



TOPIC B

Addressing Human Trafficking in Business Operations



CCPCJ

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice



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Introduction

Human trafficking remains one of the most common human rights violations in the today's world, affecting millions of individuals across all regions and industries. Despite many international efforts, trafficking networks continue to thrive, often exploiting vulnerable populations through forced labor, coercion, and deception. The role of businesses in stopping or preventing human trafficking has become an incredibly critical point for all who search for solutions; as well as not taking part in it.

From multinational corporations to small shops, all businesses have both direct and indirect ties to global supply chains, which are often infiltrated by traffickers. The responsibility to maintain ethical labor conditions and ensuring transparency in business operations is, apart from a moral and legal obligation, a necessary step toward sustainable development and human rights protection.

Definition of Key Terms

- **Human Trafficking**

Human Trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of people through force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them for profit. Men, women and children of all ages and from all backgrounds can become victims of this crime, which occurs in every region of the world. Traffickers often use violence or fraudulent employment agencies and fake promises of education and job opportunities to trick and coerce their victims. (UN, n.d.)

- **Business Operations**

The day-to-day processes a company goes through which directly affect the product or service offered by the business.

- **Supply Chain Accountability**

The responsibility of businesses to ensure ethical and responsible practices throughout their entire supply chain, from raw materials to final product (Accountability Framework, s. f.)

- **Forced Labor**

All Work or service extracted from any person under the threat of a penalty and for which the person has not offered themselves voluntarily.

- **Regulatory Frameworks**

A regulatory framework is a set of rules and regulations implemented by governments or regulatory bodies to govern a specific industry, sector, or activity. These aim to ensure compliance, protect rights, promote fair competition, and enhance public safety.

Background information

Human trafficking is a that affects millions of people worldwide, it is often facilitated by businesses, either knowingly or unknowingly. Companies may be involved in trafficking through exploitative labor practices, supply chain vulnerabilities, or oversights on their providers.

Key Aspects to Consider

1. Legal Frameworks & International Agreements

- The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons set the foundation for international efforts.
- CCPCJ resolutions, such as Resolution 33/1, focus on countering human trafficking in the context of rapid technological change.

2. Corporate Responsibility & Ethical Business Practices

- Businesses must ensure that their supply chain doesn't facilitate and allow for human trafficking.
- The United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights emphasize corporate responsibility in preventing human rights abuse.

3. Challenges in Addressing Human Trafficking in Business Operations

- Many countries struggle with enforcing anti-trafficking laws.
- Large corporations often rely on subcontractors, making it difficult to oversee all of their actions.
- Traffickers use digital platforms to recruit and exploit victims.

Major Parties Involved

- **United States of America**



Implements strict corporate accountability laws to prevent forced labor in supply chains.

- **United Kingdom**



Enforces the Modern Slavery Act, requiring businesses to report anti-trafficking measures.

- **Germany**



Focuses on supply chain transparency, ensuring companies audit their operations to prevent exploitation.

- **Australia**



Works on regional cooperation and strict regulations to combat trafficking in business practices.

- **China**



Implement labor reforms and international cooperation to address trafficking concerns.

- **Canada**



Strengthens corporate responsibility laws and supports international anti-trafficking efforts.

- **France**



Enforces due diligence laws, requiring companies to identify and mitigate human rights risks.

- **Brazil**



Targets forced labor in agriculture and industry, working on stronger enforcement mechanisms.

- **India**



Strengthens labor protections and corporate accountability to prevent trafficking in business operations.

- **South Africa**



Implements anti-trafficking laws and regional partnerships to combat exploitation.

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

Economic and Social Council [ECOSOC]. (2023). Report on the thirty-second session. En *Ecosoc.Un*.
https://ecosoc.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/E-2023-30_CCPCJ32-Advance-unedited_0.pdf

Page 24-34 Summary:

- **Core Concerns and Commitments:**

- Reaffirms global agreements like the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, and ILO Forced Labour Conventions.
- Stresses trafficking's grave threat to human dignity, human rights, and sustainable development.
- Acknowledges the increasing role of forced labour and exploitation, especially of women, children, migrants, and conflict-affected populations.

- **Business and Supply Chains:**

- Recognizes trafficking within global supply chains as a growing issue, especially through outsourced recruitment and hiring practices.
- Commend states and companies that are proactively addressing trafficking risks in procurement and business operations.
- Urges stronger due diligence, monitoring, audits, transparency, and ethical business practices.

- **Member State Responsibilities:**

- Encourages states to:
 - Ratify and implement relevant international instruments.
 - Strengthen national laws, enforcement, and accountability for trafficking-related offenses.
 - Protect victims, especially women and children, using trauma-informed and human rights-based approaches.
 - Provide training to law enforcement and labor inspectors.
 - Engage public-private partnerships to raise awareness and prevent trafficking.
 - Ensure victim compensation and support recovery.

- **United Nations Role:**

- Calls on UN agencies to:
 - Integrate anti-trafficking policies into procurement.
 - Ensure supply chains are free from forced labour.
 - Collect and analyze data on trafficking in business contexts.
 - Provide technical assistance to states.

- **International Cooperation:**

- Encourages:
 - Sharing best practices and promoting joint public-private efforts.
 - Greater use of tools from organizations like INTERPOL.
 - Collaborations with civil society for victim assistance and awareness.

- **Funding and Reporting:**

- Invites voluntary contributions to support victims.
- Requests the UNODC and Secretary-General to report on implementation progress.

Overall, the resolution calls for comprehensive, coordinated international action to eliminate trafficking in persons from business and procurement processes, strengthen protections for victims, and promote ethical and sustainable practices across sectors.

(Economic and Social Council [ECOSOC], 2023)

Possible Solutions

Look for:

- Stronger regulations: Governments should implement stricter laws requiring businesses to report and prevent trafficking.
- Public-private partnerships: Collaboration between governments, NGOs, and corporations can enhance anti-trafficking efforts.
- Technology-driven solutions: AI and blockchain can help track supply chains and detect trafficking patterns.
- Consideration of all trafficking chains: Find ways to block all known and other possible trafficking routes and methods.

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