

# TEDUMUN'23 UNODC Position Paper

Country: Netherlands

Agenda Item 1: Effects of Drug Decriminalization on Drug Abuse

Agenda Item 2: Assessing the Current Situation of Modern Human Trafficking in Arabian and African Regions

---

## Agenda Item 1:

The Netherlands has paid significant attention to the usage of drugs, its effects on the population, and the consequences of the laws concerned with the control of drug usage, production, and usage. We have implemented laws that aim to reduce drug use, but also provide an environment where it would be possible to provide care and assistance to those who suffer from drug abuse without the involvement of the law enforcement agencies.

We have taken significant steps towards our goal by implementing the Opium Act. The act sets out rules pertaining to drug use, important distinctions of drug classes, and introduces a toleration policy on selling of soft drugs which include cannabis, hash, etc. This toleration policy allows certain businesses called “coffeeshops” to sell soft drugs under certain strict conditions. In case these conditions are not met then the public prosecution system will prosecute.

It is important to note that production, and transportation of any kind of drug is illegal and is a criminal offence due to the nuisance caused by the mentioned activities. The possession and the sale of soft drugs are only tolerated under strict conditions. This slight ambiguity leads to a situation where the production, selling, and the use of drugs are discouraged due to the difficulties involved in maintaining this system.

An important distinction that the Opium Act makes is the classification of drugs into soft and hard drugs. As we have mentioned for soft drugs there are strict rules where the drugs are allowed to be in circulation under the toleration policy. Hard drugs (such as cocaine), however, are not covered by the toleration policy and the use of these drugs will lead to prosecution. These hard drugs are a major health risk, and in conjunction with the toleration policy for soft drugs, the use of hard drugs will be mitigated further.

Finally, it is important to note that the Netherlands is in agreement with international policies on drugs such as the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the Convention on Psychotropic substances.

## Agenda Item 2:

Human trafficking is the forceful recruitment, transportation, and housing of an individual against their will. The reasons for such an act include forced labour, sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, and forced organ removal. The victims are usually coerced into these situations and are unable to seek the help of the authorities due to many road-blocks such as the victim could be cut off from communications, they are isolated, or they are in a place where they can not communicate. This leads to a critical situation where the problem has to be addressed directly at the source since it is extremely difficult if not impossible to tackle an ongoing human trafficking situation.

Human trafficking can look in many different ways. From the football slavery where young aspiring players from developing countries are promised new and flourishing lives if they migrate to a different country to play for a team, to the kafala system implemented in some of the Arabic gulf countries that tie the legal rights of a migrant worker to their boss rendering their freedoms absent. These are just some of the forms of human trafficking. Each form has its own challenges and problems to overcome and needs special attention to their context.

As we've mentioned, it is important to address the root cause of this issue. There are many reasons why a person could end in such a situation. These reasons include socio-economic status of the person making them desire to migrate for better opportunities, conflict and political unrest, natural disasters, etc. There are many ways to tackle these issues including improved education, improved security, increased social and economic development.

The Netherlands has been a destination spot for human trafficking victims. Many human traffickers lure into victims by promising them a better life and opportunities in the Netherlands. Inside the Netherlands, however, there's a new issue of so-called "loverboys" who get involved with young girls or boys and then by either a long period of seducing their victim or by blackmail and violence they exploit them sexually.

The Netherlands is in agreement with the international conventions on human trafficking such as the United Nations TIP Protocol. We've also implemented laws for the protection of the victims of human trafficking and are also working on efforts to address the root causes.