leads to violence,
135 organ trade, and child trafficking,
136 c. foster a safer future for the children of sex workers,
137 d. hold authorities accountable for the protection of sex workers;

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139 **13. Urges** all nations to enact legislation that reduces the punishment for victims of criminal
140 exploitation, as they are both victimized by criminals and subject to punitive measures
141 by the government for circumstances beyond their control;

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143 **14. Calls for** ensuring better working circumstances in companies in order to ensure a
144 certain level of security and humanity;

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146 **15. Urges** each country to ensure compulsory basic education, in line with Article 26 of the
147 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which will:

- 148 a. decrease instances of forced marriage,
149 b. mitigate forced labor resulting from a lack of education and the absence of
150 fundamental skills required in the modern job market, such as reading, writing,
151 and basic mathematics,
152 c. empower victims of sexual exploitation, making them more aware of their rights
153 and better equipped to defend themselves.

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156 **Voting Results**

157 In favour: 30

158 Against: 13

159 Abstentions: 0