

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: CONCEPT AND TYPES

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Human trafficking has existed at all times, sometimes even legally. In the period of globalization and the period of social networks and active exchange of information, the dimension of human trafficking has grown and continues to grow. Today it has become of a global character.

Human trafficking is a criminal offense related to the purchase and sale of people. This is a contemporary type of enslavement that involves egregious breaches of human rights. This heinous act reduces a person to a mere commodity, transforming them into a tool for manipulation and a tradeable item.

There is no single profile of a victim of human trafficking. Victims of criminals can be people belonging to different strata of society. They may differ by national origin, religion, age, level of education, etc. But there is one trait typical for all of them, a certain form of vulnerability. Human trafficking victims are frequently cut off from their families, social circles, and in some cases their native land, language, and traditions. Runaway or homeless youths often constitute the majority of domestic sex trafficking victims, and they usually hail from families that have experienced sexual and physical violence, poverty, incest, or addiction. Traffickers manipulate these susceptibilities by offering victims a better life, a good job, or affection.

Nowadays there are many forms of trafficking such as forced criminal activities, forced labour, sexual exploitation, removal of organs, etc.

The first form of trafficking is trading for forced labour. Put more plainly, forced labor refers to any type of work or service carried out by someone who is being coerced through the threat of punishment.

The second form is trafficking for forced criminal activities. Victims of this crime are forced to carry out a range of illegal activities, the proceeds of which generate income for criminal organizations. Examples of such activities are theft, drug cultivation, counterfeit sales, and more recently, fraud.

The most widespread form of human trafficking is trafficking for sexual exploitation. Nowadays it affects every region in the world. Criminals lure their victims, mostly women and children, by various methods, promising them a large income. They are then transported or sheltered in places of exploitation, their documents are taken away, their movements are controlled or restricted, and they are sexually exploited, often facing many other forms of violence.

The last form of human trafficking is trafficking for the purpose of organ removal. In many countries, transplant waiting lists are very long. Criminals take

advantage of the desperation of patients and potential donor victims. After transplantation, donor victims often receive virtually no compensation for the operation, facing serious health problems and financial difficulties.

In this way, the consequences of any form of human trafficking are: deprivation of liberty of action, suppression and retention of documents, debt dependency, physical violence or threat of violence, the use of psychological violence, blackmail (the threat of deportation, threats against the family victim, blackmail by publicity of unwanted information, etc.), restricting freedom of movement, communication with family, fraud, coercion to work without pay, denial of formalizing the employment relationship (employment contract), non-payment of the salary, illegal ban of the dismissal (retention of an employee). However, the appearance of voluntary slavery in the contemporary world more vividly reveals the socio-economic reasons of human trafficking.

Every country makes certain contributions to tackle this problem by setting up different national and world mechanisms. For example, in 2003, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) set up the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings to help participating States develop and implement effective policies for combating human trafficking.

In the past two decades, several agreements have been established to address human trafficking, and the Republic of Belarus has acceded to all significant international agreements concerning this issue. These agreements include the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (November 15, 2000), and the Protocol to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which aims at preventing, suppressing and combating the trafficking of persons, particularly women and children (November 15, 2000). The Republic of Belarus actively collaborates with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on combating human trafficking, and coordinates the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking, established in 2010. Only by working together with the whole world we can succeed in the fight against the crime.

Літаратура

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