

**COMMITTEE:** UNCSW

**AGENDA:** Combatting Global Human Trafficking of Women: Addressing Exploitation and Forced Labor

**COUNTRY:** Republic of Iceland

**SCHOOL:** Bal Bhavan Public School

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## **TOPIC BACKGROUND**

The recruitment, transportation, and exploitation of men and women through force, or deceit mostly for forced labour or sexual exploitation are all part of the global issue of human trafficking. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC,2022), over 60% of victims worldwide are women and girls, making them the group most affected. These crimes usually occur in areas of political instability, poverty, or inefficient legal systems. They frequently occur across international borders also. The effects are devastating such as victims endure trauma, physical injury, and a lifetime of being denied their freedom. This issue is crucial to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 5 on gender equality, SDG 8.7 on the abolition of forced labour and trafficking, and SDG 16 on peace and justice, because it is complexly connected to global inequality, violence against women, and violations of human rights.

## **PAST INTERNATIONAL ACTION**

The United Nations has worked hard to solve this problem by working on a number of important treaties and initiatives. The Palermo Protocol (2000) is the main legal tool for the foundation. It goes in depth detail about trafficking and creates legal frameworks for stopping it, protecting victims, and working together across borders. It says that trafficking happens when people are tricked, forced, or threatened into doing things like working without pay, being abused sexually, or taking their organs illegally. Even if a person agrees at first, it still counts as trafficking if they were lied to or forced. Also, if a child is being exploited, it is always called trafficking, even without force. The Protocol asks countries to help victims, punish traffickers, and work together to stop this crime.

The UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (2010) also states the importance of involving many different groups and letting survivors lead the way. Moreover, CEDAW includes anti-trafficking measures as part of the fight against discrimination. António Guterres, the UN Secretary-General has called human trafficking "an awful crime that feeds on inequality, instability, and conflict." This shows that Trafficking is based on differences in power around the world. Also, UN agencies like UNODC, UN Women and some important NGOs like International Justice Mission (IJM), Anti-Slavery International, Polaris Project, and La Strada International are all working to help survivors by advocating for them, rescuing them, changing the law, and helping them get better.

## **COUNTRY POLICY**

Iceland has a low rate of trafficking, but it is still vigilant because it serves as both a transit and destination point for such activities. There have been cases of foreign women being brought in to work as prostitutes or housemaids. The government of Iceland sees human trafficking as a crime and has formed some strong national and international systems to fight it. The Icelandic National Action Plan Against Trafficking in Human Beings (2019–2022) works on a four-pillar approach i.e., prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnership. The country has also signed the Palermo Protocol and the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings. In Iceland, victim support services consist medical attention, housing, legal assistance, and psychological counselling. Iceland collaborates with the Nordic nations to fight cross-border trafficking and has invested in AI-powered monitoring systems to keep an eye on problematic online activity.

## **COUNTRY'S PROPOSED SOLUTIONS AND FUTURE PLANS**

Iceland calls for a global approach that connects technology, justice, and economic empowerment together. First, it suggests creating AI-based early warning systems to spot trafficking trends in online platforms and travel documents. Iceland recommends for the creation of a worldwide fund backed by the UN for victim rehabilitation and recovery, which would provide survivors with a source of income, education and housing facilities. Iceland promotes survivor-sensitive and trauma-aware criminal justice procedures at the policy level, such as anonymous reporting, legal aid, and protection from retaliation. Iceland suggests targeted investments in microfinance programs and skill training for women in vulnerable areas, especially in remote or conflict-affected communities to address the root causes. Iceland urges states to ensure victim-first repatriation policies and is against criminalizing victims at borders. By taking these steps, Iceland acknowledges its commitment to a society free from the exploitation of women and girls.