Combating Human Trafficking In Combat Zones

General Assembly 1

Issue Description:

Armed conflict creates conditions in which civilians become highly vulnerable to human trafficking. Weak governments and poverty allow traffickers and armed groups to traffick civilians. Women and children are particularly vulnerable to sexual assault, forced labour and forced marriage. According to the UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2024, about 38% percent of trafficking incidents involve children. The report also found that trafficking has increased compared with previous years.

Why has this issue not been resolved?

This is because trafficking remains difficult to prevent in conflict zones. Governments may lose control of territory, while police and courts can be destroyed or severely weakened. Collecting evidence is also difficult, and victims may fear authorities. Conflict also makes people more dependent on strangers and health organisations, increasing opportunities for traffickers. Poverty, gender inequality and shortage of education further contribute to vulnerability.

Important stances on the issue:

Nearly all nations generally support actions to prevent human trafficking. The UN Security Council recognised trafficking in conflict situations as a threat to peace and security. They called for stronger investigation, prevention and victim protection. The UN promotes all member states to approach: prevention, protection, prosecution and partnership.

What organizations are currently involved (or have been involved) and what have they achieved?

UNODC provides research and statistics. UNHCR and IOM protect refugees, migrants and displaced people. UNICEF focuses on child protection. The UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons investigates human-rights concerns and provides recommendations to governments.

Sources

https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/report/2024-unodc-global-report-on-trafficking-in-persons/

https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2024/GLOTIP24_special_points_final.pdf

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_trafficking

https://www.iom.int/

https://www.unhcr.org/

Good luck with your research reports delegates!

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