Country: Republic of India
Committee: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
Topic: Preventing Child Trafficking In Third World Countries

Child trafficking is defined as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power, or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.

As the Delegation of India we understand the importance of preventing child trafficking and we are ready to take every step to stop this horrendous act.

India is a prime area for child trafficking to occur and has a very high volume of child trafficking, the reason for this occasion is that many of those trafficked are from, travel through or destined to go to India. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, every eight minutes a child disappears .

In India, trafficking and exploitation of any kind is illegal and punishable with seven years to life long imprisonment. To prevent child trafficking from happening we have ratified the UNCTOC which has as one of its Protocols Prevention, Suppression and Punishment of Trafficking in Persons, particularly Women and Children and took actions to implement the convention. We have ratified the SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution. A regional task force was constituted to implement the SAARC Convention. We constituted a Task Force with Bangladesh to deal with cross border trafficking and to address the various issues relating to prevention of trafficking, victim identification and repatriation and make the process speedy and victim-friendly. We also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bangladesh to bi-lateral Cooperation for Prevention of Human Trafficking in Women and Children, Rescue, Recovery, Repatriation and Re-integration of Victims of Trafficking.

We have established the Child Line (A 24-hour phone service that provides emergency assistance to children.), the UJWALA Scheme (for the benefit of women and girls in difficult circumstances, with specific focus on the special needs of trafficking victims.), the Kishori Shakti Yojana(A holistic initiative supporting the development of adolescent girls to promote awareness of health, hygiene and nutrition, as well as link girls to opportunities for learning life skills, returning to school and developing a better understanding of their social environment.) and many more steps to fight against child trafficking.

With the rise of Covid-19 pandemic, the number of children who have been trafficked increased globally. As our 2014 Nobel Peace Prize winner Kailash Satyarthi said

"Children have never faced such a crisis, this is not simply the health crisis or economic crisis. This is the crisis of justice, of humanity, of childhood, of the future of an entire generation." governments in many parts of the world are focusing on health primarily; therefore issues such as child trafficking and exploitation are taking a back seat. But we strongly need to adopt a common approach to combat child trafficking effectively at national and international level. We must take immediate action to stop this series of crime and do everything we can to reintegrate the trafficked children into society.

We are looking forward to cooperating with similarly responsible nations from all around the world and working towards a safer global community for children.

Sources:

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