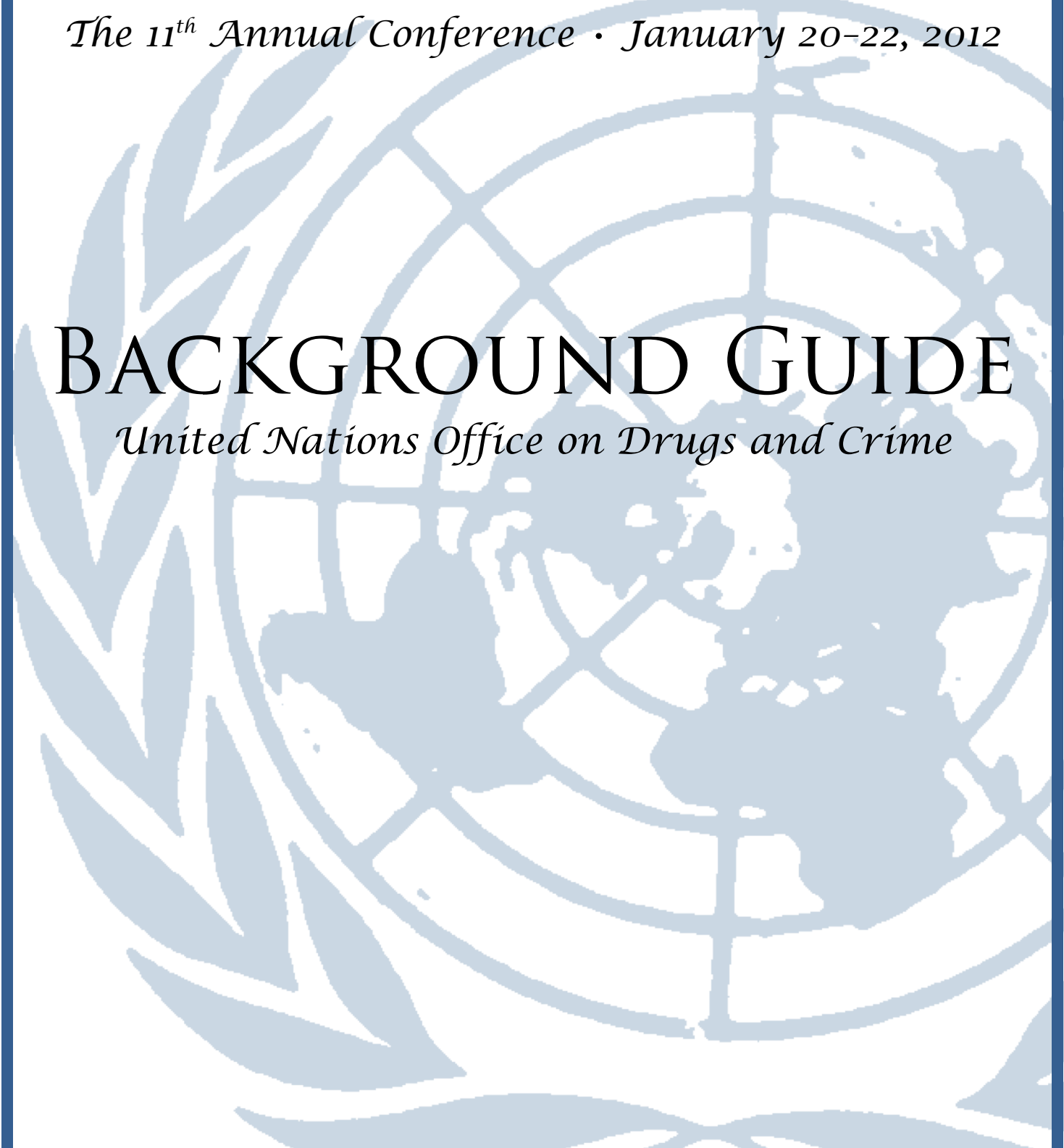


VANCOUVER MODEL UNITED NATIONS

The 11th Annual Conference • January 20-22, 2012

BACKGROUND GUIDE

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime





VANCOUVER MODEL UNITED NATIONS

The 11th Annual Conference • January 20-22, 2012

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Dear Delegates,

My name is Isabel Wade, and I will be your director for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime this year. At the moment, I am a grade twelve student at Crofton House School and Co-Captain of the Crofton House Model United Nations Team. I am very passionate about international affairs, particularly in the aspects of development and human rights. Given this passion, Model United Nations has become a keen interest of mine over the last three years, all of which I have participated in VMUN. I look forward to be participating in VMUN this year as a director.

I hope that the topics selected are as interesting for you as they are for my staff and me. Both topics are extremely current in today's news and global relations. They are not only influential in the political sectors, but they also greatly effect the development of a majority of the world's societies. The problems presented, human trafficking and Mexico-USA drug smuggling, have no easy solutions. Still, the resolution of these issues will bring about the improvement of humanitarian issues in almost every nation, and will lead to the improvement of the standard of living for many individuals around the world. In short, the resolution of these issues will be instrumental in attaining improved peace, equality, and sustainability for our world as a whole.

I believe both topics offer a variety of possible solutions, which I hope will lead to fantastic debate and discussion. I look forward to hearing all the ideas you will bring to the table and wish you the best of luck in research at home and debate at the conference. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Isabel Wade
Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Topic A: Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling

Introduction

The scourges of human trafficking and migrant smuggling are problems for almost every government in the world, whether as countries of origin for victims, as countries of transit, or as final destinations. Human trafficking and migrant smuggling are very similar, both involving the illegal transport of individuals across borders, but there is a distinction in their definitions: while human trafficking is the rather broad “acquisition of people by improper means ... with the aim of exploiting them,” migrant smuggling is specifically the crime of receiving material benefit from the illegal entry of a person into a state.¹ Every year, thousands of families in vulnerable situations are ripped apart and find themselves at the mercy of traffickers who put countless lives in jeopardy. It is the role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to implement and maintain the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto.

Timeline

1904 — International Agreement for the Suppression of the White Slave Traffic strives to cease the trafficking of women and girls towards an “immoral life.” Only a few countries sign the treaty.²

1949 — UN Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others still focuses on the trafficking of women and children into prostitution, but is signed by many more countries.³

1957 — Abolition of Forced Labour Convention states that forced labour can never be used as a means of political education, discipline, or punishment.⁴

1997 — Establishment of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.⁵

November 15, 2000 — United Nations General Assembly adopts the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols, which aim to combat human trafficking, migrant smuggling, and arms trafficking.⁶

2000 — The United States passes the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and begins ranking countries in tiers based on their efforts to combat human trafficking.⁷

2004 — The US creates the Tier 2 Watchlist.⁸

¹ <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/index.html>

² http://www.2facts.com/icof_story.aspx?PIN=i0901670&term=human+trafficking

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/index.html?ref=menuaside>

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ http://www.2facts.com/icof_story.aspx?PIN=i0901670&term=human+trafficking

⁸ *Ibid.*

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2006 — UNODC publishes Toolkit to Combat Trafficking in Persons, which outlines the steps a state should take to properly combat human trafficking.⁹

November 30 to December 2, 2008 — First of a series of expert meetings to elaborate on the basic training modules on preventing and combating migrant smuggling.¹⁰

2009 — UNODC publishes Model Law Against Trafficking of Persons, which demonstrates the type of law and penalisation that should be put into place in every nation.¹¹

2009 — UNODC publishes International Framework for Action to Implement the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, which aids nations in the implementation of said protocol.¹²

July 2010 — The General Assembly adopts United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.¹³

2010 — UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons is launched following the implementation of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.¹⁴

2010 — UNODC publishes Toolkit to Combat Smuggling of Migrants.¹⁵

2010 — UNODC publishes Needs Assessment Toolkit on the Criminal Justice Response to Human Trafficking.¹⁶

October 2010 — UNODC publishes the Model Law Against the Smuggling of Migrants.¹⁷

⁹ <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/publications.html>

¹⁰ <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/2008/expert-group-meeting-to-elaborate-training-materials-to-combat-migrant-smuggling.html>

¹¹ <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/publications.html>

¹² *Ibid.*

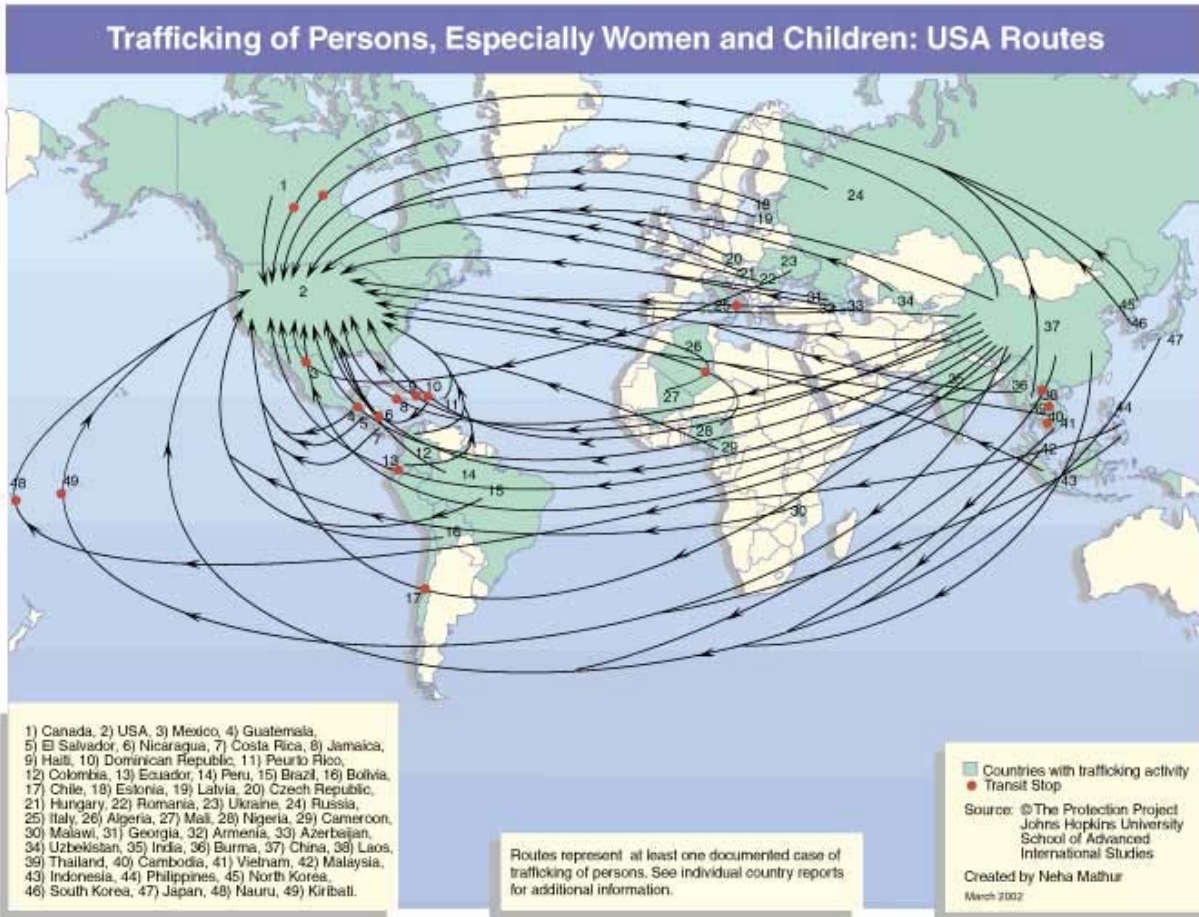
¹³ <http://www.ungift.org/knowledgehub/en/about/index.html>

¹⁴ <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/index.html?ref=menuseide>

¹⁵ <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/publications.html>

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ *Ibid.*



Historical Analysis

In ancient times, slavery began to proliferate with the rise of farming many thousands of years. Slaves were typically the people in the lowest classes of society;¹⁸ and unlike today, slavery increased with the growth of the economy. While the global slave trade had largely officially ended by the last years of the 1800s, slavery continued and continues today in the form of human trafficking.

While the idea of slavery would appear to be purely a painful memory that has left a black spot in the history of the global community, a similar issue began to appear in the modern world when the international community became aware of the problem of human trafficking. The first time the issue really became prominent was in 1904, when a few heads of state gathered to sign the International Agreement for the Suppression of the White Slave Traffic, which focused mainly on the trafficking of women and children into prostitution.^{19 20}

The first major effort to combat human trafficking came in 1949, with the UN Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others. While this

¹⁸ www.worldbookonline.com/advanced/article?id=ar514020&st=The+Slave+Trade

¹⁹ www.oas.org/juridico/MLA/en/traites/en_traites-inter-wst.pdf

²⁰ http://www.2facts.com/icof_story.aspx?PIN=i0901670&term=human+trafficking

convention still focused primarily on the trafficking of women and children for prostitution, it was the first convention to actually be signed by many nations.²¹

Throughout history, migrant smuggling has developed alongside human trafficking and is included in many of the same treaties. In fact, the issues surrounding migrant smuggling have been and are sometimes even more complicated than those of human trafficking.

While migrant smuggling is a slightly more modern problem than that of human trafficking, the idea of seeking asylum has always played a part in history. Seeking asylum is an ancient idea, rooted in ancient Greek and Hebrew societies, that is essentially the concept of obtaining sanctuary in a country due to persecution in another country because of one's ethnicity, religion, nationality, or political beliefs.²² In the late 1900s, many nations were flooded with asylum seekers from developing countries. As these nations had to turn many of those individuals away, they began to increase restrictions on granting asylum to migrants.²³

The most famous relevant incident came after the United States passed the Cuban Readjustment Act in 1966, which stated that any individual fleeing Cuba would be granted refugee status and would be allowed in the US. Cuban President Fidel Castro basically used this law to embarrass the US, loosening Cuba's emigration laws in 1980 in such a way that Cuban immigrants flooded US borders. Unfortunately, this flexibility was not granted to people of all nations. In April of 1980, approximately 60,000 Haitian refugees attempted to enter Florida to escape oppression and extreme poverty. Instead of allowing the Haitian refugees to enter the US as they had with the Cubans, the US deemed that the Haitians were not to be given refugee status as they were only escaping poverty and not political oppression. Policy issues like this have made many turn to other sources of aid, such as migrant smugglers.²⁴

Today it is quite difficult to qualify for asylum, and so many traffickers have been able to take advantage of people in dire situations. As developed countries tightened their immigration restrictions and the number of immigrant candidates rose, a new business opened up for traffickers in the form of migrant smuggling.

Current Situation

The issues of migrant smuggling and human trafficking are entirely intertwined. Many victims who believe they are paying smugglers to transport them to a new country actually end up in the clutch of human trafficking rings. The two issues have further similarities: for example, the victims of these crimes are often looked at as simply commodities and/or are treated harshly or even as criminals by local authorities.

Over the years, the problem of human trafficking has escalated majorly because of the economic benefit it produces for the traffickers. The United States State Department estimates that 600,000 to 800,000 people

²¹ *Ibid.*

²² www.worldbookonline.com/advanced/article?id=ar034990&st=seeking+asylum

²³ http://www.2facts.com/icof_story.aspx?PIN=i0501160&term=illegal+immigration

²⁴ *Ibid.*

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are trafficked each year, and that trafficking generates between seven and ten billion dollars a year. With human trafficking as the third largest illicit trade behind narcotics and arms, the problem has become increasingly difficult to combat. Similarly, migrant smuggling has become even more profitable as the amount of prospective migrants to developed nations increases.²⁵

In 2000, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime implemented the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, which expanded the view on human trafficking to those forced into labour and outlined what must be done to combat migrant smuggling.²⁶

Currently, human trafficking and migrant smuggling are problems in nearly every nation. They are much more prominent issues in poorer nations, however. The United States began ranking countries in a tier system after it passed the Trafficking Victims Act, in 2000. Each year, the United States publishes a comprehensive report on the global issue of human trafficking, in which they rank each country in one of four tiers: the first tier, the second tier, the second tier watch list, and the third tier. The first tier is made up of countries who meet the minimum standards for combating human trafficking, the second tier is for countries that have not fully met the standards but are making efforts to combat the issue, the second tier watch list are for countries that are currently placed in the second tier but are in danger of falling to the third tier, and the third tier is made up of countries who have made no effort to combat the issue. If the countries in tier three have not improved their conditions three months after the publication of the report, then they may be subjected to economic sanctions by the United States.^{27 28}

While human trafficking and migrant smuggling are most commonly fought by the penalisation of the traffickers themselves and the organizations that fund the trafficking, arguably one of the most effective strategies is actually preventative measures in the communities of origin for victims. One of the most important tools in fighting human trafficking is education of potential victims to decrease their vulnerability, particularly that of young girls who are at a high risk of being trafficked into prostitution. On the other side of the equation, improving pay and working conditions in destination countries to prevent law enforcement from taking bribery can be an effective strategy for fighting human trafficking.²⁹

Human trafficking and migrant smuggling are issues that must be tackled by every nation, on every level of society and politics. Nations must work in tandem internationally, and coherently within each nation, if UNODC is to be successful in defeating these issues.

Case Study: Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling between Bangladesh and India

Human trafficking and migrant smuggling became a large problem in Bangladesh in 1947, when the Mountbatten Plan established the region's modern borders. Many enclaves started appearing, which in

²⁵ http://www.2facts.com/icof_story.aspx?PIN=i0901670&term=human+trafficking

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁸ http://www.2facts.com/icof_story.aspx?PIN=i0501160&term=illegal+immigration

²⁹

<http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/chronicle/home/archive/issues2010/empoweringwomen/humantraffickingppp>

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turn have become major recruitment areas for trafficking. Similarly, most areas on the border are found to be vulnerable to human traffickers. Many migrants also try to be smuggled out of Bangladesh and into various countries only to end up in trafficking rings and forced labour situations. These intertwined issues weigh heavily on Bangladesh's society.

While anti-trafficking measures have been enforced in Bangladesh ever since 1933, these measures have been largely ineffective. In 2000, Bangladesh decided to more harshly combat human trafficking and so implemented new legislation and the Police Monitoring Cell for Trafficking in Women and Children. The main section in this reform implemented this police team of fifteen members, and added a twelve-member anti-trafficking unit to aid the cell. NGOs and the international community also aid Bangladesh socially and economically in their fight. Interestingly, while most of the NGOs focus on sheltering the victims of such crimes, Bangladesh itself is mostly focused on penalisation.

Bangladesh's combat tactics are more based in criminalisation of the traffickers than of the human rights of the victims; however, while the government and legal forces have shut down many recruitment agencies, they have not punished the agencies for their crimes. Furthermore, there is a backlog of cases in Bangladesh's legal system and lack of attention to the needs of victims after the crimes have taken place. The idea of restorative justice is completely ignored, and victims are purely treated as informants. This discourages victims from participating in trials, which leads to a low conviction rate in many cases. In addition, while cases involving women and children and put in a special court, cases involving labour exploitation are largely ignored.

Bangladesh's largest step towards combating human trafficking was the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act in 2000. This act was created in order to fight violence against women and children. While it has created harsh penalties for traffickers, including the death sentence or life imprisonment, it blurs the lines between commercial sex/prostitution and trafficking/commercial sexual exploitation. It also speaks of "sexual oppression," but never defines the phrase. Finally, the most important piece to this act is the fact that it lays out measures for nondisclosure of the victims' names along with rehabilitation practices. This is a key to improving human trafficking in Bangladesh's society, as it is very difficult for victims to assimilate back into their communities if it is known that they were victims of trafficking or sexual exploitation. Measures to combat trafficking and migrant smuggling have also been added and are currently being added to various other laws. Finally, human trafficking is banned in the constitution under two clauses.

The largest issue that the UNODC has noted in regards to Bangladesh's situation has been the lack of concern for the human rights of the victims. There is also major confusion over the "prevention of prostitution"; the constitution states that prostitution itself is not illegal, but that steps should be taken to prevent it. This causes confusion between women trafficked into prostitution and those "choosing" to be in prostitution, along with how confusion on how to deal with the two separate groups. Furthermore, when raids are carried out on trafficking operations, the women and children are often brutally treated by local police. In addition, it can be quite difficult for families to reunite under the current government rules and hierarchy.

The largest gaps in the legal combat framework against human trafficking are mainly due to the fact that Bangladesh has failed to truly include the international community: the government of Bangladesh has not signed the UN Convention Against Transnational Crime, there is a lack of defined standards and terms throughout their human trafficking protocols, there is not suitable training for their task forces, and there are varying standards on how the victims fall into place in the crimes committed. The recommendations the UNODC has made are: to immediately ratify the convention, to clarify all definitions and standards, to treat victims purely as victims, to specify anyone under eighteen years of age as being a child, to fight corruption, increase prosecutions, put more finance into victim rehabilitation, and to monitor and train police officers more closely.³⁰

UN Involvement

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has organised much of the international cooperation between countries in the global fight against human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

The largest and most comprehensive international agreement that the UNODC has organised to fight human trafficking and migrant smuggling is the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime. The convention aims to combat human trafficking, migrant smuggling, and the trafficking of firearms at every level. Countries that ratify the agreement must be committed to taking serious steps to end transnational crime, including the creation of new domestic laws, the training of law enforcement, the creation of a new extradition framework, and the supplementation of legal assistance and cooperation of law enforcement. The convention also includes three protocols, of which two are relevant to the direct combating of human trafficking and migrant smuggling. Any countries that wish to become parties to any of the protocols must first ratify the convention.³¹

The first protocol is most relevant to human trafficking and is called the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children. The purpose of this particular protocol is to prevent the “trafficking of persons” with particular emphasis on women and children, to protect the victims of human trafficking with full attention to their human rights, and to promote cooperation among states who have ratified the convention. The protocol also brings attention to the balance of power in the “relationship” between the trafficker and the victim, and expands human trafficking to include all forms of forced labour, sexual exploitation, slavery, servitude, and the removal of organs as final outcomes in the trafficking. The protocol also makes it necessary for all states party to it to improve their legal system as it deals with human traffickers, and it calls for the proper treatment of victims of human trafficking. Finally, the protocol requires all states to implement new policies and programs to prevent human trafficking, educate and train their law enforcement officers, tighten border controls and document security, and provide information to the international community. Overall, the purpose of this protocol is to create an international *standard* for combating human trafficking.³²

³⁰ www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/2011/Responses_to_Human_Trafficking_in_Bangladesh_India_Nepal_and_Sri_Lanka.pdf

³¹ <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/index.html>

³² *Ibid.*

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The second protocol, the Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea, and Air, is arguably the most effective step taken thus far in fighting migrant smuggling. Similar to the Protocol for the Trafficking of Persons, the purposes of this protocol are to prevent and combat the smuggling of migrants, protect the human rights of the migrants themselves, and promote cooperation among states combating the issue. An extremely important detail in this protocol is the stipulation that illegal migrants themselves cannot be liable for criminal prosecution and instead should be treated as the victims of migrant smugglers. Furthermore, similar to the human trafficking protocol, this protocol makes it necessary for the states to set up a proper form of legal penalization for the smugglers, share information with the global community, tighten border security, train law enforcement, and ensure the legitimacy of government documents such as passports. In addition, the protocol also specifically discusses the smuggling of migrants by sea. In this section, it specifies the need for international cooperation in distinguishing a boat of smugglers from an authorized boat and also in apprehending watercraft. Finally, a safety clause reaffirms that all conduct during the apprehending of the vessel must be humane, secure, objective, and reasonable. Just like the human trafficking protocol, this protocol strives to create a standard by which all victims must be treated and by which migrant smuggling must be combated.³³

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has also published model laws, held training workshops, created “toolkits,” written reports, and started numerous projects worldwide to help governments, organisations, and individuals to combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

The model laws were created to aid countries in setting up the legal framework outlined in the Protocols in the Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime. These model laws are one of the most crucial contributions of the UNODC to date, because they allow developing nations to implement their human trafficking/migrant smuggling legal system properly and effectively the first time around. Although the framework these model laws provide can be subverted by corruption and other factors, it helps greatly by setting an international standard. Finally, the model laws allow all countries working on them to have the same legal system when dealing with migrant smuggling and human trafficking, which in turn makes cooperation among nations much easier. The model laws are a huge step in reaching a harmonised and coherent international approach to combating the issues.³⁴

The largest form of international cooperation on a ground-level basis is arguably the expert meetings that are used to form and create the training workshops and toolkits. These series of expert meetings are held with top law enforcement officers and prosecutors from around the world in order to form the best strategies for combating these issues.³⁵ The purpose of the toolkits is not only to give countries a base for creating proper measures to combat these issues, but also to broaden their approach to the issue. As these toolkits attempt to include all relevant actors, they can help to ensure international cooperation. The

³³ *Ibid.*

³⁴ <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/publications.html>

³⁵ <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/2008/expert-group-meeting-to-elaborate-training-materials-to-combat-migrant-smuggling.html>

training workshops and toolkits are vital to planning the global fight against human trafficking and migrant smuggling.³⁶

In order to educate the public, the UNODC publishes reports on the issues, creates public service announcements, and partners with corporations to raise funds. So far, the largest campaign against human trafficking has been the Blue Heart Campaign. This campaign, among other things, encourages people to put a blue heart on their social media websites to raise awareness for human trafficking.³⁷ Another project is the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT), which partners with media outlets and corporations such as CNN, BBC, and the Body Shop to raise awareness.³⁸ Multiple PSAs can also be found on YouTube and the UNODC website. In order to fight human trafficking and migrant smuggling, the UNODC has taken initiatives on every level.³⁹

Finally, once the UN Office on Drugs and Crime has gathered certain information and data from a region, it may decide to implement smaller projects within that region. For example, the UNODC has created an initiative called the Impact Programme, in which the UNODC helps states in West and North Africa implement the Migrant Smuggling Protocol. The program intends to build a solid base in the area for legislative and policy development through training of local officials, raising awareness, and collecting further information on the area.⁴⁰

These projects and treaties have made a large impact on the fight to end human trafficking and migrant smuggling. The UNODC has made the largest effort in ending these issues, and should continue to lead from the front.

Possible Solutions & Controversies

While there is an international consensus that there must be global participation in the fight against human trafficking and migrant smuggling, there is major controversy over the sort of hierarchy that should lead the fight. So far, there have been three types of solutions put forward: international cooperation under an international organization, separate international cooperation between groups of countries, and, most controversially, international cooperation under one leading country.

The first is where the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is most prevalent, and this strategy is largely considered the most internationally cooperative of all the strategies. This is the strategy in which one international body makes a convention or treaty, which nations pledge to follow. The international organization, perhaps the UNODC, then oversees the nations combating the issues and aids them when necessary. This allows nations to work together and monitor one another without one country necessarily taking the lead on the issue and creating an imbalance in power. The major issue with this “solution” is that it is not necessarily effective. It has proven difficult to enforce these standards in developing countries without penalisation for non-compliance or incentives.

³⁶ <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/publications.html>

³⁷ <http://www.unodc.org/blueheart/>

³⁸ <http://www.ungift.org/knowledgehub/en/about/index.html>

³⁹ <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/publications.html>

⁴⁰ <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/2008/impact-programme.html>

The second method is a group of countries making separate agreements to aid each other in fighting these issues. One example of this method in practice is an agreement on asylum seekers made between Australia and Malaysia to combat migrant smuggling. The agreement stated that the next 800 asylum seekers who arrived in Australia illegally after the agreement was signed would be transferred to Malaysia, where their refugee status would be determined. In exchange, Australia would take in 4,000 refugees who were already in Malaysia. The point of this agreement was dissuade prospective migrants from risking their lives with smugglers by removing the incentive to sneak into Australia. The idea is that an individual will be less likely to attempt being smuggled into Australia if they may be deported back to Malaysia and face a long wait for refugee status. The major controversy in this particular agreement stems from the fact that Malaysia does not have a good history when dealing with refugees.⁴¹ The main problem in this strategy as a whole is that if there are different groups of nations dealing with these issues in separate ways, there is no international standard and the individual programs may not be as effective. Many critics argue that the more streamlined, global idea of international cooperation is much more effective than numerous small initiatives worldwide.

Finally, the most controversial strategy is that of one nation taking a major leadership role in the initiative and forcing other countries to join. This role is currently filled, to some extent, by the United States. As explained earlier in this background guide, the United States ranks countries in four different tiers depending on their stance and action taken against human trafficking. If a country fails to take action to combat the issues, they may be victim to economic sanctions by the United States. While this method of leadership can be highly effective, it has, in this case, fallen victim to redundancy due to the fact that most of the countries the US imposes sanctions on for their Tier 3 status already have US sanctions against them. Furthermore, it could be argued that economic sanctions hurt the very people they're trying to help. This method is also extremely controversial as it is argued that there should not be only one country leading such a global issue as human trafficking. Lastly, it is often questioned as to whether or not the United States should have the power, via sanctions, to force countries into taking action, especially when many of the countries they are sanctioning already have plenty of governmental and national issues to confront.⁴²

All these solutions need to be looked at objectively, and it can be argued that each strategy needs to be supplemented with international cooperation in order to succeed. Certain solutions may be easier for individual countries to implement; however, it is only as an international community that migrant smuggling and human trafficking can be effectively combated.

Bloc Positions

The United States

The United States believes that it is the responsibility of their government and other developed, Western nations to encourage other states to join the fight against migrant smuggling and human trafficking. The

⁴¹ <http://www.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/asiapcf/05/07/australia.malaysia.refugees/index.html?iref=allsearch>

⁴² http://www.2facts.com/icof_story.aspx?PIN=i0901670&term=human+trafficking

nation has taken a rather controversial stance on the enforcement of the issue, and while the state is for global cooperation in the fight against these issues the US has stepped forward as a leader in the fight.

Pro-West Developing Nations

These nations are supportive of the fight against migrant smuggling and human trafficking; however, they are in need of financial aid to implement any programs in their own countries. They are very supportive of regional programs implemented by the UNODC; however, depending on their government structures, they want to run the programs themselves and obviously wish to maintain their sovereignty. Many of these countries are also countries of origin for victims, so their populations are much more affected by this issue than others. They are generally willing to help fight the issues, but they are also aware of the fact that their economies may also be relying on the underground markets created by the issues. This further causes them to rely heavily on economic support.

Western Developed Nations

These nations are looked to as the donor nations for projects. This group often supports intense international cooperation, particularly in the economic branch. As this group is most likely looked at for funding, they tend to approve of international funds, in which every country contributes so that the burden does not fall on them alone. Many of these countries have been top donors to the UNODC and supporters of the fight against human trafficking and migrant smuggling in the past.

Russia and China

While these countries have the funds and ability to internationally fight human trafficking and migrant smuggling, these issues are also entwined in their economies and national problems. These countries want to fight human trafficking; however, they are wary of how much it affects their economies, particularly in the case of Russia. Both these countries are also less inclined to support initiatives controlled by the United States and so are more in favour of global and individual programs.

Anti-Western Developing Nations

These are primarily the nations that fall under the United States' Tier 3. They are countries that have generally not made an initiative to combat these issues, or if they have, it has been slow-coming. These nations are sometimes against any initiatives that are funded or controlled by Western nations and allies of the United States. These countries are also most often countries of origin for human trafficking and also have major issues with many individuals in their countries becoming victim to migrant smuggling.

Discussion Questions

1. Does the United States have the moral authority to force other countries to combat human trafficking via their economic sanctions?
2. How should smuggled migrants be dealt with once arriving in a country?
3. Should any sort of legal action be taken against migrants smuggled into a country?
4. Is it the responsibility of the international community to look after victims after they have been freed from human trafficking? Whose responsibility is it, and what can be done?
5. What is the best international strategy when dealing with these issues? (See solutions and controversies for more details)

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6. How much control should developing nations be given in programs implemented in their regions by international bodies?
7. How much should economic considerations be taken into account when fighting humanitarian issues so ingrained in the black market?
8. Should the international community force countries to fight human trafficking domestically?

Additional Resources

www.unodc.org

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

<http://www.ungift.org/knowledgehub/>

The United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking

www.cnn.com

CNN

www.bbc.com

BBC

http://www.2facts.com/icof_home_feature.aspx

Facts on File: Issues and Controversies (need a subscription but every school should probably have it)

<http://humantrafficking.org/>

A Web Resource for Combating Human Trafficking

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