**Delegation: Belgium**

**Committee: UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for**

**Refugees)**

**Agenda Item: Promotion and protection of human rights**

**in the situation of human trafficking**

Belgium is a developed country which is located in Western Europe, bordering the North Sea, between France and the Netherlands. Most of the citizens there are Belgians. The Kingdom of Belgium provides clean food and water to both rural and urban areas. The country’s unemployment rate is at 19.6%. Belgium ranks 19th for Safety in the Global Peace Index, due to the presence of several international organizations and embassies.

Known as modern slavery, the term “human trafficking” is the unlawful act of transporting people to another place in order to benefit from their work or service, typically in the form of forced labour or sexual exploitation. Some reasons for human trafficking can be listed as: Psychological or emotional vulnerability, financial difficulties, lack of a social safety net, natural disasters, political instability, etc. Unfortunately, every year there are more than 50 million victims of human trafficking in the world –about 20% of them being children-. According to the ILO's latest data, the Asia and Pacific region has the highest number of victims of forced labour and marriage, accounting for more than half of the global total. Human trafficking is extremely lucrative, furthermore, it earns traffickers approximately 150 billion dollars per year.

Refugees constitute a substantial portion of human trafficking since they are mostly seen as an easy target. Refugees are forced migrants that got through forced displacements. Therefore, they are the target for human traffickers since refugees need to get jobs and build up enough money for their family. Economic migrants are a big target for traffickers as well. These types of migrants mostly get displaced because of natural disasters, criminal activity, synthetic displacements, wars etc.

Belgium has taken noticeable actions against human trafficking. Belgium has once donated 2 million euros to United Nations Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking in 2019. Furthermore, they have made even more progress by increasing investigations, more than doubling the number of prosecutions, and releasing a national action plan (NAP). The government identified significantly more trafficking victims and increased funding for services. Moreover, the government funded a new residence centre for unaccompanied girls who were potential human trafficking victims.

Belgium has signed multiple treaties about human trafficking. One of them is the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human beings (2008). Another one of them is Implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to combat Trafficking in Persons: Report of the Secretary-General. Belgium has also partnered with organizations such as: EU institutions, UN agencies, regional organizations, national human rights institutions, equality bodies, and civil society organizations, etc.

Human trafficking rates increase with the amount of poverty in the place. And places with little to no security and are filled with poverty are called favelas. So, in order to solve this problem, we recommend sending search groups to favelas every month to check if there are any people tricking people into human trafficking. These searches can be done by 15 to 20 people, which are held by the government. These search groups can also be sent to places where the government (or anyone) is suspicious that people are being exploited with work.

In order to mostly save migrants, refugees and forced displaced people in general, some new centres for them can be opened by UNHCR. These places can be opened in every state for the counties who have, and every city for countries who do not have states. There must be more in countries who receive a lot of migrants (for example India, China, Mexico etc.). These places can give the migrants a clean environment that they can stay in while they are searching for actual jobs that benefit them. These jobs can be set by the UNHCR so that they are safe jobs that the migrants will not be exploited from.

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