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ECOSOC 2: Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
(CCPCJ)

Research Report Guide

Topic 2: Combatting human trafficking, and installing a programme to rehabilitate victims.



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Table of Contents

Introduction:	3
Definitions of Key Terms:	3
Background Information:	5
Major Countries and Organisations Involved:	8
ORGANISATIONS:	8
REGIONS:	8
COUNTRIES:	9
Relevant Un Resolutions:	10
UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 60/147:	10
RESOLUTION A/RES/68/192, THE REPORT OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE:	10
RESOLUTION 10/3:	11
ADDITIONAL:	13
Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue:	14
Possible Solutions:	15
Bibliography:	17

Introduction:

Human trafficking is a worldwide issue, affecting 161 countries and 2.5 million people at any given time. It occurs all over the world without exception of any continent, state or country. Human trafficking methods and reasons can take a multitude of forms; however, the purpose is always for a form of exploitation. It is most common in lower-middle income countries and specifically in Eastern Asia and the Pacific, with over 29.3 million people being affected by acts of trafficking in persons in that region alone. Economic or political collapse and decline can be viewed as contributors to the increase of such acts as economic distress is one of the primary reasons for people to search alternative income methods, often falling into traffickers' traps. This case can be examined from Libya's situation, which was noted to be the worst scoring country on crimes of human trafficking in 2022. In this research report, this issue will be further elaborated and possible solutions to eradicate human trafficking effects will be discussed.

Definitions of Key Terms:

Human Trafficking: Human trafficking is "The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of people through force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them for profit."¹. At first glance, human trafficking can easily be mistaken with the term human smuggling — human smuggling indicates the transportation of a person is occurring, while human trafficking adds the meaning that it is being done with the aim of exploitation. Trafficking may appear in many forms, however the most encountered are primarily based on exploitation in sex, entertainment and hospitality industries, as well as reasons such as physical labour, debt bondage, domestic servitude, organ removal, forced marriages, child soldiers and forced begging.

¹ *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*. "Human Trafficking." *UNODC*, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/Human-Trafficking.html. Accessed 21 Dec. 2025.

Elements: The elements of human trafficking is what makes the action a crime. **ACT:** The trafficker commits either one of recruiting, transporting, transferring, harbouring or receiving human trafficking victims. **MEANS:** Any method including threatening, usage of force, fraud, deception, coercion, abuse of a position of vulnerability, giving payments or benefits and abduction is used. **PURPOSE:** The crime was committed for any form of exploitation. These three elements are what defines the human trafficking crime.

Victim: A person who has been lured by false promises and has undergone any shape or form of human trafficking, often exhibiting strong signs of emotional, physical and psychological trauma.

Trauma Informed Approach: Implementing knowledge on recognised trauma into policies, procedures and practices to be able to restore a survivor's feelings of safety, choice and control. It includes the understanding of vulnerable experiences and actively seeks ways to resist re-traumatisation.

Survivor Informed Approach: A policy, intervention or program that has been designed for the needs and perceptions of surviving victims. It depends more on strategy and accuracy than the victims' feelings of safety. Along with trauma informed approach, the survivor informed approach should be incorporated into the victim-centred approach.

Victim-Centred Approach: A systematic method of engaging with victims, consisting of reliable, consistent, empathetic solutions that has been proved of being long lasting. Some defining characteristics include making sure the victim is fully informed of all stages of a process in an enabling and consenting environment.

Culturally Competent Approach: The cultural and linguistic competence that enables effective and understanding working conditions in culturally diverse environments. With its integration to procedures, organisations are able to function better within communities.

Return vs Reintegration vs Resettlement: The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) materials differentiate these three concepts. The action of returning is the physical

movement back home; Reintegration is beginning socioeconomic recovery within the home; resettlement is the relocation to a third country when the action of returning is unsafe.

Intersectionality: The interconnectedness of social categories such as race, gender, age, class or sexuality. First used in 1989, the term is meant to describe how different forms of discrimination may overlap, and how they cannot be studied independently. It is specifically crucial in describing the experiences of human trafficking victims as there are multiple factors that impact their stories, not just one.

Non-Punishment Principle: What ensures that victims are not to be punished for the crimes or conducts of their traffickers. This encourages victims to report crimes that are committed against them and guarantees that victims will not be punished for the crimes they would not have committed if it were not for their victimisation.

Referral Mechanisms: What allows clients to access services that are most suitable for their own personal needs in a way that is in accordance with their rights.

Standard Operating Procedures: Standard operating procedures (SOP) are uniformly written procedures that contain instructions and detailed descriptions of any possibility and scenario regarding a topic. A SOP on human trafficking would include step by step approaches for the method of investigation of human trafficking cases as well as rehabilitation techniques of victims. Simply, it would be everything from locating human trafficking cases to the reintegration of victims to their lives.

Background Information:

Human trafficking is the crime of recruiting, transporting, transferring or harbouring people through force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them for personal profit. The process harms the victim emotionally, mentally and physically; leaving the person with great amounts of trauma that might not even be completely fixed throughout a lifetime. It is

known to affect every gender, age and race, which is further supported by the intersectionality theory that has first been established in 1989.

The crime of trafficking by persons is present in all corners of the world without exception of any country or state. However, even though that is the case, it is possible to note that certain regions are affected more by the crime. Economic, political and judicial instability or decline are major contributors to the increase in trafficking in persons, as it creates opportunities in the judicial system for organised crime to take advantage of. At locations with higher rates of instability, whether it be economic, political or judicial, there is also greater poverty and injustice. In settings such as these, people can be more easily manipulated through false promises of jobs and better living conditions and may be subjected to trafficking. The trafficking form that concerns forced labour and forced marriage is seen mostly in Eastern Asia and the Pacific, where an estimation of 29.3 million people is thought to be victims of trafficking in persons. Eastern Asia is followed by Africa, then Europe and Central Asia, the Americas and finally Arab States by the number of people who are affected by such criminal activities.

According to the 2021 report of The Global Organised Crime Index, human trafficking has become the most pervasive criminal activity in the world². The victims are, on average, between 18 and 24 years of age, specifically in Europe. 95% of victims experience physical or sexual violence — 43% being forced for commercial sexual exploitation (of whom 98% are female) and 32% being used for economic exploitation³. Every year, 1.2 million children are assumed to be trafficked.

Many agencies, UN bodies, NGOs, and governmental organisations have been working to develop a multitude of solutions to combat human trafficking. This path of resolutions begins from combatting the issues that lead to the economic and political environments that enable such crimes up to the most preferable methods to rehabilitate victims. It is also important to note how these solutions were implemented and how and why

² Based on Sara McGeough and Amber Van's "Where Is Human Trafficking Most Common?" on the The Exodus Road

³ Based on "Human Trafficking: The Facts" from Caritas Internationali

some did not work. Early anti-trafficking strategies that the UN suggested were heavily reliant on criminal justice and policing to the point where victims were often arrested and even treated as illegal immigrants or criminals rather than victims. These punishing methods caused a great decline in trust in authorities while prosecution levels did not undergo the change the UN had hoped, the failed attempts becoming the turning point where the UN made a critical decision: developing and starting to embrace victim-centred, survivor and trauma informed and culturally competent approaches that were built on non-punishment principles were to be prioritised, all with hopes of regaining trust to make a change.

Another method to note is how the UN focused on the implementation of campaigns, mostly awareness campaigns, with apparent affect but no structural change. Awareness campaigns that hoped to globalise awareness on the signs and reasons of human trafficking backfired greatly, as the countries' plans to convey realistic information failed. Some campaigns oversimplified human trafficking and even mis portrayed trafficking victims. What was explained to the public was almost completely limited to the sexual exploit form of trafficking in persons and male victims of the crime were barely mentioned. Areas where poverty, gender inequality, conflict, undocumented migration and extreme labour exploitation were not affected by the UN's efforts to spread awareness as intersectionality remained unmentioned.

Because there have been difficulties with arranging better methods to combat human trafficking through judiciary actions and awareness campaigns does not mean that these paths should be abandoned completely. Delegates should keep in mind the entire process of human trafficking and consider the details that lead to it. Before the crime even begins, the environment that trafficking occurs in should be thought over and whether there is anything that can ameliorate then situation in areas troubled with the issue must be considered. What could be done to inhibit human trafficking to occur, what could be done to identify cases of trafficking, and what actions could be taken to prosecute traffickers while victims are rehabilitated — all of these should be borne in mind to be able to write an effective paper.

Major Countries and Organisations Involved:

Organisations:

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC): UNODC serves as the largest organisation to provide reports on human trafficking, the most authoritative statistics, trends, trafficking flows and patterns in over hundreds of countries. Not only does UNODC support the implementation of the Palermo Protocol, but they also advocate for the increment of victim centred approaches and regard for intersectionality in victim rehabilitations.

International Organisation for Migration (IOM): Though IOM does not exist under the UN, it is an organisation that works closely with governmental organisations as well as the UNODC, especially when it comes to victim rehabilitation. They aim to raise awareness on the issue and actively arrange ways to inform the public on human trafficking's causes and effects. Through supports for reintegration, return and resettlement, they aid survivors in rejoining life, even running shelters and psychological aid programs. It can be said that IOM is the bridge between the detection and the recovery of human trafficking victims.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF): UNICEF actively works on the rehabilitation of child trafficking victims. They advocate for the non-punishment principle for children who were forced to coerce into criminal activities. They provide the victim centred approach that helps identify, protect and support child survivors.

International Labour Organisation (ILO): ILO mainly focuses on the exploitation form of forced labour and forced labour victims. The organisation develops and supports researches, SOPs, and helps integrate laws to ensure workplace protections, as well as anti-trafficking laws. ILO also aims to protect victims of forced labour and hopes to minimise the conditions that force people into the rough economic conditions that eventually lead to exploited labour.

Regions:

Africa: It is already noted in the UNODC's 2024 Global Report that through 162 nationalities being trafficked to 128 different locations, African victims account for the

largest cross-border flow. Because of the constant conflict, poverty, as well as economic, social and political vulnerability Africa is already over exposed to such criminal activities.

Asia-South Asia: Based on the UNODC's Global Reports, countries such as India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal are widely documented on incidents of human trafficking as both source and transit points. The region is known for high rates of sexual exploitation as well as forced labour and forced marriages.

Europe: UNODC's Global Report states that Europe has the biggest rise in human trafficking numbers, acting as a major destination point for trafficking that localise from Africa and Asia. Specifically in sectors such as forced labour and domestic labour, it should be borne in mind that the rise in European human trafficking should be ended before the situation gets graver.

Countries:

Nigeria: A great focus of UN anti-trafficking movements and IOM rehabilitation programs, Nigeria is central to distribution activities. Many trafficking that occurs through Nigeria goes to Libya, Mali and other such countries.

Afghanistan: There is a grand number of active exploitations in Afghanistan that concerns the recruitment of child soldiers. It is also notable that a pattern of sexual exploitation, which also includes reports on children trafficking, occurs in the region.

China: Although the Chinese governments took steps to combat human trafficking, frequent reports on forced labour are still being made. Mass detentions of ethnic and religious minorities are thought to be exploited for labour.

Papua New Guinea: Responsible for up to %30 of sex trafficking victims in the Southern Pacific Islands, Papua New Guinea is responsible for great numbers of sex trafficking, most victims being children as young as 10 years old.

It is also possible to note that countries such as Cuba, Djibouti, Eritrea, Iran, Nicaragua, South Sudan, Sudan and Turkmenistan are neither taking the proper precautions to combat trafficking in persons nor reporting or prosecuting criminals who were documented for the crimes of human trafficking.

Relevant UN Resolutions:

For years, the United Nations have been passing great numbers of resolutions on this matter. The following are names, descriptions and for some, clauses, on some of the relevant resolutions on human trafficking and victim rehabilitation that may prove useful:

UN General Assembly Resolution 60/147, the Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law:

Intends to assist victims and the victims' representatives to remedial relief with appropriate guidance and encouragement,

Unites human rights law with humanitarian law to extend the rights of victims of international crimes,

Clarifies the remedial rights of victims such as easy and equal access to justice, being given access to information about the violations and repetitional mechanisms, and adequate reparation of harm they have suffered

Resolution A/RES/68/192, discussed on the sixty-eighth session of the GA on agenda item 108, the report of the Third Committee:

Decides to appraise, from within existing resources, on a four-year basis, starting at its seventy-second session, the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of

Action in order to assess achievements, gaps and challenges, including in the implementation of the relevant legal instruments, and requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures in that regard;

Also decides, in the context of the need for raising awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights, to designate 30 July as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, to be observed every year beginning in 2014, invites all Member States, relevant agencies of the United Nations system and other international organisations, as well as civil society, to observe the World Day, and notes that the costs of all activities that may arise should be met from voluntary contributions;

Invites the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons, pursuant to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, to consider the need for meetings of representatives of national coordinating mechanisms on combating trafficking in persons, with a view to facilitating, inter alia, better international coordination and information exchange on good practices to address the problem of trafficking in persons;

Resolution 10/3 Effective implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime:

Urges Member States to develop or amend, as appropriate, national laws to ensure that trafficking in persons in all its forms is liable to sanctions that take into account the gravity of the offence and, depending on the gravity of the offence, subject to a long statute of limitations period, as appropriate, and to maximise the effectiveness of criminal justice systems in holding traffickers accountable, including legal persons, if applicable, and also those who intentionally obstruct justice or abuse their position of trust, further deterring the commission of trafficking in persons offences;

Encourages States parties to make every possible effort to improve the exchange of information, including on the methods used by organised criminal groups involved in

trafficking in persons, as set forth in article 10, paragraph 1, of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, and to consider developing standard operating procedures to allow law enforcement, immigration or other relevant authorities of States parties, as appropriate, to promptly send official information about identified victims to the destination countries, countries of origin and transit countries, including information on the acts and means used for the purpose of trafficking in persons in order to initiate a joint investigation, in accordance with national law;

Encourages States, where appropriate, in accordance with domestic law and taking into account best practices or other promising measures developed in response to emerging trends in trafficking in persons, to:

Support, protect and empower victims with a view to promoting their long-term social inclusion, while engaging directly with victims through an inclusive and participatory process, for example by promoting their skills acquisition, including through formal education and professional and vocational training, and by facilitating their access to the labour market and microcredit;

Train and establish specialised investigation and prosecutorial units composed of personnel with advanced expertise in identifying victims and investigating and combating complex cases of trafficking in persons using a victim-centred and human rights-based approach, which takes into account age, gender and physical, mental and special needs, and the impacts of trauma;

Undertake proactive parallel financial investigations, including through collaboration with public and private financial institutions, as a good practice when investigating and prosecuting trafficking in persons, with a view to identifying vulnerabilities with regard to the further tracing, freezing and confiscation of proceeds acquired through this crime, while considering directing part of such proceeds, where possible, to programmes supporting victims of trafficking, and request the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide technical assistance to Member States to establish such systems upon request;

Incorporate the voices of individuals who have been victims of trafficking in persons, as defined by national law, into the development and application of victim-centred policies, programmes and other anti-trafficking measures, which take into account age, gender and physical, mental and special needs, including through consultative

platforms made up of members of civil society and/or individuals who have been victims of trafficking in persons, as defined by national law;

Establish effective protection mechanisms for the victims' families in their country of origin, transit countries, and/or destination countries, as appropriate under national law;

Consider providing, in accordance with their domestic law, that victims of trafficking in persons are not inappropriately punished or prosecuted for acts they commit as a direct consequence of being trafficked and, where appropriate, provide access to remedies if they are punished or prosecuted for such acts and, accordingly, establish, as appropriate, domestic laws, guidelines or policies that espouse these principles;

In designing, monitoring and evaluating anti-trafficking programmes, incorporate, where possible, rigorous and scientific baseline and end-line data collection, which may include prevalence measurements, to determine if the programmes are having the intended impact, and invite the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support Member States in developing such measurements, as needed and upon request;

Analyse and adapt to technological advancements and new schemes or methods that traffickers use to recruit victims and facilitate their exploitation by advertising them to other perpetrators, and take measures to develop new, or use existing, targeted awareness-raising campaigns and training tools, including for law enforcement agencies, front-line service providers, such as social workers, education staff and health-care providers and at-risk industries, to identify and respond to indicators of trafficking in persons, and to develop or use existing specialised training for law enforcement officers, criminal justice practitioners and other first responders, including civil society service providers, and invite the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to consider opportunities to support Member States in these actions, as needed and upon request;

Additional:

Some additional and useful sources can be stated as resolutions A/C.3/78/L.12/Rev.1 on improving coordination of efforts against human trafficking, A/RES/79/154 on trafficking in women and girls, A/HRC/RES/32/3 on trafficking in persons, especially women and children: protecting victims of trafficking and persons at risk of trafficking, especially women and children in conflict and post-conflict situations and S/RES/2331 on trafficking in persons in armed conflicts.

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue:

Establishment of Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT):

- A UN policy forum that joins UNODC, IOM and various agencies to promote holistic solutions,
- Looking out to combine crime prevention, protection, prosecution and survivor support,

UNODC Led Awareness Campaigns:

- Urges stronger policies for identification of trafficking and victim support systems,
- Implements annual awareness days and advocacy campaigns that seeks public attention and encourages victims to speak up,

UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons (UNVTF):

- A fund that provides humanitarian aid to human trafficking victims including but not limited to psychological assistance, legal aid, shelter, financial help and ways to reintegrate,
- Actively works with NGOs over the globe to maximise their effect,

Capacity Building and Legal Framework Supports by UNDP and UNODC:

- Aids governments in designing and implementing policies that combat acts of trafficking through changes in law enforcement, border scanning and victim-centred laws,
- Supports cooperation with neighbouring nations in order to share well working protocols and solution attempts,

Finance Against Slavery & Trafficking (FAST):

- Works to reduce economic vulnerability which may lead to a cause for human trafficking,

- Urges to ameliorate economic empowerment for trafficking survivors and guarantee their financial inclusion.

Possible Solutions:

Strengthening international legal frameworks:

- Supporting the development and integration of inclusive legal frameworks that aim to create more effective methods to combat trafficking in persons such as the creation of further distinctions in prosecution for criminals who engage in human trafficking activities,
- Providing better legal opportunities for victims who cannot access appropriate or adequate legal service, following non punishment principles and trauma informed care,

Promoting awareness on the causes and effects of human trafficking activities:

- Creating awareness programmes for the public that does not stay limited to campaigns without any structural change,
- Ensuring that people are educated and well informed about ways to identify report and act in cases which they may believe is related to human trafficking to be able to combat and lower the amount of human trafficking cases,

Enhancing technologies:

- Informing authorities and organisations on the technologies that are used for human trafficking, by human traffickers, to be able to more easily identify cases of the issue,
- Developing systems that are able to store and analyse information about traffickers, victims, the trafficking process and rehabilitation methods to be able to more easily identify bridges and connections amongst the large amounts of data,

Enhancing current statistics:

- In order to aid victims in the more personally specific way that they may require based on the usage of trauma informed survivor informed and culturally competent approach,
- Bearing in mind the intersectionality to create more diverse and adequate methods of rehabilitating victims,

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For more statistics and maps, delegates are encouraged to check the following:

<https://www.caritas.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/1>

<https://www.ctdatacollaborative.org/map>

<https://theexodusroad.com/where-is-human-trafficking-common/>

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Trafficking_in_human_beings_statistics