

*United Nations Office of the High
Commissioner for Human Rights
(OHCHR)*



*Safeguarding
populations at risk of
sex exploitation and
trafficking*

Director: Paolo Morán Figlewski

Moderator: Fernanda Paredes Zorrilla

I. INTRODUCTION

The Vienna Declaration and Programme of action made recommendations for the UN human rights monitoring ability. As part of its recommendations, the creation of a high commissioner for human rights was suggested. The Office of the high Commissioner for Human Rights [OHCHR] was established by the UN General Assembly in 1993. (OHCHR, 2024).

The United Nations Human Rights headquarters are located in Geneva, Switzerland. Here, the OHCHR is separated into three divisions, as well as an Executive Direction and management. The Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division is the section that develops policies and provides: tools, guidance, advice and support on a variety of human rights issues. The Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division provides the technical and substantive support to HRC (Human Rights Commission) UPR (Universal Periodic Review) and the treaty bodies. The Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division is in charge of overseeing the implementation of the OHCHR in the field, in other words, real life applications. The OHCHR - NY is responsible for the integration of norms in the decision making on bodies based in the UN headquarters in New York City. (OHCHR, 2024).

The OHCHR provides operational support, standard setting and monitoring, on the ground implementation, and prioritizes human rights in all UN operations. The purpose of the OHCHR is to protect and ensure human rights and freedom around the world. The OHCHR holds significant authority, allowing it to influence and shape norms and standards regarding human rights. Overall, this sector of the United Nations relies on advocacy and cooperation; it also, however, suffers from a lack of enforcement.

The OHCHR has advocated and created a framework in order to combat any violation of human rights worldwide. The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action in 2001 is a document which contains an important structure for combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance. (OHCHR n,d). Furthermore, the OHCHR has advocated against gender based violence while supporting the first Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women in 1994. Women's rights are now considered part of the fundamental rights of humanity, and the violation of these have ascended to the forefront of the battle for international human rights. These advancements, in turn, have seriously lessened the often apathetic sentiment that was once commonplace towards crimes against the rights of women (OHCHR, n.d.).

Additionally, this sector of the United Nations has taken multiple direct measures in order to prevent the trafficking of human beings. For instance, increased laws and teaching of said laws internationally to local law enforcement, similar to what was done with the International Civil Aviation Association in order to identify victims of trafficking on airplanes worldwide (OHCHR, 2024). Research is being conducted every day in order to prevent trafficking and exploitation, and raise awareness regarding the issue across nations. The committees' Compendium of definitions and concepts relating to human trafficking as well as modern slavery looks at the exploitation and violation of human rights, and the ICAT Issue Briefs help keep officials informed (OHCHR, 2024). Partnerships are also utilized, including the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT), a policy forum for coordination among the UN committees.

Sex trafficking and exploitation (the forced transportation, harboring, recruitment, etc, of human beings for the purpose of commercial sex acts) despite the actions taken to prevent them, are extremely common and devastating violations of human rights worldwide. Undoubtedly, some parts of the population are targeted much more commonly than others, such as women, children, immigrants, people with disabilities, people who suffer from poverty and homelessness, etc, and are thus at a higher risk of falling victim to these crimes. Now, during the 21st century, more people are being trafficked than ever before, especially in countries in the Middle East such as Libya, Eritrea, Yemen, the UAE, and Turkmenistan (but in many other parts of the world as well). Although the central governments and population's ethics and values are not entirely focused on this issue in particular, through international discourse and policy making, the protection of these populations may be achieved.

II. HISTORY OF THE PROBLEM

While the issue of trafficking, trading, and exploiting individuals has been around for thousands of years in hundreds of cultures across the globe, it has not always been illegal worldwide. Things like the transatlantic slave trade of people from Africa on the part of many European and American nations were only abolished within the last two centuries. This is

still very much an issue of our time. Despite the trafficking and exploitation of humans being present in a large part of human history (and outlawed in most of the world), hundreds of thousands of people still suffer from these crimes.

The timeline of a few of the most important events in relation to this issue is as follows:

1850-1900

During this time, the transatlantic slave trade was abolished, as well as the legal practice of slavery in the United States of America after the Civil War. However, the country was still struggling with the many issues of racism and discrimination, along with sexism and misogyny.

The Page Act of 1875 both sought to limit the immigration of people from Asia into the United States. Through this, many Asian women were prevented from entering the US, as the act was also intended as a way to prevent the traffic of “immoral women” into the country (prostitutes) (Giovagnoni, Schooneveld, 2022). Because of this, the unintended effect of allowing almost exclusively Asian men into the United States was accomplished. By the time the early 1880s came, the Chinese population in the US was around 95% males. By the time the early 1880s came, the Chinese population in the US was around 95% males (Giovagnoni, Schooneveld, 2022). Due to this, Chinese gangs called Tongs began the illegal trafficking of Chinese women into California and the Western United States. This serves as one of the earliest examples of more modern human and sex trafficking.

1900-1910

Once the trade and enslavement of people from Africa was officially stopped, the practice of what is referred to as “white slavery” started becoming popular. This practice was something that became increasingly interesting for multiple international governments. This is because people started becoming more and more aware of European women (usually immigrants) being forced into prostitution. The modern definition of “white slavery” is the “procurement — by use of force, deceit, or drugs — of a white woman or girl against her will for prostitution.” (Giovagnoni, Schooneveld, 2022).

The Mann act was signed in 1904 (the International Agreement for the Suppression of White Slave Traffick), becoming the first agreement on human trafficking on an international level (Giovagnoni, Schooneveld, 2022).

This is a prime example of, not only sex trafficking in history, but also the specific populations that were at risk even then: women and immigrants.

1921

The 20th century saw the highest degree of human trafficking in history (both forced labor and sexual exploitation) (Giovagnoni, Schooneveld, 2022). With the first international organization with intent of maintaining world peace and focus on international issues, the league League of Nations, being founded in 1920 (post World War I), human trafficking became internationally identified as an issue (Giovagnoni, Schooneveld, 2022). In 1921 the League held a conference in which 33 countries signed the International Convention for the Suppression of Traffic in Women and Children (two of the most at-risk populations in the face of human trafficking) (Giovagnoni, Schooneveld, 2022).

1949

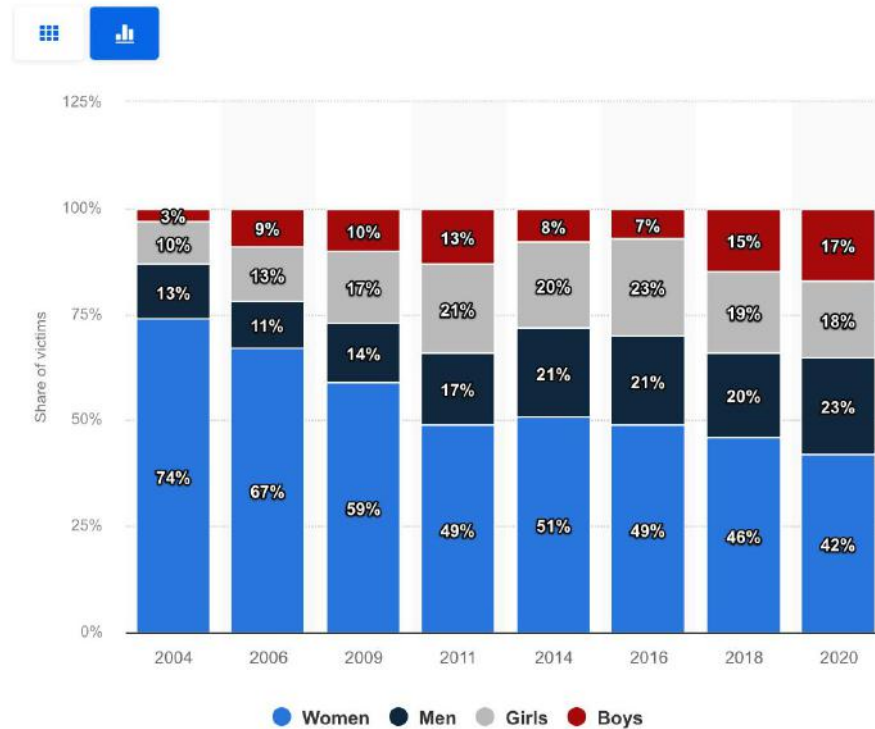
Once the United Nations was founded after World War II, the member nations adopted the United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others in 1949 (Giovagnoni, Schooneveld, 2022). This became the first legally binding agreement on the trafficking of human beings at an international level. Unfortunately, as of 2022, only 66 of the member nations have ratified this agreement (Giovagnoni, Schooneveld, 2022).

2000s:

In the year 2000, The United Nations General Assembly (with one of the most important efforts to prevent human trafficking in history) launched the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially in Women and Children (Dearnly, n.d.). This protocol establishes an approach to this crime that is centered around its victims, while also being the first protocol recognizing the possibility of men being victims of human trafficking. Since its launch, it has been signed by 177 of the 193 member states of the UN (Dearnly, n.d.). The percentage of male victims of trafficking has increased by

approximately 10% since 2004, indicating that male victims started receiving the recognition and support needed as the protocol was adopted.

Share of trafficking victims worldwide from 2004 to 2020, by gender and age



© Statista 2024

OHCHR: The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) emphasizes the violation of fundamental human rights inherent in human trafficking, including the right to life, liberty, and security of person.

March 2007 saw an effort to promote an approach to fighting human trafficking that consisted of a more communal nature. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) launched the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) (Giovagnoni, Schooneveld, 2022). Through this approach, a replenished commitment to combat human trafficking was highlighted for global leaders (Giovagnoni, Schooneveld, 2022).

Context: Recognition of the crime

Throughout the more recent, informed years in which the issue of sex trafficking has risen, more information has come out regarding its elusiveness and difficulty to contain (UNODC, n.d.).

Information in relation to the issue of human trafficking is extremely difficult to obtain, even with ample resources. This is due to many factors, such as the fact that, since trafficking is (of course) done in extreme secrecy and discretion, it is very hard to conclude exact, dependable, numerical values for information regarding it (UNODC, n.d.). Additionally, some countries lack some specific anti trafficking legislations, or even simply have none at all. Sometimes, the definition that a country has in regard to human trafficking is not the same as the international version of the Trafficking Protocol (UNODC, n.d.). Also, oftentimes victims of sex trafficking are not defined as being victims of a specific crime. Instead, many of these victims are considered as people who have violated laws, such as migration, labor or prostitution legislations. The identification of these victims requires an ability to distinguish an actual victim of sex trafficking or exploitation from accused or convicted perpetrators of migrant smuggling or other crimes, as well as knowledge of indicators of trafficking or exploitation (UNODC, n.d.).

Generally speaking, the process of sex trafficking consists of four steps. These steps themselves also include overtones of crimes and violence (Vellani, Kristoff, 2021). The four steps are:

1. The deception, abduction, or recruitment of the victims (populations at risk)
2. Transportation (this step is not always necessary for exploitation)
3. Exploitation
4. Victim disposal

“According to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) and the TVPA, the Action-Means-Purpose (A-M-P) model is relevant in establishing whether force, fraud, or coercion was present, indicating the encounter was not consensual” (Vellani, Kristoff, 2021).

The internet

Because of the life changing invention that was the internet, the entire business of human trafficking has changed radically. Now, there is no necessity for the physical movement of individuals who are exploited due to online streaming and video platforms. Victims can be held in one location while exploited sexually worldwide (Giovagnoni, Schooneveld, 2022). Because of the recent boom of sites that consist of online image and streaming platforms, the market for human trafficking has expanded exponentially. These exploitations can now take place on platforms that are specifically designed to sell content of sexual nature, such as Pornhub and the recently popular OnlyFans (all famously lacking in their monitoring for signs of trafficking or exploitation). Unfortunately, however, these crimes also occur across social media platforms used by millions of people, most of which are meant to ban content such as this, including Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube (Giovagnoni, Schooneveld, 2022).

Most victims often endure forced marriages or recruitment into armed conflict. The most common underlying causes of human trafficking and exploitation include financial difficulty, a limited access to education, the high demand for labor and sexual services, weak human rights protections, the scarce employment opportunities, cultural norms, the displacement due to conflict, lack of secure migration pathways, and the financial gain incentivizing traffickers. The UN and several NGOs have highlighted the need to address this threat from both sides, supply and demand. Therefore preventing the abduction of victims through enforced security and reducing the demand by raising awareness and education.

III. CURRENT SITUATION

As of now, there are around 4.8 million people worldwide who are specifically victims of sex trafficking and exploitation (out of the 43 million that are victims of human trafficking/modern slavery), more than ever before in history (Pennel 2023). It currently happens in almost every country around the world. Here, the perpetrators take advantage of the vulnerabilities or a state of dependence to use them for acts of commercial sex, such as prostitution and the production of pornography (Pennel 2023). These certain vulnerabilities

are particular to the populations which suffer most from these crimes, causing them to be more at risk of them due to criminal's targeting them.

Now, more than ever, Sex exploitation and trafficking violate fundamental human rights, and it is done more frequently to specific communities and populations. It fuels organized crime and undermines economies while simultaneously destabilizing communities and destroying families (Pennel, 2023). At the same time, it creates public health crises, due to victims often being exposed to sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV (Human immunodeficiency virus)/AIDS (Acquired immunodeficiency syndrom), leading to an overall decline in health as well as extreme damage in specific populations (Pennel 2023). This issue, despite being most present in the Middle East and Sub Saharan Africa, goes beyond borders, and safeguarding at-risk populations should be a worldwide concern and priority throughout countries. However, countries must also focus on preventing sex trafficking and exploitation altogether, which of course, has proven to be quite the challenge, especially as data from the European Commission has shown an increase of 41% in the successful identification of trafficking victims from 2021 to 2022 in the European Union (European Commission, 2024). Although awareness and detection efforts have grown, these crimes are higher than ever.

Risk factors for populations

There are many factors that come into play when considering one's vulnerability to sexual exploitation or trafficking. Multiple studies in the United States have been successful in discovering a variety of risk factors when it comes to falling victim to these crimes. A major variable is if an individual had a difficult childhood, such as sexual abuse as a child, maltreatment, unstable home life, abuse, foster care, a history of running away, etc. The majority of trafficking victims are entered into the business of sex trafficking before their 18th birthday, with the mean age of a victim's first victimization from around 12 to 15 years old. While children are usually trafficked for labor in less developed nations, more developed nations in North America and Europe, for example, have a higher likelihood of being trafficked for sexual reasons (Allan, 2023).

Additionally, substance abuse, the witness or prior experience in sex work, poor mental health, etc also add to the risk of exploitation. In broader categories, these criminals

also target people who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community (members of this community are two times as likely to be trafficked in comparison to people who identify as heterosexual), people who suffer from disabilities, children, women, among others (Winters, 2023).

These risks have also been found in studies from other countries, as well as evidence that suggests that certain factors differ whether individuals are to be trafficked domestically or internationally. People trafficked domestically are normally targeted due to things such as age, problems with abuse, and homelessness. People trafficked internationally may be targeted due to a disadvantaged background such as poverty, lack of education, etc (Allan, 2023).

Due to recent global crises, conflicts, and climate crisis, the risk of trafficking is only increasing. This warning was issued by the United Nations on the national day against trafficking of persons (UN News, n.d.). Because of the current state of the world, many people who do not have a legal status in a country (such as immigrants), people who are living in poverty or without good/stable jobs now more often become primary targets for traffickers (UN News, n.d.).

IV. UN ACTIONS

Throughout the 21st century, the United Nations have taken numerous actions in order to combat the issue of “Sex exploitation and Trafficking”, as well as safeguard its at risk populations. This includes things like the implementation of laws, maintenance and commitment to various operations, among other things.

Although things like international conflict, climate change, and other issues have taken precedence over this one, the most important actions include the following:

- For starters, in the year 2000, the United Nations launched the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons. This protocol helped the approach to trafficking become much more victim centered, and resulted in its signing by 177 of the member states in the General Assembly (Dearnly, n.d.). Since then, many other projects have also been launched, including Start

Freedom, the awareness campaign that the UN provides for young people in order to educate them about their potential to stop human trafficking (as more than 50% of all trafficked individuals are under 18 years old) (Dearnly, n.d.). Additionally, the ACT (Active Communities against Trafficking) aims to bring together community members, giving them resources to help identify and stop the issue by gathering information about sex trafficking and exploitation (Dearnly, n.d.).

- In August of 2010, many of the member states in the UN launched the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. The job of the Trust Fund is to give aid of legal, humanitarian, and financial nature to victims of trafficking (UNODC, 2017). It supports the actions taken by NGOs across the world that are specialized in trafficking in order to ensure that victims of trafficking are treated humanely, and given the physical, psychological, and social help they need to recover, as well as re enter their communities (UNODC, 2017). Additionally, help and wisdom regarding things of judicial or legal nature are provided, including helping victims claiming remedies, compensation, or aid from their governments, as well as being a witness in a court case against their traffickers. Furthermore, the Fund seeks to prevent trafficking, as well as safeguard at risk people's vulnerability to discrimination or being trafficked/victimized again (UNODC, 2017). This Trust Fund was established in order to give people from international organizations, non governmental organizations, governments, and private sectors the opportunity to work together to help and safeguard victims/at risk populations in practical/tangible ways (UNODC, 2017). This trust fund was created as a very important part of the international attempt to address trafficking, with the job of its management falling to The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC, 2017).
- This branch of the United Nations handles many of the issues regarding trafficking and exploitation, as the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) also puts out the **Global Report on Trafficking in Persons** once every 2

years. These detailed articles provide comprehensive information and overviews regarding things such as trends and statistics on trafficking (UNODC, n.d.).

- In the year 2010, the UN Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons was adopted. The plan's approach is focused on prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnerships (UNODC, n.d.)
- As the UN recognizes the role that demand has in fueling the trafficking of individuals for commercial sex, the United Nations supports many initiatives addressing it. This includes campaigns for awareness, as well as rehabilitation programs for consumers. (UNODC, n.d.)
- Also, the link between trafficking and risk factors for populations (poverty, inequality, lack of education) is recognized as well. This is why the UN addresses causes such as these and fight trafficking through Sustainable Development Goals. These include SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth) (UNDESA, n.d.).

V. POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS AND COUNTRIES INVOLVED

Safeguarding populations at risk of sex exploitation and trafficking is an international goal, one which is not simple by any means and will require lots of work to achieve. While not easy, there are many measures that can be taken in order to complete this objective, including public awareness campaigns, demand reduction interventions, survivor empowerment programs, specialized law enforcement, and the addressing of the root causes of these crimes. Through these measures, which look at and solve the problem from many different points of view, the issue can be resolved.

Public awareness:

- a. Making the public aware of not only the danger of human trafficking, but also signs or tendencies that may be present in their community, even acknowledging risk factors that they may be subject to, therefore awareness may also help prevent others from falling victim in the first place.
- b. This can be done through social media campaigns, televised reports, newspapers, and in schools or workplaces in order to inform and safeguard as many people as possible. (Vellani, Kristoff, 2021)
- c. Collaborations with travel industries providing the training for staff members in order to recognize tendencies and patterns linked to potential trafficking or exploitation. When identified, suspicious activity would be reported to authorities. The hospitality industry is increasingly vulnerable to human traffickers, millions of people are being held for sex exploitation and forced labor. (Kim, 2019)

Demand reduction interventions:

- d. The development and implementation of social programs that rehabilitate sex buyers (physical, digital, etc). This would decrease the demand for exploitative commercial sex by addressing the reasons for the buyer's behavior, and preventing them from continuing to purchase said services. (UNODC, n.d.)
- e. Educational programs in schools and workplaces can address the root causes of the widespread demand of sexual services/ commercial sex. Things such as gender inequality, social injustice and differences, security issues, unhealthy masculinity, etc can all be addressed and discussed. This, in turn, would promote the de-stigmatization of these causes and lessen demand.(UNODC, n.d.)

Survivor empowerment programs:

- f. Providing support services for survivors of these crimes would help prevent them from becoming more at-risk of future victimization. If support is given which addresses the trauma of trafficking or exploitation, which includes mental health assistance, facilitation for obtaining work and safe housing, past

victims would be able to recover without the added risk of falling back into exploitation.

- g. The facilitation for support networks between peers would help survivors of these crimes not only connect with each other and reduce their risk for re victimization.

Specialized law enforcement units:

- h. The creation of dedicated law enforcement units for use against trafficking and exploitation would actively help prevent these crimes through thorough expertise in investigation and prosecution. This would be tailored to fit into each country's individual law enforcement system, but would ultimately share the same goal and be subjected to the same standard internationally.
- i. The fostering of cooperation between nations in order to achieve proper sharing of information, as well as joint operations between country's law enforcement for the dismantling of trafficking networks. Often, sex trafficking rings go beyond a specific country's borders, making it even more dangerous for the victims involved.

Addressing Root Causes:

- j. To invest in increased development (economic and educational) in communities with many people at high risk of trafficking or exploitation would mean not only increased awareness and security, but would also create opportunities for community members and reduce their vulnerability to these crimes.
- k. Providing monetary funds to microfinance institutions as a tool to alleviate poverty and instability. This enables independence and safety. Microfinance has not only proved to be crucial tool for the alleviation of poverty but also providing female empowerment.(Kursheed, 2022)
- l. Advocating for laws and policies that are anti-discriminatory can create a more equal society in which at risk communities (including minorities, women, and immigrants) would be less vulnerable.

Countries involved

Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya:

The Department of State's Trafficking in Persons Report has, for nearly a decade straight, named Libya a Special Case country (when normally countries are ranked from 1-3 depending on its govts' efforts to stop trafficking) (Watkins, 2024). This means that, not only is trafficking extremely high, but its governmental issues over the last many years (leading to violence and instability, perpetuating the crime), have caused the true extent of trafficking to be immeasurable. Because of all of this, Libya has not been able to properly address human trafficking, and its rank in human trafficking is a resounding 8.5 out of 10, one of the highest in the world (Watkins, 2024). Not only that, but its Resilience Score of 2023 was a mere 1.54 out of 10, the second lowest in all 193 member countries, meaning that its economic, political, and legal spheres don't have the proper institutions to fight trafficking (Watkins, 2024). To help safeguard their at-risk populations, Libya needs international aid.

People's Democratic Republic of Yemen:

One of the most prevalent crimes in the country is trafficking, which has been intensified by its increasing levels of instability and corruption, as well as its decreasing economy, weak law enforcement, and low social integration (OCIndex, 2023). There are many criminal markets in the nation, and a variety are involved with a multitude of foreign actors. This means that the country is unfortunately involved in a plethora of international sex trafficking rings, most supported by a great many international beneficiaries (OCIndex, 2023). Other crimes include the trafficking of drugs and illegal weapons, all of which also contribute to the increase in sex trafficking and exploitation (OCIndex, 2023). Yemeni criminal networks that are involved in trafficking are often found extending themselves past the borders of their home country, and have connections in a multitude of other nations. Personal militias and traffickers from other countries often do business with Yemen criminals (OCIndex, 2023). Because of this, Yemen is a prime example of why at risk populations must be safeguarded.

The Commonwealth of Australia:

Australia, when it comes to the safeguarding of their at risk populations against sex trafficking and exploitation, is a shining star among its fellow member states of the United

Nations. For over two decades, Australia has fought deeply for the combat of trafficking in persons, especially between its own territory and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Wong, 2023). While the country of Australia is home to many vulnerable individuals when it comes to trafficking and exploitation, it isn't remotely near the danger levels of other nations, and has partnered with ASEAN for over two decades in order to prevent these crimes, even specially training their own law enforcement to better identify, protect and support victims (Wong, 2023). Australia has given over 160 million dollars in aid for development to assist ASEAN nations, as well as strengthen their justice system as well as their victim support and protection (Wong, 2023).

[New Zealand](#)

The islands of New Zealand, within extreme proximity to the Australian mainland continent, has a similar status in regards to sex trafficking and exploitation as its neighbor. The issue of trafficking in New Zealand is not very high, making it one of the prime examples for how many measures taken prove effective, and it may serve as an example for a controlled trafficking situation (New Zealand Foreign Affairs & Trade. n.d.). New Zealand is committed to the active contribution of international efforts towards the end of modern slavery (forced labor, child labor, etc). The country's laws have enacted a multitude of laws in which slavery or human/sex trafficking is strictly prohibited, and labor rights are respected (New Zealand Foreign Affairs & Trade. n.d.). Additionally, the need to respect these rights is heavily recognized, and these same ones are incorporated into trade agreements (New Zealand Foreign Affairs & Trade. n.d.).

[United Arab Emirates](#)

The United Arab Emirates is on the second (2) tier when it comes to the US Trafficking in Persons report (U.S. Department of State, 2024). This means that the country is making important efforts to fight against the crimes of sex trafficking and exploitation. However, this score also reflects that the nation has not yet reached basic standards of this fight. While the country has done well in aspects such as: persecution for sex trafficking crimes and traffickers in general (even labor related) has been increased, anti-trafficking laws have been passed that give out more severe punishment and more optimal protection for victims, and standard guidelines for labor inspectors to easily report suspicious activity (U.S. Department of State, 2024). Unfortunately, however, there are few investigations regarding

trafficking and exploitation, lackluster guidelines when it comes to identifying victims, and lots of misinformation (U.S. Department of State, 2024). This country is important as it still fails to prevent crimes and safeguard its at risk populations despite its massive economic resources.

1. Republic of Haiti
2. Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
3. Turkmenistan
4. Republic of Finland
5. Lao People's Democratic Republic
6. United Mexican States
7. Republic of Korea
8. Russian Federation
9. Republic of South Africa
10. Kingdom of Spain
11. Ukraine
12. United States of America
13. Republic of Angola
14. Republic of Armenia
15. Dominion of Canada
16. People's Republic of China
17. Democratic Republic of the Congo
18. Republic of the Union of Myanmar
19. Federal Republic of Germany
20. Republic of Slovenia
21. French Republic

REFERENCES:

Allan, C. (2023 April 19). *Current Trends in Sex Trafficking Research*. National Library of Medicine. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10113716/>

Dearnly, R. (n.d.). *Prevention, Prosecution and Protection - Human Trafficking*. UN Chronicle.

<https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/prevention-prosecution-and-protection-human-trafficking#:~:text=In%202000%2C%20the%20United%20Nations,been%20signed%20by%20177%20countries.>

European Commission. (2024 February 28). *Newly Released Data Shows an Increase in Trafficking of Human Beings*. European Commission.

https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/newly-released-data-show-increase-trafficking-human-beings-2024-02-28_en

Giovagnoni, B, Schooneveld, A. (2022, January 25). *The History of Human Trafficking*. The Exodus Road.

<https://theexodusroad.com/history-of-human-trafficking/>

Human Rights Careers. (n.d.). *10 Causes of Human Trafficking*. Human Rights Careers.

<https://www.humanrightscareers.com/issues/10-causes-of-human-trafficking/>

Kim, S. (2019, July 16). *Human Trafficking and the Hotel Industry: How to Prevent It*. EHL Insights.

<https://hospitalityinsights.ehl.edu/human-trafficking-hospitality-industry>

Kursheed, A. (2022). *Exploring the role of microfinance in women's empowerment and entrepreneurial development: a qualitative study*. National Library of Medicine. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9735224/>

New Zealand Foreign Affairs & Trade. (n.d.). *Combating modern slavery*. New Zealand Foreign Affairs & Trade. <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/nz-trade-policy/combating-modern-slavery>

OCIndex. (2023). *Yemen*. Global Organized Crime Index.
<https://ocindex.net/country/yemen>

OHCHR. (n.d.). *About Us*. United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/about-us>

OHCHR. (n.d.). *Countries*. OHCHR. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/countries>

OHCHR. (n.d.). *Funding and Budget*. United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/about-us/funding-and-budget>

OHCHR. (n.d.). *Human rights achievements - OHCHR 20 Years..*
At20.Ohchr.org. <https://at20.ohchr.org/achievements.html>

OHCHR. (n.d.). *News*. United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.
<https://www.ohchr.org/>

UNODC. (n.d.) *Trafficking for Sex: Experts Examine the Demand for Sexual Exploitation*. UNODC.
<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/Webstories2022/traffickin>

OHCHR. (n.d.). *Understanding the Treaty Bodies - The Role of OHCHR*.
ISHR Academy. <https://academy.ishr.ch/learn/treaty-bodies/the-role-of-ohchr-1>

OHCHR. (n.d.). *What We Do*. United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/about-us/what-we-do>

OHCHR. (n.d.). *What We Do to End Human Trafficking*. United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/trafficking-in-persons/what-we-do-end-human-trafficking>

OHCHR. (n.d.). *Where We Work*. United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/about-us/where-we-work>

Pennel, L. (2023, January 9). *Human Trafficking: A Worldwide Humanitarian Issue*. Charity.

<https://charity.org/give-global-blog/human-trafficking-a-worldwide-humanitarian-issue/>

Statista. (2023). *Share of trafficking victims worldwide from 2004 to 2020, by gender and age*. Statista

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/300796/percentage-of-trafficking-victims-worldwide-by-gender-and-age/>

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Sustainable Development.(n.d.). *The 17 Goals*. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Sustainable Development.<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

UN News. (n.d.). *UN calls for urgent action against human trafficking*. UN News,
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/07/1139282>

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (n.d.). *General Assembly appraises the UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons*. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2021/November/general-assembly-appraises-the-un-global-plan-of-action-to-combat-trafficking-in-persons.html>

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (n.d.). *Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling*. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/human-trafficking/>

United Nations Office on Drugs and crime. (2017). *United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons Basic Facts*. United Nations Office on Drugs and crime.https://www.unodc.org/pdf/human_trafficking/UN_Victims_Trust_Fund_Basic_Facts_Dec2017.pdf

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (n.d.). *UNODC report on human trafficking exposes modern form of slavery*. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. [UNODC - Global Report on Trafficking in Person](#)

United Nations Treaty Collection. (2024). *Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others*. United Nations Treaty Collection. https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=VII-11-a&chapter=7&clang=en

UNODC. (2014). *THE ROLE OF 'CONSENT' IN THE TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS PROTOCOL*. UNODC. https://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/2014/UNODC_2014_Issue_Paper_Consent.pdf

UNODC. (n.d.). *Factsheet on Human Trafficking*. UNODC. https://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/UNVTF_fs_HT_EN.pdf

UNODC. (n.d.) *Trafficking for Sex: Experts Examine the Demand for Sexual Exploitation*. UNODC. https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/Webstories2022/trafficking-for-sex_-_experts-examine-the-demand-for-sexual-exploitation.html

U.S. Department of State. (2024). *2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: United Arab Emirates*. U.S. Department of State. <https://www.state.gov/reports/2024-trafficking-in-persons-report/united-arab-emirates/>

Vellani, K, Kristoff, T. (2021, June 21). *Identifying and Responding to Sex Trafficking Victims in Healthcare Environments*. <https://www.crimrxiv.com/pub/sextrafficking/release/2>

Watkins, S. (2024, April 25). *The Libyan Political Crisis: Implication for Human Trafficking*. Foreign Policy Research Institute. <https://www.fpri.org/article/2024/04/the-libyan-political-crisis-implication-for-human-trafficking/>

Wong, P. (2023, Dec 5). *Action to eliminate modern slavery and human trafficking*. Foreign Minister. [https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/penny-wong/media-release/action-eliminate-modern-slavery-and-human-trafficking#:~:text=Since%202003%2C%20Australia%20has%20provided,program%20\(ASEAN%2DACT\)](https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/penny-wong/media-release/action-eliminate-modern-slavery-and-human-trafficking#:~:text=Since%202003%2C%20Australia%20has%20provided,program%20(ASEAN%2DACT)).

