



American Model United Nations

**Commission on Crime Prevention
and Criminal Justice**

**Report to the Commission on Crime Prevention
and Criminal Justice on Preventing and
combating trafficking in persons facilitated by
the criminal misuse of information and
communications technologies**

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1 Executive Summary

2 The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) is pleased to present to the Economic
3 and Social Council (ECOSOC) its annual report on preventing and combating trafficking in persons facilitated by the
4 criminal use of information communication technology (ICT). This issue is pervasive in many regions of the world,
5 therefore, the following report covers a wide range topics directed at preventing ICT-facilitated human trafficking,
6 protecting victims of human trafficking, and prosecuting human traffickers.

7 The first chapter of the report includes one draft resolution which the CCPCJ is submitting and recom-
8 mending to ECOSOC for adoption. This draft resolution, encompassing several areas of concern, proposes measures
9 to increase ICT competency among law-enforcing bodies and advocates for the utilization of the International Child
10 Sexual Exploitation (ICSE) database to increase transparency among cooperating Member States. The draft reso-
11 lution also calls upon existing declarations and non-governmental organizations, recognizing the previous collective
12 understandings achieved. In addition, this draft resolution proposes media awareness campaigns to be implemented
13 in Member States with emphasis on the definition of catfishing, an ICT-enabled means of targeting potential victims
14 of trafficking.

15 Part B of Chapter 1 notes the other recommendations for action from the commission. To further deepen
16 the dialogue, the commission sought to hear recommendations from as many Member-States as possible, especially
17 those whose views were not represented effectively in the deliberations or resolutions. These recommendations largely
18 center on education about the safe use of technology.

19 The section regarding action taken by the commission details the proceedings regarding CCPCJ resolution
20 I/I. It discusses the process of merging multiple working papers, and the procedure by which the final resolution was
21 amended. The section notes the contributions and significant votes of the representatives in the CCPCJ.

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24 amended. The section notes the contributions and significant votes of the representatives in the CCPCJ.

25 **2 Matters calling for action**

26 **2.1 CCPCJ I/1**

27 *Reaffirming* Article 4 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which outlines the right to be free from
28 slavery and forced servitude,

29 *Defining* human trafficking as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons by
30 improper means (such as force, abduction, fraud, or coercion) for an improper purpose including forced labor or
31 sexual exploitation, as established by the United Nations,

32 *Further defines* that the means, purpose, and action are the chronological steps taken by traffickers to
33 encroach upon a victim's fundamental human rights and suggests that technological advances have contributed
34 greatly and increased the rates of trafficking worldwide,

35 *Noting* that the groups most targeted for human trafficking include women and children and should be a
36 fundamental focus in efforts to combat human trafficking,

37 *Applauding* efforts by the Polaris project to educate the public on how to identify possible human trafficking
38 operations on social media and the internet,

39 *Recognizing* the disparity of law enforcement's capabilities to combat advancing technologies,

40 *Commending* efforts by The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and United Nations
41 Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in creating international training for law enforcement and facilitating cooper-
42 ation to better identify and investigate human trafficking online,

43 *Noting* UNODCs report Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns and its work defining human trafficking
44 along with recording global and regional patterns of human trafficking,

45 *Encouraging* nations to work closely with Non-governmental Organizations (NGO) that use technology to
46 fight human trafficking through data and statistic gathering,

47 *Acknowledging* that Member States have the right and privilege to combat human trafficking however they
48 desire,

49 *Remembering* the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in
50 Persons in 2017, that established the connection between the criminal misuse of Information and Communications
51 Technologies (ICT) and the trafficking of persons,

52 *Remembering also* the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women
53 and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime while acknowl-
54 edging the main efforts of prevention protection and cooperation,

55 *Deeply concerned* by the information provided by the International Labour Organization which states that
56 there are 40.3 million victims of human trafficking globally; 81% of whom are trapped in forced labor, 25% of whom
57 are children, and 75% are women and girls,

58 *Understanding* the difference in needs of the countries affected by combatting human trafficking,

59 *Acknowledging* ICT can be utilized to raise awareness about human trafficking as an issue as well as provide
60 assistance to victims,

61 *Recognizing* human trafficking as a multifaceted transnational issue that will require significant international
62 cooperation as well as a variety of approaches,

63 *Solemnly affirming* that the criminal presence of human trafficking by nature is difficult to eradicate, but
64 reminds the international community that it is a violation of basic human rights for individuals to be exploited
65 through human trafficking in its various forms,

66 1. *Encourages* Member States to adopt the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC),
67 the main international instrument in the fight against transnational organized crime;

68 2. *Recommends* the collaboration of nations to share information on known traffickers present in multiple
69 nations:

70 (a) *Encourages* states to utilize the International Child Sexual Exploitation (ICSE) database to be
71 used in investigations if they are not already;

72 (b) *Utilize* the database as a resource to aid in investigations and facilitate transnational cooperation
73 into international trafficking groups;

74 (c) *Suggests* training of law enforcement and border patrol officers, by the Department of Police
75 Operations (DPO) in cooperation with the UNDOC, on the technology used by human traffickers to evade the
76 detection of law enforcement;

77 (d) *Suggests* the sharing of technical expertise, effective law enforcement strategies, and financial aid
78 to allow countries lacking in resources to fight human trafficking without violating the sovereignty of other nations;

79 3. *Urges* Member States to enforce current resolutions which include those designed to investigate, prosecute,
80 and convict offenders of sex trafficking while coordinating efforts via ICTs;

81 4. *Strongly encourages* Member States to establish national social media campaigns that inform constituents
82 of the dangers of trafficking, and the various forms that it takes:

83 (a) *Defines* "catfishing" as a means of coercion for criminals to entice individuals into trafficking
84 through fraudulent profiles;

85 (b) *Proclaims* "catfishing" as an evolution of trafficking in the 21st century and contributes to the
86 use of the internet and technology as a means to exploit victims, and is malicious in nature; as the term connotes a
87 bait and catch mechanism that criminals use to reach their victims;

88 (c) *Encourages* programs to educate and help Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and law enforcement
89 to better identify these fraudulent profiles;

90 5. *Recognizes* the disparity of law enforcement's capabilities to combat advancing technologies, while also
91 recognizing the benefits to all nations that come from the arrest and prosecution of any human traffickers, regardless
92 of the country they are currently operating in:

93 (a) *Suggests* that ISPs and ICT assist local law enforcement and report suspected human trafficking
94 activities;

95 6. *Recommends* that ECOSOC strongly consider increasing funding for nations that are particularly suscep-
96 tible to this issue of criminal misuse of technology in the facilitation of trafficking in individuals;

97 7. *Asks* member states to consider prevention programs that urge NGOs to further implement in-person
98 education about different forms of human trafficking and signs to identify the issue.

99 **3 Consideration of the status**

100 **3.1 A. Deliberations**

101 The 30th annual meeting of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) meeting
102 addressed the topic of Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Persons Facilitated by the Criminal Misuse of
103 Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). During the first suspension of the meeting, informal working
104 groups formed around potential resolutions to be drafted. At the end of the suspension, the sponsors of the drafts
105 were given the chance to explain working papers through a consultative session.

106 Additionally, the Commission discussed the importance of internet accessibility and use of ICTs as part of
107 combating human trafficking. Several representatives expressed concern over the accountability of internet service
108 providers and technology companies in working to address human trafficking via the internet and dark web. Internet
109 anonymity also plays an important role in the misuse of ICTs by traffickers and many representatives expressed the
110 need to expose and address the deceptive behaviors and practices traffickers use online to exploit and lure in potential
111 victims of human trafficking. These include but are not limited to promises of employment abroad in places like
112 Europe as well as possibilities of immigration across international borders.

113 During consultative sessions and formal debate, the Commission discussed the definition of human trafficking
114 as defined by the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons (2000). The Commission discussed
115 at great length the importance of special provisions for vulnerable populations, most notably refugees. Addition-
116 ally, the Commission discussed the spread of misinformation through information and communication technologies
117 regarding sex trafficking. The Commission decided it would look favorably upon the implementation of programs
118 that assist in increasing reporting of human trafficking and ensuring the factual accuracy of information.

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120 combating human trafficking. Several representatives expressed concern over the accountability of internet service
121 providers and technology companies in working to address human trafficking via the internet and dark web. Internet
122 anonymity also plays an important role in the misuse of ICTs by traffickers and many representatives expressed the
123 need to expose and address the deceptive behaviors and practices traffickers use online to exploit and lure in potential
124 victims of human trafficking. These include but are not limited to promises of employment abroad in places like
125 Europe as well as possibilities of immigration across international borders.

126 A number of specific potential solutions were brought up by representatives. For one, representatives recog-
127 nized the absence of law enforcement training on the topic of warning signs of trafficking, and how officials should
128 respond in instances of trafficking. Both in terms of prevention and response, law enforcement are the first line of
129 defense against human trafficking, and their capabilities in this field are urgently in need of development. In relation
130 to the role of internet providers and technology corporations, the Commission suggested the use of a third-party
131 facilitator with the obligation to assist in law enforcement investigations. Moreover, the Commission suggested the
132 implementation of updated training for officials to understand the scope and detail of the technology that traffickers
133 use as well as the patterns of exploitation that can indicate the presence of traffickers in online communities. With
134 this concern for internet community safety, the delegates discussed the importance of cyber security within the topic.
135 Specifically, ransomware as well as criminal use of the dark web and illegal use of cryptocurrency have all been linked
136 to ICT misuse by human traffickers. Cryptocurrency is particularly concerning due to its untraceability, making the
137 ability of law enforcement to gather evidence and stop trafficker transactions much more difficult.

138 The Commission discussed the role of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group Against Trafficking (ICAT),
139 which is the primary United Nations body that handles the combating of human trafficking facilitated by the
140 criminal use of information and communication technologies. Recommendations by the ICAT emphasize the need
141 for transnational solutions to countering trafficking, to include increased cooperation between individual Member
142 States, NGOs, and the private sector in the sharing of both technology and ideas. Additionally, the Commission
143 discussed internet freedom and the importance of respecting individual freedoms when approaching the relationship
144 between human trafficking and information communication technologies.

145 Another ethical consideration that had been previously addressed by the ICAT was means for protecting
146 victims of human trafficking from re-victimization by the spread of personal information. Such protections would
147 also be considered an exception from the general trend towards increased information sharing proposed by many
148 Members of the body. Future efforts may want to provide greater opportunity for advocacy roles for survivors on
149 how to best address this issue.

150 A number of representatives raised concerns regarding the lack of implementation of coordination programs
151 between law enforcement and information communication technology corporations. Increasing the coordination
152 between law enforcement and ICT corporations would improve law enforcement's general capability to handle the
153 criminal use of ICT and would therefore contribute to the combating of said criminal use. In addition, multiple
154 representatives discussed their concern with a lack of funding in the area of combating human trafficking and the
155 different ways that an increase of funding could be implemented in order to address this.

156 The Commission addressed how ICT allows Member States with different economic capabilities to cross
157 communicate, therefore solutions regarding combating human trafficking facilitated by ICT should not be limited
158 to economic capability. This recognition played a vital role in the Commission's effort to engage as many Member
159 States as possible, but effectively preserved the integrity of sovereignty.

160 The importance of international dialogues and an understanding of the widespread nature of human traffick-
161 ing was also noted throughout the discussion. Delegations wished to clarify that human trafficking was not an issue
162 limited to Member States of a particular economic status or region, and in fact was an issue that affected all within
163 the Body. To make sure that national sovereignty was accounted for, several delegations voiced the importance
164 of respecting the existing legal frameworks within individual Member States, and that while data-sharing would
165 facilitate a better understanding of the multi-state nature of trafficking operations, it may unfairly require certain
166 Member States to surrender their media and information-sharing systems against their wishes.

167 Another set of representatives brought to the attention of the body that anti-trafficking measures requiring
168 extensive technology and other relevant infrastructure may be neglectful of less-developed countries. It was mentioned
169 that efforts moving forward should be more inclusive to these nations, such as providing additional funds to increase
170 the availability of advanced technologies to address the prevention and determent of human trafficking.

171 The safety of trafficking victims as well as sex workers was also brought to the forefront of the delibera-
172 tions of the Commission. Several delegations expressed the bastardization of safety by eliminating online sex work
173 communities, which made both victims of human trafficking as well as sex workers unsafe by forcing them into
174 street-based sex work. Two examples of legislation from the United States, the Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act
175 and the Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act, were discussed as the potential results of these measures could affect the
176 safety and stability thousands of sex workers across the board. In order to better address the issue of safety online for
177 sex workers and victims of human trafficking, the Commission proposed several measures implemented in different
178 delegations, such as the use of legal contracts with sex workers to ensure safe working conditions.

179 **3.2 B. Actions taken by the Commission**

180 Member States began with two working papers addressing the primary issues presented by this topic. After
181 considerable deliberation, the ideas from two working papers were combined into a single draft resolution that passed
182 with consensus from the body, titled CCPCJ/1/1. The document was authored by the following representatives:
183 The French Republic, Kenya, Islamic Republic of Iran, Egypt, and Algeria. The sponsors of the resolution were the
184 representatives from the following Member States: United Kingdom, Germany, Belarus, French Republic, Eritrea,
185 India, Afghanistan, Russian Federation, Egypt, Islamic Republic of Iran, United States of America, Kenya, Japan,
186 Nigeria, and Algeria. Following deliberations and the drafting of the resolution, several Member States formed one
187 cohesive amendment that was passed by the Commission and is reflected in the final document of CCPCJ/1/1.

188 This amendment outlined a concern raised by the delegates from Afghanistan, Colombia, Ecuador, and Brazil
189 who wanted to address the limited funding that developing nations receive for the programs we suggested within the
190 resolution. The major contributions were the final operative clause, and the striking of one of the preambulatory
191 clauses. These contributions were supported chiefly by Afghanistan, the French Republic, the Russian Federation,
192 and Austria. On line 40, the word "impossible" was replaced with "difficult". This change reflected a concern from
193 the Ecuadorian delegate who suggested this wording was contradictory to previously held United Nations goals. The
194 United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals include one goal that supports gender equality, and another
195 goal that seeks to eliminate violence against women in public and and private spheres. This includes trafficking as a
196 form of violence against women, which was apart of the overall topic of this report.

197 **4 Chapter IV**

198 **4.1 Adoption of the report of the Commission**

199 At its meeting on 26 November 2019, the draft report of the Commission was made available for considera-
200 tion. The Commission considered the report, and with no amendments, adopted the report by consensus, with one
201 abstention.

Passed by consensus, with 1 abstentions