**Country:** Pakistan

**Committee:** UNODC

**Agenda Item 1:** Modern Human Trafficking in Arabian and African Regions

**Agenda Item 2:** Effects of Drug Decriminalization on Drug Abuse

The Indus Valley civilization, one of the oldest in the world and dating back at least 5,000 years, spread over much of what is presently Pakistan. It’s located in Southern Asia, bordering the Arabian Sea, between India on the east and Iran and Afghanistan on the west and China in the North. Pakistan holds an area that’s slightly more than five times the size of Georgia; slightly less than twice the size of California. Pakistan’s capital is “Islamabad”. Pakistan has won its independence on 14 August 1947 (from British India). The country is being ruled with federal parliamentary republic system. Their law system is common law system with Islamic law influence. While Islam being the official religion of the country, also, 96.5% of population is Muslim. Although their national language is “Urdu”, only 7% of Pakistanis speak Urdu.

***Agenda Item 1: Modern Human Trafficking in Arabian and African Regions***

The crime of human trafficking consists of three core elements: the act, the means, the purpose. Physical and sexual abuse, blackmail, emotional manipulation, and the removal of official documents are used by traffickers to control their victims. Exploitation can take place in a victim's home country, during migration or in a foreign country.

Human trafficking has many reasons and aims, such as sexual exploitation, forced labour, debt bondage, domestic servitude, organ removal, forced begging, child soldiers, forced marriage etc.

Also, victims can be chosen to be used in sports such as football. Especially from Africa, lots of children had been a victim of human trafficking. Athletes that are traded or sold don’t have any life guarantee since they are being left with no visa, money etc. when they are useless somehow.

These trafficking happen online as well. There are shopping apps that let people sell and buy maids, humans, like an object. Governments should be aware of this danger and check those apps, websites etc.

Although some countries have higher numbers in human trafficking, modern slavery and migrant smuggling; limiting their internet access is not the solution. They will probably find a way to break the security wall and commit their crimes anyway. Governments should focus on protecting their citizens more than trying to prevent criminals’ actions.

Migrant smuggling is a crime with high profits and a low risk of punishment for the criminals involved. Smugglers sell illegal and dangerous services to desperate people and are often part of a well-organized, multinational network. Violence, abuse and the risk of exploitation are widespread traits of this crime. Many migrants die of thirst in deserts, perish at sea, or suffocate in containers. Smugglers take advantage of people who need to escape poverty, natural disaster, conflict or persecution, or lack of employment and education opportunities, but do not have the options to migrate legally. Also, the country migrants are being taken to has many problems because of the uncontrollable increase of population. Migrants may disturb the citizens and break the peace.

Lahore, 05 April 2018 -United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in partnership with Pakistan Railways Police conducted a sensitization session at Lahore. This is part of a series of sensitization workshops being conducted for Police to raise the awareness level of the officials regarding Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants. Sixty police officials from across the country participated in the session along with senior officials of Pakistan Railways Police. The officers of Pakistan Railways Police have been sensitized particularly as the railway is the most common mean of carrying the victims to sell them off into the hands of placement agencies or other buyers.

"Human Trafficking is a global problem but the railway is the most preferred mode of travel and therefore is the most vulnerable transit point through which trafficking takes place. Railways Police can prove to be vital for curbing this issue.” said Deputy Inspector General Mr. Shariq Jamal Khan. Also, Mr. Ehsan Gilani from UNODC, delivered a session on basic concepts of Human Trafficking and Migrants Smuggling while providing an insight on the United Nations  Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementary protocols on Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants. He further shared the latest trends and routes originating from Pakistan to Europe. During the session he also said, "Federal Investigation Agency is the lead agency to control human trafficking and migrant smuggling in Pakistan with the role to control human smuggling and external human trafficking."

Inspector General of Police Dr. Mujeeb-Ur-Rehman Khan appreciated the efforts of UNODC and stressed the need for sensitization and coordination amongst relevant Law Enforcement Agencies. He said that people are forcibly sent abroad for different reasons including organs removal and sexual exploitation which devoid them of their basic human rights. He concluded his remarks by saying, "A safe and protective environment would be ensured at railway stations across Pakistan. Surveillance would be strengthened to control the issue."

Pakistan’s National Initiative against Organized Crime (NIOC), whose vision is “Building state and community resilience against organized crime in Pakistan”, wrote “The US State Department’s Trafficking in Persons Report 2009 describes Pakistan as ‘a source, transit, and destination country for men, women and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labour and sexual exploitation. This definition is also applicable to human smuggling although sexual exploitation may not be among the end results.” For precaution, Pakistan promulgated two new laws focusing on human smuggling and trafficking: Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act 2018; and, Prevention of Smuggling of Migrants Act 2018.

According to statistics prepared by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), some 6,767 illegal Pakistani migrants had entered Europe via Iran and Turkey in 2017. Recently, there were several media reports suggesting that Pakistani girls were being lured into marriage contracts and then used for prostitution in China. One such report in 2019 put the number of such Pakistani girls at 600. The report also claimed that average per ‘bride’ earnings were from USD 25,000 to 65,000, but a paltry amount of PKR 200,000 was given to the family.

There are a couple of techniques that are being used to entice the migrants we are talking about. Criminals may use violence against them, manipulate them, offer fake claims of high-paying positions or use romantic connections. It’s a common misconception that human trafficking always involves kidnapping or coercion by strangers. And although this is sometimes the case, romantic relationships are a major avenue for human trafficking; either online or in person. Whether it's an everyday acquaintance, a family member or a romantic partner, victims are often trafficked by those who have already gained their trust and love. **Traffickers will portray themselves as safe or trustworthy in order to take advantage of their victims.**

**Victims may not recognize that someone they love’s aim is human trafficking especially when they trust them fully. In some cases, criminals gain their partners love and trust to traffic them. Sometimes they even attempt to manipulate their victims and make them think that they are the only person who cares about them. Doing these stuff is a lot easier online, particularly on minors whose minds are not developed completely.**

**Sustainable Social Development Organization (SSDO) is a non-governmental organization founded in 2015 and registered under Societies Registration Act 1860. SSDO is a research-based advocacy organization working on issues of peace and sustainable development in Pakistan by engaging all stakeholders and citizens.** They have established a helpline, "0333-1110566," which will serve as the main point of contact for victims of human trafficking and will offer free legal assistance.

***Agenda Item 2: Effects of Drug Decriminalization on Drug Abuse***

Drug use and addiction is a huge problem in Pakistan. According to UN estimates, a few million people in the country are drug users. Cannabis is the most used drug. The rate of injection drug abuse has also increased significantly in Pakistan, sparking fears of an HIV epidemic. A 2013 report on drugs by the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) stated that almost 6.7 million people are taking drugs in Pakistan. The report also revealed that people from the age of 15 to 64 use prescription drugs for non-medical purposes.

Almost 2 million of these drug users are addicts, and most of them starts their addiction by smoking. Abuse of Cannabis and Heroin, both of which are extremely cheap and easy to get, is rife in the country. Most of the drugs come from Afghanistan, the country that is responsible for at least 75% of world’s heroin. Researches also say that usage of drugs in movies influence the university student in Pakistan to those substances.

Drug decriminalization is the removal of criminal penalties for drug law violations (usually possession for personal use). According to UNODC, there are benefits of drug decriminalization:

· Reducing the number of people arrested

· Reducing the number of people incarcerated

· Increasing uptake into drug treatment

· Reducing criminal justice costs and redirecting resources from criminal justice to health systems

· Redirecting law enforcement resources to prevent serious and violent crime

· Diminishing unjust racial disparities in drug law enforcement and sentencing, incarceration and related health characteristics and outcomes

· Minimizing the social exclusion of people who use drugs, and creating a climate in which they are less fearful of seeking and accessing treatment, utilizing harm reduction services and receiving HIV/AIDS services

· Improving relations between law enforcement and the community

· Protecting people from the wide-ranging and debilitating consequences of a criminal conviction.

   Another point they emphasize in their article is: Decriminalization does not affect drug use rates. Countries that have adopted less punitive policies toward drug possession have not experienced any significant increases in drug use, drug-related harm or crime relative to more punitive countries. A World Health Organization study, for example, found that the U.S. had the highest lifetime drug use rates by a wide margin, despite its punitive policies – concluding that decriminalization has little or no effect on rates of use.

But also, there are disadvantages of decriminalization of drug abuse as well. According to Foundations Recovery Network’s website;

* Individuals with a biological predisposition toward addiction may be more likely to experiment with drugs if they do not fear legal prosecution.
* The existing treatment resources are not nearly large enough to handle the influx of millions of new addicts from the legal system.
* Decriminalization may lead to a push for legalization in some situations.
* If decriminalization leads to an increased supply of drugs on the streets of the US, prices will fall and millions of new people may be tempted to experiment.

Pakistan’s “The Ministry of Narcotics Control (MNC)” was established in 1989 and the Pakistan Narcotics 1, 1995, PNCB and ANTF were merged to constitute Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) as an attached department of Ministry of Narcotics Control. Thereafter, the ANF has been re-organized through ANF Act 1997. The Ministry of Narcotics Control was given the status of a full-fledged ministry in 2002. It was converted into a department of Interior Ministry in 2013 but was later on re-instated as a Ministry in 2017**.**

These kind of organizations may help dealing with the drug abuse but the most important part of preventing drug addiction on people is educating them properly. A good education can help with solving many problems a country has.

***Resources:***

[**https://www.istockphoto.com/tr/vekt%C3%B6r/flag-of-pakistan-gm472330681-24925925**](https://www.istockphoto.com/tr/vekt%C3%B6r/flag-of-pakistan-gm472330681-24925925)

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[**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Languages\_of\_Pakistan**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Languages_of_Pakistan)

[**https://www.unodc.org/pakistan/en/railway-police-committed-to-curbing-human-trafficking-and-migrant-smuggling-in-pakistan.html**](https://www.unodc.org/pakistan/en/railway-police-committed-to-curbing-human-trafficking-and-migrant-smuggling-in-pakistan.html)

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[**https://tribune.com.pk/story/2366165/helpline-launched-to-support-victims-of-human-trafficking**](https://tribune.com.pk/story/2366165/helpline-launched-to-support-victims-of-human-trafficking)

[**https://ssdo.org.pk/about-us**](https://ssdo.org.pk/about-us)

[**https://www.unodc.org/documents/ungass2016/Contributions/Civil/DrugPolicyAlliance/DPA\_Fact\_Sheet\_Approaches\_to\_Decriminalization\_Feb2015\_1.pdf**](https://www.unodc.org/documents/ungass2016/Contributions/Civil/DrugPolicyAlliance/DPA_Fact_Sheet_Approaches_to_Decriminalization_Feb2015_1.pdf)

[**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drug\_addiction\_in\_Pakistan**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drug_addiction_in_Pakistan)

[**https://www.foundationsrecoverynetwork.com/pros-and-cons-of-decriminalizing-drug-addiction/**](https://www.foundationsrecoverynetwork.com/pros-and-cons-of-decriminalizing-drug-addiction/)