

# POSMUN 2019



## Human Rights Council Human Trafficking in East European Countries

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## 1. Greeting Letter

Dear Delegates,

We are extremely grateful to be a part of this year's POSMUN and even more grateful to have you on our committee.

We, Lizzie and Ana, would like you to get to know us better. We are both 17 years old and doing the German Abitur. Lizzie took part on last year's POSMUN as Co-chair to the Historical Committee (II World Conference About Women) and Ana on the SPMUN 2017 as a delegate in the Historical Committee (Conference regarding Apartheid).

Also, we're both thinking of applying for a Psychology Bachelor, but we don't have a clue about which location... Canada? Germany? Brazil? Who knows, right? Anyway, we hope that our committee sessions enable us to grow as people and to have a great time discussing such a pressing issue. If there's any doubts or concerns, feel free to send us an email or a WhatsApp message. See you soon.

Your chairs,

Lizzie Finkelstein and Ana Schaffer

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## 2. Introduction Letter

The matter of human trafficking is not a new topic for any of us; we've all heard about the African slave trades that occurred during the Colonial Eras and the "comfort women", victims of kidnapping and forced sexual labor during World War II. The cultural industry has also approached the subject, gaining billions off selling fictional and non-fictional stories about this action against individual freedom. But what about the matter itself? What has been done so far besides the history lessons and *Oscar Award-winning* movies?

Perhaps it is a very frequent subject in Model United Nations events, but we believe it is our duty as human beings, and, more precisely, as women to remind others of the importance of discussing and contemplating solutions to this issue.

The Eastern European countries specifically have an extensive history with human trafficking and yet, when talking about the trade of people, this region seems not to be considered on day-to-day discussions. Based on data collected by the United States State Department on countries meeting the *Trafficking Victims Protection Act's (TVPA)* minimum standards:

I. Two of the four worst countries, who are long away from meeting at least minimum standard protection measures and are not making significant efforts to improve their conditions, are from Eastern Europe: Belarus and Russia.

II. From the countries who are not fully meeting the minimum standards but make significant efforts to do so, ten are from Eastern, Southeastern and Central Europe: Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Latvia, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Hungary, Moldova, and Ukraine.

II. I: from those, the ones with more significant issues are Hungary and Moldova.

Furthermore, it is important to note that with the changes in border administrations in Europe, There's been increased recruitment in, and transportation through, Romania and Serbia.

Bearing this in mind, the questions leading the discussion are: *What can my country do to help or improve conditions in those countries? Is there any way of reassuring the victims' protection act's standards are being met on the East European countries? How will my delegation deal with border and immigration issues? How can the countries present in this committee prevent migrant crises from becoming the perfect opportunities for trafficking? Concerning all the procedures you may necessitate to resolve this issue: when, how and with whose capital and means it is going to be arranged?*

Your chairs,

Lizzie Finkelstein and Ana Schaffer

### 3. Committee History

The *United Nations Human Rights Council* is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations whose intent is to encourage and protect human rights from individuals around the globe. This organization investigates possible violations of human rights in UN member states and points out important rights such as:

- I. Freedom of association and assembly*
- II. Freedom of expression*
- III. Freedom of belief and religion*
- IV. Women's rights*
- V. LGBTQ+ rights*
- VI. The rights of racial and ethnic minorities*

When human rights violations occur, the HRC can, according to the *OHCHR* web portal:

- I. Make recommendations on how to better implement human rights on the ground*
- II. Establish international commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions to hold violators accountable*
  - II. I: Investigative bodies are supported by OHCHR who provide resources and expertise and carry out missions as mandated*
  - III. Promote accountability for such violations and counter impunity*

The UNHCR has a commitment to prevent individuals in a need of international aid of becoming victims of trafficking and providing support to the survivors of human trading. One of the possible actions is ensuring nationality status, from supporting states, for those in need and giving potential international protection.

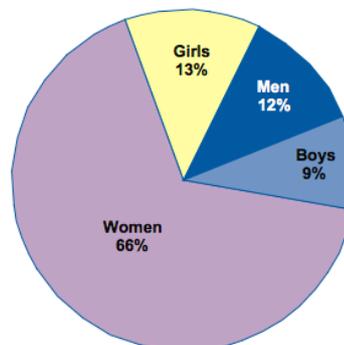
### 4. Topic Overview

On 15 November 2000, the UN Trafficking Protocol was adopted by the OHCHR with the aim of implementing an effective action to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children [Graph: "Fig.21; Profile of victims (...); Source: UNODC/UN.GIFT]:

According to General Assembly Resolution 55/25, the term 'trafficking' refers to the following circumstances:

*"(a) (...) 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*

Fig. 21: Profile of victims identified by State authorities in 61 countries where information was collected, aggregated for 2006



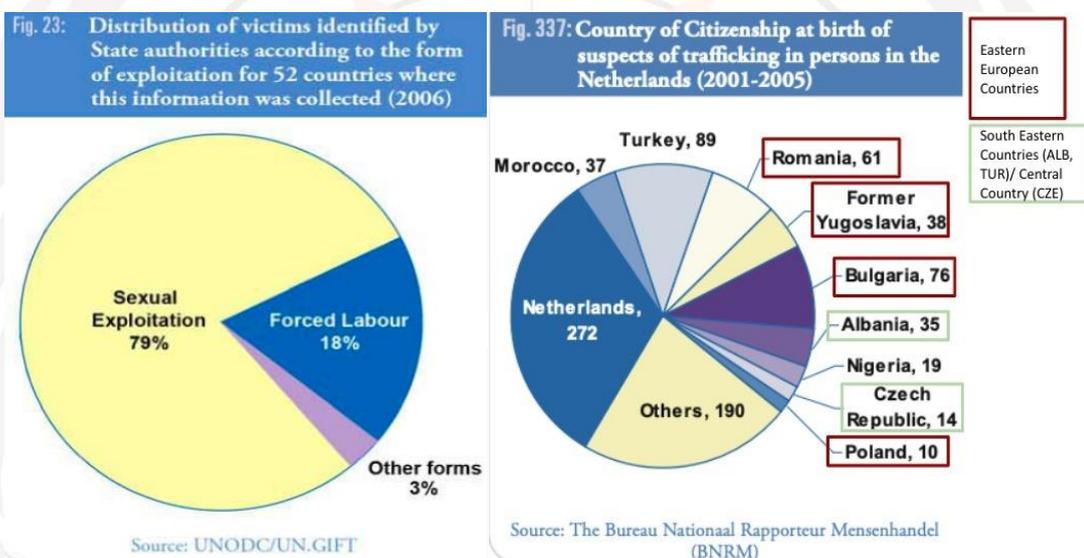
Source: UNODC/UN.GIFT

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;

(b) The consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation set forth in subparagraph (a) of this article shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) have been used;

(c) The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered "trafficking in persons" even if this does not involve any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) of this article;

(d) "Child" shall mean any person under eighteen years of age.



In the trafficking of persons, sexual exploitation is the most commonly reported form of trafficking according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). However, forced labor is less denounced because it is harder to identify. Therefore, human trafficking has even a bigger dimensional spectrum of victims than what collected data exhibits [Graph (on the left): Fig. 23 - Distribution of victims (...), Source: UNODC/UN.GIFT].

UNODC's investigations have confirmed that amongst the victims in Western countries, such as Canada, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands [Graph (on the right): by the Bureau Nationaal Rapporteur Mensenhandel, Edited to reinforce regional data], a large portion had been captured in East Europe. Data shows that in Malta, located in the center of Southern Europe, all the identified victims in 2006 and 2007 were trafficked for forced prostitution, e.g.. They were originally from Eastern Europe and South East Europe. Furthermore, according to the WomanStats Project, most countries of this region consider trafficking illegal, but it is nevertheless practiced. Some countries, such as Russia, haven't adopted significant measures to convict offenders or provide support to the trade victims.

Considering a global scale, nationals trafficking within their own countries tended to designate the majority of the offenders suspected or condemned. Nevertheless, in some countries of Eastern Europe, registration of foreign traffickers was extensively greater than in other areas.

## 4.1. The issue

After the adoption and implementation of the UN Trafficking Protocol, the meaning of human trafficking expanded. Trafficking persons was recognized as an activity of transnational criminal organizations that continues to exponentially increase throughout the years. With this, the need to convict the traffickers has become crucial: until 2007 at least 40% of the world had yet to record a single conviction for the trade of persons. According to the UNODC, Eastern Europe and Southern Asia were classified as the two main regions with the absence of identification of offenders and victims.

Since then, hence the growing efforts of international communities to combat the issue, the number of victims identified by authorities has raised. One of the main reasons is because forced labor was recognized as a human trafficking form.

Although most of the countries legislations incorporated measures to decrease the cases of trafficking in persons, the cases of human trade are still remarkably frequent.

According to the International Labor Organization, in 2012 it was estimated that three out of a thousand people worldwide were forced into modern-day slavery. Of these, most (68%) were victims of labor exploitation and up to 22% were victims of forced sexual exploitation.

In Eastern Europe [Image: Eastern Europe Map based on UN regional divisions; Source:

*Tripssavy*] although, especially in Moldova, the primary form of slavery was in the sexual form. Many Eastern European women are part of the lucrative business of sex trafficking and the principal result of this shows itself in the online pornographic industry. This demonstrates how crucial it is to implement more effective laws and regulations to protect victims that suffer from these organizations of offenders.



# 5. Positions of involved countries

## Arab Republic of Egypt

The government of Egypt has its own issues with human trafficking: the purchase of Egyptian girls and women for commercial sex and forced labor is one of the main forms of trafficking in persons reported in the last ten years. The country is also one of the main transit locations for trafficked women from East European countries such as Russia, Moldova, Uzbekistan, and Ukraine, according to the U.S. Department of State Report of 2010.

A great issue is the penalization of unidentified victims unlawful acts committed while being subjected to human trafficking, e.g. immigration violations, because of the lack of implementation guidance on victim identification and referral procedures. Despite this, the country has been making efforts by funding the National Committee on Preventing and Combating Illegal Migration (NCCPIM & TIP), for example. The committee has managed to create more awareness campaigns and further investigate and prosecute trafficking cases. Another important procedure by State authorities is providing legal protection, medical and psychosocial support, and housing or shelters for victims.

## Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Venezuela is in a crisis and masses of Venezuelans try to escape a disrupted economy and the violence from the illegitimate government of Nicolas Maduro. Hence this, the income from Venezuelans in neighboring countries has increased - Venezuela is a source and destination country for victims of sex trafficking and forced labor.

The Government of Venezuela's law enforcement efforts do not match international standards set in the 2000 UN Trafficking In Persons Protocol. The nation doesn't have a permanent anti-trafficking interagency body and any kind of anti-trafficking plan or strategy. The law requires a demonstration of force, fraud, or coercion for it to be considered a child sex trafficking case, therefore, it can be stated that the government has yet to criminalize all forms of child sex trafficking. The trafficking of men and boys is not criminalized, as well, when the traffickers do not take part in organized criminal organizations.

Concluding, Venezuela has not taken the minimal prevention efforts, because the government has yet to make efforts to identify, protect, or assist victims subjected to trafficking in persons. The nation also made insignificant investments in awareness activities or campaigns, and did not provide anti-trafficking specialization courses for its diplomatic personnel. Therefore, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela doesn't fully meet the minimum standards for the removal of trafficking and isn't making meaningful efforts to do so.

## Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

One of the main issues in Ethiopia and other African countries is the lack of reports on human trafficking. A direct consequence is a difficulty in the identification of victims, as well as of traders. Hence this, the punishment of traders has yet to reach a sufficient amount, furthering the number of victims. Despite this, the few reported cases of trafficking in Ethiopia indicate

that the country is mainly a source for individuals subjected to sex labor, but it has also served as transit for Asian and European destinations.

Another issue is the lack of funding for the implementation of the government's national action plan on the trade of persons, which caused the protective provisions for male victims to remain inadequate, and the negligible efforts to bring sex trafficking cases to trial or further its investigations. There has been, however, some improvements on the penalization of traffickers, for instance by developing the penalization of the illegal recruitment activity. Another upgrade was the increase of awareness of trafficking on media campaigns and projects funded by the government.

## Federal Republic of Germany

Germany is a destination country for women, children, and men exposed to sex and labor trafficking. Sex trafficking and forced labor victims are predominantly Bulgarians, Romanians, Germans, and Poles. They are mostly exploited in bars; apartments; brothels; on construction sites and in agriculture; hotels; meat processing; seasonal industries; restaurants; and diplomatic households.

According to the U.S. Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report 2018, in 2015 approximately 1.1 million refugees and asylum-seekers arrived in Germany, including approximately 67,000 unaccompanied minors; these individuals remain vulnerable to sex and labor trafficking.

Although the German government fully meets the minimum standards for the exclusion of trafficking with protections to sex trafficking victims and public awareness campaigns, weak sentences for trafficking convictions continued do undermine any sort of action with a purpose to penalize traffickers. Furthermore, the identification and assistance from the government to labor trafficking victims and labor traffickers are inadequate and problematic. The main reason for this is the way labor trafficking cases are assigned to financial or economic crime sections that have less experience with trafficking or victim-centered prosecutions. Law enforcement is preserved by the government; for example, the criminal code prohibits all forms of sex and labor trafficking. Government-reported statistics emphasized the imprisonment avoided by traffickers. Courts convicted 79 sex traffickers in 2014, compared with 77 in 2013. According to a pole of the 79 sex traffickers convicted, only 19 were sentenced to prison, with sentences between two and 10 years. The victim protection efforts are adopted by thirteen of the sixteen states of Germany, however, not all of them address the labor trafficking agreements. In addition, several foreign governments reported German citizens committed to sex tourism around the globe.

## Federative Republic of Brazil

The Federative Republic of Brazil doesn't fully meet the minimum standards set in the 2000 UN Trafficking In Persons Report for the expulsion of trafficking; it is, nonetheless, doing progress to do so by increasing the number of investigations and convictions, improving data collection, and initiating restitution proceedings for victims in the *Fazenda Brasil Verde* case.

Still, in Brazil the investigation and prosecution in relation to sex trafficking cases continued to be uncertain; most reports of official complicity and corruption weren't reported, foreign victims were penalized for crimes committed as a direct result of being subjected to trafficking, assistance to victims remained weak and inconsistent, and prison sentences given to the traffickers is incompatible to the law. Furthermore, forced labor is classified as a distinct crime in comparison to sex trafficking, causing difficulties in interagency coordination of anti-trafficking efforts.

## French Republic

The French Republic is a destination country for victims of forced labor and sex trafficking from Eastern Europe, West Africa, Asia, Caribbean, and Brazil. The Government of France fully meets the minimum standards set in the 2000 UN Trafficking In Persons Report for the elimination of human trafficking, with:

- I. the training of prosecutors and judges to enhance the implementation of anti-trafficking laws;
- II. the increase of public-private partnerships to prevent trafficking;
- III. awareness campaigns.

Moreover, in January 2009, a specific definition of forced labor was included in the anti-trafficking law. Additionally, a partnership between the Romanian government and the French government aims to improve the protection, return, and reintegration of Romani unaccompanied minors.

The government stated that some indirect funding would be implemented for victims' care, but didn't announce the funding allocations to NGOs for victims of trafficking. Also, according to the Human Right Watch, the French border policy doesn't follow any systematic procedures to identify trafficking victims, causing retrocession of the anti-trafficking efforts.

## Hungary

Hungary is mainly a source country for forced labor and sex trafficking victims. The final destinations of Hungarian women and children subjected to *sex trafficking* are mainly Germany, the Netherlands, and France. The concluding destinations from Hungarians subjected to *forced labor domestically and abroad* are primarily Germany, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands.

The nation does not fully meet the minimum standards for the removal of trafficking, because their services for trafficking victims are weak, uncoordinated, and inadequate, especially for children and foreigners.

Although the Government of Hungary is making efforts to improve their current anti-trafficking laws, many asylum-seekers and undocumented immigrants from East European countries that transit Hungary en route to Western Europe, may be or may become trafficking victims. Therefore, the government maintained insufficient protection efforts.

## Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

The Government of Afghanistan doesn't ensure support, services, or protection to the victims of trafficking in persons and makes no significant efforts to reduce the demand for commercial sex acts or forced labor. For that reason, the nation does not fully meet the minimum standards for the removal of trafficking; although, it is doing progress by implementing the 2017 Law to Combat Crimes of Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants, where sex and labor trafficking, including "bacha bazi" are criminalized. The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan also adopted the 2009 Law on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, which aims the prosecution and conviction of sex traffickers.

However, many Afghan officials are unable to identify trafficking victims, causing a misapprehension from the government's arrest and prosecution of a few trafficking victims as convicts. Therefore, the victim protection efforts came over in general as lacking.

The increasing of insecurity and poverty caused by the current government is being linked with the enhancement in the identification from teenagers who had been victimized and persuaded, that they would have work opportunities in Europe. Although in these cases Afghanistan didn't report adequate information on differentiating between trafficking, smuggling, and other related crimes. The government still depends on the international community for assistance in anti-trafficking efforts

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is a source, transit, and destination country for forced labor and sex trafficking victims. In the seek for work predominantly in Iran; Pakistan; India; Europe; or North America, many Afghans pay intermediaries to help them in the search for employment and a few of these mediators exploit these civilians into prostitution or labor. Normally, boys and men are sent to work in agriculture and construction as forced labor victims, primarily in Iran, Pakistan, Greece, Turkey, and the Gulf states and Afghan women and girls are typically subjected to sex trafficking in the Middle East countries.

According to the 2018 U.S. Department of the State Report on Trafficking In Persons women and girls from the Philippines, Pakistan, Iran, Tajikistan, Sri Lanka, and China were misled by labor recruiting agencies into sex trafficking in Afghanistan.

## Japan

Irene Khan, former Secretary General of a human rights non-governmental organization, stated in 2005 that Japan was the main destination for human trafficking and that many victims had originated from South America, Eastern Europe, and Southeast Asia. The Bangladeshi lawyer explained that most trafficking victims in Japan were deceived and brought to the country by traders with the intent of working in the prostitution business.

The nation's actions against human trafficking revolve mostly around the Joshikousei business, in which adult men connect to children (being sex trafficked) through dating services, and forced pornography. There have been achievements in establishing task forces to combat the two issues and Japanese authorities have improved the process of identification and prosecuting traffickers, although under laws carrying minor sentences. Despite this, there has been a great number of displacements of suspected cases of child sex trafficking and forced labor, which have often been addressed with administrative penalties or loss of business licenses only.

## Kingdom of Spain

Spain is a destination, source, and transit country for human trafficking victims. Women subjected to sex trafficking in Spain come from Eastern Europe (particularly Romania and Bulgaria), South America (particularly Venezuela, Paraguay, Brazil, Colombia, and Ecuador), China, and Nigeria.

The Kingdom of Spain fully meets the minimum standards set in the 2000 UN Trafficking In Report for the removal of trafficking. Moreover, the government continued to demonstrate serious and sustained efforts to do so by:

- I. increasing prosecutions and convictions of traffickers;
- II. extensive cooperation with multinational law enforcement efforts;
- III. expanding anti-trafficking training to judges.

An example to sustain the nation's efforts is the improvement made by authorities in victim identification in the national care sector and enhanced governmental resources to coordinate assistance. Yet, the implementation of victim protection laws during the prosecution of criminal acts isn't efficient and government-run victim service centers have a scarcity in resources to maintain infrastructure.

## Malaysia

According to the 2018 Report on Trafficking in Persons by the U.S. Department of State, Malaysia doesn't fully meet the minimum standards for the removal of trafficking set in the 2000 UN Trafficking in Persons Report, it is, although, making efforts do so by:

- I. convicting more traffickers;*
- II. increasing criminal enforcement of unauthorized passport retention;*
- III. granting more victims freedom of movement, tripling funding for NGOs including for three NGO-run shelters, and opening its first trafficking-specific court.*

However, many of the government's victim protection efforts endured being inefficient, even after including five enforcement bodies, other government entities, and three NGOs in the Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants Council (MAPO) with the aim to prevent trafficking. Furthermore, the legislative changes written by the Ministry of Human Resource that would secure domestic workers under employment laws have yet to be approved by the Cabinet.

The nation is mainly a destination and, to a minor magnitude, source and transit country for victims of trafficking in persons. The Malaysian workforce consists of 20% undocumented voluntary immigrants from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Burma, Indonesia, the Philippines, and other Asian countries. These workers are often subjected to forced labor or debt bondage when unable to pay recruitment and travel fees.

## People's Republic of China

The government of China has yet to meet the minimum standards set in the 2000 UN Trafficking In Persons Report and to make significant efforts to improve conditions regarding the matter of human trafficking. The country is mainly a source for forced labor workers,

including children, who are trafficked to more than 57 countries. It is also a transit location for the trafficking of victims originated from the United States, North Korea, and Russia.

The 2018 U.S. Department of the State Report on Trafficking In Persons states that *"authorities detained women arrested on suspicion of prostitution—sometimes for months—and often forcibly returned foreign victims to their trafficking circumstances after they escaped and reported their abuses"*, which could be a result of the implemented nonstandard definition of trafficking in the country:

*I. migrant smuggling;*

*II. child abduction;*

*III. forced marriage;*

*IV. fraudulent adoption.*

It is, however, important to mention that some minimal efforts have been made, such as the annual inter-ministerial meeting to regulate anti-trafficking efforts and the increasing amount of shelters and support stations through the country.

## Republic of Angola

The Angolan government has made significant efforts to raise awareness of human trafficking through campaigns and seminars. The country does not, however, have a specific provision criminalizing the action, nor does it adequately fund protection mechanisms and legal, psychological and medical support to the victims of trading in persons. Compulsory work is prohibited since the implementation of the General Labor Law, which also includes arrangements for prohibiting forced labor.

The nation's protection efforts have decreased, but there has been an increase of cases of law enforcement and social services officials arresting and deporting victims of trafficking on the pretext of prostitution and immigration and employment violations. The victims often originate from Congo, Brazil, Namibia, and Vietnam and are usually engaged in sex work.

## Republic of India

India has a major problem with human trading and is making significant efforts to improve its conditions, the government does not, however, fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. Victim protection remains an issue and there have been reports of victims being penalized for criminal activities committed as a result of being subjected to human trafficking.

The nation's laws criminalize sex trafficking and only a few forms of forced labor, but there have been incidents of inaction on trafficking crimes by police and prosecutors as a result of:

1. inconsistent application of regulations across jurisdictions;
2. corruption among 223 officials;
3. lack of awareness on the matter.

Further, reports point to shortages of financial resources and trained personnel on both government- and NGO-run shelters, who rely primarily on donor contributions. In addition, the

issue of child sex tourism is not being properly addressed, since the government has yet to report measures to reduce the occurrences of such.

## Republic of Indonesia

Indonesia is mainly a source for individuals subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking, but the nation is also a destination for Chinese, Thai and Eastern European women trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation. The country has increased its law enforcement and trafficking prevention efforts with the 2017 amendments to an overseas worker law, which is necessary considering the number of victims located to overseas work, for example. There has also been an increase in the prosecuting, convicting and investigating of traffickers and identifying victims.

## Republic of South Africa

South Africa is a source, transit, and destination for victims of human trafficking. Several provinces are dominated by criminal organizations of various countries, the main being the Nigerian syndicates that dominate the commercial sex industry. These syndicates recruited South African women and transported them to Europe and Asia in trade for women and girls from Brazil, Eastern Europe, Asia, and neighboring African countries. These are often coerced into sex trafficking, domestic servitude or are transported to Europe for similar intent.

The nation does not fully meet the minimum standards set in the 2000 UN Trafficking In Persons Report for the elimination of trafficking and has reported cases of lack of adequate training of officials during identification measures, which contributes to the arrest and detention of victims while engaging in criminal activity as a result of the subjected situation. There have also been reports of a lack of funding for the prevention of such circumstances.

## Republic of Sudan

The Republic of Sudan is a transit, source, and destination country for forced labor victims and, to a minor intensity, sex trafficking and child soldiering victims.

The nation's efforts to prevent trafficking by increasing law enforcement are unsuccessful. According to the 2018 Report on Trafficking in Persons by the U.S. Department of State, the 2014 anti-trafficking law that criminalized forms of trafficking didn't delineate what embodied exploitation. Furthermore, the law didn't criminalize all forms of child sex trafficking, on behalf of a need to expose a demonstration of force, fraud, or coercion to be constituted as child sex trafficking. For that matter, the laws from the Republic of Sudan are incompatible with international standards. Additionally, the victims subjected to sex trafficking aren't identified and are most likely to be punished for misconducts they could have executed while being exploited; nonetheless, the government raised efforts to recognize victims of forced labor. The Government of Sudan is also making efforts to develop the capacity of law enforcement, even though, the victim protection services are still inconsistent. Therefore, the Republic of Sudan doesn't fully meet minimum standards for the removal of trafficking [2000 UN Trafficking In Persons Report].

## Republic of Poland

Poland is mainly a source for individuals subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking, which are both crimes with increasing rates in the country. Polish victims are either trafficked within their country or are transported to other European countries, mostly located in the West and North of the continent. The region is also a destination for victims originated from Ukraine, Belarus, Romania, and some Asian countries. There is also conflict involving Vietnamese victims, who have been subjected to forced labor in Russia; the victims transit Poland en route to Western Europe and are either imprisoned for illegal immigration or prostitution, which is one of the forms to quickly profit in order to pay for transport or aliment.

The nation has increased penalties for recruiters and efforts to protect foreign workers. Further, there has been an improvement with investigations and prosecutions at the same time as identifying forced labor and child trafficking victims became more complicated. Significant efforts to bring awareness were made, including information campaigns on human trafficking. Trafficking victims and witnesses have also received support from government-funded NGOs, which have operated hotlines, found shelters and provided medical and psychological aid.

## Republic of the Philippines

The Philippines is mainly a source for individuals, including children, subjected to sex trafficking and forced labor. There have been reports of organized crime syndicates who transport Chinese victims through the Philippines en route to East European countries, such as Russia and Hungary. The country has also high numbers of child sex tourists, mostly from the United States, Japan, Australia, and Canada, as well as some European countries.

Further, there have been significant efforts to convict and punish traffickers and to the identification and aid arrangement concerning victims. There still is, however, a lack of availability and quality of protection and assistance services for trafficking victims and services for male victims. In addition, according to the 2018 U.S. Department of State Report on Trafficking in Persons, *"the government did not vigorously investigate and prosecute officials allegedly involved in trafficking crimes or punish labor traffickers"*.

## Russian Federation

The Russia Federation doesn't provide any sort of service, protection or stability to the victims of human trafficking and, on the contrary:

- I. prosecutes victims, who committed crimes as a result of being subjected to the trafficking
- II. deport potential forced labor victims without an evaluation.

Therefore, Russia doesn't fully meet the minimum standards for the removal of trafficking determined in the 2000 UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol. Moreover, the lack of specific legislation specifying trafficking victims and differentiating victims of other crimes only contributes to the inefficiency operation of government agencies. Only a few government-funded shelters accept Russian and foreign trafficking victims and provide services, such as medical assistance.

It is important to note, that throughout 2017, the Russian government maintained bilateral agreements with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), in which:

- I. It was allowed that the operated labor camps by the Korean government in Russia continue to exist
- II. Subjected North Koreans to forced labor

Since then, the Russian government has issued its intention to diminish such contracts, because of the UN Security Council 2397 resolution. In the same year (2017), the nation entered into bilateral agreements with the Uzbekistan government to coordinate and provide coaching to migrant workers in each country.

Furthermore, the government has yet to fund shelters and programs for the rehabilitation of trafficking victims. Another concern is the lack of identification of victims and insignificant efforts to do so.

Russia is a source, transit, and destination country for forced labor and sex trafficking victims. Although labor trafficking continues to be mainly a human trafficking problem in Russia, sex trafficking is increasing. Workers from Russia and other countries in Europe, Central Asia, and Southeast Asia are exploited in the workforce in Russia. Women and children from Europe (predominantly Ukraine and Moldova), Southeast Asia (primarily Vietnam), Africa (particularly Nigeria), and Central Asia are primary victims of sex trafficking in Russia. According to the 2018 U.S. Department of the State Report on Trafficking In Persons Report, there has been a raise from Africans subjected to sex trafficking, because of the World Cup and the unreliability from Libyan route to Europe.

## State of Israel

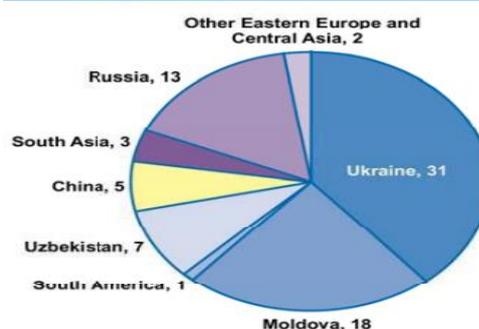
According to the Israeli non-profit organization created in 1991 to protect the rights of underprivileged workers, Kav La'Oved, "women are trafficked into Israel from Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Uzbekistan, Lithuania, Belarus, Brazil, Colombia, Estonia, Latvia, and others. (...) The regular entries to Israel through seaports and airports are recently heavily guarded, which is why so many women are trafficked through the Egyptian border in places where there is no control" (2003).

The government has made insufficient progress in indicting and punishing trafficking offenses but has effectively improved its protection of trafficking victims. There is, however, still a weak level of protection and assistance for victims of forced labor; the U.S. Department of State Report on Trafficking in Persons of 2018 states that "(...) the government encourages victims of sex trafficking to assist in investigations against their traffickers, but it does not actively encourage victims of forced labor to do the same".

## Ukraine

The Government of Ukraine does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking set in the 2000 UN

Fig. 10: Victims of trafficking in persons sheltered in Israel, by country of citizenship (2005-2006)



Source: Maagan Shelter

Trafficking in Persons Protocol; nevertheless, it making progress, according to the 2018 U.S. Department of the State Report on Trafficking In Persons Report, by:

- I. investigating and prosecuting a greater number of trafficking cases;*
- II. increasing coordination among interagency and civil society stakeholders;*
- III. identifying more victims;*
- IV. providing more financial assistance to victims;*
- V. opening additional socio-psychological centers to serve victims;*
- VI. increasing training for government officials.*

Despite introducing the formulated legislation from the Cabinet of Ministers, which aims a boosting from services for trafficking victims, many traffickers avoid imprisonment due corruption cases. Furthermore, many citizens of Ukraine became vulnerable to exploitation as a result of the scarce Ukrainian government's resources, which were used on the conflict with Russia in 2014. Hence this, Ukraine depends on international organizations funds and NGOs, to provide services of protection and assistance to the victims of trafficking.

According to the Ukrainian government report presented by the 2018 U.S. Department of the State Report on Trafficking In Persons nine victims were repatriated from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Georgia, and Turkey. However, international organizations presented three victims from Russia, Moldova, and Uzbekistan. The concern regarding foreign victims is that these individuals are not allowed to extend their stay, secure employment rights or seek protection from deportation to countries where they would face punishments for crimes committed while being subjected to human trafficking.

Also, according to the 2010 reports by the U.S. Department of State the nation is a source, transit, and destination victims mostly forced into labor and, to a minor extent, to sex trafficking. Ukrainian victims are subjected these conditions not only in Ukraine, but in Russia, Poland, Moldova and other parts of Europe, and the Middle East as well. A few victims from Moldova, Russia, and Uzbekistan are forced to work in Ukraine.

## United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Island is a destination for victims of trafficking, who originated, mostly, from Albania, Lithuania, Vietnam, Russia, Ukraine, Malaysia, and China.

The nation has an issue with the definition of 'trafficking', which is inconsistent within the jurisdictions and may be the cause of flawed investigations and identification of victims. There is, however, a consistency of criminalization of 'slavery and servitude', in which the victim movement, one of the different characteristics within jurisdictions, is not a component to be considered.

On a positive note, there have been significant efforts to increase awareness by the public and authorities and to also identify more victims and increase the period of protection available to them.

## United States of America

The United States of America has issues with East European, Mexican and Asian crime organizations that use the region for transit to other destinations, such as Russia and China. The country is also a source, of U.S. citizens and foreigners, and a destination for the traffickers. Victims come from various countries, making it more complicated to track offenders and their recruitment areas.

The government has, however, fully implemented the necessary actions discussed in the 2000 UN Trafficking Protocol and continues to intensely investigate and prosecute both cases of sex and labor trafficking. Furthermore, positive actions in favor of the victim's mental health have been issued and engagement with survivors in order to improve, not only, national programs and policies on the subject.

Following the pattern of most Western countries, the United States also lacks efficient efforts to address labor trafficking in comparison to sex trafficking. It has also been reported that local authorities detain or prosecute some of the victims who have engaged in criminal activity as a consequence of their trafficking situation. Another pressing issue is the increased use of technology to recruit and advertise victims of human trafficking, which leads to the country being one of the main locations in which the population accesses pornography involving trafficking victims and engages in child sex tourism overseas.

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