

Committee: United Nations Commission
on the Status of Women

Agenda: Combatting Global Human Trafficking of

Women: Addressing Exploitation and Forced Labor

Country: Republic of the Philippines



“No country is immune to trafficking—but some choose to fight it head-on.”

Human trafficking remains one of the world’s most widespread criminal enterprises, targeting the most vulnerable—especially women and girls. As per the 2024 UNODC report, trafficking in East Asia and the Pacific is increasingly driven by false labor recruitment, online fraud, and cross-border manipulation of migrant women. Victims are often lured with fake job offers, then coerced into forced labor or sexual exploitation in both formal and informal sectors [UNODC 2024]. Traffickers have rapidly adopted digital strategies—outpacing legal safeguards in many regions.

While the Philippines is classified as a source country due to high volumes of outbound labor migration, it is also a regional leader in trafficking prevention, legal enforcement, and survivor-centered response. The government’s position reflects not only concern—but a readiness to act, legislate, and cooperate.

Position of the Philippines

The Republic of the Philippines believes that no country should be judged by its vulnerability, but by how it responds to it. Our country upholds a comprehensive anti-trafficking framework that emphasizes prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnerships. We approach this crisis through both a legal and humanitarian lens, driven by the belief that survivors must be empowered, traffickers must be held accountable, and systemic enablers must be dismantled. The Philippines reaffirmed its full commitment to these principles through its continued **Tier 1** designation in the U.S. TIP Report 2024 [TIP 2024], its implementation of the 2023–2027 **National Strategic Action Plan** Against Trafficking in Persons, and its participation in the 2023 Bali Process roundtable on ethical technology use [UNODC 2024].

Steps Taken at the National Level

The Philippines has expanded its anti-trafficking operations through a combination of legislative reforms, institutional restructuring, and technology integration. One conviction included a landmark court-ordered restitution of ₱3 million in damages to a survivor—setting a powerful precedent for victim-centered justice.

The Department of Justice and Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) expanded coordination through regional task forces that now operate nationwide. To streamline justice delivery, the judiciary transitioned over 55% of trafficking-related trials to videoconferencing, enabling survivors to testify safely and reducing case backlogs [TIP 2024].

Meanwhile, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) enhanced survivor services under its Recovery and Reintegration Program for Trafficked Persons (RRPTP). Over 2,024 survivors were supported in 2023 through legal aid, psychological care, and livelihood training [TIP 2024]. However, the government has acknowledged persistent limitations—particularly the shortage of child-friendly shelters and the need for specialized care for survivors with disabilities.

International and Regional Cooperation

Internationally, the Philippines remains a committed party to the Palermo Protocol, ILO Forced Labour Conventions, and CEDAW. It co-chaired the 2023 Bali Process regional roundtable and called for the creation of global AI standards in anti-trafficking enforcement [UNODC 2024]. The country is an active member of ASEAN-ACT and maintains cooperative arrangements with INTERPOL for transnational criminal prosecution. Bilateral engagement has also deepened. The Philippines signed new cooperation agreements with Myanmar, Cambodia, the United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait, which enabled the safe repatriation of over 1,100 Filipino victims in 2023 alone [TIP 2024]. These victims were primarily rescued from labor trafficking in scam hubs and domestic servitude.

Recommendations and Proposed Solutions

The Philippines urges this council to adopt the following five-point action agenda:

1. Establish international standards for digital platform accountability, requiring social media, job boards, and web hosts to detect and report trafficking-linked content.
2. Create a UN survivor protection registry to facilitate data continuity and services across borders.
3. Mandate bilateral repatriation protocols with survivor-centered guarantees, modeled on the Philippines' agreements with ASEAN and Gulf nations.
4. Fund regional digital case tracking tools to increase conviction efficiency and reduce impunity.
5. Institutionalize survivor voices in policymaking, making their participation a condition for UN technical assistance and funding—mirroring the Philippines' approach to its national strategy.

The Philippines does not present itself as flawless—but as focused. In a world where trafficking adapts faster than laws, countries must respond with speed, clarity, and compassion. Our national reforms, survivor engagement, and international advocacy reflect a deep, ongoing commitment to justice. We urge this committee to match that commitment with coordinated global action—because modern slavery cannot be ended by awareness alone. It must be ended by will.