



Country: Australia

Committee: United Nations Human Rights Council
(UNHRC)

Topic Area: Protecting victims of human trafficking in conflict and post-conflict situations.

Delegate: Ishita Guwalani (Delhi World Public School)

Trafficking is a serious crime that affects every country in the world. Conflicts that arise in countries or other geographical areas can worsen vulnerability to trafficking. As people turn to negative coping strategies in order to survive, not only the risk of falling victim to trafficking increase, but so too does the risk of perpetrating it against others. The most visible form of trafficking involves the sexual exploitation of women and children. The Australian Government is committed to combating these crimes and providing trafficked people with appropriate support.

Country's Policy

Human trafficking in Australia is illegal under the Divisions 270 and 271 of the Criminal Code. Penalties for the offences in Divisions 270 and 271 range from 4 years' imprisonment for debt bondage, to 25 years' imprisonment for slavery and trafficking in children. In September 2005, Australia ratified the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, which supplemented the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Amendments to the Criminal Code were made in 2005 to implement the Protocol.

Also, in 2002 Australia helped establish the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crimes. Since the establishment of Australia's strategy to combat human trafficking, the government has provided more than \$150 million to support a range of domestic, regional and international initiatives.

Resolution

Following are the recommendations for formulating a resolution:

- Urge the governments to sign and ratify Conventions and Protocols against Human Trafficking if they still have not done so.

- Implement legal measures to protect and rescue victims of human trafficking, particularly the more vulnerable, usually women and children.
- Intensify cross-border cooperation with more connected and efficient law enforcement networks to prosecute the traffickers.
- Raise the awareness on Human Trafficking with campaigns to increase citizen's awareness of these new challenges facing our society.