**County:** Philippines

**Committee:**United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

**Agenda Items:** Modern Human Trafficking in Arabian and African Regions, Effects of Drug Decriminalization on Drug Abuse

The Republic of the Philippines is an archipelagic country located in the western Pacific Ocean. The country consists of 7641 islands. The Philippines is surrounded by three seas: The South China Sea, the Philippine Sea, and the Celebes Sea. It shares maritime borders with Taiwan, Japan, Palau, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, and China. It has a population of around 113.9 making it the thirteenth most populous country in the World. Manila is the capital of the country. The Philippines is a constitutional republic with a presidential system. The Philippines is a member of the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, ASEAN, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum, the East Asia Summit, and IMF and is a major non-NATO ally of the United States.

**Agenda Item 1: Modern Human Trafficking in Arabian and African Regions**

Modern slavery is a pressing issue of the World where people are coaxed, deceived, physically abused to do things which would benefit the suspect. Modern slavery affects every country and ethnicity. Anti-Slavery International; an NGO that, hence the name, specializes in banishing modern slavery defines it as **when an individual is exploited by others, for personal or commercial gain. Whether tricked, coerced, or forced, they lose their freedom.**Human trafficking is a common occurrence in contemporary slavery.

As Philippines, we remain at a ranking of Tier 1 in human trafficking which means that we fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. We owe our rankings to our dedication and motivation. The Anti Trafficking in Persons act criminalized sex and labor trafficking and prescribed penalties reaching up to 20 years inprisonment and fines of 1 to 2 million pesos. In newer laws, these penalties were increased . The investigations showed that the majority of the victims were women and were generally used in sex trafficking. In addition, apps that allow human trafficking and exploitation was blocked by telecom companies with the usage of digital fingerprints that couldn’t be reverse engineered.

As we look at the various cases of human trafficking. We could infer that the most important thing in banishing modern slavery is cooperation and negotiation. One other thing that we truely believe in is the force of NGO’s and companies. In our case, the telecom companies are a perfect example. Our proposal for smothering apps that exploit people is that we should work together with telecom companies in order to spot, investigate and block harmful sites and apps. Finally, we need a way of rehabilitating said victims as the wounds they suffer mentally are generally much deeper and are hereby much harder to heal. But we have come up with a solution that hopefully can heal these wounds. We advocate introducing victims of similar age groups to one another. That way they could heal much more quickly.

**Agenda Item 2: Effects of Drug Decriminalization on Drug Abuse**

Decriminalization is the act of mitigating or removing policies that inhibit certain behaviors or substances. Decriminalization of drugs has been implemented by various nations and has proven that it can be successful in reducing drug abuse.

As the Republic of the Philippines, we have engaged in a “War on Drugs” under President Rodrigo Duterte’s rule. Duterte was elected as president because of the perceived growth of the illegal drug trade in the Philippines. In speeches made after his inauguration on June 30 of 2016, Duterte urged citizens to kill suspected criminals and drug addicts. Operations carried out by the police and army resulted in growing numbers of killed drug dealers but some countries such as the US began questioning the extrajudicial killings of the suspect. Duterte also accused Leila de Lima, his chief critic of having affairs with her driver after the proposal of congressional investigation into extrajudicial killings to be chaired by her was proposed. As the years passed on, gang leaders started confessing about the killings they did. International Criminal Court announced a preliminary examination but Duerte continued refuting the extrajudicial killings and the police reports continued telling similar stories about how the suspect was killed and how it wasn’t intentional.

As the tenure of the Office of Duerte has expired, he wasn’t able to run for president in the 2022 elections and Bongbong Marcos was elected as the new president. As the Philippines, we are looking forward to fixing our relationships with the rest of the World under the rule of our new government. But we would also like to state that this doesn’t mean we will be decriminalizing drugs. We strongly believe that the decriminalization risk-to-reward ratio is not fit for every country and thus the policies should not be implemented in every country. Especially for the countries who don’t have sufficient groundwork or social structure to safely implement said policies and as a result, we can not approve of a global decriminalization. There is also a point that should be taken into account: Distribution. Distribution of drugs should be meticulously prevented and we suggest a report on border safety to be published by all countries.

**Resources:**

<https://www.state.gov/u-s-relations-with-the-philippines/>

<https://www.unodc.org/southernafrica/en/sa/about.html#:~:text=UNODC%20was%20established%20in%201997,Nations%20International%20Drug%20Control%20Programme>.

<https://www.antislavery.org/slavery-today/modern-slavery/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philippine\_drug\_war#](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philippine_drug_war)

<https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-trafficking-in-persons-report/philippines>