

Forum: The Third General Assembly

Issue: Preventing human trafficking and the migrant smuggling

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Introduction

Millions of families around the world have been torn and destroyed by the global conflicts of human trafficking and migrant smuggling. Millions of individuals are smuggled out of their home country, because their home country is plagued with political and social conflicts which place people at danger. Migrants from these countries want to seek a better life and often resort to illegal practices like migrant smuggling. Migrants being smuggled are placed in a position of danger to many external factors such as the unsafe transport conditions, getting caught by authorities, long periods of starvation and being treated like a 'material good', being deprived of basic human rights, migrants are physically and mentally abused through these long smuggling processes. These external factors of transportation have lasting effects on the migrants. They are placed in a very susceptible position to human trafficking and exploitation. Human trafficking exploits adults and young children, coercing them into abusive labor. Taking place in abysmal conditions that are highly unsafe for the exploited workers, working for more than 12 hours a day, being paid much lower than minimum wage and physically abused by their employer. The livelihoods of victims to human trafficking are shattered, victims often develop anxiety disorders, PTSD and depression due to the physical and mental abuse endured.

Migrant smuggling is when people who want to be smuggled out of a country approach a person who is able to smuggle multiple groups of people into another country. Individuals who turn to migrant smuggling, are extorted to charge high fees, smuggled migrants are placed in a very vulnerable and susceptible position to abuse and exploitation. Placing the

livelihoods of the migrants in immense danger. Annually, 3 million migrants are smuggled into the USA from South America. Every year, 200,000+ individuals from North Africa are smuggled into Europe. Migrant smuggling businesses that operate on the MENA-Europe route are estimated to generate revenues as large as 10 billion dollars every year, whereas migrant smuggling businesses that operate on the South America-USA route produce more than 7 billion dollars in profit every year. In 2021, Mexico at least more than 1 million individuals emigrated out of Mexico and tried to enter the USA because Mexico has a lot of internal and political conflict that makes the country and different communities unsafe, hence thousands of people want to leave Mexico for a better life and better economic opportunities. Smuggling ring businesses take advantage of the vulnerable migrants, and aid in smuggling them but for extremely high prices.

Human Trafficking is an illegal act where adults and children are illegally exploited, and forced into abusive labor. Individuals may be deceived by profit-seeking criminals who trick individuals into receiving work in another country, by convincing them the employer will provide them with a stable job. However after the migrants are smuggled into another country, they are placed into abusive labor with very low wages, long working hours and unsanitary conditions. In 2016, the ILO estimated there were 25 million people who were victims of human trafficking around the world. A majority of human trafficking victims come from third-world countries because communities in these third-world countries live in extreme poverty and often vulnerable to more powerful individuals or groups. Hence, they are forced into human trafficking and abusive labor. In 2022, 23 Chadian girls were trafficked and smuggled into the Middle East for sexual exploitation and abused labour. 3 suspects were arrested in Cameroon. This represents a prominent problem that individuals in LEDCs are the most vulnerable and susceptible to human trafficking, as they will do anything to get a better life and are often tricked into getting a 'better life', another problem is the strength of border control. 20+ girls were

illegally transported and weren't caught, this is a common problem in LEDC countries as there's a lack of funding and resources. There is worse equipment to verify transportation vehicles, reduced police personnel and fewer checkpoints.

The UN is highly against human trafficking and migrant smuggling, and has showcased this by initiating and enforcing multiple resolutions and conventions that look at protecting victims of human trafficking, preventing human trafficking and migrant smuggling, strengthening border control (sea & land) and spreading awareness on these global issues. Implementation of the UNCLOS and UNTOC have helped authorities identify offenders at sea, and rescue 100s of migrants who have been exploited; these resolutions have also ensured that offenders are properly penalized for their actions.

Definition of Key Terms

Human Trafficking

Human Trafficking is the recruitment of people through force and deception, with the aim of exploiting them for profit. Human trafficking is a major problem in countries such as Somalia and Nigeria as they are third-world countries, exploiting people for cheap and abusive labor

Migrant Smuggling

Migrant Smuggling is the facilitation of irregular entry into a country where the migrant is not a national or resident. Migrant smuggling is prevalent into MEDCs, as people from LEDCs come to seek a better life with a more stable future. An example is Mexicans immigrating from Mexico and entering the USA in search of a better life

Smugglers

An individual or group profiting by assisting a person to enter or stay in a country without having the legal permission to do so. This refers to migrant smuggling and human trafficking

Exploitation

To treat someone poorly in order to benefit from their work, this can be observed through the exploitation of migrant workers. Where they're exposed to poor conditions and are taken advantage of to produce a good at low costs

Abusive Labour

When a person hasn't volunteered to complete a certain task but is coerced into completing against their own will. Abusive labour is noticed in human trafficking

Migrants

A person who is moving away from the country they previously lived in

Child Trafficking

Child victims of trafficking are recruited, transported, transferred, harbored or received for the purpose of exploitation.

Border Control

Actions taken by a country or a group of countries to monitor the borders and regulate the cross-border movements of people, goods and animals.

Asylum

Asylum is a form of protection which allows an individual to remain in the country instead of being removed (deported) back to their home country where he or she fears persecution or harm.

Refugees

Someone who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion

Corruption

Dishonest or illegal behavior especially by powerful people (such as government officials or police officers)

Coercion

The practice of persuading someone to do something by using force or threats.

Key Issues

The Methods of Smuggling:

The main reason why there are so many migrants being smuggled into other countries, and people victim to human trafficking is the methods of smuggling utilized by these criminals. Smuggling is carried out by land, water and aerial methods, smugglers expose and abuse any little gap in border control and generate high profits from these gaps with relatively low costs. Smugglers use complicated and extensive levels, using multiple middle-men. Making it hard to track these multi-tiered organizations. There are boat-men who transport the migrants, people who provide illegal identification documents for the migrants and individuals who provide accommodations for the migrants such as temporary housing, food and other necessities. Their covert operations make it hard to understand when this international crime is occurring and where they are being smuggled into. Migrants are often deprived of food and basic needs to survive, in order for the smugglers to make a larger profit from the migrants. Migrants are often smuggled

through the seas, smugglers organize large boats or smuggle migrants through cargo ships. Smugglers contact ad hoc services to provide or even create boats which satisfy their specific needs such as, creating boats with hidden basements. On cargo ships, migrants are placed in a large container with no food or water, starving in pain until they reach their location. A large mass of migrants frequently perish at sea due to the harsh conditions and long periods of starvation. A major reason as to why migrant smuggling and human trafficking is untrackable, is government officials and border control personnel are often bribed large sums of money to ensure the migrants make it past the border with no problems. Spotters are responsible for informing the smugglers of any police present on their route, any alternate routes or suggesting other strategies to ensure they aren't caught and exposed. Falsified documents are provided to the migrants before they embark on their journey, this allows the migrants to pass the border and make it past officials, migrants often use these documents temporarily till they can acquire legal documents. Smuggling by sea is the most commonly used method due to the limited border control, however smuggling does occur via land. Smugglers use land transportation such as trucks and vans to transport migrants, and often use multiple checkpoints and handoffs to make it harder for officials to catch them. However, transport by land is higher in risk due to the increased security on borders. Migrants who are being transported are manipulated and extorted by the smugglers, and are taken advantage of. They become victims of rape, continuous torture and in some extreme conditions, murder. There are serious mental effects on the victims due to the torture and abuse endured over a long period of time, some effects are PTSD, anxiety disorders, immense amount of shame, low confidence and social distancing from society. There are also major financial implications for the migrants, forced and abused for pennies an hour. Working for 12 hours a day, they're almost locked in a cage and can't argue for higher pay, better working standards and better living accommodations. The Austria Migrant Truck Tragedy of 2015, is when all 71 immigrants were found dead inside a lorry when they were transported from Hungary into Austria. The immigrants are thought to be from Syria, after Syrian identification documents were found on one of the immigrants. It is

likely they passed away due to starvation, thirst, overcrowding and harsh weather conditions, as they were being transported across the sea.

Falsification of Documents:

A major problem when it comes to migrant smuggling and human trafficking is the falsification of identity documents in order to be granted access to cross the border into another country. Falsified documents make it hard for border patrol to distinguish the difference between real and fraudulent documents, and inadvertently give access to immigrants to enter another country illegally. Immigrants tend to falsify their birth certificates and assume the identity of another person that would be more likely to pass by the border. Individuals may use the identity of a deceased person when applying for a passport to conceal their real identity, they also may steal the passport of another person and use it to their advantage. Immigrants from Mexico looking to flee to America often resort to getting false identification/documents to ensure they are allowed into the USA and not rejected. Smuggling rings often contact embassies and apply for travel documents under the context of business matters or tourism matters. Smuggling rings or the migrants themselves also steal blank passports from consulates, these can be easily changed and sold onto another group of people for travel. In 2009, a criminal gang was arrested for running a 'passport factory', where they printed illegal passports and documentation for migrants. They had stamps with official emblems of countries and authentic equipment to make the documentation seem legal. Authorities found 700 total blank passports and visas with client pictures for countries such as Spain, Italy and Portugal. While states have been able to improve their methods of identifying false documents, due to the complexity of the issue, the production and dispersion of identification documents, it makes it difficult for authorities to identify fakes. This has led to millions of migrants living illegally within countries such as, UK, USA, and other European states for employment.

Bribing of Government Personnel:

A major reason as to why there are so many unnoticed cases of migrant smuggling and human trafficking, is due to the bribing of government personnel. In countries such as Mexico, Bangladesh and Nigeria where migrant smuggling and human trafficking is very prevalent. However, due to the economic power of these countries being substantially low. The wages and salaries received by government personnel may be lower depending on the position, however it may not be enough to satisfy the basic needs of a family. This forces personnel to find other means of income. Migrant smugglers or traffickers may contact any personnel they know, and bribe them with a large sum of money to turn a blind eye or even help in the operation by providing information on the location of police. This allows these human trafficking and migrant smuggling operations to go unseen, this can be repeated multiple times and the government personnel can earn more from the bribe payment than his general job. This incentivizes them to keep on turning a blind eye and aid the illegal operations. This endangers the well-being of the migrants as they are vulnerable to abusive labor, child trafficking and sexual exploitation. Damaging the mental and physical health of migrants, who just wanted to seek a better life with a stable future.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

Bangladesh:

Bangladesh has recognized the prevalent issue of human trafficking in the state, while progress against the issue has been slow. More policies, better equipment and awareness campaigns are being implemented by the government to combat human trafficking. Around 1 million Bangladeshis each year are trafficked and abused when traveling abroad. Majority of the individuals who are exploited are abused for sexual exploitation, forced labour and utilized for other forms of labour. A UNICEF report estimates more than 400 women migrants are trafficked each month and are abused for sexual exploitation. The Bangladesh Government has reinforced their laws and implemented

newer regulations to directly tackle the issue of human trafficking. The 2012 Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act (PSHTA) criminalized sex trafficking and labor trafficking and prescribed penalties of five years to life imprisonment and a fine of not less than 50,000 Bangladeshi Taka. However, the government has noticed that law enforcement isn't strong enough. Hence, they aim to possess better equipment and technology as they have noticed an increase in digital abuse and digital exploitation. With better technology and equipment, Bangladesh can thwart more illegal operations with multiple migrants involved. The government also aims to implement more awareness-raising campaigns surrounding the issue of human trafficking, providing information to citizens on how they can protect themselves and how they can report such crimes if they have any information.

China:

China has placed a large emphasis on the wide scale crime of human trafficking and migrant smuggling in China. It is estimated that 6.4 million people in China are currently in abusive labor and are actively being used for human trafficking by criminals. To combat this, the government has enacted an action plan from 2021-2030 for the country to tackle human trafficking and abusive labor within the country. They look to severely enhance cyber security and law enforcement, by increasing the number of inspections and verifying multiple online websites. Improving screening, verification and reporting technologies of multiple websites at once. The government also aims to expand their police and government forces to more vulnerable and poverty-stricken areas, where aid and help is not readily available. Extending help to these areas, will significantly reduce the percentage of the vulnerable populations and stop crimes related to human trafficking in these areas. The government is focusing on improving employment systems in main cities and rural villages, employing the vulnerable population such as children, college students and unemployed women. Providing them with stable jobs, and including them in society, making them less vulnerable to abusive labour and human trafficking.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC):

The DRC is a third-world country, which is tackling the problem of poverty. A majority of the population in the DRC are poverty-stricken, making the population highly vulnerable to illegal migrant smuggling and human trafficking to other countries. The government adopted Law No. 22/067, the government has implemented multiple regulations to combat the increased human trafficking cases within the country, implementing laws that criminalize all forms of human trafficking. Enacting fines and giving prison sentences to offenders of these laws. Due to the government's weak data management system, the government is only able to provide mixed and inadequate performance to victims of human trafficking. Making victims vulnerable again to human trafficking, abusive labor and torture. There are some main reasons as to why human trafficking has become such a prominent issue in the DRC, one of the reasons is because of their weak economy. The DRC is one of the poorest countries in the world, due to continuous political conflicts and decades of wars from dictatorship, tearing the country apart and severely damaging the economy. The country specializes in the primary sector of goods, which limits their potential for economic growth. The government is weak and poor, hence a majority of government officials are corrupt in order to make more money. Hence officials often contribute to human trafficking and abusing individuals in order to make more money from smuggling rings. With corruption present everywhere in the DRC, a lot of traffickers are immune as officials either dismiss their cases and get rid of evidence implicating them and citizens being abused are scared of being tortured and even killed if they speak out. The DRC hasn't done much previously to combat this issue, and they haven't prosecuted a majority of offenders who have trafficked children and women, their equipment and awareness of the issue right now is very limited.

Ghana:

Ghana is a poverty-stricken country with limited funding and reduced resources to guide a 'normal' way of living that satisfies basic needs in life. Ghana abuses child trafficking,

by using children for their small and delicate hands to perform intricate and difficult tasks such as net untangling in fishing. Children are exposed to dangerous and unsanitary conditions where diseases are easily contractible. Ghana has had 600 victims of human trafficking in 2022, with victims increasing by each year due to vulnerability of individuals in rural villages. At the moment, Ghana doesn't have the facilities to prevent human/child trafficking in the country. They aim to provide protection for victims of these crimes, however protection is limited as well. Shelters are provided to human trafficking and child trafficking victims, however the shelter capacity is insufficient and has poor treatment for victims. There are some main reasons as to why human trafficking has become such a prominent issue in Ghana, one of the reasons is because of their weak economy. Ghana is one of the poorest countries in the world, due to continuous political conflicts and decades of wars from dictatorship, tearing the country apart and severely damaging the economy. The country specializes in the primary sector of goods, which limits their potential for economic growth. The government is weak and poor, hence a majority of government officials are corrupt in order to make more money. Hence officials often contribute to human trafficking and abusing individuals in order to make more money from smuggling rings. With corruption present everywhere in Ghana, a lot of traffickers are immune as officials either dismiss their cases and get rid of evidence implicating them and citizens being abused are scared of being tortured and even killed if they speak out. Ghana hasn't done much previously to combat this issue, and they haven't prosecuted a majority of offenders who have trafficked children and women, their equipment and awareness of the issue right now is very limited.

India:

India is a country that is improving its overall efforts into reducing human trafficking within the country. In 2021, there were 2,200 reported cases of human trafficking in India. However, due to the vast spread of states and imbalance of poverty and resources in different states. It makes it difficult to track and prevent human trafficking as well as protecting victims of human trafficking, due to the limited data collection systems.

Section 370 of the Indian Penal Code, criminalizes trafficking offenses and abusive labor offenses. The Juvenile Justice Act and POCSO Act, defends children against child trafficking and criminalizes any offenders with stringent sentences and fines to be paid. However, the police force and inter-governmental agencies have poor coordination and communication with one another agency. Prohibiting from accurate reporting of trafficking cases, and coordinated efforts are limited, reducing the efficiency at which police forces can tackle these cases. India aims to implement better coordination systems between forces and implement stronger equipment to prevent human trafficking from occurring.

Guatemala:

In Guatemala, there is a large mass of violence in various areas within the country. A majority of populations within the country are ridden with poverty, and low living standards. A major part of the population flees from Guatemala in order to find better jobs, and better economic opportunities as Guatemala doesn't have these fundamentals established in the entire country. In 2015, 80 thousand immigrants were fleeing from Guatemala to seek a better life in the USA. This number has only increased every year. In June 2023, Guatemala and the USA created a program 'Oficinas de Movilidad Segura', which aims at giving Guatemalan citizens safer and more legal pathways of entering the USA and other countries which can give Guatemalan citizens a safer life. The program has a website, where citizens can go and be appointed for appointments, to determine the eligibility of the citizen. Participants who are eligible, have the choice to relocate in the USA, however final decisions are regulated by US Authorities. This service is free of charge. In Guatemala, the efforts against human trafficking have substantially improved. However, there was a lack of training in the police force for cases like human trafficking and how to approach such cases, there was limited technology and limited equipment as well. There has been an extensive approach on educating the public about human trafficking through educational and online programs regarding how to prevent and protect oneself against human trafficking.

Nigeria:

Nigeria has many vulnerable populations in the country, such as rural villages and multiple individuals are desperate for jobs due to the 'weak' economic power of Nigeria considering its a third-world country. This leaves large populations being exploited for abusive labour in other countries or within Nigeria itself. It is estimated that 750,000+ individuals are victims of human trafficking each year. The Trafficking in Persons Law Enforcement and Administration Act (TIPLEAA), as amended in 2015, criminalized sex trafficking and labor trafficking and prescribed a minimum penalty of two years imprisonment and a fine. However corruption is still a large problem within the country, because jobs don't provide substantial salaries. Officials often aid in these illegal operations to gain a larger sum of money, they turn a blind-eye to such oblivious acts in order to benefit personally. Prohibiting the progress in combating the serious issue of human trafficking. Nigeria has organized specialized task forces that focus on combating the issue of human trafficking, tracking the crimes and acting on information to catch criminals. Nigeria has also increased the mass and scope of awareness campaigns regarding human trafficking, educating the general public on this prevailing issue. The reasons why human trafficking has become such a large issue in Nigeria is mainly due to their economic instability, they have a weak infrastructure which does not provide basic utilities such as energy and water to rural communities, their reliance on the primary sector/commodities and the high unemployment rates within Nigeria as most of the work is centered around agriculture or mining, this leads to high turnover rates in employees. Due to this instability, there is a major issue of corruption within the government that allows traffickers to escape and corrupt officials then receive a large sum of money. They also have weak borders, which leads to a large mass of people being smuggled/trafficked out of the country due to the lack of capacity of equipment, thousands of lives are endangered because of the incapacitated border control.

Mexico:

Mexico has the largest immigration rates, with more than 11 million people immigrating out of Mexico. 97% of the people immigrating, reside in the USA for a better life.

Mexico has very limited economic opportunities, hence motivating people to move away from Mexico to pursue more financially stable jobs and countries with better standards of living. Currently, there are also very high rates of inflation. Increasing the cost of living, with already low salaries being paid out. Human trafficking is a very prevalent problem in Mexico, because of corruption. Multiple government officials turn a blind eye towards these illegal operations, and a large population of people are tortured into abusive labor and used for sexual exploitation, especially women due to the ignorance towards human trafficking. However, the government has implemented many trafficking training workshops for the police and government forces. Coordination between legal forces is hindered due to the lack of availability of communication technology in different Mexico states. To combat increasing immigration rates, Mexico has pledged new measures to 'depressurize' migration. The government has said to reduce immigration at the border, they will relocate migrants somewhere else (where they would relocate them, hasn't been mentioned) or even deport some of the migrants back to their home countries. They look to place more checkpoints across the migration route, and increase the frequency of cross-border populations conducted by border patrol. To improve prosecution, Mexico utilized the 2012 law on anti-trafficking which imposes a sentence from 5-30 years with fines to be paid by the offenders. Mexico is a country that has a lot of internal conflict and political uproar, making a majority of the communities unsafe with high crime rates. Encouraging millions of individuals to migrate from Mexico and seek asylum in another country with a better opportunity at life. Over the last decade, this has persuaded millions of people to escape from Mexico and enter the USA and other countries.

Somalia:

Somalia has very low economic power, and a vast majority of the country is poverty-stricken. The standards of living and availability of economic opportunities are reduced, there is also a lot of political conflict within the country, severely affecting the

safety of citizens. Somalia is infamous for their child trafficking operations, and exploitation of minority groups for abusive labor. A major problem is the bribery of police forces and government operatives to ignore or even help in these heinous crime, bribery is effective due to the economic status of the country. To combat human trafficking, the government has its own specialized anti-trafficking and migrant smuggling unit, tracking, collecting data and thwarting these covert operations, however the effectiveness of these units is hindered due to the lack of informational technology and absence of needed equipment. The reasons why human trafficking has become such a large issue in Somalia is mainly due to their economic instability, they have a weak infrastructure which does not provide basic utilities such as energy and water to rural communities, their reliance on the primary sector/commodities and the high unemployment rates within Somalia as most of the work is centered around agriculture or mining, this leads to high turnover rates in employees. Due to this instability, there is a major issue of corruption within the government that allows traffickers to escape and corrupt officials then receive a large sum of money. They also have weak borders, which leads to a large mass of people being smuggled/trafficked out of the country due to the lack of capacity of equipment, thousands of lives are endangered because of the incapacitated border control. However to improve prosecution of criminals, the government enacted Article 455, 457, 464 which all aim at providing sentences to offenders and ensuring they pay fines for human trafficking, abusive labor and migrant smuggling

Syria:

Syria is a war-torn country, encountering a ton of political conflict against other countries and conflict within the country, due to the serious war conflict that occurs within Syria. Immigrants resort to migrant smuggling to find a place of asylum and satisfy basic needs. To combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling, the government isn't able to implement much resources into tracking and stopping human trafficking within the country. Due to the political status of the country, there's a large problem of child

soldiering where children are implemented into the government to serve for them, participate in pro-regime militias or join terrorist organizations. The government hasn't been able to enforce any new laws protecting children from exploitation and abusive labor, they have not implemented any awareness raising campaigns or training programs for government officials. Due to the wars that have plagued Syria, millions have had to flee from Syria in order to find a better life, hence massively increasing the mass of people migrating to another country for asylum. This would increase human trafficking and migrant smuggling because immigrants are vulnerable and exposed to abusive labor from traffickers, while Syria is against the issue of human trafficking. They haven't been able to enforce any new prosecution laws and protection laws for victims

USA:

The USA is maximising its efforts against human trafficking. The Department of Justice released a comprehensive multi-year national strategy to strengthen capacity and coordination within the DOJ to combat human trafficking, the Human & Health Services looks to start a new task force collecting data on human trafficking and preventing forced labour within supply chains in various industries. In 2021, the government made 100 million dollars available to the world, to provide support to anti-trafficking campaigns across the world in different countries. Funding the supply of new equipment, and new technology. The USA plays a large role in migrant smuggling, as countries surrounding the USA such as Mexico, Colombia, and Guatemala have a high influx of immigrants coming from these countries, trying to seek asylum in the USA. To reduce migrant smuggling, the USA wants to implement more checkpoints across the border and increase the frequency of border patrol on land and maritime patrol. They are also working with Guatemala through a program called Oficinas de Movilidad Segura, which aims to provide a more efficient and legal process for immigrants from Guatemala to enter the USA. The INL provides maritime patrol training to prevent migrant smuggling via the

seas, educating the patrol on identifying suspicious vessels, how to approach and breach these vessels and providing an international database on maritime crime.

Development of Issue/Timeline

Date	Event	Outcome
1834	Slavery Abolition Act	England passed the Slavery Abolition Act which prohibited the owning, buying and selling of humans as property and in their other colonies as well.
1865	The 13th Amendment is Adopted	The 13th Amendment is adopted into the US Constitution and abolishes the act of slavery in the USA
1910	The Mann Act	It was signed as the first international agreement on human trafficking, targeting women and girls especially. Criminalizing the act of sexual exploitation of women and girls.
1919	The foundation of the ILO	The International Labour organization aims at promoting human rights at work,

		improving job opportunities and providing social security for workers.
1921	International Convention for the Suppression of Traffic in Women and Children	Modifies the Mann Act to target women and children of both-genders, and criminalizes the act of sexual exploitation of women and children of both genders
1951	United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others	This convention presented a legally binding convention, where legal action could be taken if there were offenses against this convention. Allowing the UN to directly tackle human trafficking
1982	UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea)	This convention established the rules governing all uses of the oceans and their resources.
2000	Palermo Protocol	This convention was protocol to prevent, suppress, and punish human trafficking. It is a supplementary convention, supporting the UN Convention against Trans-National Organized Crime

2003	The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) is adopted.	In 2003, the Palermo Protocol was put into force where countries signed to prevent human trafficking and punish offenders
2007	The United Nations General Assembly adopts the Resolution on the Rights of the Child	This resolution was implemented in order to protect children from human trafficking/child trafficking
2010	United Nations launches global plan of action/prevention against human trafficking	The plan called for development programmes around the world to boost growth and improve security measures around the world, it also planned to hold a voluntary trust fund for victims of human trafficking
2011	Domestic/Migrant Workers Convention	This convention/resolution was implemented to protect vulnerable migrant workers, eliminate all forms of forced labour and employers don't take advantage of workers
2016	Trump announces the creation of the 'Wall', bordering Mexico and USA	Trump announced the creation of the 'Wall' between the border of USA and Mexico to

		prevent migrant smuggling and immigration into the USA, as millions of people from the South Americas were running to USA everyday for asylum
2017	The International Organization for Migration (IOM) launches the Migrant Smuggling Data and Research Hub	This platform provides data and research on migrant smuggling and human trafficking, making this information available to everyone
2019	Global Report on Trafficking in Persons	This report provided a broad overview on the events of human trafficking, data and research on the victims and methods used by offenders
2023	Global Campaign to End Human Trafficking	Aims to raise awareness on the recent trends and data on human trafficking and the number of victims, calling all governments and police forces to strengthen their efforts in protecting vulnerable groups

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

Interception and Detection of Vessels Engaging in Migrant Smuggling or Human Trafficking:

The UNCLOS Convention, Articles 33 and 111, and Article 8 of the Migrant Smuggling Protocol aim at establishing how border control/maritime patrol can approach suspicious vessels, suspected of carrying illegal migrants or engaging in human trafficking. The UNCLOS convention details when patrol can breach the suspicious vessel, what other actions they can enforce to prevent the vessel. The UNCLOS Convention details the different situations and contexts, and how a patrol should act in each situation and how they should intercept the suspicious vessel. Article 8 of the Migrant Smuggling Protocol, this article aims at facilitating enforcement against vessels engaging in migrant smuggling. The Article Details when maritime patrol can breach and intercept these vessels, and search onboard these vessels for migrants, similarly the Article also explains the various situations and contexts, and how maritime patrol should approach the vessel in each instance. Ensuring there is a safe apprehension of the vessel and migrants onboard the vessel. However, the enforcement of these protocols relies on the availability of maritime patrol. As implementing multiple units of maritime patrol is expensive, the ability to interrogate and intercept each vessel is highly reduced and many vessels pass through without being checked. To make these protocols more enforced, there should be more maritime patrols stationed on the borders of countries where migrant smuggling and human trafficking often happens. To prevent the entry of these suspicious vessels.

Implementation of Legislative Framework (Migrant Smuggling Protocol):

The UN implemented the Migrant Smuggling Protocol, to facilitate countries in identifying migrant smuggling vessels/human trafficking vessels, by defining them, providing information on how to act in different situations, explaining how enforcement can be enacted, and the prison sentences that should be allocated to the offenders. This would provide clarity to multiple countries on how to identify these vessels, and give a clear understanding of how to act as well. Increasing the frequency of interrogations of these suspicious vessels, in turn reducing the amount of vessels passing the border of a certain country. However, all countries haven't adopted this protocol. Hence, different countries have different definitions of migrant smugglers and the prison sentence that should be allocated. Based on the law enforcement of the country, prison sentences can

be short, this means that with a lenient sentence and fine. Migrant smugglers can soon return back to their crimes, depending on the leniency of the law in that country. This leaves more migrants vulnerable to abusive labor and sexual exploitation, endangering their lives.

Possible Solutions

Stricter Border Control Measures

A major problem as to why migrant smuggling and human trafficking still occurs is due to the weak border control on various countries around the world that allow for the easy transportation of migrants, leading to multiple victims regardless of the countless policies and protocols implemented by the UN and the government. To enforce stronger border control there should be more routine checks conducted by authorities of cargo ships, opening at least 50% of the cargo containers, as this is a very common way for offenders to smuggle in migrants, this can reduce the probability of migrant smuggling and human trafficking. There should also be more stringent policies to protect the sea and land, through implementing more checkpoints with routine checks of passing ships and more posts which can seize and interrogate ships if they are suspected of any criminal activity, this will reduce the mass of migrants who pass by the border illegally, as well as clearer terms for identifying ships and cargo ships that are suspected of smuggling

Subsidy Implementations for LEDCs

Subsidies are very important for producers, governments either directly pay or give indirect payments to produce goods at a lower cost, this will incentivize firms to increase the supply of the good at a lower cost. In LEDCs this is especially beneficial because providing subsidies can reduce the cost of labour and materials, hence de-incentivising the need for businesses in LEDCs to traffick women, children and men for cheap and abusive labour. Acknowledging that LEDC governments may not have the money or be encouraged to support businesses within their respective country, the UN or a group of private firms can join to appoint a subsidy of at least 100,000\$ to various LEDC countries such as Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo and Bangladesh. Subsidies can be given

to the government and the government can distribute equal subsidies to businesses in different sectors. Reducing the cost of labour and materials as well, hence reducing the need for human trafficking, and improving the strength of the economy, encouraging growth. To ensure the government doesn't take advantage of the money provided, monthly reports of how the subsidies have been used and benefited different businesses and sectors need to be made by the government and sent to the UN.

UN Voluntary Fund

The UN can organize a global voluntary fund where UN can allocate funding money of at least 50,000\$ to start with, however this is a global fund hence people and businesses around the world can fund and donate a certain amount of money for combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling. The UN is responsible for how the fund is distributed and used to combat these issues, the UN can allocate the money to countries in need of improving their protection measures or the UN can invest it into their own uses to combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling, if the money is given to other countries, then monthly reports are too be given on how the money has been utilized by that country and the what/scale of the impact. This can lead to large amounts of funding that can be used for preventing, combatting and protecting victims of migrant smuggling and human trafficking and can also benefit the economic growth of LEDCs.

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