

Country: Portugal

Committee: UNICEF

Agenda Item: Preventing Child Trafficking in Third World Countries

Portugal, one of the two countries in the Iberian Peninsula, is from the European Union. For the previous 3100 years, Portuguese lands witnessed migrations and wars that affected the country's culture, history, language and ethnicity. Portugal, which had a huge overseas empire stretching from Brazil to the Philippines in the 15th and 16th centuries, became a member of the European Union after the end of the empire in the 20th century and has a balanced democratic structure today. The official language is Portuguese, but Miranda and Spanish are also widely spoken in the country. According to IMF reports, Portugal ranks 47th in the world economies ranking after Czechia and Vietnam. Portugal has been a member of the United Nations since 14 December 1955 and has played important roles within the organization.

Problems such as wars, drought and natural disasters stimulate migration to developed countries or neighboring countries. As migrations increase, child trafficking increases in direct proportion. In this context, the third world countries are taken as a basis first, because the countries with the most mentioned problems are the third world countries. The inability of the states in these countries to control, the increase in immigration to other countries, unemployment and poor living conditions make child trafficking possible. Child trafficking is particularly dangerous in sub-Saharan countries (Mali, Niger, Congo etc.), South Asian countries (Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos etc.) and the Middle East. This situation cannot be said to be low in developed countries, crime rates in Europe and America are increasing every year. It is estimated that criminal organizations earned between \$ 7 million and \$ 9.5 billion from child trafficking in 2004 alone.

Child trafficking is not one-dimensional. Some trades are organ theft, some are sex and prostitution, some are crimes committed on child labor. Although these crimes can occur at the local level, they have international effects. To this end, the United Nations enacted the Protocol on the Prevention, Suppression and Punishment of Trafficking in Women and Children (CTOC) on

25 December 2003, in addition to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC). Portugal, which signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in October 1990, has a government agency that monitors the implementation of the provisions of the convention. There is also an International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC).

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