



UNGA- SOCHUM STUDY GUIDE

WHAT IS THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY?

The UNGA, the main policy-making body of the UN, was created under [Chapter IV](#) of the Charter of the United Nations, signed in San Francisco on 26 June 1945.

The Charter outlines its key functions, including “promoting international co-operation in the economic, social, cultural, educational, and health fields, and assisting in the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion”.

The Assembly meets from September to December each year and then again from January to August, if required. Representatives debate and make decisions on issues such as peace and security and the admittance of new members.

As outlined in the Charter, the Assembly may approve the UN budget, elect non-permanent members of the UN Security Council, and appoint the Secretary General, among other things.

A new President of the General Assembly is elected at the start of each session, which in 2018 was Ecuador’s Maria Fernanda Espinosa, the first female president from Latin America and the Caribbean

INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC:

For many, the term “human trafficking” evokes images of perversions hidden in illicit underground markets of developing nations. Ironically, the demand of developed nations like the United States drive the illicit markets domestically and overseas, and hundreds of thousands of domestic and foreign-born adults and children are at risk of being sex trafficked within the United States each year. The demand for commercial sex acts with minors is not diminishing; rather, preferences for younger and younger boys and girls is pervasive.

ELEMENTS INVOLVED IN TRAFFICKING

On the basis of the definition given in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, it is evident that trafficking in persons has three constituent elements:

The Act (what is done):

Recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons.

The Means (how it is done):

Threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability, or giving payments or benefits to a person in control of the victim.

The Purpose (why it is done):

For the purpose of exploitation, which includes sexual exploitation, forced labor, slavery or similar practices and the removal of organs.

(**Note:** - To ascertain whether a particular circumstance constitutes trafficking in persons, consider the definition of trafficking

in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and the constituent elements of the offence, as defined by relevant domestic legislation.) **Purposes of trafficking**

There are different purposes of carrying out Human Trafficking. Some of the purposes that are fulfilled through trafficking are mentioned below: -

- **Sex Trafficking** When an adult engages in a commercial sex act, such as prostitution, as the result of force, threats of force, fraud, coercion, or any combination of such means, that person is a victim of trafficking. Under such circumstances, perpetrators involved in recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for that purpose are guilty of sex trafficking of an adult. Sex trafficking also may occur through a specific form of coercion whereby individuals are compelled to continue in prostitution through the use of unlawful “debt,” purportedly incurred through their transportation, recruitment, or even their

“sale”—which exploiters insist they must pay off before they can be free. Even if an adult initially consents to engage in commercial sex, it is irrelevant: if an adult, after consenting, is subsequently held in service through psychological manipulation or physical force, he or she is a trafficking victim and should receive benefits outlined in the Palermo Protocol and applicable domestic laws.

- **Child Sex Trafficking**

When a child (under 18 years of age) is recruited, harbored, transported, provided, obtained, patronized, or solicited for the purpose of a commercial sex act, proving force, fraud, or coercion is not necessary for the offense to be prosecuted as human

trafficking. There are no exceptions to this rule: no cultural or socioeconomic rationalizations alter the fact that children who are exploited in prostitution are trafficking victims. The use of children in the commercial sex industry is prohibited under U.S. law and by statute in most countries around the world. Sex trafficking has devastating consequences for children, including long-lasting physical and psychological trauma, disease (including HIV/AIDS), drug addiction, unwanted pregnancy, malnutrition, social ostracism, and even death.

- **Bonded Labor or Debt Bondage**

One form of coercion used by traffickers in both sex trafficking and forced labor is the imposition of a bond or debt. Some workers inherit debt; for example, in South Asia it is estimated that there are millions of trafficking victims working to pay off their ancestors’ debts. Others fall victim to traffickers or recruiters who unlawfully exploit an initial debt assumed, wittingly or unwittingly, as a term of employment. Traffickers, labor agencies, recruiters, and employers in both the country of origin and the destination country can contribute to debt bondage by charging workers recruitment fees and exorbitant interest rates, making it difficult, if not impossible, to pay off the debt. Such circumstances may occur in the context of employment-based temporary work programs in which a worker’s legal status in the destination country is tied to the employer so workers fear seeking redress.

- **Domestic Servitude**

Involuntary domestic servitude is a form of human trafficking found in distinct circumstances—work in a private residence—that create unique vulnerabilities for victims. It is a crime in which a domestic worker is not free to leave his or her employment and is abused and underpaid, if paid at all. Many domestic workers do not receive the basic benefits and protections commonly extended to other groups of workers—things as simple

as a day off. Moreover, their ability to move freely is often limited, and employment in private homes increases their isolation and vulnerability. Labor officials generally do not have the authority to inspect employment conditions in private homes. Domestic workers, especially women, confront various forms of abuse, harassment, and exploitation, including sexual and genderbased violence. These issues, taken together, may be symptoms of a situation of domestic servitude. When the employer of a domestic worker has diplomatic status and enjoys immunity from civil and/or criminal jurisdiction, the vulnerability to domestic servitude is enhanced.

- **Unlawful Recruitment and Use of Child**

Soldiers

Child soldiering is a manifestation of human trafficking when it involves the unlawful recruitment and use of children—through force, fraud, or coercion—by armed forces as combatants or other forms of labor.

Perpetrators may be government armed forces, paramilitary organizations, or rebel groups. Many children are forcibly abducted to be used as combatants. Others are made to work as porters, cooks, guards, servants, messengers, or spies. Young girls may be forced to “marry” or be raped by commanders and male combatants. Both male and female child soldiers are often sexually abused or exploited by armed groups and such children are subject to the same types of devastating physical and psychological consequences associated with child sex trafficking.

FEATURES OF TRAFFICKING

Trafficking affects women, men and children, and involves a range of exploitative practices.

Trafficking was traditionally associated with the movement of women and girls into sexual exploitation. The international legal definition set out above makes clear that men and women, boys and girls can all be trafficked—and that the range of potentially exploitative practices linked to trafficking is very wide.

The list of examples set out in the definition is open-ended and new or additional exploitative purposes may be identified in the future.

Trafficking does not require the crossing of an international border.

The definition covers internal as well as crossborder trafficking. That is, it is legally possible for trafficking to take place within a single country, including the victim’s own.

Trafficking is not the same as migrant smuggling.

Migrant smuggling involves the illegal, facilitated movement across an international border for profit. While it may involve deception and/or abusive treatment, the purpose of migrant smuggling is to profit from the movement, not the eventual exploitation as in the case of trafficking.

WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING:

The links between human rights and the fight against trafficking are well established. From its earliest days to the present, human rights law has unequivocally proclaimed the fundamental immorality and unlawfulness of one person appropriating the legal personality, labor or humanity of another. Human rights law has prohibited discrimination on the basis

of race and sex; it has demanded equal or at least certain key rights for non-citizens; it has decried and outlawed arbitrary detention, forced labor, debt bondage, forced marriage, and the sexual exploitation of children and women; and it has championed freedom of movement and the right to leave and return to one's own country.

Different human rights will be relevant at different points in the trafficking cycle. Some will be especially relevant to the causes of trafficking (for example, the right to an adequate standard of living); others to the actual process of trafficking (for example, the right to be free from slavery); and still others to the response to trafficking (for example, the right of suspects to a fair trial). Some rights are broadly applicable to each of these aspects.

NATIONAL MONITORING AND ACCOUNTABILITY WITH RESPECT TO TRAFFICKING:

In the final analysis, human rights are protected and respected because of what exists and what is done at the national level. It is the quality and strength of national laws, procedures and practices that will ultimately determine the nature of a State's response to trafficking. The establishment of mechanisms to oversee and guide national trafficking responses is an important aspect of developing a strong, rights based response. Such mechanisms should be mandated to and capable of measuring the national response against the international standards set out in this Fact Sheet. As recognized in the Recommended Principles and Guidelines (guideline 1), national mechanisms also have a critical role to play in monitoring the impact of anti-trafficking interventions to ensure they do not interfere with or otherwise negatively affect established rights.

COUNTERING HUMAN TRAFFICKING :

Trafficking Policy and Advocacy: Polaris Project

One of the most influential groups working on the issue in the United States, the Polaris Project takes a comprehensive approach to ending modern-day slavery. The organization advocates for stronger federal and state laws, operates the [National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline](#), provides services and support for trafficking victims, and works with survivors to develop long-term strategies to ending human trafficking.

Second-Generation Trafficking: Prajwala

In India, children who grow up in brothels with their parents often meet the same fate. In order to counteract this dangerous legacy, social activist Dr. Sunitha Krishnan co-founded Prajwala (which means "eternal flame"). Based in Hyderabad, India, the organization rescues women from brothels and then provides them with education, mental health care, and job programs. (Check out Dr. Krishnan's powerful talk at the 2009 [TedIndia Conference](#).)

Statelessness and Child Trafficking: COSA

Most Hill tribes in Thailand are "stateless," or not governed by the laws of the country—which makes their women and girls particularly vulnerable to trafficking. After recognizing this, photojournalist Mickey Choothesa and social worker Anna Choothesa created the Children's Organization of Southeast Asia to provide education, intervention, and

support in Hill tribe communities. COSA works directly within trafficking communities to provide trafficked girls with healthcare, social services, and housing in the [Baan Yuu Suk Shelter](#)—as well as to bring awareness and education to the traffickers themselves.

Trafficking of Men and Young Boys: [Urban Light](#)

A number of organizations help girls in the sex industry, but very few work to aid young men. After a service trip during which she observed the industry in Thailand firsthand, Alezandra Russel realized that boys are often excluded from the human trafficking conversation. So she created Urban Light, an organization that works to help young men break free from child prostitution and sexual exploitation. By providing food, shelter, healthcare, and support services, the group helps restore and rebuild the lives of male victims.

International Sporting Events: Student World Assembly's Red Card Project

When a large sporting event, such as the World Cup, takes place, fears often arise that trafficking will increase to meet demand from the influx of tourists. Student World Assembly's Red Card Project mobilizes students from around the world to stage powerful and striking condemnations of human trafficking at these events, bringing large-scale and needed public awareness to the practice.

Child Labor: [GoodWeave](#)

The handmade rug industry has one of the highest child labor rates in the world. When GoodWeave began its work in 1994, there were nearly one million children—many kidnapped or trafficked—working on the looms in South Asia, often for up to

18 hours a day. Through its efforts, the organization has not only helped bring child labor in the rug industry down 75%, it has built affiliations with retail outlets all over the U.S. to ensure that all carpets sold are free from child labor.

The Issue of Choice: [The Empower Foundation](#)

Not all who work in the sex industry do so against their will—some do so by choice. While the resources of most organizations aim to assist those exploited and hidden in the shadows, The Empower Foundation grew from a movement of sex workers and entertainers who fight for fair and sustainable standards and equal rights in the professions they have chosen. The group runs the [Can Do Bar](#), which offers just, safe, and fair conditions for its workers.

Standing up against human trafficking takes courage, but [anyone can get involved](#) by working for an antitrafficking group or taking a stand on an individual level. Stay tuned for our next installment to learn how you can get involved in the fight to end modern-day slavery.

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