

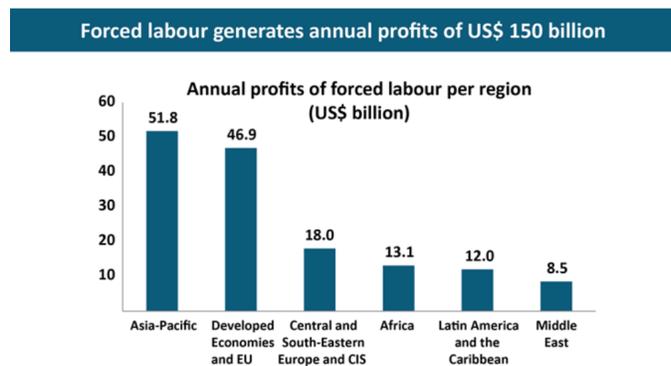
Special Conference on Slavery & Human Trafficking

Chairs: Paula Araque & Isabella Garzón

COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

The Special Conference on Slavery & Human Trafficking, abbreviated SCSHT, is a body that works under the Organization of Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) as an international anti-trafficking organization.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) defines human trafficking as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons—by force, coercion, fraud or some other form of deception—for the purpose of exploitation”. This includes modern-day slavery, forced labor, forced prostitution, and debt bondage, all classified as human rights violations. In 2021, the International Labor Organization (ILO) projected statistics on “profit estimates of forced labor” as depicted on the chart below (ILO, 2022):



Moreover, the Global Slavery Index in 2018 showed that “there are 40.3 million individuals in modern slavery, with 71% of them being women. Forced labor affects 24.9 million people and forced marriage affects 15.4 million people out of a total population of 40.3 million” (Alikhodjaev and Tafarrus).

In order to address and combat these problematics most efficiently, the SCSHT works in accordance with the principles proposed by the OHCHR that address the core areas of (a) the primacy of human rights; (b) preventing trafficking; (c) protection and assistance, and (d) criminalization, punishment and redress (OHCHR, 2022). “Co-hosted by the Ethical Trading Initiative, the UK government and the OSCE, in partnership with the Australian, Canadian, New Zealand, and USA governments” (OSCE, 2019), the SCSHT holds [annual international forums](#) focused around anti-trafficking initiatives on an international scale. The results of these conferences are reported annually to the Permanent Council over the progress achieved over the previous year (reports linked as suggested resources). Based on the [Palermo Protocol](#), all SCSHT duties strive to accomplish objectives determined within the principles of the UK government’s

[“Call to Action on Modern Slavery”](#), which by 2019 had 85 signatory states. The agreement states that governments should:

- take steps to prevent and address human trafficking in government procurement practices,
- encourage the private sector to prevent and address human trafficking in its supply chains,
- advance responsible recruitment policies and practices,
- strive for harmonization

(“A call to action to end forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking”).

Treaties and other instruments particularly relevant to trafficking (more included within each topic’s overview)

- Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, 2000
- United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, 1990
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966
- Council of Europe, Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, 2005 (European Trafficking Convention)
- Charter of Fundamental Rights in the European Union, 2000, article 5, and Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and Council on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, 2011
- South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, 2002

(OHCHR, 2014)

General recommendations for the conference: As noted in the 2019 conference report, it is fundamental for participating delegations to accurately learn to recognize high-risk sectors, as well as the relevance of policy commitment and legislation on due diligence in their corresponding nations. It is recommended that delegations are informed on goals to be achieved

by the end of this session according to this conference's agenda, and take into consideration global treaties such as the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, Palermo Protocol, and others, listed in the suggested resources and under each topic.

AGENDA

I. Measures to reduce transnational human trafficking

Overview:

“Human trafficking is modern-day slavery”. Human trafficking is considered to be the world's fastest growing criminal enterprise and is estimated \$150 billion-a-year global industry. Human trafficking, in the transnational sense, is the process in which people are recruited or taken from their country of origin and transported to a destination in a foreign country where they are exploited for the purposes of forced labor, prostitution, domestic servitude, and other forms of exploitation. Persons may enter the country clandestinely or through the use of fraudulent documents.

Forms of human trafficking:

- Sex trafficking: Affects mainly women and children and involves forced participation in commercial sex acts. 80% of the people trafficked transnationally are female.
- Forced labor: Also known as involuntary servitude, is the biggest sector of trafficking in the world. It occurs when individuals are compelled against their will to provide work or service through the use of force, fraud, or coercion.
- Debt bondage: An individual is forced to work in order to pay a debt.

There are five **main ways victims are trafficked**. The first way many victims are trafficked is by abduction. Many victims are abducted on their way to school, work, or home. After they are abducted, they are sold into some form of modern slavery. Second, many victims are trafficked through the use of misleading friendships or relationships. Third, some victims are trafficked using false job advertisements. Recruiters will advertise paying jobs, such as a nanny, waitress, model, etc., in a foreign country. After the applicants arrive in the foreign country and are picked up by their supposed boss, their paperwork is often taken from them and they are forced into work conditions vastly different from the job they applied for. The fourth method of trafficking is very similar to the third. Instead of false advertisements, the victim knows the work

they will be doing when they reach the foreign country. What the victim does not know is that upon arrival in the foreign country they will not be free to go. The trafficker will withhold their documentation and use a variety of coercive methods to keep the victim in their control. Finally, many victims are trafficked through family arrangements. In some cases, a family will be facing difficult financial times and will sell a child for money. These parents are usually promised that their child will be taken care of and given a better life. Oftentimes, however, the child is resold into the trafficking industry.

Survivors of human trafficking are forced, tricked or misled into modern-day slavery. If they are able to escape a shrouded abduction and hidden enslavement, they have specific needs that are unique to their situation. Survivors may have experienced profound trauma, lack linguistic skills in the country of their escape, and struggle with basic functioning after trafficking.

Statistics on Human Trafficking:

- 49.6 million people were living in modern slavery in 2021, of which 27.6 million were in forced labour and 22 million in forced marriage.
- Of the 27.6 million people in forced labour, 17.3 million are exploited in the private sector; 6.3 million in forced commercial sexual exploitation, and 3.9 million in forced labour imposed by state.
- Women and girls account for 4.9 million of those in forced commercial sexual exploitation, and for 6 million of those in forced labour in other economic sectors.
- 12% of all those in forced labor are children. More than half of these children are in commercial sexual exploitation.
- The Asia and the Pacific region has the highest number of people in forced labor (15.1 million) and the Arab States the highest prevalence (5.3 per thousand people).
- Addressing decent work deficits in the informal economy, as part of broader efforts towards economic formalization, is a priority for progress against forced labor.

Measures to reduce transnational human trafficking

- Housing options for survivors.

- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. (Palermo Protocol)
- ORGs; International Association of Human Trafficking Investigators (IAHTI), Disrupt Human Trafficking (DHT), GoZOE.
- Transnational Enforcement.

II. Arbitrary imprisonment and forced labor of Uyghur Muslims in China

Overview:

Uyghur Muslims represent one of the 55 ethnic groups recognized by the People's Republic of China. "Along with other mostly Muslim minorities in China, Uyghurs confront abuse and discrimination in places like Xinjiang and elsewhere in the country" (US Department of Labor). Since 2017, over 1 million Uyghur and other Turkic Muslims in northwest Xinjiang, China, have been detained by Chinese authorities, becoming subject to various violations of their human rights. Throughout the past decade, the alarming conditions in which detained minorities work have been made public and raised concerns all over the world. Not only detainees are given little to no pay, food, and restrictions on communication with their families, they have mandatory ideological indoctrination sessions and Mandarin lessons during what should be their rest hours. In most cases, their personal items are confiscated and they have their right to leave taken away. Disconcerting statistics show that "It is estimated that 100,000 Uyghurs and other ethnic minority ex-detainees in China may be working in conditions of forced labor following detention in re-education camps" while "Many more rural poor workers also may experience coercion without detention" (US Department of Labor). However, China's exploitative industry has built its reputation since way earlier than when this data first came to light, as it had been known in 2009 that China benefited from child labor, and its produce was included in the "List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor".

Actions taken

On June 21, 2022, the US Government hosted the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA), giving its "authorities increased powers to block the import of goods linked to forced labor in China" (Human Rights Watch, 2022).

The Chinese government

According to the ILO, China committed to “respect, promote and realize the ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work”. Furthermore, it was noted that China, as part of the UN General Assembly, had endorsed the Call to Action to End Modern Slavery in 2017. Yet, reports show that by 2021, the nation had a total of 18 goods produced by forced labor, such as textiles, hair products, polysilicon, fish, and electronics (International Labour Organization).

III. Measures to reduce human trafficking in Asia

Overview:

In 2016, the Walk Free Foundation’s Global Slavery Index disclosed that 25 million people, making up two-thirds of human trafficking victims, were located in East Asia and the Pacific. Human trafficking in Asia is found mainly in the southeast of this continent. East Asian countries are highlighted in the UN human trafficking report as a major source for long-distance, trans-regional trafficking. The data shows that victims were trafficked for sexual exploitation and forced labour, including domestic servitude and begging. Mainly East Asian victims were found in Australia, Japan and Malaysia. Also, trends indicating an increase in the number of trafficking and related offenses were detected in Cambodia, Indonesia, Mongolia, Timor-Leste, Thailand and Viet Nam. Amassing over \$150 billion a year, human trafficking is now one of the world’s most lucrative organized crimes.

Statistics on Human Trafficking in Asia:

In Southeast Asia and elsewhere, nontraditional security threats have two defining features: they are transnational and complex. The scourge of human trafficking, sometimes called “modern slavery,” affects some 40 million men, women, and children trapped in a horrendous web of forced labor, sexual exploitation, and coerced marriage (ILO and Walk Free Foundation 2017). Southeast Asia’s refugees and displaced people are victimized by human traffickers, but the crime usually goes unreported. Accurate data are difficult to obtain, largely because human trafficking is underreported, underdetected, and thus underprosecuted. It remains largely a hidden crime, since victims are reluctant to seek help for fear of intimidation and reprisals. Victims, not perpetrators, are often the ones who suffer physical abuse and prosecution for illegal migration.

More than 85% of victims were trafficked from within the region, according to the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2016 (pdf), published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC). China, Japan, Malaysia, and Thailand are destinations from neighboring countries. Within Southeast Asia, Thailand is the leading destination for trafficking victims from Cambodia, Lao P.D.R., and Myanmar. Malaysia has been a destination for victims from Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam. 51% of victims in East Asia were women, and children comprised nearly a third. During 2012–14, more than 60% of the 7,800 identified victims were trafficked for sexual exploitation. Females are also victims of domestic servitude and other forms of forced labor. In many cases, the women and children are from remote and impoverished communities. Forced marriages of young women and girls are rampant in the Mekong region of Cambodia, China, Myanmar, and Vietnam.

The rise in child trafficking in the region is linked to the alarming increase in online child pornography, including live streaming of sexual abuse of children. It is a lucrative business estimated to generate \$3–\$20 billion in profit a year, with Cambodia and Thailand as its major suppliers of material.

The Asia-Pacific region is the world's most profitable regarding forced labor. Forced labor in the fishing industry has been widely reported in Cambodia, Indonesia, and Thailand. Victims are paid too little or not at all for working up to 20 hours a day.

Measures to reduce human trafficking in Asia

International agreements regard human trafficking as a transnational crime: the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, also known as the Palermo Protocol. The Palermo Protocol divides the offense into three components: the act of recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, and receipt of persons; the means—the use of force and other forms of coercion, such as abduction and deception; and the purpose—for prostitution, forced labor and slavery, and the removal of organs. The core of the anti-trafficking regimes is protection of borders by controlling the flow of illegal migration.

Southeast Asia in 2015 adopted the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. At the subregional level, the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Trafficking also closely follows the Palermo Protocol framework and has led to several bilateral agreements aimed at greater cooperation between states in the Greater Mekong region. Beyond Southeast Asia, the Bali Process was set up in 2002 as a platform for dialogue among countries in the Asia-Pacific. Its goal is to raise awareness and build capacity to combat human smuggling, trafficking, and transnational crime. With the transnational nature of human trafficking, both international and regional regimes encourage governments to share information, coordinate policies and efforts to criminalize trafficking offenses, provide mutual legal assistance, protect victims, and prosecute offenders.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES

- Annual Reports of the OSCE Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating THB: <https://www.osce.org/secretariat/107391>
- Call to Action on Modern Slavery:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/759332/End-Forced-Labour-Modern-Slavery1.pdf
- OHCHR Fact Sheet on Human Rights & Human Trafficking
https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Publications/FS36_en.pdf
- United Nations Charter: <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter>
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights:
<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>
- UN News:
https://news.un.org/en/?gclid=CjwKCAjwtp2bBhAGEiwAOZZTuBqO8uMm3MG89KFhPQd-O63SEGC033vmr_C-dr_ceDnsDx_91s-14xoCzlQQAvD_BwE
- UNODC. Human Trafficking:
<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-Trafficking/Human-Trafficking.html>

I. Measures to reduce transnational human trafficking

Housing options for survivors:

<https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/housing-options-survivors-human-trafficking>

Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/protocol-prevent-suppress-and-punish-trafficking-persons>

Toolkit to Combat Trafficking in Persons:

<https://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/HT-toolkit-en.pdf>

ORGs:

<https://www.iahti.org/training/>

<https://www.disrupthumantrafficking.com/>

<https://gozoe.org/human-trafficking-resources/>

Transnational Enforcement. (ways transnational enforcement could be accomplished):

<https://law.utah.edu/human-trafficking-and-transnational-enforcement/>

II. Arbitrary imprisonment and forced labor of Uyghur Muslims in China

Human Rights Watch:

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/06/20/china-us-law-against-uyghur-forced-labor-takes-effect>

US Department of Labor:

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/against-their-will-the-situation-in-xinjiang>

Call to Action on Modern Slavery: [cited in committee overview](#)

III. Measures to reduce human trafficking in Asia

UN - UNODC Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Human Trafficking Report:

<https://www.unodc.org/roseap/en/2009/02/global-report-on-trafficking-in-persons/story.html>

Data and Research on Human Trafficking: A Global Survey, Human Trafficking in East Asia

(page 165): <http://nswp.org/sites/default/files/IOM-GLOBALTRAFFICK.pdf#page=165>

International Monetary Fund; Statistics, International Agreements, Measures that have already been taken and other important information about human trafficking in Asia:

<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/fandd/issues/2018/09/human-trafficking-in-southeast-asia-caballero>

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https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Publications/FS36_en.pdf.

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