Allotment: People’s republic of China

Institution: Salwan Public School

Committee: United Nations commission on the status of women

Human trafficking of women is a critical issue that demands immediate attention worldwide. The majority of victims are women and girls who face grave injustices such as forced labor, sexual exploitation, and forced marriages. These abhorrent practices stem from poverty, systemic discrimination against women, inadequate education, and unsafe migration routes. Traffickers are increasingly using online platforms and deceptive job offers to target vulnerable women. The COVID-19 pandemic has only intensified this crisis, especially for women in informal employment.

While responsibility is shared among many nations, China is taking decisive steps to tackle the root causes by focusing on poverty alleviation, education, and legal cooperation, rather than shifting blame. To effectively combat human trafficking, it is imperative that nations unite, uphold each other's rights, and prioritize the protection and empowerment of women. This is not just a moral obligation; it is essential for ensuring justice and equality globally.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) report a significant increase in human trafficking globally, with cases rising by 25% from 2019 to 2022. Forced labour has become the most common form of exploitation at 42%, while sexual exploitation accounts for 36%. Women and girls are the most affected, making up 61% of identified victims in 2022—39% adult women and 22% girls. The Asia-Pacific region, including China, holds over half of the world’s forced labour cases, with an estimated 27.6 million victims generating $236 billion in illicit revenue. Factors contributing to the rise in trafficking include post-pandemic poverty, cyber recruitment, displacement, and weakened law enforcement.

China is actively combating trafficking through anti-poverty initiatives, legal reforms, and regional cooperation. Addressing this issue is crucial, as human trafficking of women and girls stems from poverty, discrimination, lack of education, and unsafe migration routes. To effectively combat human trafficking, nations must unite, protect women's rights, and prioritize their empowerment. This commitment is essential for achieving global justice and equality.

The United Nations has taken a wide range of steps to address the international trafficking of women, particularly for exploitation and forced labour. A significant component of these efforts is the Palermo Protocol (2000), which is part of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The protocol sets forth the definition of trafficking in persons and calls on states to criminalize the practice, protect victims, and cooperate internationally.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) leads anti-trafficking efforts, such as the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, and operates the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking. The fund offers support to women survivors in various forms, such as shelter, legal assistance, and support for reintegration.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) has introduced key conventions, including ILO Conventions 29, 105, and 190, addressing the issue of forced labour and violence against women. The organization collaborates with governments and the private sector to eradicate exploitation in global supply chains, particularly where women are disproportionately represented.

UN Women reinforces its mandate of advocating gender-sensitive laws, survivor-centric services, and economic empowerment of vulnerable women. These are in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically Goal 5.2 (ending violence against women) and Goal 8.7 (putting an end to modern slavery and human trafficking).

Collectively, these steps reflect the United Nations' multi-pronged process towards the eradication of trafficking through legal, social, and economic reform.

The people republic of China firmly believes in women’s safety and rights constantly combatting through the norms despite the fact being framed of “Forced Labour”, “Human trafficking”

Effectively addressing women's human trafficking requires an integrated, coordinated, and victim-centered approach. Governments must strengthen national legal frameworks to clearly define and criminalize all forms of trafficking and forced labour. For example, China's Labour Contract Law, Anti-Domestic Violence Law, and Anti-Trafficking Action Plan serve as strong models. Additionally, it is essential to ensure that these laws are enforced through regular inspections and judicial training to deliver justice to victims.

Economic empowerment also plays a crucial role in reducing women's vulnerability. Providing vocational education, computer skills, microenterprise development, and rural development equips at-risk women to participate in safe livelihoods, thereby making them less susceptible to trafficking networks. The All-China Women's Federation's outreach to rural and migrant women exemplifies this model.

Moreover, regional and global cooperation is necessary. States need to collaborate by sharing information, conducting joint investigations, and implementing capacity-development programs that focus on culturally responsive, development-oriented solutions. This is particularly important in South-South contexts.

It is also critical to adopt a survivor-centered approach by ensuring access to shelters, psychosocial care, legal assistance, and long-term reintegration services. Survivors should be empowered rather than criminalized.

Finally, leveraging technology and information can enhance prevention efforts by detecting trafficking trends, disrupting illegal online recruitment, and informing law enforcement. When combined with public awareness campaigns, these initiatives can foster safer communities that actively reject all forms of exploitation.