

COMMISSION GUIDE

UNICEF



CCBMUNXVII

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

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1. Presidents' Letter

Dear delegates,

We want to welcome each one of you to the CCB Model of the United Nations this year; we are very happy that you will be one of our delegates. Participating in United Nations models is an encounter with what goes on in the real world, bringing us its complications and challenges, which we must try to overcome. That is why we are pleased to offer you this year's topics for the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund.

To begin with, we will require your best research, social and communication skills to help all of us to accomplish a feasible resolution, one that will contribute to the world we are living in. We are glad that you decided to participate in UNICEF, where we will bring together delegates who have a common interest in finding solutions for young children, who cannot take care of themselves.

Throughout the course of the three days of the Model, we will be conferring about global crises that must be attended with urgency, as they not only involve one entity or country but the whole international community. Each one of the countries selected for you is of considerable relevance to the topics debated, as the problem affects a sizable range of the global population. And, every country, regardless of its socio-economic status, will play an important role in tackling these critical points. Each one of you will represent a nation, with its distinct political inclinations, different economic conditions, and complex situations.

We are fully aware of the challenges that being a delegate brings to every student, as we have been in your shoes various times. Accordingly, do not hesitate to ask us whenever you need help with something that you do not quite understand. We are also students who are in their learning process, and we are all likely to make mistakes at some point, but in a supportive environment, everyone will also get a chance to grow and improve.

CCBMUN requires a high level of knowledge and skills. All of our delegates should be truly prepared regarding the topics, and be sufficiently informed about their countries. You should do your best at every instant, participating with coherent interventions, and making reference to your well-researched portfolios. Finally, we want to remind you to be completely respectful, polite, courteous, and open-minded for the time of the Model, as we embody the United Nations itself.

We hope you enjoy the Model!

Best regards,

José David Sandoval and Antonia Tascón

UNICEF Chair

2. Commission Information

i. History

UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund is a committee that was founded by the UN General Assembly to contribute with emergency resources, protection, and enhanced security and well-being, to children and mothers in nations that had been devastated after World War II. This crucial commission was founded on 11th December 1946 in New York (its headquarters) when it began its work by helping children in developing and developed countries whose lives were at risk, or whose welfare was endangered. Nowadays, there are over 150 nations that participate in the Commission. The Committee was granted the Nobel Peace Prize in 1965.

UNICEF's main work is to help children with particular disadvantages, where a notable change can be effected on a relatively small budget, for example, tackling contagious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, prevention of all kinds and security controls. Often volunteer staff is used to carry out this work. UNICEF works with other organizations and government departments to tackle global problems.

UNICEF also coordinates campaigns with health services, education facilities, and other well-being projects and institutions. Every branch of the Commission is conducted under the "Convention on the Rights of the Child", established in 1989, where it states, "The right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health." Both government and private contributions are used to fund UNICEF campaigns.

ii. Structure

The main goal for this children's fund is to conserve the fundamental rights of children by offering them a good quality of life. Education is very important, and so too is the treatment that they receive in the early years of life.

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is the entity in charge of voting for and choosing the 36 member countries which compose the UNICEF Executive Board. Each Executive Board representative holds the post for a period of 3 years, after which time new members are voted. There are 36 headquarters around the world in distinct countries, advocating children's rights, and raising funds for the Committee. The main headquarters is located in New York City, USA.

Even though the heart of UNICEF is in the United States, the Commission's goals, proceedings, and events take place in 192 nations. Regional offices attend the needs of the children in their corresponding locations. These regions are Europe and Central Asia; East Asia and Pacific; Eastern and Southern Africa, The Americas and the Caribbean; the Middle East and North Africa; South Asia; and West and Central Africa.

Equally important, UNICEF's general office in Europe is located in Geneva, Switzerland. The Supply Division agency corresponds to Denmark. The Innocenti Research Centre is found in Italy. And finally, the Global Shared Services Centre is found in Hungary. All of these regional offices contribute to the efficient functioning of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund.

iii. Special Procedures (if applicable)

There are no special procedures for UNICEF.

3. **Simulation** *Child labour in Southeast Asia*

i. **History/Context**



Child labour is not to be classified as all work done by children. In fact, in some cases, children or adolescents can benefit from activities such as helping their parents around the house, assisting in a family business or earning some pocket money outside school hours and during school holidays. This type of work can also contribute to the welfare

of their families, and provide children with the skills and experiences which will help them to become productive members of society in adult life.

The term “child labour” is defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential, and their dignity. Child labour is harmful to their physical and mental development. In other words, child labour refers to participation in any type of work that affects their health and personal development. This includes all work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and damaging to children. Depriving children of the opportunity to attend school, forcing them to leave school permanently, or requiring them to combine school attendance with excessive and heavy workloads, can be referred to as “child labour.”

The factors that define if a particular form of “work” can be called “child labour” are the child’s age, the type and hours of work performed, the conditions under which it is performed and the laws followed by individual countries, as well as among sectors within countries.

Throughout history, child labour has caused children to be exposed to slavery, to be separated from their families, or to be exposed to serious hazards and illnesses. They may even be left on the streets of large cities to fend for themselves, often at a very young age.



Child labour reached extremes during the Industrial Revolution, a time when children worked for long hours in dangerous factory conditions for very little money. The reasons why children were used for labouring were because of their size. Children could move in small spaces in factories or mines. Children were easy to control and, most importantly, they did not have to be paid as much as adults. The

child labourers often worked for their families, or to help their families, and so they were forced to quit school.

In the Nineteenth Century, reformers and labour organizers started fighting to restrict child labour and to improve working conditions. People started to ask for more of the available jobs to go to adults rather than to children. It was in this moment that child labour became a subject of controversy, and gradually the use of child labour declined.



The International Labour Organization (ILO) was the first organization to regulate child labour in 1919. It has made recommendations such as the Minimum Age Convention No. 138 and Recommendation No. 146, which suggests that government policy measures should include:

- Proper facilities for education and vocational orientation and training
- Promotion of employment-oriented development in rural and urban areas
- Extension of economic and social measures to alleviate poverty, and to ensure family living

This Convention also states the minimum legal age to work is 15 to best ensure the well-being of the child, since this is the age when the child's development and basic educations are considered complete. Nonetheless, there are different ages depending on the type of job:

- 13 for light work;
- 18 for dangerous work (16 under certain circumstances)

The convention also allows developing countries, whose educational and economic facilities are insufficient, to employ from the age of 14.



Considering that the elimination of child labour required immediate and comprehensive action, the ILO also adopted the “Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999”, or Convention 182, on November 19th, 2000. This Convention says that “each member which ratifies this Convention shall take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour as a matter of urgency.” (OIL, Convention No.182, Article 1).

ii. Current Situation



Child labour is a serious violation of human rights. There are around 250 million economically active children worldwide, and around 61% or 153 million of these children are workers in Asia. Many of these children are hidden while working in things such as household help; providers of sex services; mines; brick kilns; farming and fishing industries; quarries and construction sites;

and, increasingly, in the drug trade. However, the largest proportion of these child workers is in full public view; children who work as scavengers, vendors, and beggars on the streets, or children who work in small-scale or home-based industries.

In Southeast Asia, child labour and exploitation are a product of many factors, such as poverty, social norms which regard child labour, lack of decent work opportunities, migrations and emergencies. A recent study made by UNICEF shows that inequality, (which can be caused by gender, age, socio-economic status, or ethnicity) can influence the chance of children engaging in child labour, the types of work this child engages in and the severity of exploitation. As an example, most of the child domestic workers are girls who are often hardly visible and face many hazards. Another example is the children from lower caste or marginalized ethnic groups, who are often targeted for child



recruitment to armed groups in conflict situations.

Southeast Asia has become the factory of Asia since most things are manufactured here. Despite this, there is a lot of poverty, and parents encourage their children to work from a very young age to help support their families. Many of these children are not attending school in order to help clothe and feed their families. These children work in terrible conditions, earning around 20 cents a day.

A lot of these children are exposed to accidents and other injuries at work, some of which are:

- General injuries and abuses like cuts, burns, and fractures, tiredness, and dizziness, excessive fears and nightmares.
- Sexual abuse, rape, prostitution, early and unwanted pregnancy, abortion, Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) and HIV/AIDS, drugs and alcoholism.
- Physical abuse, corporal punishment, emotional maltreatment such as blaming, belittling, verbal attacks, rejection, humiliation and bad remarks.
- Emotional neglect, such as deprivation of family love and affection, resulting in loneliness, and hopelessness.
- Physical neglect such as lack of adequate provision of food, clothing, shelter and medical treatment.



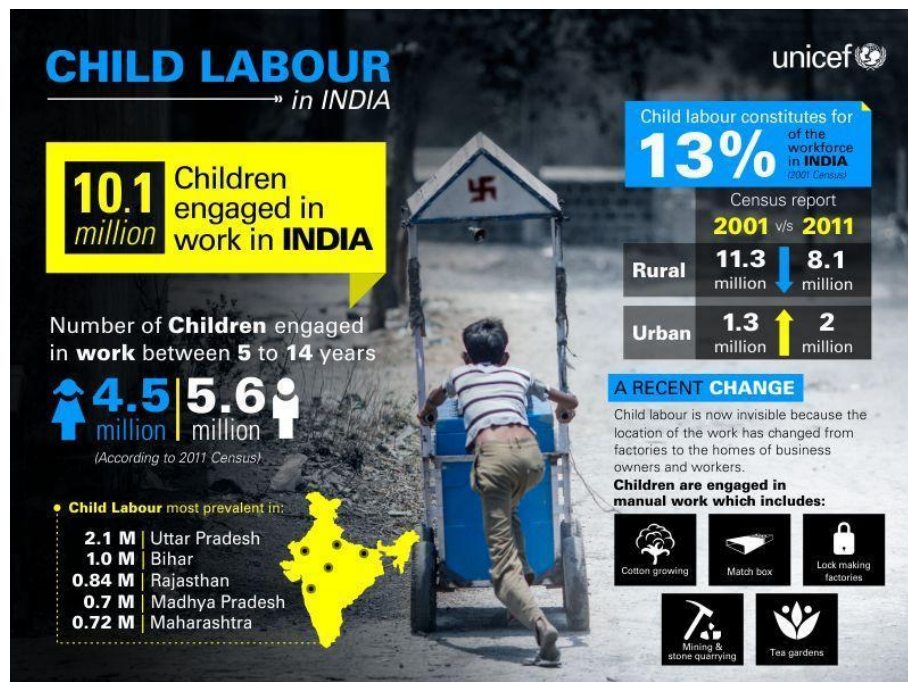
Lack of schooling results in missing educational qualifications and higher skills, thus perpetuating their life in poverty. Competition of children with adult workers also leads to the lowering of wages and salaries. It is important to remember that, as part of the responsibility to protect human rights, businesses have to cover fair wages, safe working conditions, health, land rights, workplace discrimination, sexual harassment, and women's and children's rights to health care and education. Many of the businesses in Southeast Asia are falling far below these norms. Additionally, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, and the Philippines are failing to report on human rights.

The worst form of child labour in Asia is the exploitation of children in the commercial sex trade. According to estimations made by UNICEF, one million children are lured or forced into the sex trade in this region every year; but more alarming is the fact that these children are introduced to the work by people close to them. Trafficking preys on

the desire of poor families and of many young people to achieve economic and personal advancement through migration and work.

In Southeast Asia, child trafficking for labour is common. Thailand is believed to be the receiver of a large number of children trafficked from Laos, China, Cambodia, and Burma, with the majority of them coming from Burma. These children are made to work as: prostitutes; household help; on farms and fishing vessels; as workers in factories; or as couriers of drug traffickers. Estimates show that between 27,4000 and 44,900 children work as prostitutes in Thailand, including foreign and ethnic Thai children.

Over the past decades, India has applied a range of laws and programs to address the problem of child labour. UNICEF is now working together with the Indian Government to ensure that children are protected from work exploitation, whilst they remain in an economically stable family and get the opportunity to go to school and receive an education. Despite this effort, India is still home to one of the largest numbers of child labour in the world. 33 million children from ages 5-18 are working, and almost one-third of these children are younger than 15. Nonetheless, in 2017, India made a significant advance by ratifying both ILO Conventions to prohibit children under the age of 18 from working in hazardous occupations.



iii. Key points of the debate

- Abuse of children in Southeast Asia
- Child labour as an impediment to proper development
- Consequences of Child labour in Southeast Asia
- Actions are taken by:
 - Nongovernmental organizations
 - Governments
- Actions to be taken

iv. Participating Organisms

- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)
- Human Rights Campaign (HRC)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)

v. Guiding Questions

- What regulations does your country have to protect children from child labour, and do these regulations work?
- Does your country contribute to the problem of child labour in Southeast Asia, either directly or indirectly (e.g. by buying products from these companies)
- How can the economic exploitation of children be ended, acknowledging the extreme poverty which families of Southeast Asian nations face?
- Which socio-economic issues from the children families are more urgent to address, to assure stable family homes?
- What is the key role of education in all this matter? How does illiteracy increment child labour? And how could it be solved?

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4. **Topic 1** *Separation of migrant families in the Mediterranean region*

i. **History/Context**

More than half of the world's refugee population are children. Child refugees require special consideration. As refugees, they are especially vulnerable to danger and change. Infants and children are regularly the first and most frequent victims of violence, sickness, and hunger, caused by the uprooting of large populations. Consequently, helping refugee children to meet their physical and social needs frequently means offering help to their families and networks.



In order to improve and upgrade the assurance and care of refugee children, UNHCR has adopted a Policy on Refugee Children, embraced by the UNHCR Executive Committee in October 1993. The UNHCR Guidelines on Refugee Children, first distributed in 1988, have been refreshed in the light of the new Policy. At their centre lies the acknowledgment of the need for children to be given special consideration and help.

The circumstances in which refugees flee their countries frequently involve the separation of families. Such separation invariably leads to hardship, and sometimes even to tragic consequences. It can also create serious obstacles to a refugee's integration into their new homeland.

The trauma that children experience when undergoing long-term separation from their parents is detrimental to their development. The effects of this early trauma on the brain can program a child for life, increasing the risk of depression, anxiety, and psychotic disorders.

Long-lasting health impacts on children:

- **Toxic stress:** Usually parents help children cope with traumatic experiences. However, when parents are not present the child undergoes prolonged stress. When the child's brain is exposed to stress hormones, it can cause long-lasting impairments.
- **Behavioural and emotional issues:** Children may have increased aggression, withdrawal and/or regression. As previously mentioned, the children are also at an increased risk of anxiety, depression and substance abuse later in life.
- **Parents' safety:** During the separation, children may worry about their parents' safety, putting the children in a state of constant worry, especially when children are not in contact with their parents.
- **Fear of separation:** After the reconnection, children may constantly fear being separated again, making it hard for them to tolerate even a brief separation from their parents.
- **Reintegration:** Once children are reconnected with their parents, they may start avoiding their parents' efforts to comfort them. This process is complicated and requires the re-establishment of relationships, roles, and routines.

In cases of children who are fleeing war, violence, or other traumatic situations in their home country, the sudden separation from one or both parents, especially under frightening, unpredictable and/or chaotic circumstances, gives them a higher risk of developing post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, depression, and other trauma-related reactions. These may last for the rest of their lives, especially as these children are already predisposed to developing trauma-related reactions.

Not only are children exposed to mental stress, but they are also exposed to various forms of abuse, separation from their carers, neglect, violence, exploitation, trafficking



or military recruitment. Studies say that refugee camps lack adequate security, food, and medical facilities; there are thousands of unaccompanied minors who face the risk of exploitation daily.

A refugee camp is no place for a child to grow up. In addition to inadequate food, shelter and medical services, there are few organized activities, and parents worry about a lost generation of children, unable to get a proper education. Numerous families are broken, children being cared for by just one parent, or without either parent. In some circumstances, a child may even have to act as the head of the family, having to care for their younger siblings. In camp circumstances, children lack positive role models.

Another major problem of the separation of refugee families is the reunification of these families at a later date. Separation creates serious obstacles to refugee integration in a new homeland, and even to reintegration with their families. Family reunification for refugees is a pressing human rights issue. Not only is it hard for the parents to resettle in a new country without knowing where their children are, but it is also difficult for a child to keep going on with their life, not knowing if they will ever see their parents again. However, the process to achieve the reunification of refugees is long and, in some cases, even unsuccessful. In some countries, children's right to have a family and to family reunification is being violated, due to the fact that these countries have banned family reunification, leaving millions of children with no home or parents to help them.

The significance of keeping refugee families protected during the resettlement procedure has been discussed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on various occasions. In 2001, the UNHCR announced the five core values of family reunification:

- The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by States.

- The refugee family is essential to ensure the protection and well-being of its individual members, and as such its protection is within the mandate of the Office.
- The principle of dependency entails flexible and expansive family reunification criteria that are culturally sensitive.
- Humanitarian considerations support family reunification efforts.
- The refugee family is essential to the successful integration of resettled refugees.

For further understanding, the five core values of family reunification enter Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement. Note on Family Reunification - UNHCR. <http://www.unhcr.org/3b30baa04.pdf>

The UNHCR made an emphasis on prioritizing the reunification of children with parents, guardians, relatives or with a reasonable caretaker. Children and teenagers are in specific need of a steady family unit to guarantee the advancement of their own social aptitudes. Family reunification, nonetheless, may not always be the best answer for children. Resettlement staff must consider each case separately depending on their specific circumstances.

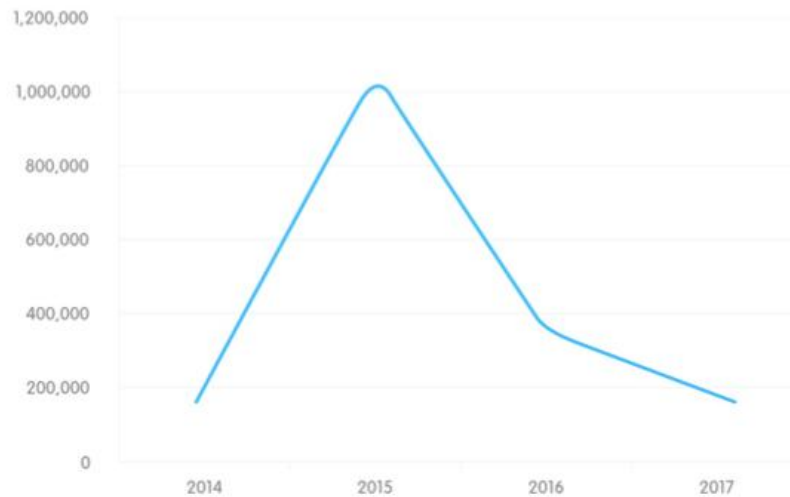
Enter here for full information into the approach of resettlement: <https://www.unhcr.org/46f7c0ee2.pdf>

ii. Current Situation

Since 2014, there has been a massive increase in the number of refugees and other migrants entering Europe. Most are trying to flee the conflicts in Africa and the Middle East. This phenomenon peaked in 2015 when more than one million people arrived in Europe. The highest number of them travelled along what is known as the “eastern route” through the Mediterranean Sea.



Migrants arrivals in Europe through Mediterranean



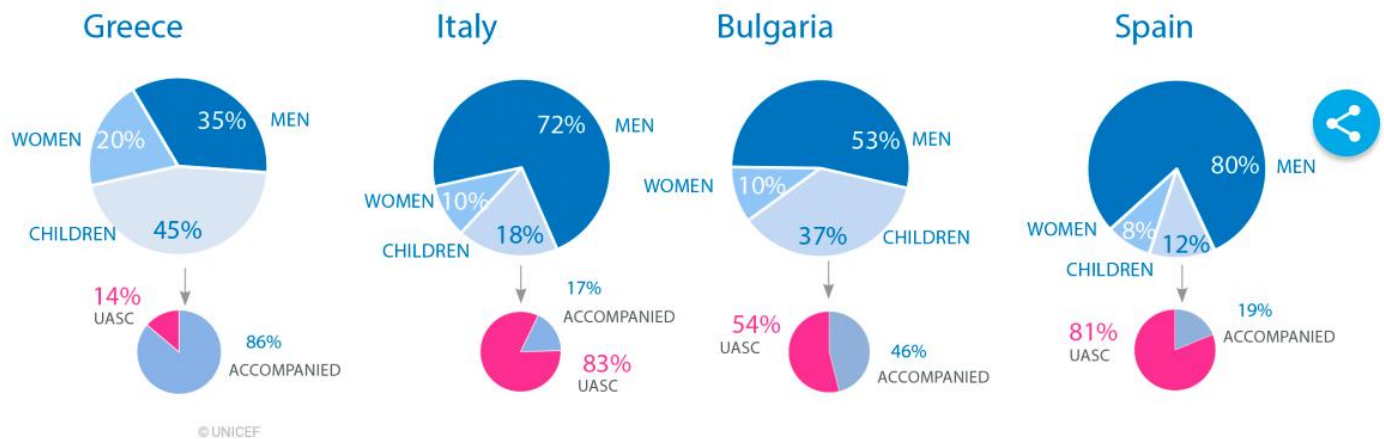
Source: UNHCR

Thanks to their geographical position, and to the Dublin Regulation (defines which countries must evaluate asylum claims), countries such as Spain, Italy, and Greece have been receiving most of the refugees.

Around one in five migrants and refugees that cross the Mediterranean are children, this adds up to 870,001 children that are in danger of being exposed to disorder, harm, brutality, violation of their rights and dangers to their lives and prosperity; while some of them never land on their goal.

The demography of those arriving

Including accompanied, unaccompanied and separated children
(January-December 2018)



As shown in the previous graph, many of the children who arrive in different countries through the Mediterranean Sea are separated from their families during the journey. This is sometimes because their parents took the difficult decision to send the children by themselves, hoping that they would be safe when they arrived and that they would be able to join them at a later date. It may also be because the parents simply did not survive the journey. In 2018, European countries recorded around 602,920 new asylum seekers, of whom nearly a third (32%) were children, meaning that 191,360 children were looking for asylum. Of these, 20,325 were UASC (Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children).

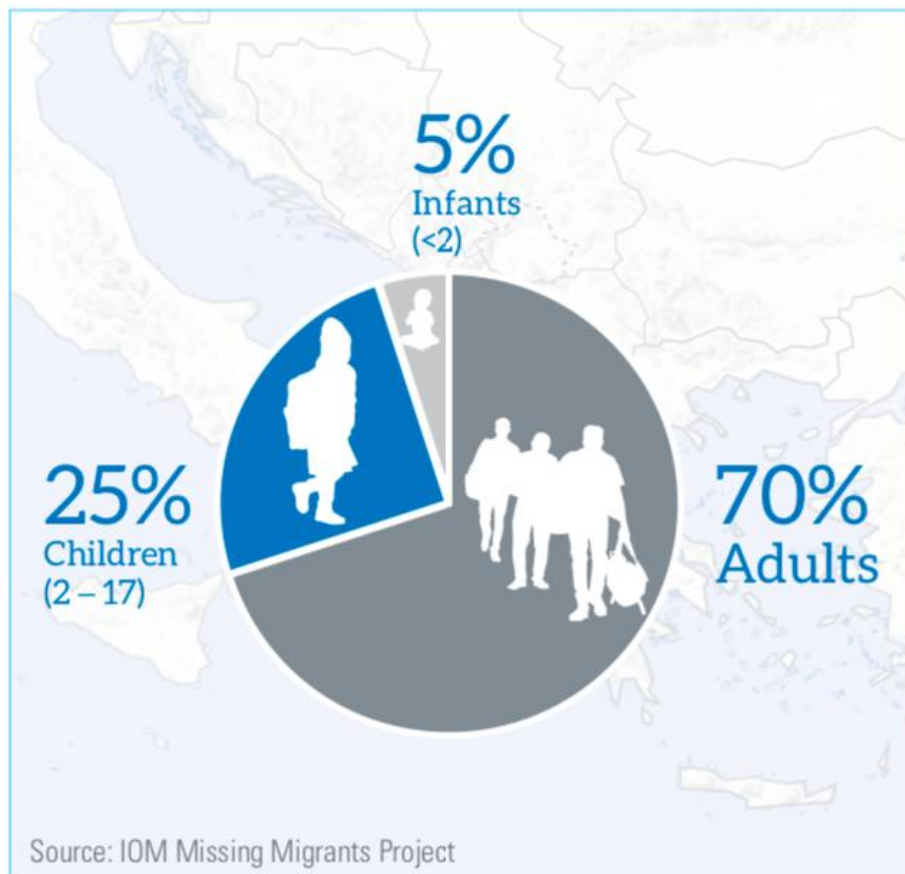
Urgent action is needed to help around 23,000 unaccompanied child refugees who are now living in unsafe Greek and Italian refugee camps where there is a lack of security safeguards, water, decent food, blankets, and medical facilities. Claude Moraes, the Chair of the European Parliament's Justice and Home Affairs Committee said, "The amount of child abuse, rape, and smuggling that is going on is horrific," adding that, "If the EU is to have any sort of value, it has to care for unaccompanied minors when they arrive in Europe." The camps have been compared to a concentration camp by Pope Francis. Despite the laws that say children are prioritized and provided with their basic needs, many unaccompanied minors have been held for long periods at refugee camps in inappropriate conditions.

Catherine Woollard, the Secretary-General of the European Council on Refugees and Exiles, said that the EU's treatment of lone children was "one of the most shameful aspects of the refugee crisis," also warning, "this report adds to a large volume of evidence about the exploitation and maltreatment that highly vulnerable unaccompanied minors are suffering," she said. "Getting them to safety is now vital."

As shown in the next graph, more than 5,000 people lost their lives in the Mediterranean, of which a great amount are children.

Deaths in the Eastern Mediterranean by age group

1 September – 27 November 2015



Not only is living in the camps hard for children, reuniting them with their families is almost impossible. In many cases, the process takes far too long or is not really taken care of; in other cases, parents ask to be reunited with their families but are told that it won't be possible because their children are too old, leaving the children all by themselves.

“Throughout Europe, many practical obstacles lead to prolonged separation, significant procedural costs and no realistic possibility of success for refugees seeking to reunite with their family”

Retrieved from COE (council of Europe) <https://rm.coe.int/prems-052917-gbr-1700-realising-refugees-160x240-web/1680724ba0>



With family separation, we can see there is a clear violation of the existing rights children have to a family and to family reunification, as encoded in several human and refugee rights codes.

Usually, in the Mediterranean region, the length of the reunification process varies, In most cases, it takes around eight months for children to be reunited with their families. These lengths are extremely painful for the families, especially for young children who are living without an adult to take care of them and to help them settle into a new home. Another problem these refugees face is not having sufficient legal aid to appeal against a negative decision on their family reunification application. This means that if their request to meet up with their families is denied, and they have no legal means to appeal directly against this decision, they will never be reunited with their families - leaving it up to the state where applied before to re-apply and re-extend the application for family unification to the respective member state for consideration.

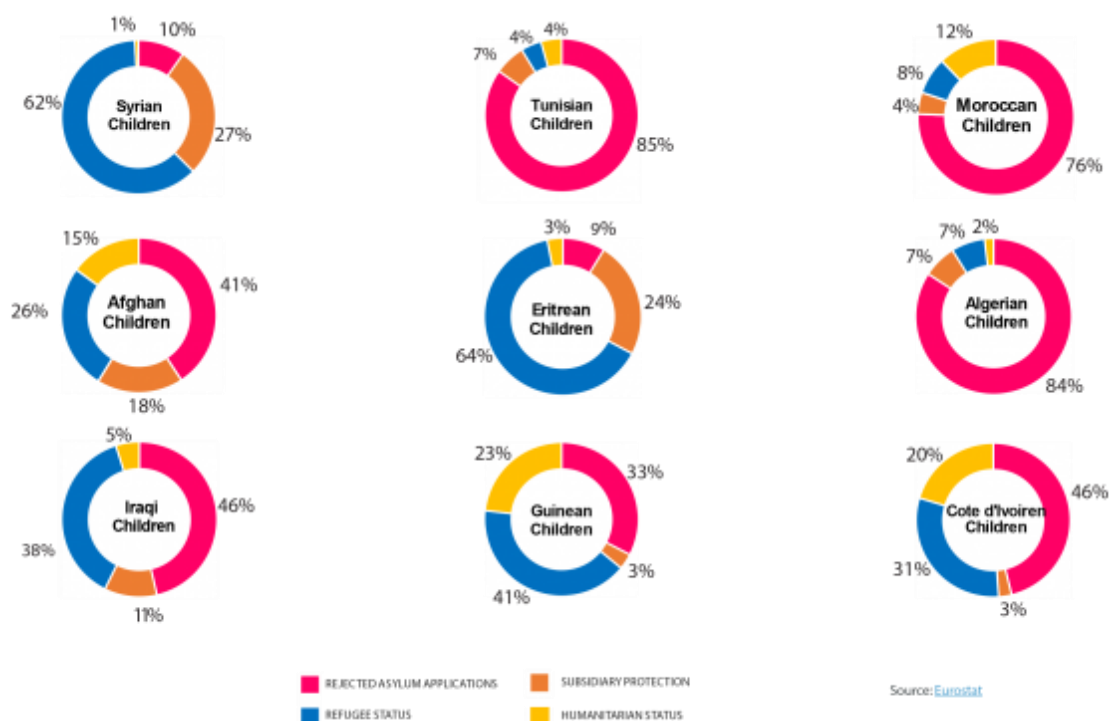
For reunification purposes, the Mediterranean Region and the EU define family not as everyone who shares the same blood, but instead parents with children who are minors. This often means that parents cannot be reunited with their adult children and that children over 18 years of age are not provided with the opportunity to reunite with their family. This causes stress and grief among children who are already suffering the loss of their normal way of life.

It is important to highlight that the UE has been working to relocate and reunite migrants, giving priority to vulnerable persons, in particular minors and unaccompanied minors. The downside of this is that only a few of these children are prioritized since this only applies to certain nationalities, leaving some children in the same conditions as they

were before. The nationalities that are given these priorities are Syrians and Eritreans, leaving many children out of the program, as shown in the graphs below.

Decisions on child asylum applications

(January-December 2018)



iii. Key points of the debate

- Reasons for family separation
- Effects on children that have been separated from their families
- Violation of children's rights in refugee camps
- Issues regarding family reunification
- The government as an impediment to achieving family reunification
- How to assure safety for children in refugee camps
- How to achieve family reunification
- How to prevent family separation at borders

iv. Participating Organisms

- UNICEF
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- International Organisation for Migration
- World Health Organisation
- International Committee of the Red Cross

v. Guiding Questions

- Does your country receive refugees who have problems with family separation?
- How can the conditions in refugee camps be improved in order to keep the children safe and to reunite them with their families as quickly as possible?
- In what way is your country connected with the separation of the family crises in Greece, or with any other separation crisis in the world?
- What is your nation's point of view towards the separation of families in this specific scenario?
- What is the best way to solve this crisis, and how could your country intervene and contribute to the resolution of this?
- Does your country have any regulation to avoid the separation of families at its borders? If not, what regulations could be implemented to avoid this?

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5. **Topic 2** *Traffic of children within ethnic minorities from developing Asian countries to Europe*

i. History/Context

According to the UN, the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered “trafficking in persons.”



Child trafficking is one of the world’s leading crises, currently affecting over 1.2 million individuals under the age of 18 around the globe. This number has increased dramatically since the beginning of the decade and is now a 40-billion USD dollar industry.

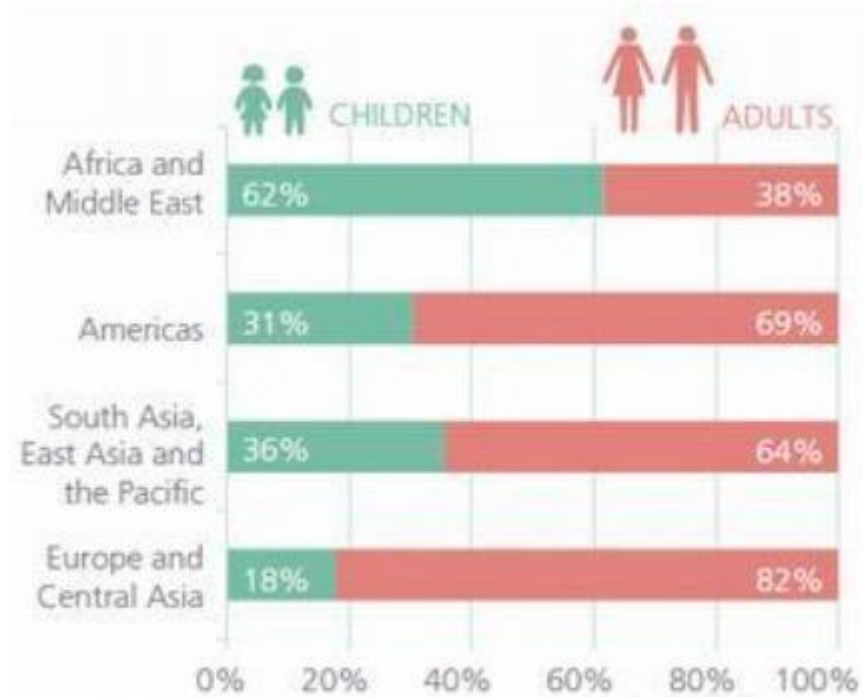
Over half of the humans trafficked are children. Child trafficking is categorized as the worst type of child labour and the biggest violation of children’s rights. It is imperative that all UN nations look for a solution to this problem. Several meetings and conventions have already taken place to discuss this problem, for example, the ILO Convention N. 182, “Worst forms of child labour convention” in 1999. This convention declared that child trafficking would be eradicated in all forms, with the goal of preventing the children from being trafficked by removing them from high risk and exploitation areas, providing victim assistance and wide protection to all children to ensure that they are not (re)trafficked.

“Effectively fighting child trafficking requires a clear understanding of both the supply and demand side of the problem, strong legislation and law enforcement, collaboration and cooperation and advocacy at the political and cultural level.”

Retrieved from: ILO (International Labour Office):
file:///Users/josedavid17/Downloads/Child_Trafficking_Essentials%20(1).pdf

Children up to the age of 18 are considered underage. Child trafficking has been happening for decades for labour, prostitution and organ removal amongst other reasons. Hundreds of thousands of children find themselves at risk on a daily basis around the world. Children are trafficked from all regions in the world, from a range of

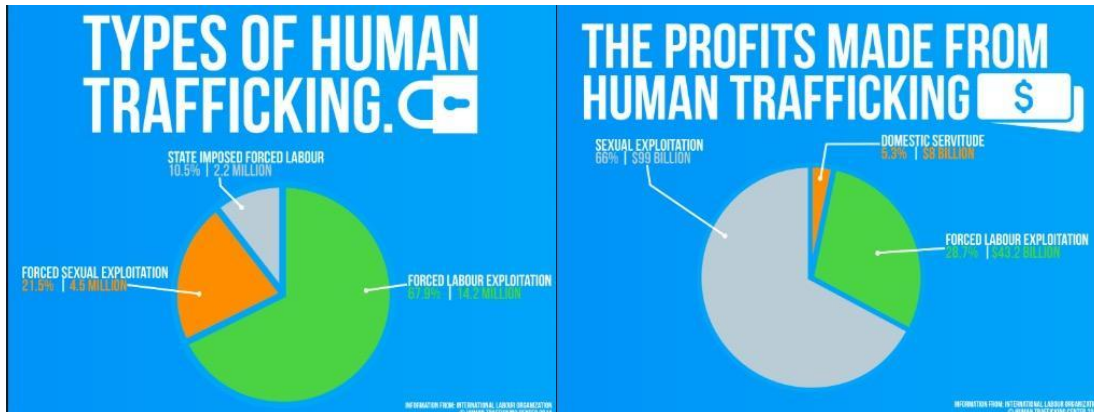
racess, but mainly from minority ethnic groups and religions. This is because they are often considered inferior, or even disposable. Sometimes, it is even the families themselves who sell their own blood to illegal entities, leaving their child in the hands of strangers.



Taken from UNODC (2014: 11)

As shown in the table above, in some areas, over 60% of all humans trafficked are children. This is because children are easier to manipulate; nevertheless, there are various other motives it is happening. For instance, strong boys in their growth process who are full of energy, are “adequate” for forced labour, whilst 14 to 21-year-old girls, are extremely desirable for prostitution and sexual abuse, both, online and through direct contact.

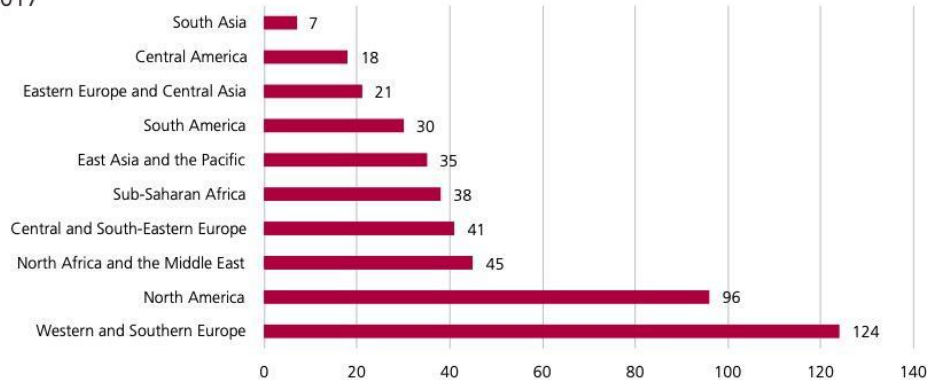
Likewise, the U.S Government has declared that between 600.000 to 800.000 women and children have been sold and bought between nations, for the purposed of forced labour and sexual abuse. Furthermore, it is estimated by the ILO that 2.5 to 4 million children will be part of illegal commerce by 2025. It states that **NO** reliable results have been accomplished to combat this problem, which is, in fact, increasing in current times.



It is estimated that around 5.5 million children are involved in some way in illicit trafficking, suffering from violence, exploitation, and abuse. They may be forced to do hard labour, to get married without consent, to work in the sex industry, to live in the streets, or to participate in military recruitment. Every country is affected by child trafficking in some way, most of the time without the government being informed of it.

As revealed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in its global report of 2016: the percentage of trafficked people who are children are 62% in Africa and the Middle East, 36% in South and East Asia and 18% in Europe.

Number of citizenships among victims detected in destination countries, by subregion of detection, 2014-2017



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

In simple terms, it is shown how Western and Southern Europe is the region which is receiving most of the illegal children trafficked, whilst most of the children come from Asian developing countries.

Enter here for full information in global trafficking: [Global report on traffic in person](#) (UNODC)

https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2018/GLOTiP_2018_BOOK_web_small.pdf

https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2016_Global_Report_on_Trafficking_in_Persons.pdf

- **Forced labour:** As they are underage, the children don't fulfill the legal conditions and requirements of a worker, giving the company where they work the opportunity to pay them less, denying them health and other standard labour benefits. 150 million children between the ages of 5 and 14 work in this way.
- **Sexual exploitation:** Due to their age, people believe they can do as they want with young people. Girls tend to be more easily controlled. About 75% of sexual exploitation occurs digitally, and around 2 million children are involved.
- **Children in armed forces:** ILO estimates that there are tens of thousands of children directly involved in armed conflicts. They can be used in direct combat roles, supporting roles as messengers or spies, and for political advantages in propaganda purposes.
- **Forced begging:** Children are forced to beg in the streets for monetary resources, which are handed over to an adult. UNICEF estimates that around 13% of trafficked children in Europe are there because of forced begging.



Finally, it is essential to comprehend how child trafficking is a hidden crime, which often occurs without the consent or knowledge of government entities. Therefore, there is little or no information about which people specifically traffic the children, nor about who are the buyers and the sellers, as most of it happens via the internet. Consequently, it is not possible to simply demolish illegal trafficking groups or overthrow commerce, so a more viable solution is to prevent it from happening in the first place.

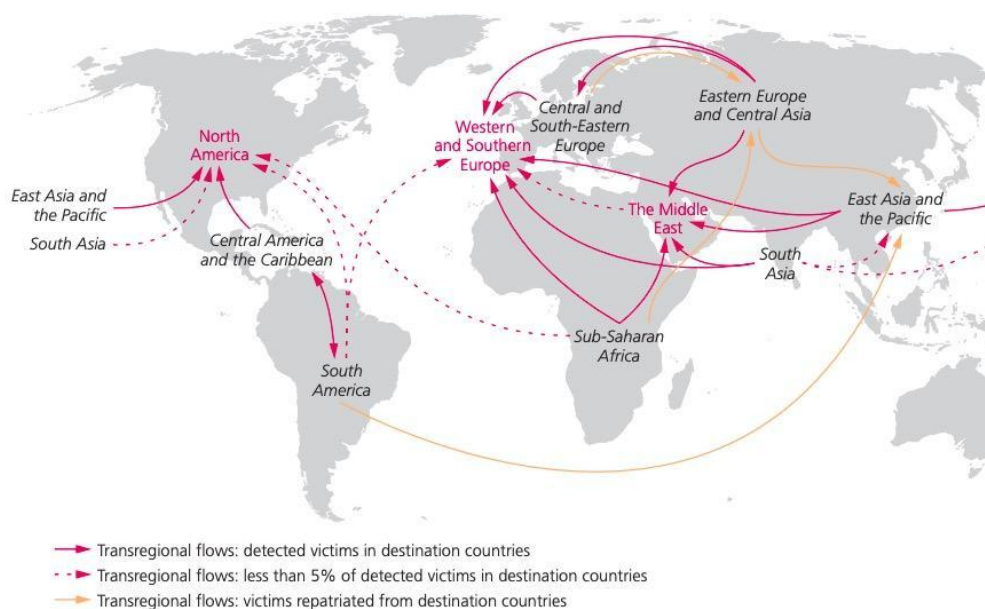
To find out more about how child trafficking takes place, enter the following link:
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/child-trafficking/>

ii. Current Situation

Nowadays, children under 18 years old are exposed to the precarious outside world, where thousands get immersed in sexual and labour exploitation, without knowing what they are getting themselves into. Regardless of all the various efforts, plans, proposals, and actions are taken to fight illicit trafficking, the developing Asian nations come top in this aspect; Asia is notorious for being the region of origin for trafficked children, particularly Southeast Asia and the Middle East countries. This is due to the fact that these zones have certain traits that are perfect for child trafficking.

One trait is the *high number of migrants* from the lowest economic classes and minorities, who tend to migrate to developed nations both in Asia and Europe. Secondly, as the *land borders are so enormous*, regulations at frontiers present serious deficits, which need to be addressed immediately. The biggest factor, however, is *economic disparities* due to the fact that ethnic minorities are the most affected by lack of employment and education. This leads to illegal trafficking. Families from ethnic minorities suffer most from the economic struggles a nation is going through, causing desperation for the population.

MAP 6 Main detected transregional trafficking flows, 2014-2017

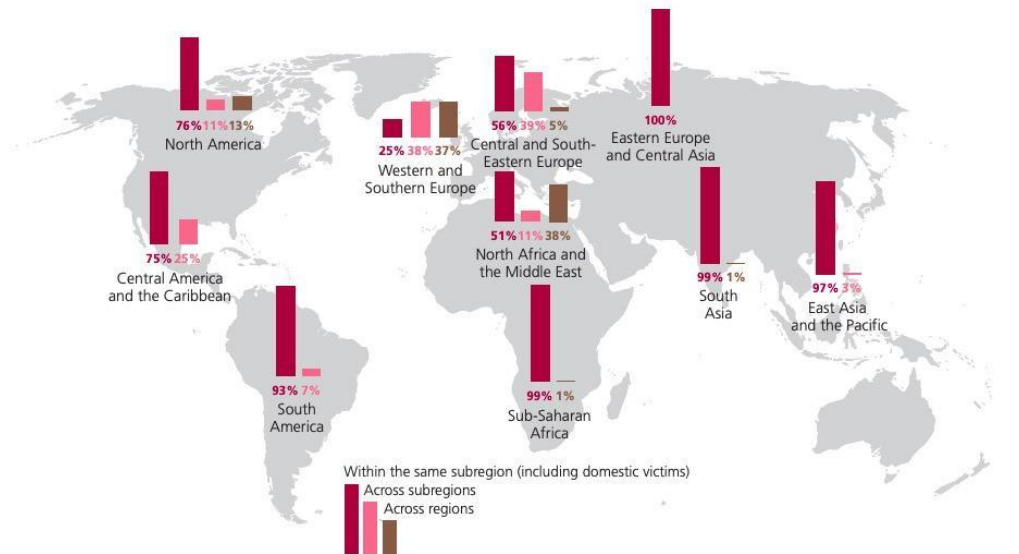


The above map shows how a large number of children are sent to the western part of Europe. In about 25% of the cases, it is the family itself or the child's legal guardians who sell the child. Families are often promised benefits such as better economic opportunities, better living conditions, shelter and acceptance into the communities. This is why the great majority of children are trafficked from Asia. They are taken to

more developed areas, such as Europe, where the profit to be made from children in every form of slavery is higher.

It is also essential to understand the role of the *demand* in child trafficking; the Central Asian countries, for example, are encouraged to commit sex trafficking of the underage population due to the increasing demand for these girls in EU countries.

Shares of detected victims by area of origin and of detection, by subregion, 2016 (or most recent)



In fact, Europe is the continent which receives more children in an illegal manner from regions outside its own. This is shown by the pink bars in the graph above, making it clear that anti-trafficking resolutions and frameworks need to be redesigned in a more efficient and effective way to assure child welfare.

Currently, human trafficking as a whole is the second-largest source of illegal profit in the world, just after the drug trade. 79% of the cases of child trafficking in Europe are due to the demand for prostitution and sexual exploitation, while 18% is for forced labour, and this number is increasing rapidly. Hundreds of thousands of young people are trafficked within the European states.

“The EU is primarily a destination region for victims from across the world. Trafficking into the EU appears to have increased in recent years, particularly through and from Russia, Ukraine, and central/south-eastern Europe. Victims are also recruited in EU countries and trafficked either internally or to other countries, inside or outside the EU.” (UNICEF 2018)

A small fraction of the children who come to the developed nations in Europe are fleeing from their native nations. They are often trying to escape from armed conflicts, economic deficit, insecurity, unjust political laws, amongst other crises. These children, who mostly arrive illegally to Europe, also tend to fall into the hands of the traffickers.

The cost of human trafficking

Every year, human traffickers make **profit from the trade** **\$150bn**



Child trafficking, which composes about 50% of human trafficking, is set to surpass the drugs trade in the coming years. Vulnerable children may be re-abused multiple times. Trafficking of children is currently a 32-billion-dollar industry, and is set to rise. These children become traumatized, mainly as a result of being exposed to sexual abuse. The children are disturbed mentally, physically and emotionally, and may end up having nervous breakdowns, which take years to get over.

Equally important, there are cases where the traffickers, or buyers, do not receive serious punishments. In fact, it is sometimes the trafficked youngsters who are charged with prostitution or consensual sex, when they are really the victims.

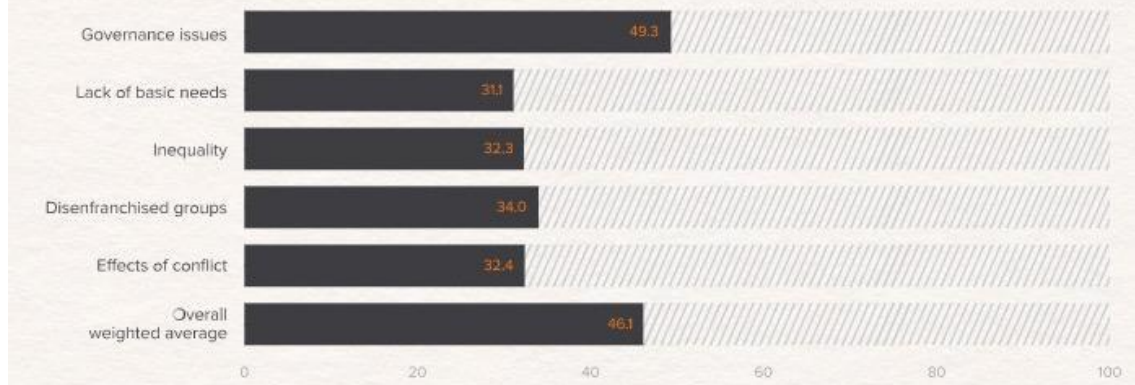
Many countries are involved in child trafficking between Europe and Central Asian sub-regions, where there is an extensive variety of diversity, culture, history, and development statuses. Within these nations, Belarus, Macedonia, and Turkmenistan are the states with the highest frequency of child trafficking. Many of the trafficking routes pass through Turkey, Ukraine, and Russia; 39% of the total incidents of child trafficking occurring between these territories.

See specific data from your country in <https://www.globalslaveryindex.org/2018/findings/regional-analysis/europe-and-central-asia/>

Vulnerability within Europe and Central Asia

Figure 1

Regional average vulnerability scores by dimension, Europe and Central Asia



The inefficiency of governmental responses towards the problem is a factor in 50% of child trafficking scenarios. This is often because some governments marginalize ethnic minorities, and are not prepared to help them.

A particular example of a current child trafficking problem is the route from Vietnam to the UK. Victims leave their native countries with false promises of a decent job and excellent opportunities. They first arrive in Russian, then they travel through countries such as France, the Czech Republic, Germany, Netherlands, Ukraine, Belarus, and Spain before arriving in the UK. As children pass through each nation under the control of their trafficker, governmental forces and entities decide these children are not their concern, but another state's, such as their homeland. This leaves them to be categorized as criminals, illegal migrants, child prostitutes, amongst other charges that may be held against them.

Most of the children who leave Vietnam in search of better life opportunities are not identified as victims. Some leave because they want to assist their families economically, others are simply trying to escape from all the internal conflicts in their countries. However, these young people are extremely vulnerable, and are often exposed to abuse and exploitation. Around 5000 Vietnamese children have been trafficked to the UK to date, and around 3,500 of these are profoundly affected, as they are still involved in sexual abuse or forced labour, which the UK Government has not dealt with efficiently.



In summary, child trafficking, the second-biggest illegal industry in the world, is so immense that it is considered almost impossible to combat, despite the need to act immediately. However, this does not mean that plans and actions cannot be implemented to tackle the root causes of child trafficking from Asia to Europe.

iii. Key points of the debate

- Motives for child trafficking from Asia to Europe
- Ethnic minorities as the most vulnerable communities
- Inefficient governmental systems to deal with the crisis
- Mental, physical and emotional repercussions on children
- High rates of trafficking from the developing Asian nations
- Increase of trafficked children to developed European countries
- Children regarded as criminals instead of victims

iv. Participating Organisms

- United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime
- United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
- Human Rights Council
- International labour organization
- The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- United Nations Institute of Training and Research
- United States' FBI
- Agencies of the PITF

v. Guiding Questions

- Has your country ever had a problem with the traffic of children?
- Why are the children from ethnic minorities from developing Asian countries the most trafficked to Europe?
- What are the reasons for the developed nations in Europe to receive these illegal children in their communities?
- How do a person's ethnic group and religion affect the probability of being trafficked as a child?

- How could your country help to avoid the exploitation, forced labour and sexual abuse these young people go through after being trafficked?
- What can be done to help developing Asian countries combat child trafficking?

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https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2018/GLOTiP_2018_BOOK_web_small.pdf

https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2016_Global_Report_on_Trafficking_in_Persons.pdf

