

**COUNTRY-** North Korea

**COMMITTEE-** United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

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

**DELEGATE-** Vaidehi Panwar

POSITION PAPERS

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is a United Nations body whose mission is to promote and protect human rights around the world.

The United Nations defines human trafficking as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of persons by improper means (such as force, abduction, fraud, or coercion) for an improper purpose including forced labour or sexual exploitation. It takes on many forms today.

Trafficking in the persons is a serious crime that effects every country in the works. Conflicts that arise in countries or other geographical areas can exacerbate vulnerability to trafficking, as well as its prevalence and severity. As State and non-state structure weakens, and as people turn to negative coping strategies in order to survive, not only does the risk of falling victim to trafficking increase, but so too does the risk of perpetrating it against others. At the same time, conflict also increases the demand for goods and services provided by exploited persons and creates new demands for exploitative combat and support roles. For these reasons, United Nations entities and other international actors active in settings affected by conflict have a crucial role to play in preventing and countering trafficking in persons.

1 September 2010 - The United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons was adopted by the General Assembly on 30 July to urge Governments worldwide to take coordinated and consistent measures to try to defeat the scourge. The Plan calls for integrating the fight against human trafficking into the United Nations' broader programmes to boost development and strengthen security around the world. It also calls for the setting up of a United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking, especially women and children. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said that the Plan of Action should serve as "a clarion call" to Member States, international organizations and civil society groups of the need to take immediate steps "to stop this terrible crime against human dignity, which shames us all”. The United Nations has estimated that more than 2.4 million people are currently being exploited as victims of human trafficking.

A lack of training among professionals who interact with children and adolescents—especially those who are vulnerable—is a barrier to timely and appropriate action to assist victims and survivors of commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking and prevent these crimes among youth at risk. These professionals are often dismayed to learn that they have missed opportunities to help these youth, and want to know more about how to identify and assist them.

But, main concern is that **who are the victims? Who is at risk of becoming a victim of human trafficking? Do victims of human trafficking self-identify as a victim of a crime and ask for help immediately? And many more questions.**

**CONCLUSION**

Slavery (human trafficking) has unfortunately existed throughout history. Human trafficking, in accordance with advanced interpretation of the international instruments, is the framework that covers all forms of so-called ‘New’ slavery. It includes labour exploitation and other forms of new slavery such as the organ trade, forced begging, forced crime, as well as various forms of trafficking for sexual exploitation. Human trafficking is not only a criminal activity, but also constitutes a grave violation of human rights. The only way to maintain the focus on the victims is to guarantee that actions taken to combat human trafficking are not reduced merely to a problem of migration, public order, or the fight against organized crime. According to data from the United Nations, two thirds of the trafficking. According to data from the United Nations, two thirds of the trafficking victims detected globally are women. Seventy-nine percent of the victims are trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. In fact, gender-based violations of human rights are one of the fundamental causes for the existence of human trafficking. Gender violence and other forms of discrimination against women and girls can foster and exacerbate their vulnerability, leading them to become victims of human trafficking.