**Committee:** Social, Cultural, & Humanitarian Committee

**Country:** The Republic of Ukraine

**Agenda Item:** Curbing Human Trafficking, Child Labor and Terrorism in Cultural Properties

 The Republic of Ukraine is a country located in Eastern Europe. The country is the second-largest country in Europe by area. The country has a population of 33.5 million, which makes it the thirty-sixth most populated country in the world. This population includes 78% Ukrainians, 17% Russians, and 4.9% other ethnic groups. The country’s total area is estimated at 603,628 square kilometers; this makes Ukraine one of the key states in the voice of the European Union. The country is bordered by 7 different countries: Russia, Belarus, Hungary, Romania, Moldova, Poland, and Slovakia. The largest city of the republic is the capital, Kyiv, which is the seventh-most populous city in Europe. In addition, the city is an important industrial center in Eastern Europe. The formal language of the country is Ukrainian. The country’s government is a semi-presidential republic and consists of the president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and the prime minister, Denys Shmyhal. The Republic of Ukraine is a developing country that, unfortunately, has a huge corruption issue that makes the country the poorest state in Europe. Until the Russo-Ukrainian War started, the country had been one of the largest grain exporters in the world. The Republic of Ukraine makes half of its energy generation from nuclear power; in fact, the biggest nuclear power plant in the continent, the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, is in Ukraine. On the other hand, the country mainly benefits from gas and coal. The country’s majority is Christian, and 11% of the population has no religion. The currency of the country is hryvnia.

It is important to know the background for understanding and solving the current issues. Firstly, human trafficking started in the 1500s with the transportation of African slaves to the American region. This situation remained the most common way of trafficking for a long time. In the mid-19th century, the illegal trafficking of Chinese women into the west side of America by Chinese gangs has begun. Many of these women were exploited sexually by these gangs. After a long period, the African slave trade has stopped, and this caused the rise of “white slavery” concern in Europe. Upon the issue, the Mann Act was signed in the United States to prevent forced sexual slavery of women. After that, especially in the 1900s, several international agreements were signed to legally bind human trafficking. In our current day, the issue has turned into a new dimension. With the power of social media, now there is no need for physical attraction.

Secondly, the history of child labor reaches to the Industrial Revolution of Europe. Especially in the British Empire, usage of children for the workforce in factories has grown rapidly. Children were pushed to work in hard conditions, ranging from coal mines to various factories. They were getting low wages for the return of endangering their lives. After the two world wars, countries started to take action against child trafficking and forced labor. With the new regulations, an age limit has been determined for children in different states around the globe. Today, the United Nations is showing a strict policy for child labor, setting 2025 as the year for ending all forms of child labor.

Lastly, to explain the roots of the current terrorism we see today, we have to go back to the 20th century, where great changes have occurred in the way of using terrorism. Terror has turned into a tool for politics. Parties that have various ideologies have made their main strategy terrorist attacks. With technological developments, advancements in weapons have founded a huge opportunity for terrorism. Integration of these weapons, including drones and automatic guns, into these attacks harmed societies so much all over the world.

As the Republic of Ukraine, to solve these issues effectively and make consistent progress, we suggest some key approaches. These approaches include collaboration between UN member states, cooperation with non-governmental organizations or international treaties such as NATO, bringing stricter legislation both globally and regionally, and giving community education in order to raise public awareness. We encourage other nations to support and further detailize possible solution ideas in the upcoming conferences regarding human trafficking, child labor, and terrorism on the focus of cultural properties.

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