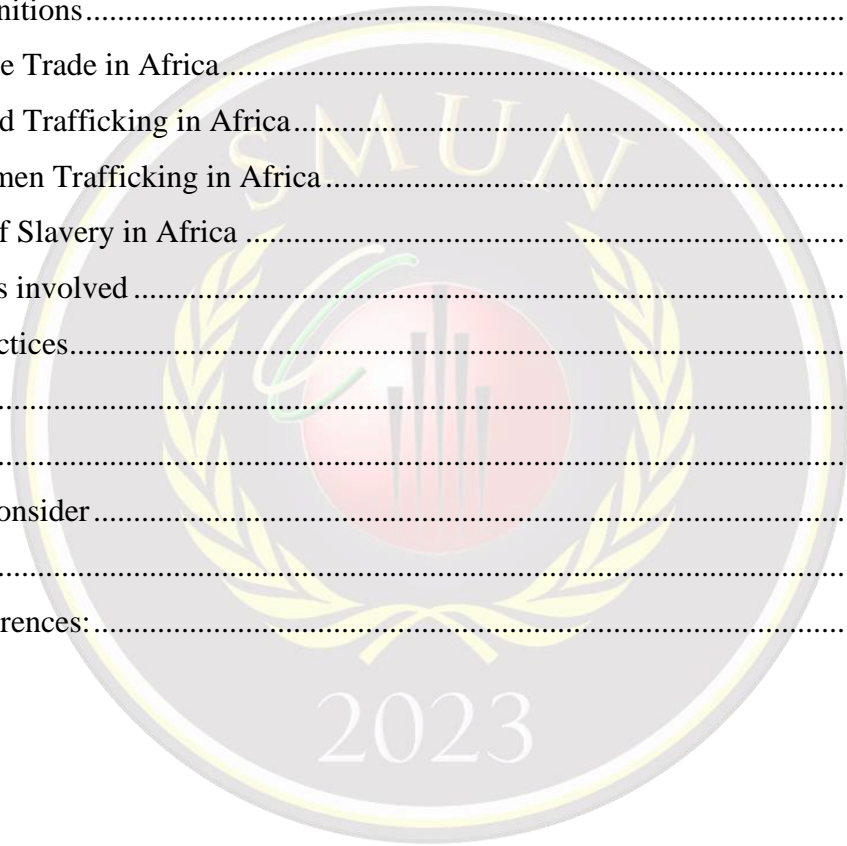




Agenda: Deliberation on African slave trade with special emphasis on women and child trafficking

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Letter from the Chairperson

Dear Delegates,

I am deeply honored and privileged to invite you to the 8th edition of the Suncity Model United Nations. This session of the Human Rights Council will focus on addressing slave trade in and from the continent of Africa while also shedding light on trafficking of women and children.

As we progress in the third decade of the twenty-first century, one might think that the world is modernized and everyone can voice their opinion. Well unfortunately that is not the case. If the world was a perfect place, there would not have been a need for us to be deliberating upon global issues.

A lot of countries have given their statements on international forums condemning trafficking of people specially from Africa while a lot of countries do not even acknowledge slave trade happening in their nation. Some countries encourage immigrants to work low level jobs while others have strict laws against them. Some countries have extreme laws against slavery while in other countries, slavery is not even illegal.

You, as delegates, are expected to handle a plethora of tasks simultaneously. You will be giving statements clarifying your nation's stances, speeches regarding conflicts arising due to slave trade worldwide, asking questions demanding a countries opinion on controversial matters, writing documents to resolve the problems discussed and getting the best out of the discussions for your country.

A grade 12 commerce student, sports enthusiast, debater, and somewhat of an extrovert, I, Hardik Ratnani, will be the chairperson of your committee. I like to listen to music, watch football highlights, and read about current affairs in my free time.

From a delegate to a chairperson, my 5th SMUN shall mark the end of my high school MUN journey. However, I assure you that this MUN will be one to remember for all of us. I hope that all of you engage in meaningful and fruitful debate, gain insights about real world problems but also have a fun and joyous experience.

For any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me: **8076331474**

Hardik Ratnani,
Chairperson,
United Nations Human Rights Council

Introduction to the Human Rights Council

The United Nations Human Rights Council represents and protects the human rights of all persons in the world. The council was established by the United Nations General Assembly on March 15, 2006 by resolution A/RES/60/251 to replace the United Nations Commission on Human Rights that had been strongly criticized for allowing countries with poor human rights records to be members. The headquarters of UNHRC is in Geneva, Switzerland. The current president of UNHRC is Mr Vaclav Balek from the Czech Republic.

The UNHRC holds regular sessions three times a year. March, June and September. The UNHRC can decide at any time to hold a special session to address human rights violations and emergencies, at the request of one-third of member states. To date, there have been 28 special sessions.

It has 47 seats where the members are elected every three years on a regional group basis by the United Nations General Assembly.

The council is mandated to promote and protect the enjoyment and full realization, by all people, of all rights established in the Charter of the United Nations and in international laws and treaties.

UNHRC is guided in its work by the UN Resolutions, Declarations and treaties. UNHRC works closely with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and acts as the principal Human Rights Official in the United Nations.

The Council promotes the right to development, coordinates United Nations human rights education and public information activities.

Its main priority is to strengthen Human Rights across the United Nations system and in the world. UNHRC works with determination to ensure the enforcement of universally recognized Human Rights norms, including through promoting both the universal ratification and implementation of the major human rights treaties and respect for the rule of law.

The mandate includes: preventing human rights violations, securing respect for all human rights, promoting international cooperation to protect human rights, coordinating related activities throughout the United Nations, and strengthening and streamlining the United Nations system in the field of human rights.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a document of human rights drafted by representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all religions and regions of the world. The declaration was hosted by the United Nations general Assembly in Paris on 10th December, 1948. It sets out the fundamental human rights to be universally protected and it has been translated in over 500 languages.

Here are some of its articles which are highly relevant for the agenda and will help in your research:

Article 1: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 4: No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article 5: No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 9: No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article 11:

1. Everyone charged with a penal offense has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defense.
2. No one shall be held guilty of any penal offense on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offense, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offense was committed.

Article 13:

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.
2. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Article 15:

1. Everyone has the right to a nationality.
2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

Article 19: Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Article 22: Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international cooperation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

Article 23:

1. Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.
2. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.
3. Everyone who works has the right to just and favorable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.
4. Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

African Charter on Human's and People's Rights

The African states members of the organization of African Unity have presented this convention. All African countries except Morocco (who has not yet ratified and signed this document) are a part of this convention and have pledged to abide by it.

Given below are the articles relevant to the agenda and how it can be used while tackling the issue:

The link for the official site which explains in detail its mandate and official laws is as follows: (delegates are highly encouraged to at least go through this document since it is based on the area of focus)

<https://www.achpr.org/legalinstruments/detail?id=49#:~:text=The%20African%20Charter%20on%20Human, freedoms%20in%20the%20African%20continent.>

Geneva Conventions

The Geneva convention(s) are four different conventions and three additional protocols that establish international legal standards to be mainly used in situations of war when humanitarian aid is needed. The main update of the Geneva Convention was in 1949 following the aftermath of World War II.

The four conventions talk about:

- The [First Geneva Convention](#) “for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field.”
- The [Second Geneva Convention](#) "for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea.”
- The [Third Geneva Convention](#) "relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War.”
- The [Fourth Geneva Convention](#) "relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War.”

Additionally, these are the three protocols and what they talk about:

1. [Protocol I](#) (1977) relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts.
2. [Protocol II](#) (1977) relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts.
3. [Protocol III](#) (2005) relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem

Article 1 of [Protocol I](#) further clarifies that armed conflict against colonial domination and foreign occupation also qualifies as an *international* conflict.

When the criteria of international conflict have been met, the full protections of the Conventions are considered to apply.

Here are two sites and documents which are recommended for further research on the same:

- <https://www.icrc.org/en/war-and-law/treaties-customary-law/geneva-conventions>
- https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/atrocity-crimes/Doc.33_GC-IV-EN.pdf

Important Definitions

1. **Slave Trade:** the business or process of capturing, transporting, and selling human beings into chattel slavery, especially Black Africans brought to the New World prior to the mid-19th century.
2. **Slave:** Slavery was a condition in which one human being was owned by another. A slave was considered by law as property, or chattel, and was deprived of most of the rights ordinarily held by free persons.
3. **Human Trafficking:** human trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons by improper means (such as force, abduction, fraud, or coercion) for an improper purpose including forced labor or sexual exploitation.
4. **Sexual Abuse:** any act of sexual contact that a person suffers, submits to, participates in, or performs as a result of force or violence, threats, fear, or deception or without having legally consented to the act.
5. **Child Sexual Abuse:** Child sexual abuse is defined as sexual activity with a child by an adult, adolescent or older child. If any adult engages in sexual activity with a child, that is sexual abuse. There are two main types of child sexual abuse: touching and non-touching.
6. **Molestation:** Molestation is the crime of engaging in sexual acts with minors, including touching of private parts, exposure of genitalia, taking of pornographic pictures, rape, inducement of sexual acts with the molester or with other children, and variations of these acts. Molestation also applies to incest by a relative with a minor family member and additionally any sexual acts short of rape.
7. **Prostitution:** the practice of engaging in relatively indiscriminate sexual activity, in general with someone who is not a spouse or a friend, in exchange for immediate payment in money or other valuables.
8. **Female Genital Mutilation:** Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a traditional harmful practice that involves the partial or total removal of external female genitalia or other injury to female genital organs for non-medical reasons.
9. **Refugees:** victims of trafficking or persons who fear being trafficked are refugees if they have a well-founded fear of persecution in their country of origin where the state is unable or unwilling to protect them.

10. **Domestic SLavery:** where slaves would work primarily in the house of the master, but retain some freedoms. Domestic slaves could be considered part of the master's household and would not be sold to others without extreme cause. The slaves could own the profits from their labor, and could marry and pass the land on to their children in many cases.
11. **Forced Marriage:** it is a marriage where one and/or both parties have not personally expressed their full and free consent to the union.
12. **Child Marriage:** refers to any formal marriage or informal union between a child under the age of 18 and an adult or another child.
13. **Modern Day Slavery:** refers to situations of exploitation that a person cannot refuse or leave because of threats, violence, coercion, deception, and/or abuse of power.



History of Slave Trade in Africa

Slave trade transported between 10 million and 12 million enslaved Africans across the Atlantic Ocean to the Americas from the 16th to the 19th century. It was the second of three stages of the so-called triangular trade, in which arms, textiles, and wine were shipped from Europe to Africa, enslaved people from Africa to the Americas, and sugar and coffee from the Americas to Europe.

In the 15th century, the Roman Catholic Church divided the world in half, granting Portugal a monopoly on trade in West Africa and Spain the right to colonize the New World in its quest for land and gold. Pope Nicholas V buoyed Portuguese efforts and issued the Romanus Pontifex of 1455, which affirmed Portugal's exclusive rights to territories it claimed along the West African coast and the trade from those areas. It granted the right to invade, plunder and "reduce their persons to perpetual slavery."

By the 1480s Portuguese ships were already transporting Africans for use as enslaved laborers on the sugar plantations in the Cape Verde and Madeira islands in the eastern Atlantic. Spanish conquistadors took enslaved Africans to the Caribbean after 1502, but Portuguese merchants continued to dominate the transatlantic slave trade for another century and a half, operating from their bases in the Congo-Angola area along the west coast of Africa. The Dutch became the foremost traders of enslaved people during parts of the 1600s, and in the following century English and French merchants controlled about half of the transatlantic slave trade, taking a large percentage of their human cargo from the region of West Africa between the Sénégal and Niger rivers.

Queen Isabella invested in Christopher Columbus's exploration to increase her wealth and ultimately rejected the enslavement of Native Americans, claiming that they were Spanish subjects. In 1713 an agreement between Spain and Britain granted the British a monopoly on the trade of enslaved people with the Spanish colonies. Under the Asiento de negros, Britain was entitled to supply those colonies with 4,800 enslaved Africans per year for 30 years. The contract for this supply was assigned to the South Sea Company, of which British Queen Anne held some 22.5 percent of the stock.

Probably no more than a few hundred thousand Africans were taken to the Americas before 1600. In the 17th century, however, demand for enslaved labor rose sharply with the growth of sugar plantations in the Caribbean and tobacco plantations in the Chesapeake region in North America. The largest numbers of enslaved people were taken to the Americas during the 18th century, when, according to historians' estimates, nearly three-fifths of the total volume of the transatlantic slave trade took place.

Eventually other European nation-states — the Netherlands, France, Denmark and England — seeking similar economic and geopolitical power joined in the trade, exchanging goods and people with leaders along the West African coast, who ran self-sustaining societies known for their mineral-rich land and wealth in gold and other trade goods.

They competed to secure the asiento and colonize the New World. With these efforts, a new form of slavery came into being. It was endorsed by the European nation-states and based on race, and it resulted in the largest forced migration in the world: Some 12.5 million men, women and children of African descent were forced into the trans-Atlantic slave trade. The sale of their bodies and the product of their labor brought the Atlantic world into being, including colonial North America. In the colonies, status began to be defined by race and class, and whether by custom, case law or statute, freedom was limited to maintain the enterprise of slavery and ensure power.



History of Child Trafficking in Africa

Child trafficking can be viewed as a complex organized crime in both the international arena and African countries. This threatens national safety and security, further strengthening the notion that “child trafficking” is undoubtedly the most significant new facet of organized crime occurring across porous international borders.

There were several instances in which enslaved women were released from field work for extended periods during slavery. Even during the last week before childbirth, pregnant women on average picked three-quarters or more of the amount normal for women. Infant and child mortality rates were twice as high among enslaved children as among southern White children. Half of all enslaved infants died in their first year of life. A major contributor to the high infant and child death rate was chronic undernourishment. All of this caused both severe impact on the physical and mental health of successive generations to follow.

The end of the Cold War led to a rise of regional conflicts and erasure of borders in Africa, which led to an increase in economic refugees. Since the rise of refugee populations, rates of human trafficking in different parts of Africa have increased rapidly. Although there have been a lot of interventions proposed by policymakers on a regional and national level, many African countries have found combating human trafficking difficult. The challenges are due to ineffective policies and the incapacity to enforce these laws, even with there is legislation present to combat human trafficking.

Trafficking features in West Africa are complex, so are its routes. Countries like Nigeria, Ghana, Cameroon and Senegal are source, transit, and destination countries for trafficked women and children . Trafficking of young girls from rural areas in countries such as Mali, Benin, Burkina Faso, Togo, and Ghana to work in Cocoa plantations in Urban Cote D’Ivoire are also documented and evidenced in literature.

Globalization has been enhanced considerably by the internet and the so-called ‘dark web’. Such platforms have often been exploited by traffickers to advertise and lure people into the trafficking world. Through the internet, several children have been lured by traffickers (under the pretext of providing immigration services) to unknown destinations, where they are raped, and exploited. This has led to an immense rise in the trafficking of children in Africa and all around the world.

History of Women Trafficking in Africa

65 and 80 percent of African women are engaged in cultivating food for their families. The centrality of agriculture influences the control of land and of labor by kin groups and clans, usually represented by male political and religious leadership. Africa had a high incidence of matrilineal descent, a social system that placed a woman and her female relations at the center of kinship and family, though male clan leaders influenced the arrangement of families through marriage. Women used a variety of routes to exercise authority—through women's organizations, as spiritual leaders, and sometimes as queen mothers, advising male rulers and serving as co-rulers or regents.

Europeans first arrived at coastal communities in Africa at the end of the 15th century. Along the West African coast, female market traders acted as arbiters between local societies and European traders. Slaves within Africa were more likely to be women, a reflection of their productive and reproductive contributions to their communities. Women were more vulnerable to enslavement, and women could be integrated into a new society while men were more likely to be traded away or killed as enemies.

Women and children were trafficked to Europe, as well as to the Middle East, Gulf countries and to Southeast Asia. Africa was also a destination, at the international level, for women and children trafficked from other continents. For example, women and girls have been trafficked for prostitution from Thailand to South Africa.

Women were usually trafficked for the purpose of sexual and economic exploitation, particularly prostitution and pornography, forced labor, including for work in commercial agriculture and domestic work, arranged marriages or to be 'sold' as brides, recruitment for participation in hostilities and such related purposes as sexual services, portage and domestic functions in conflict situations. Some were even trafficked on the basis of their "childbearing capacity". Some were even raped and then forced into marriages as the woman's subsequent pregnancy was used as a means to justify marriage.

Current State of Slavery in Africa

More than 400 years since over 12 million men and women were forcibly removed from their native land in Africa along treacherous routes and delivered as slaves in Americas and Europe, the impact of that historic forced migration continues to shape the continent and redefine the socio-cultural, economic and political development of the African people.

Armed conflict, state-sponsored forced labor, and forced marriages were the main causes behind the estimated 9.2 million Africans who live in servitude without the choice to do so, according to the 2018 Global Slavery Index. And despite these practices being widespread, slavery has remained a largely invisible issue, in part, because it disproportionately affects the most marginalized members of society, such as minorities, women, and children.

More than 3.1 million Africans are in forced marriage, the drivers of which depend on factors in their location, such as the presence of conflict, poverty, or persistence of certain traditional practices. There are more than 3.8 million people in forced labor across Africa. At particularly high risk are adults and children who travel from rural and remote areas to urban centers seeking work. Higher rates of descent-based slavery and forced begging continue to occur in parts of the Sahel.

In 2021, an estimated 7 million men, women, and children were living in modern slavery in Africa, a prevalence of 5.2 people in modern slavery for every thousand people. Forced labor was the most common form of modern slavery in the region, at a rate of 2.9 per thousand people, while forced marriage was at 2.4 per thousand.

Slavery was especially prevalent in Eritrea and Mauritania, where slavery has even been, at times, an institutionalized practice. In Eritrea, for instance, the one-party state of president Isaias Afwerki has overseen a notorious national conscription service accused of drafting citizens for an indefinite period, contributing to the wave of refugees fleeing the country. Workers that have claimed that they were forced to work in the nation's first modern mine are also currently suing the Vancouver-based mining company Nevsun that owns a majority stake in the mine.

The situation is more acute in Mauritania, which has the title of the world's last country to abolish slavery. For centuries, members of the black Haratin group were caught in a cycle of servitude, with the slave status being inherited. Reports have also shown the existence of government collusion with slave owners who intimidate servants who break free from their masters. A January landmark ruling from the African Union stated Mauritania wasn't doing enough to prosecute and jail the perpetrators of slavery.

In recent years, serfdom in the continent has attracted global attention after videos showed "slave markets" in Libya where African migrants were being auctioned off in car parks, garages, and as

well as public squares. Migration to Libya has also put Nigerian women in the crossfire, with many being sucked into Italy's dangerous world of sex trafficking.

Nearly 4 million men, women, and children experience forced labor in Africa, particularly in the mining, agriculture, fishing, and domestic work sectors. African job seekers misled by traffickers with false promises are subjected to forced labor abroad, such as in the Gulf states. Children are also exploited in their pursuit of education. For example, under the confiage (trust) system in Togo, children from rural areas are sent to cities to complete their education and live with relatives, who may force them into domestic servitude. Nigerian girls seeking employment as domestic helpers to help pay for schooling are also subjected to domestic servitude. In Senegal, talibe (student, seeker) children in Quranic schools are forced to beg.

In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, reports of child marriages increased in Sudan, Egypt, and parts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and they nearly doubled in communities across Senegal and Uganda. Women and girls living in conflict zones also experience forced and child marriage, including as a negative coping mechanism by families to protect them from further violence and by fighters who abduct, marry, and exploit women and girls as domestic and sexual slaves. Forced commercial sexual exploitation of women and girls is used as a weapon of war by both state and non-state groups, reportedly in the Central African Republic, the DRC, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and by both parties to the civil war in Ethiopia's Tigray region.

Major countries involved

Let's analyze a few countries located outside Africa and look deeper into their slavery laws, current trends of modern-day slavery and of key gaps left open –

1) United States of America : Transatlantic Slave Trade was a dark time for the nation and much of the world. From 1526–1867, approximately 12.5 million slaves were forced onto ships in Africa and taken primarily to the Americas. The United States (US) – as the wealthiest nation in the Americas – demonstrated the most action to respond to modern slavery in the region. However, several key gaps in the response remain, such as the absence of legislation criminalizing forced marriage and setting a minimum age of marriage at 18 without exceptions. Vulnerability is largely driven by discrimination towards migrants and minority groups, irregular migration and organized crime along the US-Mexico border.

2) China : While China demonstrated some efforts to tackle modern slavery through sustained coordination at the national and regional levels – including by adopting a new national

action plan for 2021 to 2030 – its overall response is critically undermined by the use of state-imposed forced labor. Since 2018, evidence of forced labor of Uyghur and other Turkic and Muslim majority peoples have emerged. Forced labor imposed by private actors is also reported, in addition to forced marriage and organ trafficking, with vulnerability primarily driven by discriminatory government practices.

3) United Kingdom : As a country with relatively high levels of wealth, and therefore more resources to dedicate to addressing modern slavery, the United Kingdom (UK) has been at the forefront of international efforts to tackle modern slavery and has shown the strongest government response globally. Modern slavery remains prevalent in the UK, while gaps include lack of protections for vulnerable groups such as migrant workers, and the absence of a National Action Plan or strategy.

4) Spain : Nudged into action by the EU and the Warsaw Convention of 2005, Spain made human trafficking a criminal offense for the first time in 2010. Spain is only just becoming aware of this other brand of slavery that often involves male victims made to work in agriculture, textile sweatshops and restaurants. Other forms of trafficking began to be investigated by the Crime Commission including the recently prevalent enforced theft, enforced drug dealing, enforced begging, enforced marriage and enforced organ donation.

Witchhood practices

Across Africa, a war is being waged on women – but we are refusing to hear the screams. Over the past fortnight, I have traveled into the secretive shadow world that mutilates millions of African women at the beginning of their lives, and at the end. As girls, they face having their genitalia sliced out with razors, to destroy their sexuality and keep them “pure” As old women, they face being hacked to death as “witches” blamed for every virus and sickness blowing across the savannah.

In Africa, witchcraft has become inextricably linked to the trafficking in persons for exploitation. Through ritual “oaths of protection”, witchcraft provides a cost effective and convenient way for trafficking victims to become mentally chained to their traffickers, and the ensuing life of sexual slavery or forced labor, among other abuses. Meanwhile, the expulsion of alleged witches from African communities creates a desperate and vulnerable population who become easy prey for ruthless exploitation.

For many Africans, witchcraft is reality and not a superstition. Some African courts, for example in Cameroon, have given convictions for being a witch based on the testimony of traditional healers. To address its human rights implications therefore requires understanding and not Dismissal.

Human rights abuses associated with witchcraft accusations and exorcism rituals are horrific and include child abandonment, murder, being bathed in acid, burned alive, poisoned to death, buried alive, drowned or imprisoned and tortured in churches. Furthermore, Witchcraft beliefs and Witch-finding practices, were shaped by the slave trade experience and may be viewed as collective “memories” of this historical trauma.

Ironically, those same people who viewed slave trade as an act of witchcraft were in danger of being accused of witchcraft and sold into slavery as punishment. It should also be noted that; historical roots of contemporary witchcraft beliefs are shown in their prevalence across Sub-Saharan Africa and can be traced back to the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, the backbone of an extractive economic systems built entirely on superiority, race models and deep-rooted patriarchy.



Case Study 1

In 1981, Mauritania made slavery illegal, the last country in the world to do so. Nonetheless, tens of thousands of people – mostly from the minority Haratine or Afro-Mauritanian groups – still live as bonded laborers, domestic servants or child brides. Local rights groups estimate that up to 20% of the population is enslaved, with one in two Haratines forced to work on farms or in homes with no possibility of freedom, education or pay. Slavery has a long history in this north African desert nation. For centuries, Arabic-speaking Moors raided African villages, resulting in a rigid caste system that still exists to this day, with darker-skinned inhabitants beholden to their lighter-skinned “masters”. Slave status is passed down from mother to child, and anti-slavery activists are regularly tortured and retained. Yet the government routinely denies that slavery still exists, instead praising itself for eradicating the practice.

Some stories of recent times include the untold yet horrendous stories of Fatimatou and her daughter Mbarka. They were slaves to a family in the Aleg region, roughly 250km from the capital, Nouakchott. “They called me ‘Fatma the servant’: I looked after the cattle, prepared food, and fetched water from the well,” says Fatimatou. “I lost two babies to this family because

they prevented me from taking care of my own children. I was forced to work when I had just given birth.”

Moving on, are cases of Former slaves Habi and her brother Bilal, above left, stand in front of Bilal’s garage outside Nouakchott. The siblings were both slaves to a family east of the capital, but Bilal fled suddenly one day after his master beat him. After several attempts to rescue his sister, who was a victim of sexual abuse and forced labor - she was finally freed with the help of SOS Slaves in 2008.

Mauritania is a bridge between the Arab Maghreb of north Africa and darker-skinned sub-Saharan Africa. The ruling Arab-Berbers have higher paid positions in jobs and government, while the Haratines and Afro-Mauritanians are under-represented in leadership positions and face many obstacles in society, from access to education to well-paid jobs. In 2015, law No. (031/2015) describing slavery as a crime against humanity was passed, and this law calls for the punishment of perpetrators of slavery by punishing them with a prison sentence and forcing them to pay compensation for the victims. This Compensation Exists only on Paper and not much action is taken which can be seen alongside Mauritanian human rights defenders who are speaking out against persistent practice of slavery and discrimination in the country have faced arbitrary arrest, torture, detention in remote prisons and the systematic banning of their gatherings.

Case Study 2

Although slavery officially ended in Brazil at the end of the 19th century, it continues in practice into the 21st century in Brazil and in other parts of the world. One modern form of slavery that has most recently manifested itself is “human trafficking” Worldwide, there are over 4 million victims of this type of slavery which generates 12 billion dollars per year. The majority of victims are women and children.

Below is the testimony of a young woman ensnared in the traps of human trafficking that reminds us of the heinous human right violations being committed. “ Once, being kicked out of my house, I started to “make a life” [as a prostitute] for myself, while other days I didn’t even make enough to eat. One day, a taxi driver talked to me and invited me to go to Europe. I was 17 at the time. He got me a passport, a ticket, and some clothes for cold weather, which he said I would need. I traveled to Spain. Before leaving Brazil, I suspected prostitution but I never imagined that I would be a prisoner, threatened day and night. At the house, we were slaves. I never got anything, not money, not clothes. I didn’t have my documents so I couldn’t leave. We were given very little food, and we had to stay up every day, trying to get customers. We never had routine medical exams, much less tests for AIDS. ”

Moving eastwards towards the African Continent - A 2019 Human Rights Watch investigation for example, Nigerian women and girls were found to experience forced labor in stereotypically 'female' sectors, such as domestic and care work, and were trafficked from both within Nigeria and from neighboring countries on false promises of paid employment & education. On arrival, individuals were subjected to exploitative labor practices, such as excessive hours, sexual harassment, and emotional, verbal, sexual and physical abuse, which often included denial of food and medical care.

Recruited as soldiers and sold into prostitution and forced labor, children aged between 12 and 16 are the main victims of human trafficking across Africa, a new study compiled by the United Nations Children's Fund especially in the conflict prone regions of Eritrea and Ethiopia. Reports also indicate that children within Nigeria are subject to commercial sexual exploitation, with girls facing greater risks of sexual violence and exploitation as a result of the conflict and associated socio-political instability.

This should prompt the governments to take swift action and implement immediate policies to prevent any more horrific incidents of Modern-day Slavery anywhere in the globe.

Questions to Consider

Q1. What other factors like cultural diversities and religious practices have affected the overall practices of slave trade in the region ?

Q2. Even after so many laws passed and conventions ratified, why hasn't child & women trafficking reduced over the years ?

Q3. How has Covid-19 pandemic affected the overall trafficking crisis?

Q4. To what extent are colonies responsible for their past actions
(Example : Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade)

Q5. Are power dynamics of Africa and the race of being the "AFRICAN SUPERPOWER" causing innumerable human right violations ?

Q6. Did Digital Inclusion impact child trafficking in vulnerable regions?

Position Paper

We will be having a position paper in this MUN to assess your portfolio's stance prior to the day of the conference.

A position paper as the name suggests, is a formal document which defines the position of a country or an entity with regards to the agenda. It highlights the current stance of the country and how it is related to the agenda.

We expect all delegates to highlight the different aspects mentioned in the background guide and how it relates with the agenda and their respective country.

The position paper can be divided into:

1. Introduction
2. Statement of the problem
3. Country Policy
4. Solutions to the agenda
5. Conclusion
6. References and citations

Though we expect a proper explained stance with probably all points covered in a position paper, there must be a certain limit. The position paper should **not be more than 2 pages long**. Your position paper should be brief and concise but also well-explained at the same time.

The font should be **Times New Roman** and the font size should be **12** throughout.

Given below is a sample position paper, please go through it to understand what we expect in a position paper and look at the format.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1cawSSXGuSc2-7N4yRbbgpBU2-fdgbPxZ?usp=drive_link

Links and References:

Delegates, for further research, you may refer to the following websites to become well-versed with the agenda.

<https://www.achpr.org/legalinstruments/detail?id=49#:~:text=The%20African%20Charter%20on%20Human, freedoms%20in%20the%20African%20continent>

<https://www.icrc.org/en/war-and-law/treaties-customary-law/geneva-conventions>

https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/atrocity-crimes/Doc.33_GC-IV-EN.pdf

<https://www.britannica.com/money/topic/transatlantic-slave-trade>

<https://www.walkfree.org/news/2019/forced-and-child-marriage-in-africa-as-a-manifestation-of-gender-based-violence-and-inequality/#:~:text=In%20South%20Africa%2C%20there%20is,used%20to%20justify%20the%20marriage.>

<https://qz.com/africa/1333946/global-slavery-index-africa-has-the-highest-rate-of-modern-day-slavery-in-the-world>

<https://www.walkfree.org/global-slavery-index/findings/regional-findings/africa/#:~:text=On%20any%20given%20day%20in,slavery%20for%20every%20thousand%20people.>

<https://oxfordre.com/africanhistory/display/10.1093/acrefore/9780190277734.001.0001/acrefore-9780190277734-e-562>

<https://www.svri.org/what-we-do/capacity-development/events-and-seminars/prostitution-sex-work-south-africa-developing-research-agenda>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7536110/>

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/03/mauritania-slavery-and-discrimination-human-rights-defenders-repressed/>

[wcms_854733.pdf \(ilo.org\)](#)

[Modern slavery: 50 million people worldwide in modern slavery \(ilo.org\)](#)

[Slavery Still Exists Today - Center for Global Justice ® \(regent.edu\)](#)

[Trafficked: Three survivors of human trafficking share their stories | UN Women – Headquarters](#)