Country: The Philippines

Committee: UNHCR

Agenda Item: Promotion and protection of human rights in the situation of human trafficking

The Philippines is a country located in Southeast Asia,sharing maritime borders with Taiwan,Japan,Palau,Indonesia,Malaysia,Vietnam and China. Its capital is Manila and its largest city is Quezon City. As of 2021 it has an estimated population of around 109 million people, making it the world’s third most crowded country. It is also quite infamous for its overwhelmingly common cases of human trafficking. In 2015, It was identified as one of the five organ trafficking hotpots by the WHO.

Women,teenagers and children are victims of the majority of human trafficking cases. Some of the common destinations of human trafficking within the country include Davao,Metro Manila,Puerto Galera,Batangas and Cagayan de Oro City. This is not to say that human trafficking of Filipino people taking place in other countries or involving foreigners isn’t an issue,truthfully it’s quite the opposite. A heavy amount of human traffickers are foreigners,and some other common destinations include Japan and Korea. Between 60,000-100,000 children are trafficked every year. Most cases involve forced prostitution and sexual exploitation, with the traffickers usually being owners of bars and clubs catering to mostly foreign men. Kids are teenagers are usually pulled into these situations because of poverty and promises of money. Threats and debt bondage are some of the common ways these children are kept in the industry. The conditions are abusive,brutal and downright horrifying. A 16 year-old Filipina victim of human trafficking states “[She] was locked in a room for a month,starved and force-fed drugs and alchohol to ensure [she] was addicted and could be more easily controlled. [She] was often beaten unconscious for refusing to have sex with customers.” Some authorities protect human traffickers and allow places exploitative of children to operate.

This situation is horrible and quite frankly inhumane. We need to be aware of cases like these, and teach our children concepts such as stranger danger from a young age. Of course this alone isn’t enough,we need to trust victims and do everything in our power to protect and help them. The police needs to be less dismissive of suspicion and evidence of cases like these. If you suspect anything like this going on somewhere near you, we urge you to report it to the authorities immediately. Victims’ voices need to be heard,shaming them is disgusting.