

Commission: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Session: National MUN 2024

Sponsors: Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Russian Federation, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Turkiye, Yemen

QUESTION OF: **COMBATTING REFUGEE SMUGGLING AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

The General Assembly,

Emphasizing that more than 43.4 million refugees excluding asylum seekers were forcibly displaced worldwide as of May 2024,

Noting the impact of extreme poverty and lack of opportunities for education and work, as reported by the World Bank, which affects over 1.4 billion people in developing countries,

Recognizing the need for international cooperation to address the root causes and facilitate effective measures to combat these crimes as adopted by the General Assembly resolution of 15 November 2000 (Palermo Protocol),

Expressing deep concern for women and girls who are vulnerable to being trafficked and smuggled due to a lack of legal pathways for migration and the desperate conditions they face,

Noting with concern that according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in 2023, over 4,000 migrants died or went missing worldwide, with many being victims of smuggling and trafficking networks,

Guided by the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Trafficking and Smuggling Protocols that support the United Nations Organization against Transnational Organized Crime National,

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1. Urges the effective implementation and ratification of relevant international conventions such as the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols on Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling;
2. Recommends the cooperation with neighboring countries and regional bodies by information sharing, joint operations, and coordinated efforts to dismantle criminal networks and address cross-border smuggling and trafficking;
3. Encourages States to continue to review and, as appropriate, strengthen their relevant legislation, including criminal legislation, and establish as criminal offences the acts covered by the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol and the Organized Crime Convention, including introducing appropriate sanctions proportionate to the nature and gravity of the offence, as follows:
 - (a) To consider establishing aggravating circumstances to the relevant offences, in accordance with the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol specifically, circumstances that endanger or are likely to endanger the lives or safety of the migrants concerned or that entail inhuman or degrading treatment, including exploitation, of such migrants;
 - (b) To ensure, where appropriate, that, in investigating and prosecuting the smuggling of migrants, the undertaking of concurrent financial investigations is considered with a view to tracing, freezing, confiscating and returning proceeds acquired through such crime, and to consider the smuggling of migrants as a predicate offence of money-laundering, in accordance with domestic law and applicable international obligations;
4. Stresses the importance of providing adequate protection and support for victims, including access to healthcare, legal assistance, and safe accommodation;

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5. Calls upon the need for measures to protect victims, and prosecute offenders, improve coordination among government agencies, and enhance law enforcement capabilities such as the strengthening of visa protection and reinforcing border control at entry points using advanced technologies such as biometric systems, surveillance drones, and real time data sharing to further enhance border security

6. Urges international financial institutions, donor countries, and development agencies to prioritize funding for initiatives that tackle the root causes of forced migration and human trafficking, including:

a) Women's empowerment and gender equality programs that address discrimination, improving access to education and economic opportunities, and reduce the risk of exploitation;

b) Comprehensive poverty alleviation strategies that provide microloans, social safety nets, and job training to economically disadvantaged populations, aiming to create sustainable livelihoods and reduce the necessity of migration for economic reasons;

7. Requests member States to adopt the formation of a specialized counter-trafficking police unit by the blue helmets;

8. Proclaims the creation of examination centers and student camps in urban and secure areas, hence relocating final exams from insecure and unstable areas, ensuring further that students do not drop out and improve the numeracy and literacy rates overall, as well as the employability in higher education;

9. Strongly condemns the detention of asylum seekers bearing in mind the application of the 1951 Refugee Convention

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and the 1967 Protocol as a framework that guarantees the cognizance of their international rights;

10. Requests Amnesty International and other organizations to provide assistance to victims of human trafficking by giving counselling, medical care, legal aid and economic empowerment;

11. Further invites the Member States to acknowledge the Implementation Review Mechanism, an intergovernmental instrument that promotes and facilitates international cooperation in the prevention of and the fight against corruption while enabling an efficient implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, promoted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC);

12. Highlights the structural role of both Protocols in the strengthening of anti-trafficking laws and the implementation of efficient action plans to counter smuggling, serving as a core framework to international organizations.