

International Labour Organization

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Agenda item 1

Generating potential solutions to combat labor exploitation of illegal persons

Report of the Chair

I. Statement of the Problem

1. Illegal immigration is the movement of people from their native country to foreign countries without permission from the government. Illegal immigration can also occur within a country but is more commonly referred to as illegal migration. A recent estimation of the number of illegal immigrants in the United States ranges from seven to eleven million people. Most illegal immigrants leave their homes to escape poverty and to find work, known as migrant smuggling. [5] It is evident that these people are exploited in the work place because of their vulnerable state. These immigrants hold jobs that the greater population has no desire to occupy, which can be dangerous. Illegal immigrants may be working in hazardous conditions, abused, sexually exploited and paid below minimum wage, if at all. [11]

2. Human trafficking is the illegal trade of human beings for purposes of slavery, sexual exploitation, and forced labor. There are approximately 800,000 people who are trafficked each year. Human trafficking predominately occurs in the region of Asia, Latin America, and Europe. [11] Exploitation takes place in areas such as Asia, Central and South America, the Pacific Islands, Europe, and Africa. [8] Victims of human trafficking are often forced into work in sweatshops, at construction sites, or into custodial work and maid services. Human trafficking victims are often women and children, who are also used for commercial sexual exploitation. [11] Traffickers acquire victims by force, fraud or deception [13], and many victims of human trafficking become malnourished, have sexually transmitted diseases and other health issues, and can develop post-traumatic stress syndrome or other psychological disorders.

3. Although illegal immigration and human trafficking occur in different situations, they both result in various forms of abuse. The ILO estimates that 12.3 million people worldwide

are victims of human trafficking. [5] The ILO needs to act on this issue and stop the exploitation of illegal persons by improving working conditions and insuring safety for illegal personnel. Resolutions need to be fabricated to insure that safe and secure working environments are created.

II. History of the Problem

4. The International Labour Organization was established in 1919, as part of the Treaty of Versailles which ended World War I. In 1946, the ILO became the first specialized agency of the United Nations, and today, the ILO is the global body responsible for drawing up and overseeing international labour standards, such as the administration and management of the working force. Working with its signature countries, the ILO seeks to ensure that labour standards are implemented in the work force [1].

5. As aforementioned, human trafficking and illegal migration occurs in many parts of the world, including the United States. This issue can be dated back to the Triangular Trade of the late 1700s and stems from racial distrust and prejudices. The growing consumer population increases the demand for textiles, food and technology, among other products. This increases the need for labor in manufacturing nations and regions. The demand for an extensive labor force then contributes to the growing number of illegal and trafficked personnel into other countries, since they are a cheap and dispensable source of labor.

6. The ILO stresses the importance of cooperation between governments, employers, and unions to help improve the social and economic progress with countries. Unfortunately there are only 183 Member States, which means not every country has representation in the International Labour Organization. States that are not represented are left out of meetings, conferences, projects, events, and campaigns. By not having full representation, each member state is lacking the influence of other countries and solutions are more difficult to reach.

7. In November 2001, the ILO Governing Body established the Special Action Program to Combat Forced Labour. It has been observed that trafficking in persons is truly a global problem and more fundamental research needs to be complete. Labor exploitation of illegal persons creates the opportunity for dangerous labour market conditions, abuse, and dangerous conditions for children, young persons and women.

8. Many of the measures that have been taken are creative and unique. Brazil is currently dealing with modern day rural slavery. The measures that the Brazilian Government have taken to eradicate slavery are using the workforce organizations as assets to eliminate forced labor.

III. Potential Solutions

9. The International Labour Organization has made the discussion of this issue a top priority since its inception in 1919. The ILO has made great strides in the protection of workers rights through the use of the Decent Work Country Programs, which are documents that the ILO has in place to aid countries in this area of debate. [2] These documents vary depending on a country's need and situation, but are not as effective as would be appropriate, due to an inconsistency in regulation. [2]

10. In October of 2008, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime created the 2nd edi-

tion of the Toolkit to Combat Trafficking in Persons. [13] This provides aid to governments, NGOs, police, and policy-makers to help them in solving this issue more effectively. The delegates may consider revising this Toolkit, to better correspond to the topic of concern.

11. Consider the power the International Labour Organization has to place sanctions for the purpose of improving workers conditions. [4] The delegates may also wish to use Non-Governmental Organizations to assist countries of concern. Delegates from countries where this is not a prevalent issue may chose to create blocs or allies with countries in need of aid.

IV. Position and Research Tips

12. This topic is of growing concern to the United Nations and the ILO, which both strive to provide protection and security to the international community. While this topic has recently been gaining more media recognition, it has always been an international issue that the ILO has worked to eliminate.

13. It is crucial that delegates research the history of their country and its association with this topic. This issue stems from racial disputes, a demand of cheap labor that is easily replaceable, and a demand to meet a growing consumer population. Understanding the countrys industry, exports and economy would be beneficial in distinguishing a countrys position. [4] The population of a country would also lend insight as to whether or not a country is supplying or receiving illegal persons for work exploitation.

14. When researching, bear in mind the following:

- Where is the country located?
- Is the country developed or developing?
- Has the country signed the Declaration of the International Labour Organization?
- Does the country agree with the regulations the ILO has in place?
- How much, if any, control does the government have on Labor Regulations?
- Have there been any disputes/events, associated with this topic?
- Does the country place a great deal of emphasis on industry?

15. It is recommended that the delegates reference the International Labour Organization Constitution [1], its Declaration [1], the purpose of the ILO [10], the Toolkit to Combat Trafficking in Persons [13], and the Decent Country Work Programs [2] that concern their country. The delegates should also reference the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime. The chairs encourage all delegates to use appropriate sources and to remain authentic to their countrys position.

V. Note to Delegates

16. We appreciate the time and effort you have put forth to participate in this conference. All three of us have been active delegates in MUN and are extremely delighted to be your chairs. We anticipate a great amount of debate, participation, and effort from all of our delegates. Most of all, we hope you will enjoy your MUNSA XVI experience. –Moriah Sonsino, Chris Garza, and Amy Maydon

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