



**United Nations Office on
Drugs and Crime**

Table of Contents

A Letter from the Secretariat	2
Description of Committee	3
Human Trafficking	4
Introduction	4
History of Human Trafficking	4
Organ Trafficking	5
China and Israel - Organs as Crops	6
Child Trafficking	6
ISIL's Child Trafficking	7
UN Past Action	8
Questions to Consider	10

Letter from the Secretariat

Delegates,

Welcome to the background guides for MiniMUN 2017! Whether it is your first or third Model United Nations conference, it is our hope at MiniMUN that you will continue to further expand your knowledge of MUN, world issues, and the UN itself.

The purpose of this background guide is to introduce the committee and the topic, as well as help you write your position paper. Details on position paper and submission are available under the Position Paper tab on our website:

<http://chsminimun.weebly.com/position-papers.html>

The topics and committees were chosen to reflect the problems that our world leaders face. As a delegate, you will be stepping into the role of world leaders. You will take on perspectives different from your own, and you will push for what your country believes to be right.

We have diligently worked to make this year's topics even more captivating and advanced than previous years. If at any time, you are having trouble understanding the background guide, finding information on the topic, or writing your position paper, please contact your chairs for help. They are more than willing to assist you to make MiniMUN a productive and engaging conference!

We are very excited to see you at MiniMUN 2017!

Rogan Munro-Foulis and Christine Pang

Secretary-General and Director-General, MiniMUN 2017



Description of Committee

UNODC is a global leader in the fight against illicit drugs and international crime. Established in 1997 through a merger between the United Nations Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention, UNODC operates in all regions of the world through an extensive network of field offices. UNODC relies on voluntary contributions, mainly from Governments, for 90 per cent of its budget.

UNODC is mandated to assist Member States in their struggle against illicit drugs, crime and terrorism. In the Millennium Declaration, Member States also resolved to intensify efforts to fight transnational crime in all its dimensions, to redouble the efforts to implement the commitment to counter the world drug problem and to take concerted action against international terrorism.

In the words of UNODC Executive Director Yury Fedotov: "If UNODC provides services that you require, or if you would like to support our work, please call on us. Working together to take action against drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism, we can increase security and improve the lives of individuals, families and communities all over the world."

At a time when these problems without borders are becoming widely recognized as, requests for coordinated UNODC initiatives at the national, regional and transnational levels continue to grow. Our work enhances security and improves the everyday lives of people across the globe.

UNODC: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/index.html>

Human Trafficking

Introduction

The human trafficking industry, the buying and selling of human beings, has been recognized as one most profitable criminal activities in the world. Individuals in poverty are much more likely to become trafficked and eventually become slave laborers. Human trafficking has been classified as illegal activity; every year, two million people are illegally enslaved. Victims, specifically women and children, endure physical and mental abuse with little to no pay. Unsurprisingly, the human rights of these victims are violated; once enslaved, these people have no control over their freedom, body, and future. Thailand is well-known as a center for human trafficking, both as a center for transportation as well as a destination. These activities often remain hidden to the public, as a result, many international organizations and special reporters of the United Nations must reach an agreement on the definitions of "sale" and "human trafficking."

History of Human Trafficking

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) stated that, "human trafficking is the act of gathering, moving, receiving, or keeping human beings by threat, force, coercion, or deception, for exploitative purposes." This includes "forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs." For the purposes of UNODC, we will utilize this definition. The origin of slave trade can be dated back to the ancient times, specifically during the

Roman Empire and other ancient civilizations. Nevertheless, the earliest form of human trafficking began with the African slave trade during the Columbian Exchange. Americans and Europeans both purchased slaves from Africa. Slaves were transported on ships that were often overcrowded, dirty, and inhumane. Once in America, they were branded and then auctioned off to slave masters. The majority of African slaves worked in sugar plantations in the Caribbean and Brazil in extremely tiring labor conditions. Consequently, a Brazilian slave's average life span on a sugar plantation was 23 years. At the current time, approximately 510 known trafficking operations exist around the world. Elimination of these operations seems difficult as they span a wide number of countries. Around 25% of these countries had 10 to 50 arrests per year, 26% had less than 10 convictions, and 15% had no arrests from 2010 to 2012. This form of organized crime is very profitable and rather low-risk. Unfortunately, there is not enough time and government officials available to investigate each illegally transported group. In addition, some governments do not criminalize human trafficking at all, leaving two billion citizens unprotected.

Organ Trafficking

Organs trafficking in which human organs are hunted, collected, sold, and transported. Traffickers often press or mislead victims into giving up an organ or victims willingly or unwillingly agree to sell an organ; nonetheless, they are either not paid or paid very little. Vulnerable people, including migrant workers or homeless people's organs may be surgically removed without them knowing when they undergo surgical treatment. The Guardian revealed in 2012 that the trade of

kidneys has grown massively: 10,000 black market operations involving purchased organs occur each year.

China and Israel - Organs as Crops

China was infamously exposed for the harvesting of organs of prisoners; in 2006, it was discovered that state-run hospitals were actively harvesting and trafficking the organs of people who were in prison for holding religious or political beliefs that are not tolerated by the government. This scandal became the subject of the documentary, “Human Harvest: China’s Organ Trafficking.” Ten thousand transplantable organs are auctioned in China each year with a \$1 billion market. Equally important, Israel has been known to be a leader in “transplant tourism”—traveling to other nations to buy internal organs. Israel is unique for many reasons: Israel’s participation is extraordinarily high as Israelis are responsible for more kidneys per capita than any other population. On the contrary, its donor rate is one of the lowest in the world—1/3 to 1/5 of that of Europe's, primarily because of religious reasons. The Israeli government encouraged organ transplant in what was described as Israel’s “national program of transplant tourism.” The Israeli health system has paid for its citizens’ “transplant holidays,” reimbursing people up to \$80,000 for medical operations abroad. Interestingly enough, Israel’s first successful heart transplant utilized a stolen heart.

Child Trafficking

Child soldiers are children who are under 18 who are recruited for military purposes. More than half of child soldiers are used for fighting; they undergo strict

training programs and brainwashing. Others work as cooks, porters, messengers, informants, spies but they are all still abused by their owners. The advantage is that children are easy to be manipulated. Refugee children fall prey to all kinds of abuse after becoming separated from their parents during conflict. While the majority of child soldiers are manipulated or forcibly taken, others join "voluntarily", driven by poverty, sense of duty, or circumstances in which they lack a proper education or parental guidance and protection. In recent years, most countries only recruit adults 18 and up, nevertheless, some countries still illegally employ child soldiers including the UK, Myanmar and Afghanistan. The UN Secretary-General's 2016 report listed out more than 50 parties of conflict across the globe including: 'the Islamic State' group in Iraq and Syria, the Mai-Mai Nyatura in Democratic Republic of Congo, the Kachin Independence Army in Myanmar, and the Taliban in Afghanistan.

ISIL's Child Trafficking

The "Children of the Islamic State" report indicated that ISIL paid heavy attention to teaching children principles based on terrorism and extremism. Being born into extreme values and radical ideas transform these vulnerable individuals into lethal fighters. The process of recruiting and teaching extremist children makes up a large amount of ISIL's 80,000 militants; 50,000 are found in Syria and 30,000 in Iraq. An estimated 6 million men, women, and children live under ISIL's rule. Abduction of hundreds of boys, including Yazidis and Turkmens, took place in Nineveh around 2014 and 2015. They were then sent to training centers, taught the Qur'an, the use of weapons and combat tactics. Furthermore, the education system

in Syria and Iraq fell under control of ISIL, further endangering children.

The spread of trafficking can be attributed back to many problems such as scarcity of education, limited employment and most importantly, the belief that the lives of women and girls are disposable. If women experienced improved economic and social conditions, they would be less vulnerable to being trafficked. Women often become involved in trafficking when they accept offers of legal work as shop assistants or waitresses, whereas others are promised about a better life through marriage or educational opportunities. Girls are often times sold by their boyfriends, friends, neighbors, or even parents. Consequently, victims are passed among multiple traffickers before arriving to their destination without a passport or any official documents. Upon arrival, victims become dependent on their traffickers as they have arrived into the country illegally and are often times not able to go back home. If they are allowed to return, they must pay large fees to do so. Victims of human trafficking experience various stages of physical and mental torture in addition with sleep and food shortage.

UN Past Action

Organ harvest and transplanting is seen as a revolutionary medical development; the World Health Organization (WHO), the UN's standing body that manages health and medical issues, acknowledges organ transplant technology as an important practice that saves human lives. Understanding its potential benefits, the WHO does not condemn the practice, however the WHO is aware of its profitability and development as an illegal trade good. To stop the growth of

unregulated organ surgeries, the WHO has created a set of international standards on organ transplant procedures. At the Istanbul Summit on Organ Trafficking and Transplant Tourism, a declaration was created that established further guidelines that the WHO's resolution lacked. These guidelines pertained to the buying and selling of organs, as well as travel for transplantation. The declaration works specifically to create a guideline for countries to implement transplant policies at the national level, which prohibits and counters organ trafficking and transplant tourism. Currently, almost 100 countries and organizations have endorsed the declaration. In 2010, an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) was hosted in Vienna, Austria. The event was attended by criminal justice, law enforcement, and academic experts addressing the practice of human trafficking for the purpose of organ removal. In the meeting, the experts discussed many subjects regarding this issue. This included such topics as common methods of operation, criminal elements involved, existing legal frameworks of the UN member states, and prominent case studies. As a result, the EGM developed the UNODC Assessment Toolkit on Trafficking in Persons for Organ Removal. This toolkit assesses loopholes in existing legal systems which would enable organ traffickers to more easily transport illicit organs. The toolkit also advises countries to create an integrated information-sharing system between prominent sub-state actors and law enforcement agencies to more efficiently combat the trade. Even further, the toolkit mentions the importance in redefining the difference between human trafficking for organ removal and the trafficking of organs, as those categories have not been addressed specifically in any

internationally implemented framework. Despite this, progress is still largely hindered due to a massive lack of data on the illicit organ trade.

Questions to Consider

1. Does your country have a problem with the illicit organ trade? Its neighbours?
2. How does this trade impact your country and its economy?
3. Who is conducting the illicit trades? What actions have been taken to prevent it further in your country?
4. Can the UN expand on existing treaties and documents to better combat the trade?
5. How can the UN collect more accurate and reliable data on the trade?
6. How can countries work together to stop the illicit trade?