 

COUNTRY: Mexico

TOPIC: - Protecting victims of human trafficking in conflict and post-conflict situations

Committee: - United Nations human rights council (UNHRC)

Human trafficking is one of the most heinous crimes of our time. Across the globe, millions of people live in slave-like conditions, generating billions of dollars in profit for their trafficking. Human trafficking undermines the security of states because it is related to organized crime and corruption, and because some traffickers deal not only in people but also in drugs, weapons, and other goods. But most obviously, trafficking violates the human rights of trafficked person who are exploited, raped, transferred, harboured and sometimes killed accompanied by threat, fraud, deception or other means.

The topic has been on the contemporary international security agenda since the late 1990s. Much progress has been made since new laws have been created awareness has been used. Government officials have been trained, and cooperation agreements have been struck between the various state and non- state counter-trafficking actors. However, there are few signs that trafficking diminishing instead, there are many signs that it is increasing. Mexico is a large source, transit and destination country for victims of human trafficking. More than 50,000 of women from Mexico as well as other countries are working abroad in the sex industry. According to El Universal, 87 percent cases of trafficking victims were detected in the country in 2018.

Impunity, lawlessness, collapse of state institutions and lack of border control are all factors that allow human trafficking to flourish. Furthermore, the destruction of the economy, family income and family units places women and children at higher risk of being trafficked Conflict areas may become areas of origin, transit or destination.

The sum factors that allow human trafficking to flourish during conflict are often also prevalent in post-conflict situations. High levels of political instability, criminal activity and violence can remain for years after fighting has ended.

Furthermore, the reestablishment of the rule of law, including the reconstruction of effective law and order institutions, is never immediate. Criminal networks are therefore able to exploit the situations consolidating power gained during conflict.

Both physical and psychological consequences for victims of trafficking are devastating. Thus, psychological social and legal support provided by government agencies, in cooperation with special NGOs are indispensable. The [Congress of Mexico](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congress_of_the_Union%22%20%5Co%20%22Congress%20of%20the%20Union) passed a law on human trafficking in 2007 after which the Federal District and all of the states passed anti-trafficking measures themselves.

In an attempt to harmonize the varied penal codes on the subject of human trafficking, the government passed a new anti-trafficking law in 2012 that criminalized all participants in the act of trafficking (including consumers) and unified local laws. The law was further reformed in 2014 Moreover, hailing appropriate national structure and capacities for reintegration, including opportunities for reinsertion into the labour market, is necessary in order to prevent victims from being re-trafficking. Mexico has publicly endorsed the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime’s Blue Heart Campaign against Human Trafficking, becoming the first country in Latin America to do so.

 The victims of trafficking are vulnerable and thus need specific protection such as Support shelters, medical cares, psychological and legal counselling, legal residency status for certain period of time, employment and education and information campaigns regarding the rights of victims to improve the current anti‐trafficking regime in Mexico.