



UNICEF

Topic:

Combatting human trafficking: Coordinating humanitarian response and protection mechanisms for displaced persons and the illicit trade of persons.

Chair:

Saúl Santiago Sandoval Andersson

Co- chairs:

Alejandro González Hernández

Mariana Isabel Rosales Jilote



Committee background:

The committee enhances the role of educational organizations in supporting children's protection, social, and emotional development.

The committee was created by the general assembly in 1946, New York, USA, in response to the increasing concerns about the well-being of children within educational settings. Recognizing that schools play a significant role in shaping children's development, our committee brings together educators, child psychologists, social workers, policymakers, and community leaders.

The principal goals of the committee surround the development of comprehensive policies for children's safety and emotional well-being, providing training for educators on recognizing and addressing abuse and distress, ensuring access to necessary resources, fostering collaboration between schools, families, and communities, and conducting research to identify best practices.

Prioritizing holistic development in children and creating a safe learning space, our committee helps prevent negative results, supporting academic and personal growth, and empowering educational organizations to nourish every child.

Background information on the topic

The issue of people, particularly children, being separated from their families due to conflict, poverty, or climate change has a significant impact on the mental health of minors around the world. Strict immigration policies, border controls, and lengthy legal processes often lead to the separation of families across international borders. Parents may be detained or deported, leaving their children exposed to abuse, exploitation, and long-term psychological harm. Over 200,000 victims were officially detected between 2020 and 2023, but the real number is expected to be higher, with unreported crimes.

Although there are some conditions barely acceptable, they may be forced into child labor, early marriage, subjected to human trafficking, and put at risk of violence. While they are in refugee camps, they don't have access to educational opportunities, proper medical care, or resources for their well-being.

Psychologically, children face stress, anxiety, trust issues, traumas, depression, identity crises, and other emotional imbalances. Being away from their environment



and family during their essential stage of development has a direct influence on their behavior in society and interpersonal relationships throughout their life.

After long-term separations, the minors struggle to reintegrate and trust their families. The lack of international cooperation to protect the children and the slow process of locating their relatives are enhancing psychological damage to children.

Actions UNICEF has taken

UNICEF launched the Action Program for Children in Transit, which aims to protect children in transit from harm and keep families together by increasing migration security and calling on governments, communities, and the private sector to take action to ensure that children in transit have access to education, health, mental health, and social and child protection services that contribute to improving their safety and well-being.

In 2021, UNICEF launched the Humanitarian Action for Children in 2021, which established frameworks and humanitarian actions to be taken in the displacement of children in crises.

In 2010, the UN General Assembly adopted the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, asking countries to integrate anti-trafficking work into broader strategies.

Major Nations:

USA – Focuses heavily on combating forced labor and sexual trafficking.

Russia – Often minimizes the scale of trafficking or prioritizes security over victim rights.

Mexico – Fights internal trafficking and the vulnerability of migrants transiting north.

Turkey – Advocates for international support for refugees and faces challenges in providing labor protection.

Libya has no stable central authority.

Nigeria – Focuses on combating the trafficking mafia.

Afghanistan – Need for urgent aid and concern over child trafficking and forced marriages due to economic collapse.

Syria – Need for massive humanitarian assistance for the displaced population

Ukraine – Needs urgent protection of the civilian population, particularly women and children.

Venezuela – The government's stance often rejects claims of a humanitarian crisis.

Iraq – Focuses on the safe return of Internally Displaced Persons.



Democratic Republic of the Congo – Stance centers on endemic instability that exposes its population to trafficking.

Sudan – The recent crisis has created a lawless environment, enabling human trafficking.

India – Stance focuses on **internal trafficking**.

China – Prioritizes **internal control** and **labor stability**.

Indonesia – Focuses on the **protection of its migrant workers** abroad

Poland – Current focus is the massive humanitarian response.

Italy – Prioritizes the identification and care of unaccompanied minors.

Greece – Focuses on border management and rapid migrant identification.

Cambodia has a growing concern over forced labor in cyber fraud compounds.

Germany – Emphasizes humanitarian response and refugee protection.

UK – Prioritizes victim identification within its borders.

Canada – Focuses on child protection and traffic for sexual exploitation.

Brazil – Prioritizes fighting forced labor and debt bondage within its internal borders.

South Africa – Focuses on managing regional migration flows and fighting internal trafficking and labor exploitation.

Key terms:

- **Refugee:** A person outside their country of nationality, unable to return due to conflicts or persecutions, has international protection.
- **Mental Health:** Refers to a person's emotional, psychological, and social well-being.
- **Trauma:** Any disturbing experience that results in significant fear or stress.
- **Separation:** Forced division of families due to different causes.
- **Trade of persons:** Crime against a person that implicates exploitation and transit without the person's consent.

Guiding questions:

- What strategies can be applied in the refugee camps to detect the indicators of human trafficking?
- How can AI and Big Data Analysis identify vulnerable hotspots and ensure the collection of evidence against traffickers?



- What international regulatory frameworks can be established to make major social media cooperate in the detection and reporting of exploitative content or the recruitment of victims?
- How can host countries and international agencies ensure that mental health services for trafficking victims are adapted to the specific needs of vulnerable groups, trying to reduce the risk of re-victimization?
- What specific policies must be adopted to prevent and combat online human trafficking and crimes often linked to the situations of extreme vulnerability and desperation of displaced persons?

What can be considered the most significant underlying structural cause driving human trafficking globally (Poverty, conflict, etc.), and how should it be prioritized?

References:

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