



## Research Report

*Cals Model United Nations 2017*

*“Creating pathways to new opportunities”*



*Forum: Security Council*

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*Issue: Taking action against human trafficking in Sub-Saharan Africa*

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### **Introduction**

Sub-Saharan Africa has had a history of human trafficking since the era of slavery. In those times the people in Sub-Saharan Africa were taken, enslaved and sent to various regions of the “New World”, such as the United States of the world to perform manual labour, called the Atlantic slave trade. However, although slavery and human trafficking is currently illegal everywhere, it is still prominent in certain regions, such as Sub-Saharan Africa. Although actions have been taken, the problem has not been solved yet. Because of this, this issue has been brought to the attention of this Security Council.

### **Definition of Key Terms**

*Human Trafficking:*

The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. Defined by Article 3 of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking of Persons. Consisting of the Act, Means and Purpose of trafficking.

*Sub-Saharan Africa:*

Geographically, all countries lying south of the Saharan desert. Consists of the 42 countries on the mainland of Sub-Sahara Africa, and the six island nations of Madagascar, Seychelles, Comoros, Cape Verde, São Tomé and Príncipe. Mauritius is not considered a Sub-Saharan

country because of the Asian influences<sup>1</sup>. For a list of all countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, check out the link in the Further Reading Section.

### *Slavery:*

Slavery is the holding of people at a workplace through force, fraud, or coercion for purposes of sexual exploitation or forced labour so that the slaveholder can extract profit<sup>2</sup>. Human trafficking describes the moving of a person to where they will be enslaved, while slavery describes the situation of the forced labour they do when they arrive.

## **General Overview**

In Sub-Saharan Africa sadly human trafficking still is a big problem. Countries act both as a source for those that are trafficked and a destination where victims end up. These instances of trafficked people are both internal and cross-border.

However, why would people do this? One of the reasons for this crime to happen is that it is very profitable. In fact, human trafficking is one of the largest profit makers of organized crime in the world. When one lives in poverty, like often is the case in Sub-Saharan Africa, and one needs money, sadly human trafficking is an option. Poor countries with conflict, regions with a demand for organs and body parts and adoption trades are often countries with a lot of incoming human trafficking. Countries with poverty, human deprivation, bad living conditions, unemployment, gender discrimination, low education and lack of legislative and policy frameworks are often regions with a lot of outgoing human trafficking. To combat human trafficking, both the “supply” and “demand” countries needs to be addressed. Disease is also a factor which influences the degree to which human trafficking, as well as globalization.

Sex trafficking, a form of human trafficking, is most common and disproportionately affects women and children. Sex trafficking includes bride trafficking, forced prostitution, child prostitution and child pornography.

One can wonder why this problem hasn't been solved yet. There are three important factors that contribute to the lack of success in combatting human trafficking. Firstly, the fact that human trafficking is profitable. In LEDCs where poverty runs rampant, any way of making money can be used. Secondly, slavery traditions. Because in the past slavery has been prominent in Sub-Saharan Africa, the chances of current day slavery and human trafficking also grows. Thirdly, the late adoption of laws and the weakness in implementation also contributes to the prominence of human trafficking.

Another factor that contributes to the lack of action on human trafficking is that it is a very sensitive issue. Not often it is discussed publically, nor is it discussed politically. This hinders

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Sub-Saharan\\_Africa](http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Sub-Saharan_Africa)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.freetheslaves.net/about-slavery/faqs-glossary/>

academic research, international organizations, development and aid groups, and cooperation between nations. By fighting against the taboo of human trafficking, more help can be provided.

## **Major Parties Involved**

### *UNODC:*

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is the major involved party of the United Nations. This because human trafficking is a crime, and the UNODC is all about crime. The UNODC is the guardian of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), which includes the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons.

### *African Union:*

The African Union, the regional organization of Africa, is also keen on stopping human trafficking. They recently started up a campaign, together with the Horn of Africa, to stop and prevent human trafficking from happening.

Many national or regional agencies, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Interpol are also involved in preventing human traffickers entering the respective country.

## **Timeline of Events**

1859 - Trans-Atlantic slave trade completely ends

1890 - Brussels Conference Act – a collection of anti-slavery measures to put an end to the slave trade on land and sea, especially in the Congo Basin, the Ottoman Empire, and the East African coast.

1927 - The League of Nations was founded. Its goals included maintaining world peace and focusing on international issues such as human trafficking. It created a document called 'The Suppression of White Slave Traffic', which later changed its name into 'Suppression of traffic in women and children'.

1948 - UN Article 4 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights declares slavery to be contrary to human rights.

1995 - The United Nations held the fourth World Conference about the trafficking of women. In this it was acknowledged that trafficking was an act of violence against women, trafficking was further defined and actions were taken. These include enforcing international

conventions, address factors that encourage trafficking nationally and internationally, and implement programs to provide for the needs of trafficked women.

2016 - The African Union and the Horn of Africa create a Counter Trafficking Initiative.

## **Previous attempts to solve the issue**

There have been some attempts to counter human trafficking. One of them is the Nigerian anti-trafficking agency called the National Agency for Prohibition of Traffic in Persons (NAPTIP). This has resulted in the highest number of successful prosecutions of traffickers.

Additionally, by creating well designed international and national laws, countries and organisations have tried to reduce trafficking within and through their borders. By not only making and creating laws, but also actually enforcing them, it is ensured that measures will be taken against human trafficking.

## **Possible Solutions**

What needs to be done to reduce human trafficking? The World Bank and other organizations have identified several ways to do this exact thing:

- Protect those vulnerable to trafficking
- Creating more job opportunities to reduce poverty and prevent migration to find a job
- Labour safeguards in jobs likely to have a risk of human trafficking, such as fisheries, agriculture, mining and other manual labour
- Education and information about human trafficking in school education, and connecting the idea of human trafficking to migration
- Healthcare for the ill to reduce the risk of human trafficking
- Improving the justice system to empower the poor and prosecute the human traffickers

## Useful Documents

[http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Sub-Saharan\\_Africa](http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Sub-Saharan_Africa)

<https://www.themuse.com/advice/whats-being-done-to-stop-human-trafficking>

<https://www.iom.int/news/african-union-meets-au-horn-africa-counter-trafficking-initiative>

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html>

<http://www.untoldstoriesonline.com/human-trafficking-in-sub-saharan-africa/>

<http://www.eden.rutgers.edu/~yongpatr/425/final/timeline.htm>

