



**ArcMUN**

Aristotelio College Model United Nations

## **Third Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations**

**(SOCHUM)**

**Tackling the issue of human trafficking;  
Prevention, protection and prosecution**

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***Contributors:*** Georgiadis Evangelos, Pechlivanidou Elena, Zois Christos

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## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION

In order for you to be fully prepared for the session, you should follow the next steps:

1. Get accustomed to the procedure of the session. Please feel free to read the procedure in the official website of ArcMUN 2017. (<http://aristoteliocollegemun.weebly.com/rules-of-procedure.html> ) We will explain the procedure once more when in person, so please do not worry that much for the rules from now.
2. Read your Study Guide and indulge yourselves in individual research. Read the links provided in this guide and also do research in other websites and mass media. However, keep in mind that you should conduct your research based on official data provided by formal websites (i.e. the UN website, the European Commission etc.)
3. Know the policy of the country you are representing. You should always bear in mind that during the conference you will be representing a **specific country** and its policies and not your personal point of view on the issue debated.
4. You should know not only your country's view on the topic, but also some general information regarding alliances, geopolitical state, natural resources etc.
5. Write and send to the committee email before **February 1st**, a position paper, in which you will explain **your country's point of view, measures and possible suggestions on our topic; "Tackling the issue of human trafficking; Prevention, protection and prosecution"**.
6. Visit the session's website to see the official example of a position paper and how it should be structured.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC

Human trafficking is the "industry" of human trading, usually for sexual slavery and exploitation or forced labour purposes. It refers to the obtainment of human beings, using illegal means such as fraud, blackmailing or force to get them aiming to exploit them in any possible way. In many cases people who are traded are forced to marry strangers -to them- under some kind of agreement between the two trading sides, or they even have their organs removed. During the last decades, owing to the increase of ways of communication it has been spread in the biggest part of the globe. Human trafficking is nowadays arranged through internet-based social media, something that has made it less detectable by national authorities and international organisation aiming to promote the protection of human rights. Human trafficking undoubtedly constitutes an action of violence and bluntly diminishes the integrity of humans.

## BASIC DEFINITIONS

- **Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)** is a federal law concerning the prevention, protection and prosecution of human trafficking. In there, there are some basic definitions of profound importance. To be more specific,
- **Involuntary servitude:** A condition of servitude induced by means of any scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause a person to believe that, if the person did not enter into or continue in such condition, that person or another person would suffer serious

harm or physical restraint; or the abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process (22 U.S.C. 7102 (6)).

- **Debt Bondage:** The status or condition of a debtor arising from a pledge by the debtor of his or her personal services or of those of a person under his or her control as a security for debt, if the value of those services as reasonably assessed is not applied toward the liquidation of the debt or the length and nature of those services are not respectively limited and defined (22 U.S.C. 7102 (5)).
- **Coercion:**
  - (A) threats of serious harm to or physical restraint against any person;
  - (B) any scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause a person to believe that failure to perform an act would result in serious harm to or physical restraint against any person; or
  - (C) the abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process (22 U.S.C. 7102 (3)).
- **Commercial Sex Act:** The term “commercial sex act” means any sex act on account of which anything of value is given to or received by any person (22 U.S.C. 7102 (4)).

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE ISSUE**

Human-trafficking constitutes one of the biggest criminal networks on the international scenery, with many different stakeholders being involved in its expansion all over the world. According to the author Kevin Bales, around 27 million people are modern-day slaves across the globe. Back in 2008 the U.S Department of State estimated that approximately 2 million children were exploited for sex trade. Generally, women and girls make up more than 50% of all sex slaves in the world. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), forced labour alone (one component of human trafficking) generates an estimated \$150 billion in profits per annum as of 2014. Human trafficking is listed as a crime in Article 83 of the *Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union*.

## **INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK**

It is obvious that the international community cannot stand ignorant towards the issue of human trafficking. In order for the problem to be solved international and domestic legislative initiative are of vital importance.

In 2000 the United Nations General Assembly ratified the *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children*, aiming to eliminate the trade of people. To date, more than 147 UN Member States have signed the aforementioned Protocol. For instance, in December 2009 the Chinese government endorsed the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol and has passed a significant number of laws against human trafficking.

However, moving past the legislation few international criminals are convicted for human trafficking while most victims are probably never identified or provided with the necessary help.

Moreover, the European Union has taken significant action aiming to affectively tackle human trafficking within its internal and external borders. On March 2011, the EU adopted the *Directive on Trafficking in Human Beings* and on 19 June 2012, the European Commission enabled the *"EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings"*, a strategy that aimed to create complete and concrete measures against human

trafficking by the end of 2016. These measures aimed to strengthen the protection of victims and the prosecution of traffickers.

One valuable example of domestic legislation aiming to eradicate human trafficking as far as labour is concerned is the “The Gangmasters Licencing Authority” enacted in the United Kingdom, which aims to regulate the supply of workers to agricultural, horticultural and shellfish industries.

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER DURING THE DEBATE**

1. Which are the stakeholders involved in the issue?
2. How can Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) contribute towards tackling human trafficking?
3. To what extent is the trafficking problem associated to the perpetual expansion of the drug industry?
4. Which rights have the victims of human trafficking? Where can they seek protection?
5. What is the role of society in the proper reintegration of victims?

### **SUGGESTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/>
- <https://www.dutchrapporteur.nl/>
- [http://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/legislation-and-case-law/International-Legislation\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/legislation-and-case-law/International-Legislation_en)
- [http://www.humantrafficking.org/countries/china/government\\_laws](http://www.humantrafficking.org/countries/china/government_laws)
- <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/countries/2014/226730.htm>
- <http://www.inbrief.co.uk/offences/human-trafficking-uk-law/>
- <http://www.uae-embassy.org/about-uae/human-rights/combating-human-trafficking>
- <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/what-human-trafficking/federal-law>

Best regards,  
Your Board,  
Georgiadis Evangelos, Pechlivanidou Elena