**Country:** United States of America

**Committee:** UNICEF

**Topic:** Prevention of Child Trafficking and Safety of Children Globally

The United States of America believes that it is a basic and necessary right of children to be safe from trafficking, which often leads to abuse of children. Countries have different levels of safety for their children. It can be viewed on continents as well. 62% of trafficked people in Africa and the Middle East are children. The number is 36% in South Asia, 31% in America, and 18% in Europe and Central Asia. It averaged 33% in 2011. The data shows that there are no equal grounds in this situation, and children of specific nations’ are more likely to suffer from child trafficking. The countries in which child trafficking takes place most commonly are Equatorial Guinea, North Korea, Syria, Russia, Central African Republic, and Iran. The causes can be tracked down to various reasons, such as poverty, lack of education, and absence of birth registration of children.

The USA also has cases of 365.000 missing children approximately every year, and 30% of them are being trafficked. 60% of trafficked children are foster youth. We have human trafficking legislation referring to this issue. The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 expanded anti-trafficking prevention strategies and expanded protections available with the T Visa. A second legislation, The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 established a pilot program for sheltering human trafficking victims who are minors and provided grant programs to assist state and local law enforcement combat trafficking. More legislations regarding human trafficking are not explicitly related to children, however, they help in protecting trafficked children such as The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

There are varying solutions for different kinds of child trafficking; the most prominent types of child trafficking are sex trafficking, and labor trafficking. For solutions that apply to almost all types of child trafficking; birth registration could be made more accessible, especially in more rural areas, and international campaigns can be organized for raising global awareness. There can be international laws with heavy repercussions. The general public can be educated via global seminars in which children’s rights activists can join, and heavily work and improve on the devices to track down the traffickers to save the children.

Education can be categorized into several categories: children’s education, parental education, and authorities’ education. Children’s education on child trafficking can focus on red flags and suspicious behavior that might lead them to trafficking chains, and what they can do to protect themselves or get themselves out if they end up in a situation like this. Parental education can focus on protecting the child from potential predators and supporting the child after the child has been rescued from trafficking. Authorities’ education can focus on how to develop better tracking of child trafficking spaces and chains and how to help victims after they’ve been rescued.

A specialized subbranch under UNICEF can be formed specifically to investigate potential child trafficking chains and spaces, returning trafficked children to previous or new safe spaces, making international law about child trafficking and its punishments, and creating a universal consensus on the sanctions of child trafficking; supporting and caring for victims of child trafficking after they’ve been rescued. Headquarters for this subbranch can be established all across the globe in easy-to-reach locations, and the establishment of these headquarters should be made compulsory for each country that is a member of the United Nations. These headquarters can provide many services such as immediate medical help, psychological help, shelter, nourishment, etc. for victims to benefit from after being rescued.

To combat child trafficking done for cheap labor, a thorough investigation of workplaces–specifically workplaces in rural areas in which child labor is less trackable–can be made. These investigations should be made periodically, ideally twice a year. Any and all victims who have been detected with missing or fake identification papers should be seized and taken to headquarters established beforehand. There can also be local and international hotlines for any outside reports of child labor cases, any reports made to this hotline are investigated almost immediately or at least prioritized if officials are unable to reach the workplaces. These headquarters can also assist in the relocation of trafficked victims, to either their previous safe locations or a new safe location if the former is unable to be reached or found.

To combat child trafficking done for underage sex work, a thorough investigation of places where sex work is done, such as nightclubs and brothels, can be investigated thoroughly and periodically–ideally, twice a year. Any and all victims who have been detected with missing or fake identification papers should be seized and taken to headquarters established beforehand. There can also be local and international hotlines for any outside reports of cases of underage prostitution, any reports made to this hotline are investigated almost immediately or at least prioritized if officials are unable to reach the workplaces.

The funding necessary for these solutions can be provided via local and/or universal non-governmental organizations, such as Human Trafficking Search (HTS), End Child Prostitution and Trafficking (ECPAT), Asian Health Services, etc.