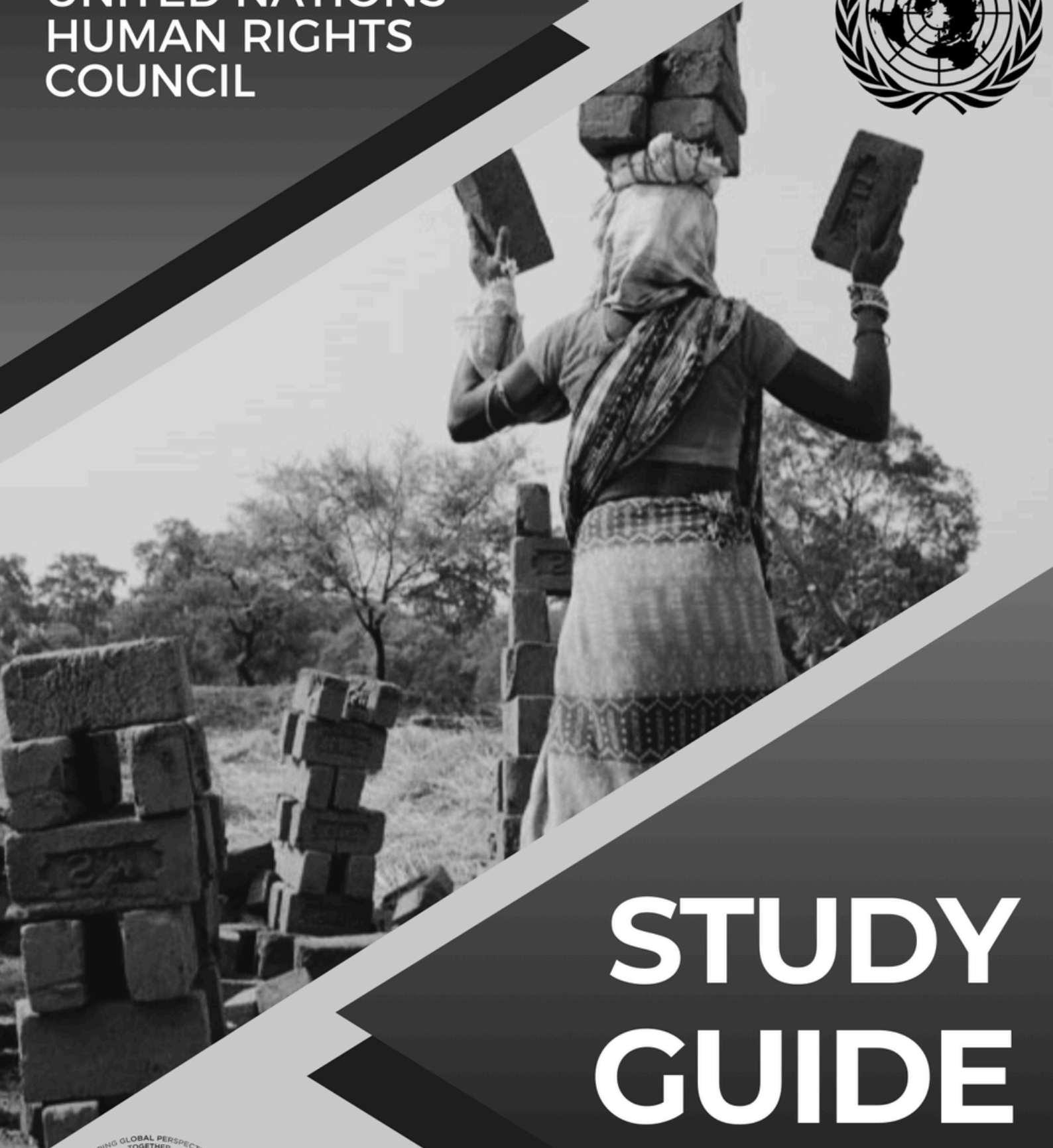


UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
COUNCIL



STUDY GUIDE



LUMUN21



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THE LUMUN SPIRIT

The LUMUN Spirit was first introduced as a concept at LUMUN XV. It sought to reintroduce a recognition of the most essential components of MUN culture; imparting a sense of responsibility accepting that the onus is on us to be the forerunners of change. The fundamental premise of a Model UN is to develop our understanding of the issues and conflicts in the world as a collective, and to connect individuals with vastly differing life experiences with each other. The pursuit of quantitative success and accolades has fermented a tradition of MUN being a space mired in hostility and distrust. The LUMUN Spirit is our continuing effort to inculcate empathy, compassion, understanding and diplomacy within this competitive activity.

As we proceed on our journey of revamping Model UN, the LUMUN Spirit is an idea that we aspire to incorporate in the entire LUMUN experience: from the Host Team, to an expectation that we will have from the delegates as well. It is not an abstract concept – it is a vision that should embody the behavior of every delegate in every committee. Inside the committee or out; the enthusiasm to meet other people, present arguments in a true ambassadorial manner and the idea to enjoy LUMUN should never be forgotten. In this very essence we will be able to represent what it means to simulate a true world model; an actual representation of the United Nations. We continue to strive and ensure that the outlook of LUMUN XVIII is to not be an average Model UN conference anymore.

And so, leadership and prowess within a committee is not characterized by exerting one's overbearing presence on others or by alienating and excluding others from discussion. They manifest in a delegate's ability to engage with others, help them play their part in the committee, and to facilitate the committee as a whole to engage in a fruitful and informative debate. This includes actions as simple as maintaining a moderate temperament, inviting others' input and operating with honesty and respect. The LUMUN Society invites you to understand what it means to be an ambassador of a country and represent its foreign policy means to employ collaboration alongside reasoned argumentation to press forward with that actor's policy agenda.

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Secretary General



Laiba Noor Abid

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of our Secretariat and Staff, it is with great joy and immense pride that I extend a heartfelt invitation to you for the 21st edition of LUMS Model United Nations (LUMUN). This milestone marks not only a continued legacy of excellence in diplomacy at LUMS but extends beyond! It is both an honor and a privilege to carry forward this tradition of global engagement in collaboration with Oxford University this year.

At LUMUN, we believe in the power of dialogue. For just over two decades, each year young minds have come together to tackle issues of global and contemporary importance. In the process, they learn how to face adversity and difference while celebrating the spirit of negotiation and collaboration. These five days serve as a platform for utilizing real-world knowledge to craft actionable and feasible policy proposals.

But LUMUN is so much more than just a forum for intellectual exchange; it is a community where lasting connections are forged! Now more than ever, as we diversify and internationalise the LUMUN community, we hope to facilitate bonds and create treasured moments for delegates to carry as souvenirs far beyond the conference days. Staffed by over 200 members, our team is dedicated to ensuring that delegates feel welcomed to the vibrant city of Lahore and enjoy a wide array of engaging social and recreational activities, outside their committee rooms.

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With a diverse range of committees – from General Assemblies to Specialized Agencies, Regional Bodies, and the Economic and Social Councils – there is something for everyone at LUMUN. Whether you are new to Model United Nations or a seasoned delegate, you will find a platform that perfectly aligns with your interests.

As we celebrate and expand our ongoing legacy of quality debate, we are committed to making this year's LUMUN more memorable than ever. The Staff and I are thrilled to welcome you to the 21st edition of LUMUN!

Warm Regards,

Laiba Abid

Secretary-General

LUMS Model United Nations XXI



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Under Secretary General



Eman Ali

Dear Delegates,

It is my immense pleasure to welcome you to the 21st Edition of LUMUN. I extend to you my warmest greetings and heartfelt gratitude for your dedication. At LUMUN we are dedicated to bring-fourth an environment that stimulates intellectual debate and encourages you to forge solutions that advance sustainable development, economic resilience, and social equity worldwide.

I will be serving as your Undersecretary for Ecosocs. A little about me, I am currently a Sophomore studying Computer Science at the Syed Babar Ali School of Science and Engineering. With what little time I have to myself, I love reading and sketching. I also binge watch movies and series when I am procrastinating (which is almost the full semester).

My journey of Muns started relatively later than my peers. I was always intimidated by public speaking and during my A levels I needed Extracurriculars for my applications hence, I decided to join my school's mun society. It was terrifying yet the most thrilling experience for me and since then Muns became a big part of my life. It was not easy to be surrounded by far more experienced delegates who have had multiple years of experience yet every Mun I attended taught me something new and I made the most memorable memories simultaneously.

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Being part of Lumun has given me the opportunity to expand my horizon and further polish my public speaking skills. My goal as your usg is to keep the Lumun spirit alive, provide an environment that not only is a safe space but it also challenges you intellectually so that you gain the most fruitful experience out of it. Best of luck and prepare well!

Warm regards,

Eman Ali

Under-Secretary-General | Economic and Social Council

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Committee Director



Shanzay Hashim

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) at the twenty-first iteration of the annual LUMUN Conference! My name is Shanzay Hashim, and I am in my second year at LUMS. It is both an honour and a privilege to Chair this year, and I am thrilled to witness the commitment, passion, and enthusiasm that each of you will bring to this committee. I am confident this experience will be fulfilling and transformative for all.

My interests lie at the intersection of human rights, law, and politics, and I am excited to facilitate solution-oriented discussions in this committee. I hope to see delegates approach topics with compassion and a focus on humanity, ensuring that state policies create meaningful, bottom-up solutions. I encourage you to do critical research, engage thoughtfully with your peers, and participate actively in debates. I view MUNs as unique opportunities for growth, where individuals can learn from listening to one another, and that is the spirit I hope to cultivate in our sessions.

A little about myself: I am an Economics major with a love for street food and traveling. Whether it's exploring hidden gems in a city or discussing international relations, I enjoy immersing myself in diverse experiences. I look forward to learning about your perspectives and engaging with you during this conference.

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The LUMUN Conference promises to be an electrifying and memorable experience, and the UNHRC will undoubtedly be a space of collaboration, learning, and impact. Our dais is here to support you every step of the way, and I am excited to see the ideas and solutions you will bring to the table.

See you soon in committee!

Best regards,
Shanzay Hashim
Chair – UNHRC



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Committee Director

SHAPING GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES
TOGETHER



Oliver Davis



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1. Mandate of UNHRC

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) was established in 2006, to replace the UN Commission on Human Rights and was designed to be effective, transparent, and accountable in its work. It is made up of 47 memberstates, which are elected by the General Assembly. Each member serves a three-year term, and there are no permanent members to ensure a more democratic structure.

The mandate of UNHRC is to promote and protect human rights around the world, and the key elements to it include:

1. *Universal Human Rights:*

UNHRC works to promote and protect the human rights laid out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and other international human rights instruments. The Council also investigates and addresses human rights violations in specific countries and regions through resolutions, reports, and special procedures.

2. *Universal Periodic Review (UPR)*

One of the central functions of UNHRC is to conduct the UPR, which is a process through which the human rights records of all UN member states are reviewed every four years. The aim of this is to hold states accountable for their human rights practices.

3. *Special Procedures:*

The UNHRC establishes independent human rights experts, known as Special Rapporteurs, to monitor and report on specific human rights issues or particular countries.

In light of these, the Council remains a key institution in the global human rights landscape, and its actions have brought attention to pressing issues around the world.

2. Introduction to the Topic

As of right now, over 50 million people are currently ensnared in slave labor worldwide. When thinking about slavery today, it is common to just refer to traditional forms of slavery. However, in more than one aspect, slavery today looks different from the slavery during the

Transatlantic slave trade. There are multiple definitions and aspects encompassed in the following statement:

modern slavery is when an individual is exploited by others for personal or commercial gain; this can be done through deception, coercion, or force, resulting in the loss of freedom. Modern slavery is a broad word that encompasses a number of legal notions, such as forced labor, human trafficking, debt bondage, child soldiers, and forced marriages, even if it is not legally defined.



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In the 21st century, the complexity of modern slavery is further compounded by factors such as globalization, poverty, and lack of access to survival needs, armed conflict, and migration. It thrives in areas of vulnerability, where individuals are trafficked across borders or coerced into labor under inhumane conditions, often with little recourse for escape. This is pushed further by the rise of digital technologies and organized crime.

The following diagram shows the global scale of modern slavery as of 2024,

The impact of it is global, with no immunity. It exists in every region and every country, and its manifestation depends on factors unique to each area, such as the size and distribution of vulnerable groups and government action to respond to said vulnerability.

The United Nations has long recognized the importance of combating modern slavery, reflected in its adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, specifically Goal 8.7, which states: Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labor, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labor in all its forms. Groups such as the International Labor Organization (ILO)

3 contribute tirelessly to this cause, but ultimately, it is in the hands of world governments to address risk factors and introduce effective responses to prevent modern slavery.

Individual freedom is a right that those in power should sacredly protect, and so states hold the foremost responsibility to uphold it, by way of law development and rigorous enforcement.

3. Relevant Legal Framework

1. *The Palermo Protocol:*

This protocol was established on 15th November 2000. It assists the United Nations Convention against transnational organized crime and calls for effective and serious action to combat human trafficking. It also sympathizes with victims, vouching for their rehabilitation.

- *Purpose of the Palermo Protocol:*

Its purpose is to fight and prevent trafficking in humans, especially in women and children. It calls for complete protection and help of victims and to ensure their rights with full respect and honor. It also advocates for all kinds of assistance to the victims, ranging from medical assistance to employment and educational opportunities. This protocol also suggests that such victims should not be blamed and be given rehabilitation in the best possible way.

Promoting state cooperation to



accomplish all of the aforementioned goals is another goal of this protocol. Additionally, it urges every state to implement stringent legal measures to protect victims and guarantee that those responsible for human trafficking are held accountable. This protocol also suggests that information exchange should be fluid among states to suppress trafficking. Moreover, borders should be strengthened to prevent the trafficking across borders.

- ***Forced Labour Convention:***

This convention was held on 10th June, 1930. It was convened at Geneva by the governing body of the International Labour office. During this convention, some proposals were put forward to put an end to forced labour and assist the victims in every possible way.

- ***Purpose of this Convention:***

The main purpose behind this convention was to protect the rights of people who are forced into labour against their will and to take strong measures to prevent the forced labour. This convention also aimed to ensure rehabilitative measures for the victims of forced labour. It also calls on states to take legislative measures and construct a strict legal framework regarding the perpetrators of forced labour and the victims of it. It also suggests that all countries should

3contribute tirelessly to this cause, but ultimately, it is in the hands of world governments to address risk factors and introduce effective responses to prevent modern slavery.

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Human trafficking is most often an organized criminal activity, who have extensive planning to execute the various stages of the crime. By way of this, with an estimated yearly revenue of \$32 billion, trafficking is the third most lucrative enterprise for organized crime. .

Human traffickers often create routes for transporting victims by seeking services of smugglers, who are falsely viewed as providing opportunities to relocate from underdeveloped to more prosperous regions. Difficult circumstances mean that these victims do not have legitimate travel documents, and so are provided with fraudulent passports and visas. Upon reaching the destination, these documents are seized, taking away any hope of escaping.

The foremost form of human trafficking is the international sex industry Sex slavery is thought to account for 58% of trafficking activities, and encompasses both men and women of all age groups, with child sex rings, forced prostitution, pornography, and other sex-related jobs like modelling and dancing forming a majority of services offered. Due to the alarming prevalence of HIV/AIDS, individuals who are employed in the sex business endure harsh and sometimes fatal conditions.

Other forms of trafficking include labor trafficking, which involves the exploitation of individuals for forced labor or other services under the threat of harm/other forms of coercion. The ILO and Walk Free Foundation estimate that 24.9 million people are trapped in forced labor, with 16 million working in the private industry . These people are subjected to social isolation, excessive working hours, withheld wages, and substandard living conditions.

The following table shows the global distribution of victims of labor trafficking, with domestic work being the most common venue .

Despite progress, the prevalence of this issue remains high, with lax laws and corrupt officials making it harder to eliminate these issues.

1. Forced Marriages

According to the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner, when either or both parties have not personally provided their full and free agreement to the relationship, it is considered a forced marriage. Also known as servile ceremonies, they can also happen when a widow is left with little choice but to be inherited the one of her husband's male relatives, or when a wife is forcibly transferred to another man in return for payment.



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As of 2016, there were an estimated 15.4 million people in forced marriages, 88% of the victims being female, and a further 44% were under the age of 15. These marriages, which are frequently the result of the planning of parents and additional relatives, make people more susceptible to abuses, including statutory rape, marital rape, sexual orientation suppression, postponed schooling, and, in the most severe instances, femicide. Strategies used to entrap, coerce, or obtain the "consent" of minor or adult children include physical threats or acts of harm, confinement at home, threats to wed off a younger sister, exile from the parental home, and abandonment in the parents' home country, cutting off monetary assistance, fostering guilt by claiming a parent will commit suicide or die, using lies to confuse true intentions, and at times even drugging a child to get her on an airplane.

Forced marriages are prevalent across the globe, particularly in parts of Asia, the Middle East and Africa. Addressing this issue requires a coordinated effort at national and international levels, with a focus on legal reforms, education, and support systems for victims.

5. Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is considered to be one of the most novel forms of slavery present in the world. It is defined as the

illegal act of transporting or coercing individuals in order to benefit from their work or utility. It is an offense where workers are compelled to work nonconsensually in a place or condition where the circumstances around the victims are of such a nature that opting out of this stream of work may result in harm or damage.

1. Novel Methods of Human Trafficking:

In a departure from more classical/historical considerations of human trafficking, restricted to forced labor within factories and sexual exploitation of women partaking in prostitution, there has been a rise in human trafficking in the digital world, where modern techniques/platforms are used to manipulate/control vulnerable individuals.

For example, during the late 1990s/early 2000s, a members-only hub by the name of Southwest Companions allowed sex buyers to connect with women in prostitution whilst evading law enforcement. With around 1400 members, comprising people from various backgrounds, such as a former university president from the Albuquerque/Santa Fe region in the U.S.A, this online scheme flourished, with additional evaluations of women's performances in prostitution, including



pricing and rankings, which further commodified the women involved. Such novel techniques constantly lead to the scope of human trafficking widening.

1. *Economic and Political Drivers:*

A wide variety of factors stimulate human trafficking. Most notable, though, is the systemic economic disenfranchisement of women and the underprivileged, which leads them down shaky paths for employment. In such cases, human rights are unquestionably violated, not just by the action that led to them ending up in circumstances where human trafficking is involved, but also by the cause, as it was, at least partially, the state's failure to provide these individuals with better, safer, routes of employments and empowerment.

It is also important to note that, in many cases, the state itself and its figurehead are complicit in human trafficking by enabling exploitative power structures to persist in the status quo. The Grant Family Farms case in Colorado, U.S., is a famous example. A family-run farm was involved in a scheme that exploited migrant workers by smuggling them, imposing debts for transportation, and then subjecting them to poor living conditions and threats of deportation. Upon discovery, the victims filed a lawsuit against Grant Family Farms, claiming violations of labor standards and human trafficking under the

Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2003, which allowed human trafficking victims to sue for damages and opt for legal recourse, yet, despite this act,

seeking justice remained unfeasible as proving a corporation's direct involvement wasn't possible. This led to the victims, inevitably, not being able to charge Grant Family Farms with trafficking due to the need for proof of an agency relationship. Such instances demonstrate the state's inability to provide citizens justice by creating laws that aren't steadfast in nature.

Additionally, such instances also underscore how minimal effort is required to circumvent corporate accountability. Large corporations often have access to highly skilled law firms that exploit legal loopholes to avoid liability. In addition, many of these companies employ numerous layers of bureaucracy to obscure the identification of liability within their hierarchical structures, often leaving those at the bottom of the chain in the most vulnerable positions.

Failure of Post-Colonial States - Cambodia:

Although illegal exploitation keeps on advancing through new mediums and is often driven by the capitalist needs of predatory enterprises around the world, its most extreme effects are seen in post



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colonial nations with restricted government mediation. In such cases, the state's inability to act turns out to be glaringly apparent. One of the biggest business sectors for illegal exploitation exists in Cambodia. While numerous factors have contributed to this issue, the primary driver has been a progression of neoliberal strategies/policies enforced by the IMF and World Bank. These strategies, combined with the undermining of local institutions and local governance by foreign powers, had a critical impact in molding Cambodia's shift towards financial and political destruction. The strength of Western powers and the ascent of globalization have eroded social safety nets and exacerbated disparity, prompting mass relocation to Thailand. This migration has, thus, exposed individuals to exploitation and trafficking. In response, Cambodia's efforts to combat human trafficking have primarily focused on sex workers, often failing to distinguish actual trafficking victims from those engaged in consensual sex work. This has not only escalated the stigma surrounding sex work but has also overlooked the sole issue of labor trafficking and its inherent connection to migration in this case.

This unique instance highlights the number of developing/third-world nations struggling with illegal exploitation that are still ensnared by neo-colonial structures. In their efforts to achieve national stability and find their cultural footing, these countries are forced to oblige to Western-ruled establishments.

Global Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking - Gulf Cooperation Council:

Human trafficking has, undeniably, turned into a major problem in the Gulf region, where associations like the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have been established explicitly to resolve this issue. The GCC has taken measures, such as organizing conventions and launching reform initiatives like the 2011 Domestic Workers Convention, to deal with the widespread Kafala framework in the informal labor market. Under this framework, laborers are, in many cases, bound to a single employer, creating conditions for sexual and labor exploitation more readily. While these initiatives haven't been quite successful, they remain essential in tackling the ongoing difficulties and challenges of human trafficking in the area.



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6. Forced Marriages

A forced marriage, in the simplest of terms, is a union conducted without the consent of both participating parties.

1. *Patriarchal Drivers of Forced Marriages:*

One of the most prominent drivers of forced marriages is the persistence of patriarchal power structures that have dominated societal norms and traditions. Especially in rural areas of developing nations, families, influenced by backward traditions, frequently offer their female counterparts for marriages with eligible bachelors. In certain cultures, early marriages are traditionally preferred, provoking parents and the elderly to hurriedly set up pairings for their daughters..

In other cases, daughters are perceived as financial burdens, as patriarchal norms frequently discourage women from seeking employment. This practice allows families to offload what they see as a financial liability whilst at the same time allowing their daughter to fulfill her destiny as a child-bearer.

An often overlooked aspect of forced marriages is the cognizance and false consciousness under which numerous victims operate in their day-to-day routines. Women who've blatantly had their independence stripped away from them frequently experience limited freedoms in their everyday lives, yet may

not perceive their conditions as unfair, never being able to identify the injustices they've been subjected to. Instead, they internalize the flawed societal norms, finding a misguided purpose in feeling as if they've fulfilled the duty bestowed upon them from birth, of serving their male counterpart and bearing children. This internalization further perpetuates the tradition of forced marriages, creating a chain-reaction-like cycle that becomes increasingly difficult to opt out of.

Another understudied dimension of forced marriages is the experiences of men. In the East Midlands, United Kingdom, several cases of honor-based violence and abuse targeting men have been reported, revealing the mental anguish and coercion they endure—an issue often overlooked by mainstream media. In regions like Bihar, India, there has been a troubling rise in "groom abductions," where men, under threat or at gunpoint, are forcibly taken and forced to marry by the bride's family.

These occurrences highlight an upsetting change in customary marriage practices, where coercion replaces consent, raising significant moral concerns about independence and individual liberties.



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1. *Immorality of Forced Marriages:*

Each individual, upon birth, is deontologically and legally entitled to the right of self-determination. Forced marriages explicitly violate this essential fundamental right, in some cases through unmistakable negligence for individual decisions and, in other cases, through relatively insidious means. In such situations, people might remain ignorant about the infringement or, even more alarmingly, become apathetic to regaining their right to personal autonomy.

1. *Social Efforts to Combat Forced Marriages: Stichting Platform Islamitische Organisaties Rijnmond (SPIOR):*

Various internal associations and social activism movements have led efforts to resolve the prevalent issue of forced marriages. In Europe, initiatives, such as those led by the Dutch organization-Stichting Platform Islamitische Organisaties Rijnmond (SPIOR) have stressed the significance of offsetting social customs with the security and assurance of individual liberties. Such movements consistently accentuate that sustainable progress requires an extensive approach, consisting of consolidated policy and legislative reforms, to handle the most prominent drivers of forced marriages.

1. *Legislative Efforts to Combat Forced Marriages: U.S.A and United Kingdom:*

In the US, an increasing awareness of forced marriages has stimulated a series of regulative activities in a legislative manner. Many states are attempting to raise the minimum age of marriage to shield minors from coercion, while others have implemented legal oversight to guarantee legitimate consent in marriages including minors. Meanwhile, the United Kingdom, understanding the role of legislation in safeguarding vulnerable individuals, enacted the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act in 2007, providing legal routes of protection for vulnerable victims.

In any case, truly eradicating forced marriages requires more than just legal action being taken. It requests, firstly, a general cultural shift that addresses the entrenched social standards that perpetuate the practice of forced marriages (as higher awareness of the harms of forced marriages may eventually lead to a shift in fundamental mindsets employed by the general public), alongside, secondly, robust legislative measures, offering immediate protection and justice to those who need it the most. In the absence of a balance between these two approaches, societal transformation and systemic change will never be truly achieved.



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7. Forced Labour and Supply Chain Slavery

Work done against one's will under threat of consequences is referred to as forced labour. It affects millions globally, with significant overlap in supply chains of industries such as agriculture, textiles, and electronics. This issue arises from economic exploitation and systemic failures, as corporations often outsource labour to regions with weak regulatory frameworks. Numerous forms of exploitation are practiced, including forced enrolment into armed conflicts, debt bondage, and human trafficking. According to the ILO's 2021 Global Estimates of Modern Slavery, approximately 27.6 million people are in forced labour globally

Some of the factors that are the main causes of supply chain slavery are economic factors (the drive for reduced production costs leads to exploitative practices in low-income countries), lack of accountability (Global supply chains are complex, making it difficult to trace forced labour. Companies often claim ignorance, attributing exploitation to subcontractors), legal loopholes (Insufficient national and international laws allow businesses to evade accountability), and helplessness of migrant workers (migrants often face debt bondage in host countries due to recruitment fees or confiscated passports, notably in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states).

1. Historical Context:

Forced labour has long been a tool of oppression, from colonial systems to industrial exploitation in the early 20th century. Despite international treaties like the ILO Forced Labour Convention (C029, 1930), modern slavery persists, with globalization intensifying hidden exploitation in supply chains.

2. Textile Industry in Bangladesh:

Workers face hazardous conditions and receive meager wages under forced labour circumstances. Some workers are forced into labor through debt bondage. The perilous working conditions faced by many garment workers were brought to light by the fall of the Rana Plaza building in 2013, which took the lives of over 1,100 workers. Bangladesh's labor laws are often poorly enforced, and regulatory bodies lack the resources to conduct regular inspections, especially when international fast fashion brands are concerned. This creates an environment where forced labor can thrive, particularly in subcontracted factories.

The Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh was a binding contract that trade unions and international brands signed in 2013 to raise factory safety standards.



3. Cobalt Mining in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC):

Many workers, including children, labour in unsafe mines supplying raw materials for electronics and electric vehicles. This exploitative system thrives due to weak regulatory oversight and economic desperation, trapping vulnerable populations in cycles of forced labor.

4. Agriculture in India and Brazil:

Agricultural workers can face conditions akin to slavery due to debt bondage and lack of legal protections.

5. Qatar's Construction Industry:

Migrant workers preparing for the 2022 FIFA World Cup worked under exploitative conditions, drawing international criticism. Domestic laws may be present but are weakly enforced, allowing systemic abuses. Therefore, all countries need to educate their civilians, especially those who work in the labour sector. For example, the California Transparency in Supply Chains Act aims to educate consumers and combat exploitation. Education and financial support for vulnerable populations reduce dependency on exploitative jobs. Governments should mandate audits of supply chains to identify forced labour. They should implement stricter regulations requiring companies to disclose their supply chain practices. Regulations like the UK Modern Slavery Act encourage transparency, though enforcement remains a challenge.

Many consumers prioritize price over ethical sourcing, inadvertently perpetuating forced labour. Educating consumers to support ethical brands can pressure companies to improve practices. Establishing global frameworks to unify standards for labour rights enforcement. Companies face difficulty ensuring ethical practices beyond first-tier suppliers. Hence, businesses must adopt ethical sourcing policies and conduct regular audits of their supply chains.

Blockchain can be used to trace products back to their origin, ensuring ethical practices.

The largest corporate sustainability initiative in the world, the UN Global Compact, encourages corporations to implement socially and sustainably conscious practices. Of relevance to labor rights are Principles 3, 4, 5, and 6, which focus on the elimination of forced labor, child labor, and discrimination in employment.

8. Intersection of Trafficking and Forced Marriages

Intersection of trafficking and forced marriages mean how some people are manipulated into marriages which, then in turn, become a constant and continuous turmoil for them. They are then exploited for labor and sexual purposes.



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Different people across different regions of the world are lured into marriages by different lucrative and glamorous means such as a job with a handsome pay, a luxurious life, a loving and caring life-partner etc. In most cases, girls or women are the victims of such kind of trafficking and they are thus forced into traumatic marriages. This also includes children who are manipulated and trafficked for labor or sex and then be subjected into forced marriages and can also go the other way around. The trafficking happens both, at local and international level. Many powerful people and mafias are involved in this heinous crime.

1. Gender-based Analysis

Even though all genders fall prey to forced marriages, the female gender is the most likely one and leads when it comes to numbers. On any given day in 2021, roughly 22 million people were living in forced marriages. Between 2016 and 2021, the number of persons living in forced marriage increased by 6.6 million, resulting in a jump in occurrence from 2.1 to 2.8 per thousand. 71 percent of the trafficked people worldwide are women and girls and 90 percent of them are trafficked for sexual reasons.

2. Consequences of the Intersection of Trafficking and Forced Marriages

The trauma of the victims is so large that it leaves long-lasting effects on them. Victims

of trafficking and forced marriages are mostly found dealing with many health problems such as PTSD, anxiety and depression. Moreover, they are diagnosed with serious diseases like AIDS, Hepatitis etc.

3. Legal Framework to Counter the Issue:

The issue is counter legally on both national and international level. On an international level, the United Nations have been taking firm steps to combat the issue.

Slavery Practices

1. Economic Exploitation

As with most illegal trades, the main motivating factor behind human trafficking is profit. The industry is characterized by low risks and low costs, with extremely high profit margins. According to the International Labour Organization, human trafficking and forced labor generate about USD 236 million globally each year. Legal consequences for human trafficking remain minimal, which results in the benefits frequently outweighing the costs. The practice itself is heavily dependent on the systemic exploitation of vulnerable communities. According to Koettl victims may allow themselves to be exploited due to the lack of other viable alternatives.



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In such cases, victims are not directly coerced through violence or deception, but instead become trapped in financial dependence on their exploiters due to economic vulnerability.

A similar situation arises with forced marriages, where financial struggles often play a key role. Families living in extreme poverty may feel compelled to arrange such marriages as a way to ease financial burdens, believing it will reduce the number of dependents they need to provide for by shifting that responsibility to the spouse. Watson claims that forced marriages allow families to avoid long-term expenses related to education, healthcare, or prolonged caregiving.

2. Sociocultural Factors

Gender inequality is a critical sociocultural factor driving both human trafficking and forced marriages. Deeply entrenched patriarchal norms and systemic discrimination create environments where women are disproportionately exploited. Lack of inclusion in the formal economy due to patriarchal notions limits the avenues available to women through which they can earn and become financially independent, leaving them more vulnerable to being coerced into exploitative labor agreements, especially in the informal sector. In the context of forced marriages, financial dependence on the parents or spouse creates an unequal power relationship through which the woman is

further subjugated.

Belonging to a marginalized population further increases the likelihood of being coerced into exploitative labor conditions. Minority communities typically face systemic discrimination at the hands of the law enforcement system and are isolated from mainstream protections. In many cases of transnational human trafficking, victims are offered the chance to migrate to better areas or legitimize their migration status through exploitative marriages or labor agreements.

1. Political and Legal Gaps

Human trafficking and forced marriages both thrive in areas with weak laws regarding exploitative practices and minimal enforcement of existing laws. According to the 2015 Trafficking in Persons Report, there were about 4500 convictions for human trafficking globally in 2014, an alarmingly low number for an industry which affected around 21 million victims at the time. Inadequate or ambiguously worded legislation, weak law enforcement, and lack of political will to properly address the issue create legal and political loopholes, which can then be exploited by traffickers. Certain citizenship policies may also inadvertently lead to exploitative labor relations. The Kafala system, used in some Gulf countries including Saudi Arabia and Lebanon ties



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ties workers' legal status to their employer, leaving migrant domestic workers vulnerable to abuse, exploitation, and forced marriage. This system is often exploited by employers who have unchecked control over workers' movement and freedom, making it difficult for victims to escape without legal or financial consequences.

10. Implications of Modern Slavery

1. *Psychological Effects*

Because of their dreadful experiences, human trafficking victims frequently endure anxiety, sadness, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Victims may also experience social isolation, especially in cases of forced marriage, if they manage to escape due to social stigmatization by their families and communities. In other cases, they may self-isolate to cope with feelings of guilt or shame.

2. *Socioeconomic Consequences*

Modern slavery places a substantial amount of strain on governments and non-governmental organizations to allocate resources for victim rehabilitation, medical care, and reintegration programs. For example, survivors of human trafficking require medical care and psychological counselling at the very least, which strains local social services.

Trafficking and labor exploitation also undermines legal labor markets by undercutting fair wages and legal

employment practices. It effectively ensures that all businesses are not operating on a level playing field, and makes abiding by worker-centric laws a non-rational economic choice when the alternative can provide labor at a fraction of the cost.

3. *Gendered Impacts*

Women make up almost two-thirds of the people currently living in modern slavery. This gendered exploitation creates a cycle of inequality, in which women are unable to access education or employment, without which they are unable to develop skills or earn a liveable wage. This further pushes them into financial dependency on their exploiters, making it difficult for them to leave. Women who do manage to escape typically face challenges in re-integrating in society due to their lack of educational or professional experience.

11. International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law

International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law provides a framework for protecting individuals during peace and conflict, prohibiting practices like forced labor, human trafficking, and exploitation. These laws aim to safeguard dignity and hold perpetrators accountable.

The psychological effects on victims can be profound, leading to long-term



trauma and mental health issues. Socioeconomic consequences include loss of income potential and social stigma. Gendered impacts are also significant; women often face additional layers of discrimination that exacerbate their vulnerability.

1. *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR):*

Article 4 (states that "no one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.") and 23 unequivocally outlaw slavery and guarantee equitable labour conditions. Article 5 condemns human trafficking and treating individuals as commodities since it violates personal freedom and dignity. Article 16 [along with CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women)] emphasizes the right to free consent in marriage.

2. *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR):*

Article 8 prohibits slavery and forced labour.

3. *Geneva Conventions:*

Protect against slavery-like practices during armed conflicts. It addresses forced labour during wartime as a war crime.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, particularly Articles 32 (economic exploitation) and 34 (protection from sexual exploitation) give protection against child labour.

1. *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC):*

Works on implementing the Palermo Protocol globally to combat trafficking. These procedures are designed to stop, end, and punish human trafficking, particularly that which involves women and children.

1. *International Labour Organization (ILO):*

Focuses on enforcing labour rights and eradicating modern slavery.

1. *UN Human Rights Office:*

Tracks human rights abuses and advocates for policy change. Despite various organizations, laws and frameworks existing, human rights are continuously being ignored primarily in the case of modern slavery.

In Conflict Zones (Iraq, Syria) extremist groups like ISIS use forced labour and human trafficking as tools of war.

In the Myanmar Rohingya crisis, forced displacement has left the Rohingya minority highly vulnerable to exploitation, including forced labor in refugee camps and transit areas. Many are involved in extensive work practices, such as construction and agriculture, often under threat of violence.

Widespread breaches of international humanitarian law, such as the forced marriage of kidnapped women and children and the recruitment of child soldiers, have resulted from the Boko



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Haram crisis in Nigeria. These actions violate international treaties on women's and children's rights as well as the Geneva Conventions, making them offences against humanity and war crimes. The crisis calls for the urgent need for strengthened legal enforcement and humanitarian protection in conflict zones.

The post-COVID-19 era increased unemployment and economic disparity led to a rise in exploitative practices globally especially in the US.

Many victims do not know their rights or how to seek help due to language barriers or fear of authorities therefore victim support systems like providing rehabilitation and legal aid to survivors of modern slavery is eminent.

In many countries, law enforcement may be complicit in human trafficking or may lack resources to effectively combat these crimes due to corruption whereas in some regions, governments may prioritize economic interests over human rights concerns due to political interests.

Failure to prosecute perpetrators weakens international law's credibility. So, establishing independent bodies to oversee compliance with international laws.

12. International Organizations Working on Modern Slavery

Looking at the exploitation that many marginalized groups face because of the prevalent forms of Modern Slavery globally,

Several international organizations and NGOs are working to combat and address the issue. Some of these organizations and the spheres in which they work are as follows.

1. *United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime UNODC*

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, also known as UNODC was established in 1992 by the UN Economic and Social Council in order to take collective action against all forms of national and transnational crimes. With its headquarters in Vienna, the UNODC actively looks into matters involving crime, terrorism and drug trafficking that involves human trafficking and adds to the global figures of modern-day slavery. Where acts of terrorism and global security are under the scrutiny of the United Nations Security Council, the UNODC assesses acts of terror that are primarily conducted as means to either abduct people or keep them as hostages, and then use them to conduct drug and organ trade, forced marriages, sex trafficking, in essence making them modern day slaves. Some of the initiatives taken by the UNODC in this regard are as follows,



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1. *The 2000 Palermo Protocol*

The 2000 Palermo Protocol program was initiated by the UN convention against Transnational Organized crime. The protocol's main idea was to look for traffickers both regionally and internationally, to put them before the law and to save and protect the victims, primarily children and women.

1. *The 2016 United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons*

This Action plan was initiated in order to bring to surface the people behind the structured trade of human trafficking and the organized crime primarily the drug trade conducted through young boys and girls from the marginalized regions of global south mainly.

1. International Labor Organization

The International Labor Organization or ILO was established under the Treaty of Versailles with the initial function of improving the labor conditions. However, the 1944 Philadelphia Conference expanded its area of interest and included social security and economic security with freedom, reverence and opportunities. There are concerns regarding the ILO reaching out of its sphere might be made, however the all-rounded exploitation of young laborers after World War II made it expand itself to providing both economic and social security.

The ILO is not merely an observer of the injustices globally, rather it is an active participant in promoting equality to everyone alike, without factors that degrade the lives of the underprivileged people.

5. *The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights*

In spite of the above-mentioned organizations working to bring an end to the different forms of modern slavery practices are still pervasive worldwide. The United Nations has therefore pledged to look at this issue from the lens of human rights violation and act strictly against it institutionally. The victims indeed need to be free from these shackles, but because of lack of awareness, it is hardly done so. The OHCHR plans to address different forms of slavery individually with all required focus with a Special Rapporteur on Slavery which looks into issues such as "traditional slavery, debt bondage, serfdom, forced labor, children in slavery and slavery-like conditions, sexual slavery, forced and early marriages and servile forms of marriage". The Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons deals with areas where people have been directly trafficked and their fundamental rights have been violated. The OHCHR presents annual reports on different forms of slavery worldwide and provides mechanisms to help limit the crises.



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13. Strategies to address Modern Slavery

Several different strategies can be endorsed to address the grave menace of Modern Slavery that has been around for decades now. Some of them are as follows.

Survivor centered rehabilitation program

The related authorities by bringing in survivors, who have been out of the traumas of their experience with trafficking, drug abuse, child marriage and other forms of slavery, to help in addressing the issue by giving insight with their personal experiences can be of mighty help in the rehabilitation of other victims of Modern Slavery. The following reasons are important to consider when we think of survivors helping for rehabilitation.

Psychological trauma

Since the victims of trafficking or any other forms of modern slavery as they go through a lot of physical and mental torture, but the survivors come out of such traumas, however the victims in the rehabilitation centers still have suicidal tendencies, extreme anxiety and even paranoia. It is people who have been through all this and recovered, that can prove to be of immense assistance while the process of rehabilitation takes place.

Cultural stigma and resistance to therapy

Many societies consider asking for help as a taboo, which deteriorates the mental well being of survivors even after

they no long face adversities regarding the issue. It is mostly evident in the global south, and unfortunately, the exact region has the highest rates of exploitation of humans. It is therefore implored that people who have already asked for help can bring in awareness among victims so that the aftermath of the trauma that they have faced mitigates rather smoothly.

2. Multilateral and Regional Cooperation

It is pivotal to acknowledge that modern day slavery has never been an issue of a particular region, rather it is a global menace. Keeping this in mind, it is inevitable that the international institutions form laws that address victims globally. The United Nations General Assembly has endorsed 2nd December as the day against slavery, which portrays that countries across the world identify this as an important and highly destructive issue. The Sustainable Developmental Goal SDG 8 is decent work and economic growth, which manifests that everyone has a right to work with dignity, without and forced and over burdened labor, with the provision of fair wages and social security. Also at regional level, organizations like European Union EU, African Union, Association of Southeast Asian Nations ASEAN, must implement their already taken initiatives to ensure that their regions are free from any sorts



of modern slavery.

3. Strengthening legislation and its enforcement

The best and most a government can do is the formulation of strict laws and implementing them effectively. Government is the most important institution of the state and it has all required power to put hands on the mafia involved in human and drug trafficking primarily. Many countries have their specific laws already formed and in practice, for example "European Union Directive on Human Trafficking (2011), Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) – United States (2000), Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Labor Reforms, Australian Modern Slavery Act (2018)" and countless others follow up, however the fact that there still are ample numbers of human and drug trafficking, child labor and forced marriages, and multiple other human right abuses being reported, shows that the governments require more seriousness regarding this grave and consequential issue.

14. Stakeholder Analysis and Bloc Positions

1. Stakeholder Analysis

Modern slavery affects a number of people and organizations, with each one playing a critical role in either addressing or perpetuating the problem. Victims and survivors exist at the center of this framework, seeking justice, legal and

structural protection, and support while dealing with social stigmatization, trauma, and financial dependency on their exploiters. Governments can play a dual role as they have the ability to enact and enforce laws to combat trafficking and forced marriages. However, they also have to reckon with resource constraints, corruption, or cultural resistance. Non-governmental organizations form another stakeholder, as they provide essential support in terms of legal protection and rehabilitation of victims, but they are also limited by lack of funding and political pushback. They can also be supported by international organizations which can drive global cooperation, capacity-building, and monitoring through frameworks like the Palermo Protocol and SDG targets.

On the other side, traffickers, private industries linked to exploitative labor practices, and cultural institutions perpetuate modern slavery by exploiting systemic socioeconomic vulnerabilities. Addressing modern slavery requires coordinated efforts among these stakeholders to dismantle exploitative systems, strengthen legal protections, and empower victims.



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1. *Bloc Positions*

Developed nations in the Global North (such as the United States, Canada, major European Union countries) are able to emphasize anti-trafficking legislation, victim protection, and prosecution of traffickers while also advocating for international cooperation. However, their focus on border security can sometimes criminalize trafficking victims, especially undocumented migrants. On the other hand, developing nations in the Global South such as India, Pakistan, Ethiopia, and Bangladesh highlight the need to address poverty and lack of education as root causes of human trafficking and forced marriages. They must also manage harmful cultural institutions which enable these practices. Gulf countries may make up another bloc based on their common economic reliance on migrant labor, and use of immigration systems like the Kafala system which has been criticized for increasing the vulnerability of migrant workers to exploitative labor practices.

Least developed countries (LDCs) such as Afghanistan and Somalia may make up another bloc, based on a common struggle with high rates of trafficking and forced marriages due to poverty, conflict, and weak governance, as well as their common reliance on international aid to combat these issues. These are simply ideas based on an assessment of the topic itself and possible narratives coming about, they are

not meant to be constraining at all. Delegates are free to and encouraged to digress and bring their own strategies to committee.

15. Questions a Resolution Must Answer

1. In what ways can the safety of vulnerable groups be ensured, both at private and state levels?
2. How can international law be improved and enforced to combat and prevent modern slavery?
3. What support systems need to be in place to ensure the well-being of victims of trafficking and forced marriages, as well as providing them with adequate support?
4. What long-term solutions can be pursued to address the root causes of trafficking, thus reducing the numbers of victims?
5. What role have local and UN-backed rehabilitation schemes played in providing assistance to victims?
6. What mechanisms can be put in place to monitor the levels of organized crime in this context?
7. What strategies can be employed to counter negative narratives and misconceptions about victims of slavery, especially those in the sex industry?



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