

UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
COUNCIL
TOPIC BULLETIN

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CHAIRS

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Academy Model United Nations

- THE TWENTIETH ANNUAL CONFERENCE -

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Dear Delegates,

My name is Ethan and I will be your co-chair in the UNHRC committee in this year's AMUN XX conference. I hope you are all extremely excited to discuss pressing world issues, debate solutions to problems, and brainstorm new ideas in this year's AMUN UNHRC committee. This year our topics cover a wide range of current events and will require all of you to make your country's case. I expect to see excellent oratory skills, teamwork, leadership, and, above all, diplomacy. Your other chairs and I will be judging you on these characteristics within committee along with the quality of your position paper. As UN delegates and UNHRC members, your role is to work together to create an efficient plan for the topics we have presented you with. A little bit about myself. Model United Nations has been a large part of my high school career thus far. I am currently a sophomore at Bergen County Academies in the Academy for Engineering and Design Technology and have participated in MUN for a year. I am looking forward to some awesome debates, punderful MUN puns, and fun discussions. If you have any questions, my email is down below.

Best of Luck,

Ethan Donovan, Co Chair, UNHRC
ethdon21@bergen.org

Dear Delegates,

My name is Mei Zhang, and I look forward to working with all of you as one of your chairs for the UNHRC committee at AMUN XX. I am currently a junior in the Academy of Business and Finance and have been a part of Model UN for the past two years. I started participating in Model UN in my sophomore year and have since participated in various conferences such as YMUN and AMUN XIX. This is my first year chairing for AMUN and I look forward to all the ideas and resolutions you will put forth in striving towards the goal of solving various global issues. I hope that throughout this experience, you will be challenged by your peers while at the same time learn to compromise in order to achieve the best resolution. I cannot wait to meet all of you and see what we can achieve as a committee.

Sincerely,

Zhizhen (Mei) Zhang, Co Chair, UNHRC
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Committee Background:

Topic A: **LGBTQ+ Rights**

The United Nations General Assembly (GA) was established under Chapter IV of the UN Charter and is comprised of six committees with individual foci. The newest United Nations General Assembly council was the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), which was created in March of 2006 to replace the UN Commission of Human Rights (UNCHR), which was criticized for allowing countries with poor human rights records to be members. UNHRC is one of four councils in the UN General Assembly. UNHRC was created with a mission of promoting and protecting human rights around the world and has 47 members elected for staggered three-year terms on a regional group basis. The UNHRC also works closely with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and engages the UN's special procedures, which gathers expert observations and



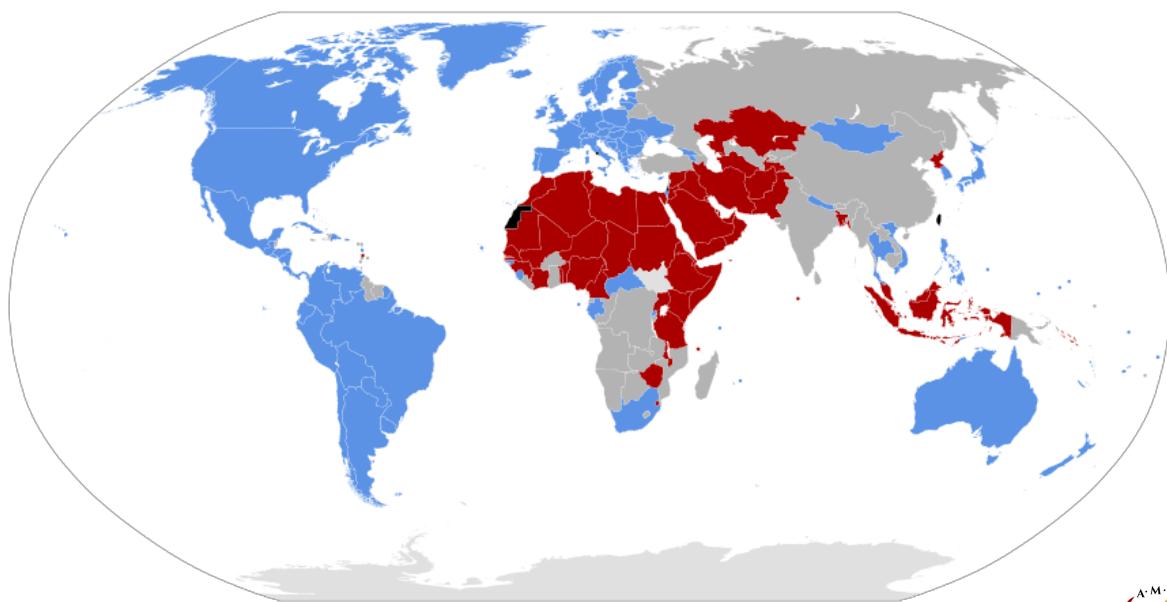
advice on human rights issues all around the world

Introduction:

There is an estimated 5-8% of the world's population that is LGBTQ+, which stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, and other sexual orientation/gender identification. Throughout the late 20th century and early 21st century, homosexuality and other sexual orientation and gender identifications have become more widely accepted. However, there are still many nations who still have laws against identification with the

LGBTQ+ community and people who may cause harm towards those identifying with the LGBTQ+ community. As of 2017, homosexual relations are criminalized in 72 countries, with eight countries where homosexual relations can be punished with a death penalty. Also, as of 2011, there were still 54 UN member nations that still opposed LGBT rights. Thus, people who identify as being part of the LGBTQ+ community are in danger of verbal and physical harm, punishment by law in some countries, and discrimination.

proliferation; while disarmament refers to the full eradication of nuclear weapons in the world, nonproliferation simply aims to limit the spread. The



current state of global nuclear disarmament depends on the ability of various Member States to work together and decrease their nuclear arsenals.

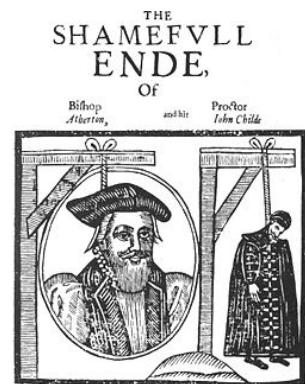
History of Topic:

The first recorded instances of any LGBTQ+ activity were the homosexual relations in ancient civilizations, depicted by rock art which date to even before the Common Era. And since then, there have been many recorded cases of homosexual relations such as recorded male consorts in ancient China, Ancient Rome where it was legal for a male citizen to take on a male lover if he were a prostitute, slave, or an infamis (a person excluded from the legal protections of a citizen), and ancient Israel where homosexuality was prohibited. Thus, most historians agree on the fact that there is



evidence of homosexual relations in all documented civilizations, regardless of whether it was accepted or not.

In the middle ages in Europe, homosexuality was not widely accepted, but also not widely persecuted. During the early to mid middle ages, there were actually a number of people who supported homosexual relations. It was only during the high middle ages that persecutions against homosexual relations began to rise. Although there were persecutions against homosexual relations, homosexuality at this time was completely legal in most of Europe. Additionally, during the same time period, Muslims and Persians embraced homosexual relations through literature and artwork. It is to be noted that there were very little documents on lesbian relations, which many historians believe is because of the fact that people then do not regard any relation without



the presence of a phallus (male genital) as sexual.

Intense oppression of homosexual relations only began with the Renaissance due to the Roman Catholic Church. During this time, homosexuality rapidly went from being legal to being punishable by the death penalty. The Holy Roman Empire made sodomy punishable by death in 1532, and in 1533, King Henry VIII passed the Buggery Act 1533 making all homosexual sexual activity between two male lovers punishable by death. Also, during this time in France, first-offending sodomites had their testicles cut off, second offenders had their genitals cut off, and third offenders were burnt alive. During this time, sodomy was considered second only to murder in terms of sinfulness. Between 1540 and 1700, more than 1600 people were persecuted for sodomy.

Moving on to Modern Europe, homosexuality gradually began to make its way into public light through psychological research and plays. In the eighteenth century, homosexuality at this point in time can only be directly mentioned in the developing field of psychology



and biblical condemnations. The homosexuality mentioned in these psychological research were mostly biased as they were done with the goal of proving that homosexuality is wrong and that there was something psychologically and/or biologically wrong with those involved in homosexual relations. Also during the 18th century, Molly Houses began to appear in Great Britain, though if the premises were found, owners would face legal battles and will have to shut down the houses. Europeans also began to explore the world during the 18th century, with some explorers documenting about the homosexuality in indigenous people such as the ‘female husbands’ in Kenya and the ‘two spirit’ in Native American culture. During the 1870s and 1880s,

degeneracy, a theory created by Krafft-Ebing, became the widely accepted theory for homosexuality. During the late 19th century, Oscar Wilde, an Irish author and playwright, brought homosexuality into light with his works, which caused a lot of discussion throughout Europe and America. Also, in the 1980s, homosexual females began identifying themselves as lesbians instead of gay. It is also during this time that the LGBT or LGBTQ acronym was created.

Before 1933, Germany was actually the most lenient and accepting country in Europe towards homosexuality. In the capital of Germany, there were multiple gay bars, nightclubs, cabaret, and drag

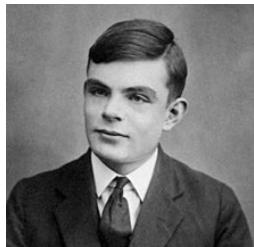


bars were tourists, regardless of their sexual orientation, enjoy female impersonation acts. Berlin also had the most active LGBT rights movement with Jewish Doctor, Magnus Hirschfeld, creating the Scientific-

Humanitarian Committee in 1897 to protest against Paragraph 175 of the Penal Code which made sexual intercourse between males illegal. The Committee was also the first public gay rights organization and the first international LGBT organization as it had branches in other countries as well. By the 1920s, Berlin had clubs and newspapers for both lesbians and gay men. All of this changed however during the Third Reich (1933-1945) after Adolf Hitler took power as Hitler was largely against homosexuality, even blaming some of it on the Jewish. Thus, during World War II and the Holocaust, there were an estimated 50,000 people who were sentenced to concentration camps for their sexuality. Gay men had it especially bad in these camps as they were not only treated horribly by the soldiers but also by fellow prisoners. Therefore, gay men were often killed by beatings or from being used as target practice by German soldiers. It is to be noted that at this time, female homosexuality was not a crime, though there were some cases of imprisonment, persecution against female homosexuality was

far less than that of male homosexuality.

Perhaps the most famous case of homosexuality was that of Alan Turing, the man who was one of the designers of the Colossus computer that cracked the enigma code. He



was rewarded by the British government shortly after World War II ended; however,

he was soon arrested in the early 1950's under section 11 of the 1885 statue of 'gross indecency'. Turing was then given a choice between jail time or injections of synthetic estrogen, with Turing choosing the later. The injections of synthetic estrogen caused Turing to spiral into depression with him committing suicide at the age of 41. There were an estimated 70,000 men who were persecuted under the same law as Alan Turing. This law was finally repealed in 2003.

Before the American Civil war, there were really no mentions of homosexuality as it was considered a taboo in society and thus, there was no chance of group identification or self consciousness.

During colonial times, most of America's laws regarding homosexuality was based off of English laws, meaning that homosexuality was usually punished with the death penalty. Attempted sodomy was punishable by prison, whipping, banishment, or fines. In the late 18th century, Thomas Jefferson proposed that sodomy, rape, and polygamy be punished with castration as a revision of the Virginian criminal code. However, societal views on homosexuality became slightly more accepting in the late 18th century with Pennsylvania being the first state to stop punishing sodomy with death in 1786 with other states following. By the 19th century all states excluding North and South Carolina had stopped punishing sodomy with death. Following the repeal of the death penalty, legal language regarding homosexuality went from words like damnation to terms like "abominable acts". However, homosexuality was largely ignored by the general public save for some scandals and court cases. Homosexuality finally made its way into light in the 19th century in the

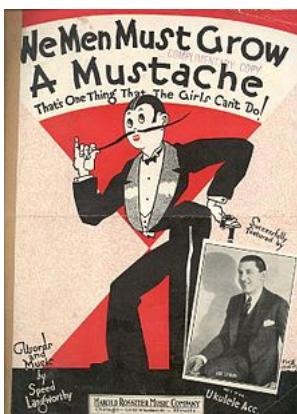
concept of a loving male friendship pushed forth by institutions like all male boarding schools and the military.

The 20th century in America saw to a lot of back and forth of the view of homosexuality. Throughout the 1900 to early 1930's, there were a lot more acceptance and awareness of homosexual community. During this time, gay clubs were openly operated, a number of actors and actresses came out as gay, and there were quite a few people advocating for gay rights. However, the public suddenly became intolerant of homosexuality in the late 1930's. During this time, homosexuals were forced to hide their sexuality in fear of ridicule and imprisonment. There were also many laws that were passed which were against homosexuality and declared it being a mental illness. The start of World War II and the acceptance of women into the army allowed for lesbians to show their true colors as



the army need more muscular women for mechanics and motor vehicle operation. The start of the 1970's also signified a return

towards a society more accepting of homosexuality and the start of the fight for gay rights, starting with the Stonewall Riots. In the 1980's, the outbreak of HIV caused the disease to be commonly associated with gay men and caused a renewed conservative notion and anti-gay movements. Finally, throughout the late 20th century and early 21st century, U.S. states gradually began to decriminalize homosexuality.



Past UN Action:

LGBTQ rights were first discussed in the UN in September of 1995 when sexual orientation became a topic of debate during discussion of the Draft of the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action at the 4th World Conference for Women. Then in April of 2003, Brazil presented a resolution that



prohibits the discrimination against people for their sexual orientation to the United Nations Council for Human Rights (UNCHR), but the following debates caused the Council to propose discussions until 2004. In December 2006, discussion regarding Brazil's resolution started to include gender identity, and Norway presented a joint statement human rights violation from sexual orientation and gender identity to the UNCHR on behalf of 54 states. This was then followed by Argentina's joint statement in support of LGBTQ rights on behalf of 66 states to the General Assembly in December of 2008. Argentina's joint statement then caused the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to present a statement in opposition of LGBTQ rights to the General Assembly. Both Argentina's and the Arab League's statement remains open to signatures and have not been adopted by the General Assembly yet.

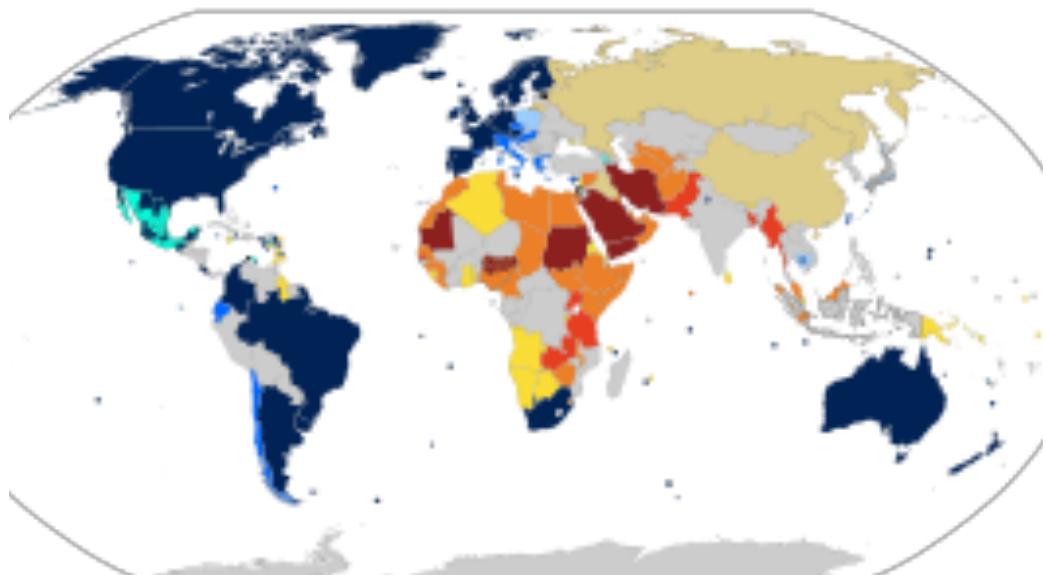
In September 2014, Brazil, Uruguay, and Colombia led a follow up resolution at the UNHRC with more member states supporting the resolution than before. In 2016, UN had its "most overt expression of

gay rights as human rights" when it passed a resolution to appoint an independent expert that will find the causes of violence and discrimination against LGBTQ people and discuss with governments about how to protect those of the LGBTQ community. There are 96 member states expressing support for LGBTQ rights in the UNHRC, General Assembly, or both, while 54 member states are in opposition.

Current Situation:

Currently, gay relationships are still criminalized in 72 countries with Iran, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen still punishing homosexuality with death. There is also potential for Pakistan, Afghanistan, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Mauritania to hand the death penalty to homosexuals; however, there is no evidence suggesting so for consensual homosexual acts between adults in private. Thus, homosexuality could lead to a prison sentence in 71 countries, excluding Egypt as although homosexuality is technically legal, there has been reported cases of





people being detained on moral grounds.

In total, 120 countries have decriminalized homosexuality; however, there still remains countries that are not truly liberal. For example, Russia has recently passed laws banning the promotion of homosexuality. It is also to be noted that the main obstacle in LGBTQ rights is not the legal change, it is societal attitudes. As although countries have decriminalized homosexuality, people associated with the LGBTQ community is still at risk of violence and discrimination. Luckily, there has been progress in LGBTQ rights. Botswana, Kenya, Zimbabwe, and Tunisia have recently allowed the right to form organizations to lobby for rights. Germany will also be legalizing same sex marriage after a parliamentary vote, and marriage

equality in Malta will bring the number of nations allowing same sex marriage to 24. Quite a few states also offer civil partnership recognition.

Questions to Consider:

Why are some countries opposed to LGBTQ rights?

What methods would you use to change societal attitudes toward the LGBTQ community?

Is there a way to still guarantee protection of people who are associated LGBTQ community even



if a country is unwilling to change their legislation?

To what extent should LGBTQ rights be granted (homosexuality legalized but not same sex marriage, both are legalized, both are not legalized, etc)?

Topic B: Human Trafficking

Introduction:

According to the International labor Organization (ILO), there are 40.3 million victims of human trafficking around the world. These victims are trafficked either into sex or labor, with both men and women being the targets. Many yearn for a better life, desperately attempting to escape poverty and quickly agree to shady agreements and promises such as highly paid job offers. Sadly, those victims, often taking loans for travel or shelter from their traffickers, are exploited and enslaved for labor or sex. Traffickers utilize manipulation in forms ranging from sexual assault and physical and emotional abuse to isolation from one's family and the theft of personal identification and money. Half of the victims of Human trafficking are affected by debt bondage, a tactic used to run the cycle of exploitation and prevent those being trafficked from escaping by leaving them with an insurmountable debt to repay. Although many governments have passed anti-trafficking legislation, the problem persists and Human



Trafficking remains the third largest international crime industry, generating \$32 billion per year.

History of Topic:

For a large part of human history, slavery has been a widely accepted part of life. During the 1400's, slave trade began as Portugal transported slaves from Africa to Portugal for use in labor. Gradually, countries such as Spain, the United States, Holland, France, Sweden, and Denmark began to involve themselves in the slave trade. Human Trafficking into sex began as 'white slavery' where white women and girls were exploited into unwanted sexual activity. By 1820, both the United States and Great Britain had outlawed the slave trade, but it was



not until 1904 when a worldwide agreement was created to outlaw 'white slavery'. The agreement, named the "International Agreement for the Suppression of the 'White Slave Traffic'", was signed in Paris and aimed to protect women against "White Slave Traffic", however the document mainly focused on the control and repatriation of migrant girls and women. The movement against white slavery was driven by widespread dislike of slavery and prostitution.

Emma Goldman, an American feminist, wrote in 1917: "What is really the cause of the trade in women? Exploitation, of course..." (Goldman). In 1910, a new agreement would be signed, this time focusing on the criminalization of trafficking. The agreement was labeled the "International Convention for the Suppression of the white Slave Trade" however only 13 countries originally signed the convention. Shortly after the signing of this convention, many governments



began to instill National Committees against trafficking which could then pool information to foster an international discussion. Unfortunately, the beginning of World War I, brought this communication to a sudden halt and the danger for those being trafficked for sex, especially non-white or those in European countries remained real but became invisible to the public. This lead to a change in naming from “white slavery” to “traffic in women” which became a widely discussed problem and represented the growing international problem of human trafficking in sex. As a result of this change in terminology, the League of Nations held an international

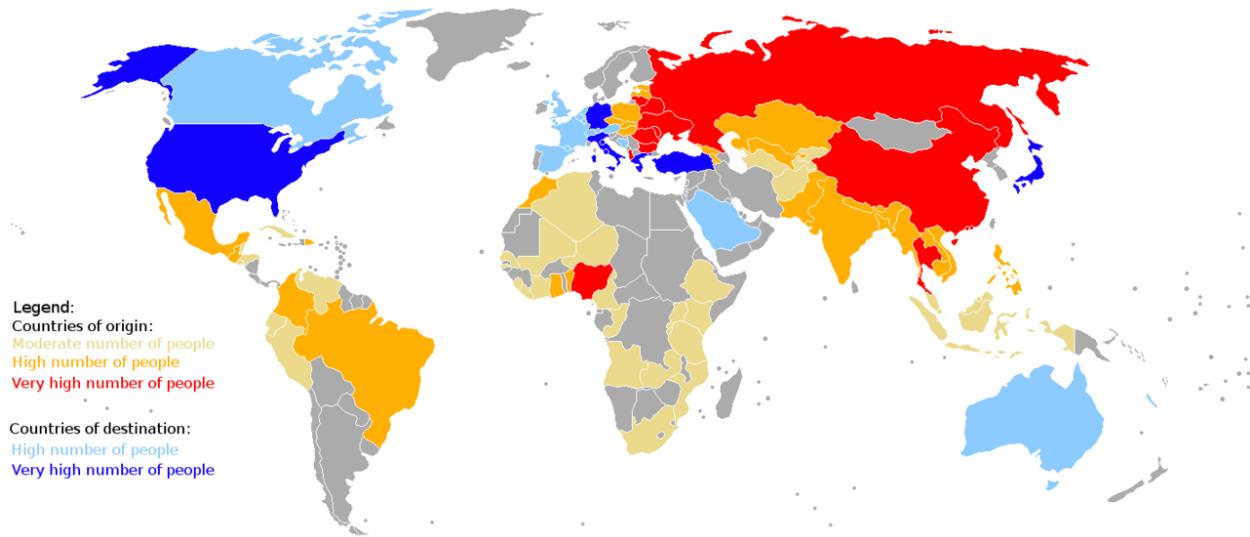


conference in Geneva in 1921 with representatives of 33 nations signing the International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children.

This convention aimed at a variety of objectives including the prosecution of traffickers, education for women and children on trafficking, and protections during migration processes.

The league of Nations began to conduct research on human trafficking, releasing a study in 1927 regarding human trafficking in the West and a study in 1932 regarding human trafficking in the East. The studies served to answer five main questions: “(i) were there a considerable number of foreign women engaged in prostitution in the countries studied; (ii) was there demand for foreign women in these countries and what created this demand; (iii) from which surroundings the women were obtained and whether they left their countries by themselves or with the help or influence of other persons; (iv) who are the traffickers; and (v) from which countries did the women come, by which means are they induced to leave their countries and which routes they travelled.” These studies discovered contrary to today that the most common destinations for victims were countries primarily located in





South and Central America while common countries of origin were located in Europe. As time passed, these countries would switch roles with many countries of origin becoming countries of destination and vice versa. These reports discovered methods of exploitation still in use today. According to the League of Nations in 1927, exploitation was performed as “heartless fraud and cruelty of a different character” which today would be found as the confiscation of identification or the renaming of a victim. The Argentine Government expressed this extreme exploitation in a response to the league of Nations: “Disorderly houses were formerly run by a manageress (“regenta”)

who was always the wife of the procurer. In such houses there were four or five or even more women, who were shamelessly exploited and never even received the proceeds of their miserable trade, for the manageress used to give them a slip, of purely nominal value, for each client, and at the end of the week it was the proprietor “dueno” who cashed these slips; moreover, such women were deprived of their liberty and practically imprisoned with the complicity of the manageress.” The 1927 report also found the primary motivation of trafficking to be monetary reasons which remains the same today and the differing issues of international and national trafficking remain prevalent today.



Past UN Action:

The United Nations defines human trafficking as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons by improper means (such as force, abduction, fraud, or coercion) for an improper purpose including forced labor or sexual exploitation. The UN has taken a strong stance against human trafficking as it violates basic human rights. During 2000, the United Nations created the “United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime” which established the “Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children.” This protocol offers assistance in anti-trafficking legislation and comprehensive anti-trafficking strategies as well as promoting the protection of victims of trafficking. The convention focuses on the three p’s: Prevention, Prosecution, and Protection: Prevention of trafficking, Prosecution of traffickers, and Protection for victims of trafficking. In September of 2010, the United Nations created a global plan of action against Human Trafficking. The plan aims to utilize United Nations’ broader

programmes to fight against Human Trafficking around the world. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime created the GloAct, or Global Action against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants in coordination with the European Union. Additionally, the UNHRC releases global reports on trafficking to support communication and discussion.

Current Situation:

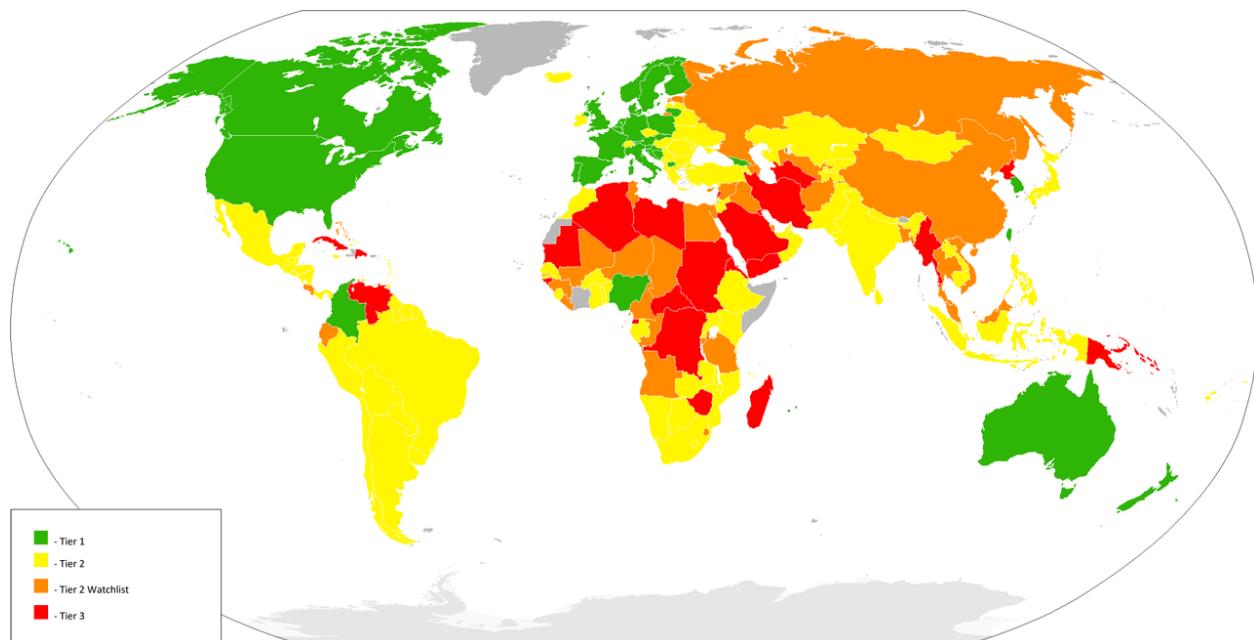
Human Trafficking affects the lives of all demographics across the world. Currently, according to estimates from the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 51% of identified victims are women, 28% are children, and 21% are men. However, 63% percent of identified traffickers were men while 37% were women. Trafficking is not fully internationally run with 43% of victims being trafficked domestically within national borders. A variety of exploitation tactics are used to dually draw in and control victims. Among these techniques are the use of violence, accumulated debt, retention of



identity papers, or the threat of exposure to immigration authorities. Victims live under the constant fear of punishment and thus remain in a system of manipulation and trafficking. Those trafficked for labor are often unpaid slaves in fields varying from manufacturing and factory work to hospitality and agriculture, while those trafficked for sex are exploited into prostitution, forced marriage, sex tourism, or other non consensual sexual activity. The International Labor Organization found that there is a connection between the number of forced laborers in a given country and that country's degree of development with less developed nations holding

more trafficked workers. Those trafficked can also be exploited into forced criminality, becoming a child soldier, or even having their organs harvested.

Each form of slavery features varying forms of exploitation and duties. Contract slavery involves workers who are tricked into fake contracts outside of their countries and then forced by debt into low or non paying jobs. For example, in Qatar, the construction industry is built off contract slavery with stadiums for the upcoming World Cup Qatar 2022 being built thought the exploitation of foreign workers. Debt bondage, another form of slavery targets borrowers of money. Those who borrow money can face



insurmountable interest rates and are forced to work off their debt. However, a victim's debts are often raised by employment agencies and workers are trapped in slavery, unable to pay off their debt. Women are still forced into marriage either to pay a family's debts or restore a girl's honor however these women are often sexually abused and/ or assaulted. Victims of trafficking can be placed in domestic servitude in which they are forced into a household working job but are forced to live on the residence of their employer and receive little and often no pay. In these situations, victims are subject to severe abuse such as rape. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as other nations, children are trafficked into wars and are forced to fight for their lives in militaries. Victims can be trafficked for their organs or organs can be harvested non consensually and trafficked to places with relaxed donor rules. Human Trafficking is even present on the internet where advertisement and the attracting of victims is present. Governments vary on their regulation and enforcement regarding Human Trafficking. Problems still lie in the variability

of trafficking around the world and the different systems necessary to combat it in different areas. The United States created the Trafficking Victims Protection Act to work towards the three p's of the "United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime" while India, where 200,000 children are trafficked each year, lacks widely enforced laws regarding Human Trafficking.



Questions to Consider:

What methods would you use to educate people on the dangers of Human Trafficking?

What are the best ways to detect and prosecute traffickers?

How can countries work together to prevent against the international flow of victims of trafficking?

How can governments provide protections to those at the highest risk of being trafficked?

How can countries better enforce human trafficking legislation?

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