



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

### **Written statement\* submitted by Network of Women's Non- governmental Organizations in the Islamic Republic of Iran, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[30 May 2023]

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\* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



## **Human Trafficking or Modern Slavery, Challenges and Solutions**

### **Introduction**

Human trafficking, also known as modern-day slavery, is alive and well in many countries. Every year, millions of people in the world, including in the United States of America, are bought and sold for the purposes of forced labour or sexual exploitation. It can happen to any demographic, any gender, any race or nationality. Fifty million people were living in modern slavery in 2021, according to the latest Global Estimates of Modern Slavery. It is estimated that of these people, 28 million were in forced labour and 22 million were trapped in forced marriage.

Unfortunately, even among governments and international organizations, there is no consistent use of the term human trafficking and no consensus on what the term comprises or how it relates to issues of forced labour, slavery, and exploitation. But after much neglect and indifference, the world is waking up to the reality of a modern form of slavery. The public and the media are becoming aware that humans prey upon humans for money. Parliaments are passing appropriately severe laws. The judiciary is facing its anti-slavery responsibility, with more prosecutions and convictions. Civil society and (to a lesser extent) the private sector are mobilizing goodwill and resources to assist victims.

### **Human Trafficking in the United States of America**

The number of people in modern slavery has risen significantly in the last five years. 10 million more people were in modern slavery in 2021 compared to 2016 global estimates. Women and children remain disproportionately vulnerable.

It is estimated that between 15,000 to 50,000 women and children are forced into sexual slavery in the United States of America every year, and the total number varies wildly as it is very difficult to research. One study from the Department of Health and Human Services estimated the number between 240,000 and 325,000, while a report from the University of Pennsylvania put it at between 100,000 and 300,000.

There are many ways in the United States of America in which women and children are trafficked. Some of the ways females are trafficked include pimp-controlled trafficking, in which a single person controls the victim physically, psychologically, or emotionally; gang trafficking, in which a victim is controlled by more than one person, and may be abused by the gang members or prostituted out by the gang; survival sex, where the victim feels they are not able to escape and must perform sex acts in order to survive; familial trafficking, in which the victim is abused and controlled by their family members; and forced marriages.

Hotels and motels are a major venue for sex trafficking, often through pimp-controlled victims that are affiliated with the hotel's owner or employees. Massage parlors are another common place for trafficking. Truck stops are a third place where pimp-controlled women and girls are found. In all of these instances, these women may be indebted to the pimp or organization and have no funds, contacts, or language skills to use to flee.

In this state, sporting events are also a common prostitution venue. According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, 10,000 prostitutes were brought to Miami for the 2010 Super Bowl. Similar reports have been made about the 2014 FIFA World Cup. The gathering of large groups of people, as well as tourists' willingness to spend money, is what makes these large events so lucrative for traffickers. The availability of data on exploitation is limited and therefore research on exploitation is challenging. Nevertheless, some promising initiatives have considerably improved the data available to assess the extent of human trafficking.

## **Recommendation**

The Network of Women's Non-governmental Organizations in the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that It is urgent that the global community gathers the will and resources to overcome these obstacles and get progress towards ending modern slavery back on track. Promises and statements of good intentions are not enough. While the principal responsibility for change lies with national governments, a whole-of-society approach is needed – the social partners, participants in the social and solidarity economy, businesses, investors, survivor groups, civil society, and an array of other actors have critical roles to play. Technical cooperation and assistance from UN agencies, other multilateral and bilateral organizations, international non-governmental organizations, and other groups will also be important to progress. Social dialogue provides an essential framework for building lasting, consensus-based solutions to the challenge of modern slavery.

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