

Committee: World Health Organisation (WHO)

Country: United Kingdom

Agenda Item: Addressing the Ethical Dilemmas and Operational Challenges in Organ Harvesting, Including Compliance With National and International Rules and Regulations



Located off the north-western coast of the European landmass, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is a well-established independent nation. This country includes four countries: England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, with the number of inhabitants amounting to 68 million. London, the capital of the UK, is regarded as the financial, cultural, and political center of the world. The UK is a monarchy headed by King Charles III, which is characterized by the existence of a government with a parliament and an executive head known as the prime minister – Rishi Sunak, in this case. The UK is, in fact, home to many economic sectors in which it holds significant global market positions due to its variation in strength in finance, technology, industry, and entertainment. It is also a member of the UN Security Council and exercises great power in global relations with the help of NATO, the G7, and the Commonwealth of Nations. There was also a clear urge on the part of the UK to establish trade relations with other countries around the world rather than just with the EU after Brexit and it was also hoping to resolve serious issues within its territory such as the uneven wealth distribution, aging population, and ecological concerns.

The deliberation of organ harvesting both in ethical terms and organizational means is to be addressed because it is imperative to find a balance between the improvements in medical sciences that aim at saving lives and ethics and even more the law. Organ transplantation is a great hope indeed to patients who are suffering from organ failure on one hand but the contrary can be said to the medically allocated supply of organs – it is always less than the demand leading to ethical and operational problems such as illegal trafficking of organs and exploitation of vulnerable populations Attorney General of India. Such circumstance arises during wars or in places with no effective government; these are the places where organ trade by the use of force and exploitation happens. Moreover, even domestically in the lack of ability to control such provisions on a global level, organ supply is not only inconsistent but also the levels of safety are not uniform. It is important to ensure that the process of organ donation and transplantation is transparent and equitable to all participants including the protection of rights of donors and recipients. There is a need for resource allocation in order to monitor the organ trade and ethically educate people and implement programmes. Solutions to such practices must be sought at the level of regional cooperation aimed at providing equitable access to safety in organ transplantation.

The United Kingdom acknowledges the topic's importance and is taking actions currently, and also wants to collaborate with the member states of WHO. In the UK there is already a legal system used for organ harvesting. The Opt-out system is used for utilizing the chances had. With this way; more organs can be transplanted and more lives can be saved. This policy's benefits can also be seen from the WHO statistics. The UK took their place in the 5th place with more than 40 deceased donors per million and more than 60 living donors per million. In contrast to having an ongoing policy, the UK has a strong willingness to enhance their policies and promote social awareness, in addition to providing safe organ harvesting in conflict zones and dealing with medical hardships. Moreover, the UK is with the idea that the therapeutic potential of deceased organ donation should be maximized not only for kidneys but also for other organs, appropriate to the transplantation needs of each country. And also thinks educational programs are useful in addressing the barriers, misconceptions, and mistrust. The UK is eager to put technological advancements such as blockchain technology and specially on bioprinting/ regenerative medicines into effect.

In conclusion; UK is hoping to enhance the policies used in their country and also in other countries including conflict zones or areas which are incompetent to achieve medical support. Furthermore, hoping to focus on avoiding the illicit organ dealing/transportation with further decisions given by member countries. The UK is willing to have a productive and impactful discussion on the topic of ethical dilemmas and preventing organ harvesting.

Sources: TEDUTRAIN-24 WHO study guide