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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

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The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[3 February 2024]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Child Trafficking, Challenges and Solutions

Introduction

As a united and responsible community that puts people at the centre and has an ethical perspective on human affairs, we condemn child trafficking with the greatest regret and sadness. This act not only seriously threatens the fundamental rights of the future generation, but also calls into question our humanity.

We are in favour of all immediate and effective measures to combat this heinous chain of human trafficking that harms the innocent future of children. We call for tougher laws, increased oversight and international co-operation to put an immediate and decisive stop to this crime against humanity.

Furthermore, we emphasise that those involved in this shameful act should be rigorously prosecuted and held accountable for their crimes and must be held responsible as perpetrators. We hope that through collective efforts and swift, effective action, we can prevent this significant threat and provide children with real opportunities for a safe and happy life.

We believe it is our collective responsibility to raise awareness of the terrible consequences of child trafficking and to promote a global commitment to eradicate this abhorrent practise. By educating the public, advocating for policies that protect children and supporting organisations dedicated to fighting child trafficking, we can build a stronger defence against this grave human rights violation.

As a compassionate society, we reach out to those affected by child trafficking and offer them support, rehabilitation and a path to healing. We promote collaboration between governments, non-governmental organisations and citizens to develop a comprehensive and sustainable approach to prevent child trafficking, address its root causes and ensure the well-being of survivors.

As a responsible society committed to the values of human rights, we condemn child trafficking as a serious and grave violation of these rights in line with international documents and reaffirm that every child has the right to life, safety and proper development. On the basis of Article 35 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we advocate the elimination of all discrimination and violence against children and the creation of safe and healthy conditions for their growth. Child trafficking is in complete contradiction to this principle and we call on all members of the international community to fully implement this crucial principle.

Furthermore, under the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), we have an obligation to create social, cultural and economic conditions in which children can grow up and to protect them from all harm and danger. Child trafficking is a serious violation not only of this convention, but also of the fundamental principles of human rights.

On the basis of the United Nations General Assembly resolutions on the rights of the child and on combating human trafficking, we emphasise that all countries are obliged to take immediate action to combat child trafficking and to improve legal measures to support them.

In the following, we point out some cases of this ominous phenomenon with all shame:

Child trafficking affects every country in the world, including the United States of America. Children make up 27% of all human trafficking victims worldwide, and two out of every three identified child victims are girls. The majority of child victims are girls, almost 78%.

Children are targeted for trafficking in the United States of America and are trafficked into the country from around the world. Often, children are trafficked from developing to developed countries. Victims are trafficked under various circumstances, including prostitution, online sexual exploitation, the illegal drug trade and forced labor.

An estimated 1.2 million children are affected by trafficking at any given time. Around the world, most children who are victims of trafficking involved in forced labor. Worldwide:

- 168 million children are victims of forced labor
- 215 million children are engaged in child labor
- 115 million of those children are involved in hazardous work

The International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Walk Free Foundation, in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), released *Global Estimates of Modern Slavery* in September 2022. This report estimates that, at any given time in 2021, approximately 27.6 million people were in forced labor. Of these, “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.” This report also estimates that 49.6 million people were in “modern slavery” at any given time in 2021, but this figure includes both the estimate for forced labor and an estimate for forced marriage. Consistent with current implementation of the United States of America law, it is recommended to use only the 27.6 million estimate when referring to human trafficking.

More than half (64%) of all child victims are trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Children are also trafficked for labour exploitation, forced criminality and begging, as well as for drug-related crimes and forced and sham marriages.

Recommendations

1. **Enhance International Cooperation:** Establish effective collaboration between countries for information and experience exchange, sharing best practices, and jointly implementing programs to combat child trafficking.
2. **Effective Security Measures:** Increase surveillance and implement effective security measures at borders, airports, and trafficking routes to curb child trafficking activities and reduce their risks.
3. **Education and Awareness:** Raise community awareness about the dangers of child trafficking and provide necessary education to parents, teachers, and relevant organization personnel.
4. **Encourage Interagency Collaboration:** Promote interagency collaboration through active participation of institutions and international organizations to set standards and joint action plans.
5. **Stringent Legal Measures:** Strengthen legal measures and impose severe penalties against individuals and networks involved in child trafficking to prevent and deter the crime.
6. **Support for Victims:** Establish support systems for child trafficking victims, offering healthcare, psychological, and legal services.
7. **Corporate Responsibility:** Encourage companies to act responsibly in the supply chain and ensure justice in international trade to prevent the exploitation of child labor.
8. **Promote Research:** Increase research in the field of child trafficking and share research findings to enhance strategies and policies to combat this phenomenon.
9. **Public Awareness:** Organize public awareness and media campaigns to increase society's sensitivity to child trafficking and violations of their rights.
10. **International Commitment:** Encourage the adoption of decisive international commitments to combat child trafficking and take immediate actions on an international level.

These solutions, combining international legal guidelines with practical measures, can contribute to combating child trafficking and supporting the rights of affected children.

Conclusion

To summarise, the proposed solutions and executive recommendations to combat child trafficking should adhere as far as possible to international obligations, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, United Nations conventions and other relevant documents. Strengthening international co-operation, implementing security measures, raising public awareness and supporting victims are among the measures that can help to tackle this serious challenge and protect children's rights.

In addition, strong legislative measures and the promotion of inter-agency co-operation are crucial. These measures, based on a commitment to human rights principles and the adoption of best practises, can help build an international community that addresses the problem of child trafficking and protects the rights of trafficked children

In conclusion, we call on the international community to actively work together to eradicate this abhorrent phenomenon and promote the rights of children worldwide.

Together, we stand against the exploitation of the most vulnerable among us and strive for a world where every child can grow up free from the shackles of trafficking and has the opportunity to fulfil their potential and make a positive contribution to society.

<https://www.savethechildren.org/us/charity-stories/child-trafficking-myths-vs-facts>
<https://www.savethechildren.org/us/charity-stories/child-trafficking-awareness>
https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---ipecc/documents/publication/wcms_854733.pdf