

VANCOUVER YOUTH MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2020



ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS

BACKGROUNDER A

South Africa

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VANCOUVER YOUTH MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2020

Association of Southeast Asian States

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Chair: Tessa Dubois-Phillips

Assistant Director: Jack Millos

Dear delegates,

It is with great excitement that I welcome you to VYMUN 2020. My name is Michael Yin, and I am currently a senior at West Point Grey Academy. It is an absolute honour to be serving as your Director of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Joining me on the dais will be my Chair Tessa Dubois-Phillips and my Assistant Director Jack Millos. As your director, I hope to nurture an educational and exciting experience that leads to self-discovery at VYMUN 2020. This year, we will be examining the following two topics: Transnational Crime: Trafficking of Women and Children and Climate Change and Rising Sea Levels in Southeast Asia.

In Topic A, Transnational Crime: Trafficking of Women and Children, we will be discussing ways in which we could resolve this pressing issue. Women and children have been victims of human trafficking due in part to high rates of poverty. These individuals are often lured through the false promise of a stable employment and eventually becoming victims of forced or sexual labour. This lack of awareness, education, and poverty are the primary factor in the high number of trafficking cases around the region. With globalization and the rise of more organized crimes, ASEAN leaders have called for a coordinated approach in fighting crimes at a regional level.

Our second topic is Climate Change and Rising Sea Levels in Southeast Asia. Since the start of the 20th century, the average global sea level has been rising at an alarming rate. Coastal lands are home to millions of people in Southeast Asia. A recent study, referred to by some as being a “doomsday report,” suggests that rising sea levels could flood three times more land than previously predicted. If this study proves to be accurate, Southeast Asia is extremely vulnerable. The rising sea levels in Southeast Asia have been driven by man-made greenhouse gas emissions, climate change, warming waters, heavy rainfall, and accelerated melting of ice in the Arctic and Antarctic. This topic requires delegates to keep an open mind for every unique situation and collaborate with other delegations to solve this global concern.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at asean@vymun.com. Although VYMUN 2020 is being hosted online, I am looking forward to meeting everyone virtually and discovering new methods to run the committee in October.

Sincerely,

Michael Yin

Director of ASEAN | VYMUN 2020

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Topic A: Transnational Crime: Trafficking of Women and Children

Questions to Consider

1. What actions have your country taken to combat this issue?
2. How does this issue play into your country's economy?
3. What industries are the main contributors to your country's economy?
4. What industries in your country are most affected by trafficking and what are some rules or regulations to combat this issue?

Overview

One of the fundamental principles of ASEAN is to “strengthen the foundation for a prosperous and peaceful community of Southeast Asian Nations.” Initially, the efforts of combating transnational crime were focused on drug abuse and drug trafficking; however, with technological advancements and globalization, transnational crimes have become more diversified and organized. The region has had to deal with numerous new forms of transnational crime, such as terrorism, money laundering, arms smuggling, trafficking in women and children, and new forms of drug trafficking.¹

With the continued rise of organized crime in Southeast Asia, ASEAN leaders have called for a coordinated approach in fighting crimes at a regional level. Human trafficking is a major issue in the Southeast Asian region. According to the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2016 published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes, more than 85 percent of victims were trafficked from within the region.² The most prominent form of human trafficking in the region is for sexual exploitation and forced labour, which are reported to be 60 percent of the 7,800 identified victims from 2012 to 2014.³ Women are particularly vulnerable to trafficking for forced marriages or sham marriages in Southeast Asia. These forced marriages are reported in the Mekong area, Cambodia, China, Myanmar, and in Vietnam. Victims of other forms of trafficking may be used for benefiting fraud, begging on streets, or producing pornography. Aside from women trafficking, children made up of nearly a third of the human trafficking victims in the region.⁴ These vulnerable individuals and young children are often forced into horrific jobs due to the crippling living conditions they face. Furthermore, these job environments lack proper safety and basic human needs to sustain these victims and many of them suffer from health risks and death.

Based on the United States' minimum standard stated in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 to eliminate human trafficking, countries are ranked based on a Tier list according to their efforts and compliance to the standards. The minimum standards for eliminating trafficking in persons are: “(1) The government of the country should prohibit severe forms of trafficking in persons and punish acts of such trafficking. (2) For the knowing commission of any act of sex trafficking involving force, fraud, coercion, or in which the victim of sex trafficking is a child incapable of giving meaningful consent, or of trafficking which includes rape or kidnapping or which causes a death, the government of the country should prescribe punishment commensurate with that for grave crimes, such as forcible sexual assault. (3) For the knowing commission of any

¹ asean.org/?static_post=asean-plan-of-action-to-combat-transnational-crime

² theaseanpost.com/article/aseans-human-trafficking-plague

³ www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2018/09/human-trafficking-in-southeast-asia-caballero.htm

⁴ Ibid.

act of a severe form of trafficking in persons, the government of the country should prescribe punishment that is sufficiently stringent to deter and that adequately reflects the heinous nature of the offense. (4) The government of the country should make serious and sustained efforts to eliminate severe forms of trafficking in persons.”⁵ Tier 1 nations are countries who fully comply with TVPA’s minimum standards. Tier 2 countries do not fully but are making significant efforts to meet requirements, and Tier 2 watchlist nations have severe forms of trafficking and significant number of cases but are making efforts to comply with the standards. Tier 3 countries are neither complying nor making efforts to comply with the minimum standards. Only the Philippines was ranked as a Tier 1 country in the ASEAN bloc. Brunei, Indonesia, Cambodia, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam all ranked as Tier 2 countries whose governments do not fully meet the TVPA minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards. Two ASEAN countries, Myanmar and Lao, ranked as Tier 3 countries.⁶

These illicit crimes target children and women, whose lives are endangered due to unfortunate circumstances that can only be solved with regional collaboration. This transnational issue must stop in order for there to be progression and further development as a society.

Timeline

1955: Start of the Vietnam War, also known as the Second Indochina War. American soldiers arrived in Vietnam and Thailand, driving up the demand for the sex industry and eventually normalizing prostitution throughout the countries.

1975-1979: Prostitution is completely banned and punishable by death during the Khmer Rouge Years.⁷

1979: China introduced the one-child policy. This caused a gender imbalance and a disproportionate increase in human trafficking to China for forced marriages.

1979-1993: Commercial sexwork starts to re-emerge under the new State of Cambodia.⁸

1992-1993: 20,000 male troops and civilian personnel of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) and other NGOs arrive in Cambodia and create a new market for sexual services.⁹

1996: First Informal Summit where ASEAN Leaders call upon relevant ASEAN bodies to study the possibility of regional cooperation on crime prevention, including the reduction of drug and human trafficking.¹⁰

⁵ <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2019-Trafficking-in-Persons-Report.pdf>

⁶ <https://theaseanpost.com/article/asean-epicentre-human-trafficking>

⁷ <https://www.hrw.org/en/news/2010/07/16/cambodia-sex-workers-face-unlawful-arrests-and-detention>

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ https://asean.org/?static_post=asean-plan-of-action-to-combat-transnational-crime

1997: ASEAN leaders resolved to take stern measures to combat transnational crimes including drug trafficking and the trafficking of women and children in the Second Informal Summit.¹¹

1997: ASEAN Vision 2020 is adopted with a set of agreed rules of behavior and cooperative measures to deal with problems on a regional scale, including trafficking in women and children and other transnational crimes.¹²

2002: The first Bali Process meeting was co-chaired by Indonesia and Australia to address the issues of human trafficking.

2004: ASEAN members signed the Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons Particularly Women and Children, focusing on regional cooperation on combating human trafficking.¹³

2007: Vietnam television works with MTV EXIT to broadcast a US Government-funded anti-trafficking documentary and awareness campaign.¹⁴

2010: Singapore government forms the Inter-Agency Taskforce on Trafficking in Persons to coordinate efforts in tackling trafficking that focuses on prevention, prosecution, protection, and partnership.¹⁵

2014: The Prevention of Human Trafficking Act is passed in the Singaporean Parliament to address the problem by deterring traffickers by instituting stiff criminal penalties and increasing enforcement.¹⁶

2015: ASEAN adopts the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.¹⁷

2015: Thailand amended the Criminal Code of Thailand in order to combat child sexual exploitation and criminalize child pornography.¹⁸

Historical Analysis

Globalization has been a main contributing factor to human trafficking in Southeast Asia. Regional industrialization in the mid 20th century divided the growing economies and the stagnant ones, drawing poor migrants seeking upward mobility and individuals wanting to leave war-torn countries to more developed places like Thailand and Singapore. This high supply of migrant workers and high demand from a rapidly growing economy created a perfect combination for human traffickers to thrive in the region.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/ASEAN-Declaration-against-Trafficking-in-Persons-Particularly-Women-and-Children-TPPWC.pdf>

¹⁴ <https://thediplomat.com/2019/11/vietnams-human-trafficking-problem-is-too-big-to-ignore>

¹⁵ <https://hagar.org.sg/human-trafficking-in-singapore/>

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ <https://2009-2017.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2016/index.htm>

Thailand is an example of a country that sought rapid economic development. Thailand's economy is heavily reliant on labour-intensive industries, with its aquaculture industry currently employing over 650,000 people. However, due to Thailand's overall economic growth and relative prosperity to other Southeast Asian countries, many Thai workers turned away from low-skilled, labour intensive professions. This created a labour shortage in certain sectors, including the fishing industry. As a result, there was a large increase in cheap migrant workers and human trafficking from surrounding countries. According to the Raks Thai Foundation, a local branch of CARE International in Thailand, 200,000 migrants are currently working on fishing vessels, a large number of whom are undocumented. Documents from the Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) suggest that a significant number of the undocumented workers in the fishing sector are likely to have been trafficked.¹⁹

The sex industry also emerged in Southeast Asia in the mid 20th century as a way for women to generate more income. Struggling migrants and locals often joined this industry to try and support themselves and their families. The growth of these industries may be attributed to the growing tourism and military bases around the region; governments were initially reluctant to intervene in this growth of human trafficking due to the potential harm to the tourism market.

As another example, Cambodia has had a very unstable sex industry. Under the Khmer Rouge regime (1975-1979), prostitution was completely banned and punishable by death. The highly authoritarian social system more or less eliminated sexual exchange. However, under the new State of Cambodia (1979-1993), commercial sex started to re-emerge. From 1992 to 1993, about 20,000 male troops and civilian personnel of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) arrived in Cambodia with many NGOs and business interests from abroad after the dismantlement of the State of Cambodia, creating a new market for sexual services.²⁰

Following the UNTAC withdrawal in August 1993, there was a brief drop in the number of commercial sex establishments before an increase again. NGOs became alarmed by the growth of child prostitution and by 1995, it was apparent that women from surrounding countries were entering Cambodia for sex work.²¹

The impact of the Vietnam War has also led to the current prevalence of the issue, as it caused prostitution to become common during the late 1960s in Vietnam. Prostitutes congregated at bars where American soldiers frequently visited, and the whole sex industry sprung around the American GI's and servicemen.. Furthermore, the American soldiers in Vietnam also used Thailand as a place for rest and "recreation." Following the war, prostitution became normalized and a financial boon for Thailand. In fact, the government encouraged mass sex tourism as a way to pay off its debts. Similar processes occurred in the Philippines.²² Today, though the sex industry is

¹⁹https://ejfoundation.org/resources/downloads/Sold_to_the_Sea_report_lo-res-v2.compressed-2.compressed.pdf

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

²²<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/t/text/text-idx?cc=mfsfront;c=mfs;c=mfsfront;idno=ark5583.0017.001;g=mfs;rgn=main;view=text;xc=1>

looked down upon and discouraged, there is still a large underground market that creates demand for traffickers.

Additionally, China's one-child policy has played a significant role in bride trafficking from Southeast Asian nations. The Chinese State Council launched the one-child policy in 1979 to control the rate of population growth. However, this policy reduced fertility rates (the number of children being born per female) and facilitated gender balance in the country. Due to cultural traditions of favouring boys, the need for boys to work the agricultural fields, and the technology of selective abortion, there became a greater number of men than women in the Chinese population, with the current male to female ratio being 1.19:1. China became a major destination country for female trafficking and forced marriages: traffickers lure women or children from poorer countries, namely Cambodia, Vietnam, and Myanmar, for marriage in China.²³

Past Action

ASEAN has been fighting transnational crimes since its establishment in 1967. Its efforts to coordinate Southeast Asian countries to combat organized crimes started during the First and Second Informal Summits. The two summits focused on studying the possibility of regional cooperation on criminal matters and taking stern measures to combat transnational crimes, including drug and human trafficking.²⁴

ASEAN Ministers of Interior/Home Affairs on Transnational Crime

The Philippines hosted the inaugural Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers of Interior/Home Affairs on Transnational Crime on December 20th, 1997 in Manila. The meeting presented the opportunity for ministers to exchange views on transnational crime and demonstrated the detrimental impact trafficking has on the member countries and the need for enhanced regional cooperation. The ASEAN Declaration on Transnational Crime, which was signed by the ministers during the meeting, reflected ASEAN's resolve in dealing with transnational crime and its intention to cooperate with international communities to combat these issues. These intentions include: considering the establishment of an ASEAN Centre on Combating Transnational Crime (ACTC), convening a high-level ad-hoc experts group, and encouraging member countries to consider assigning Police Attachés and/or Police Liaison Officers in each other's capital.²⁵

The Bali Process

The Bali Process remains the largest and most comprehensive regional consultative process to combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling in the Asia-Pacific region. The first meeting was co-chaired by Australia and Indonesia and was attended by 38 nations, including all ten members of ASEAN. The main objective of the Bali Process is to "raise awareness of, encourage cooperative action and develop practical regional measures to prevent, intercept and disrupt people smuggling, human trafficking and transnational crime."²⁶ To accomplish said objectives, five goals were agreed upon in the first Bali meeting in 2002 to find practical measures to help combat the three major issues. These measures include information and intelligence sharing, networking, pooling of common technical resources, and technical workshops to combat human trafficking.

²³ <https://thediplomat.com/2014/11/sex-trafficking-and-chinas-one-child-policy/>

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ <https://aislandora.wrlc.org/islandora/object/1213capstones%3A238/datastream/PDF/view>

Declaration against Trafficking in Persons, Particularly Women and Children

In 2004, ASEAN established the Declaration against Trafficking in Persons, Particularly Women and Children. The focus was to establish the groundwork for a regional approach in combating human trafficking in Southeast Asia.²⁷

Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children

At the 27th summit in 2015, ASEAN members signed the Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. The convention listed three key objectives for member nations to commit to in order to eliminate the human trafficking epidemic. These objectives included: preventing and combating trafficking in persons, especially women and children by ensuring a just and effective punishment for traffickers; protecting and assisting human trafficking victims with full respect for their human rights; and promoting cooperation among the parties to meet the objectives.²⁸

Current Situation

Human trafficking currently controls at least an estimated 21 million victims.²⁹ In fact, Southeast Asia has become notorious for this industry. Human trafficking, especially women and children, is a prevalent issue across all countries in Southeast Asia. Countries such as Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, China, and India maintain some of the highest rates of human trafficking cases as well as some of the worst human rights violations.

The presence of transnational organized crime in the victim's country and their socio-economic status are key indicators for a person's vulnerability to human trafficking. The 2018 UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons detected that the most prominent form of human trafficking is for sexual exploitation and forced labour. Women are especially vulnerable to trafficking for forced marriages in Southeast Asia and for sham marriages to men in affluent countries. In East Asia, Southeast Asia, and Pacific regions, approximately 2,700 of the victims detected from 2012 to 2014 were females. Aside from the high number of girls, children make up almost a third of human trafficking victims in the region.³⁰

The Philippines is a major source and transit country for victims of forced labour and sexual exploitation. In addition, Laos is also labeled as a source countries of men, women, and children for the sex slave industry. These Laos migrants move to countries like Thailand or China from a transit country, and are put into sectors of intensive labour with little pay. 70 percent of these migrants from Laos are female and many are brought for the use of domestic labour. Alongside the Philippines and Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar are also source countries due to their poor economic conditions and strict military regimes.³¹

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ <https://www.asean.org/wp-content/uploads/images/2015/November/actip/ACTIP.PDF>

²⁹ <https://digitalrepository.trincoll.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1068&context=fypapers>

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid.

Major destination countries include the Philippines, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam. Although prostitution in Cambodia is illegal, it has one of the largest sources of demand for child prostitution and sex tourism in the region.³²

Poverty is one of the largest contributing factors to the prevalence of human trafficking. Poor living conditions combined with lack of infrastructure make certain citizens vulnerable targets. In small villages across Southeast Asia, desperate individuals are deceived into being trafficked with the false promise of work. In Rakhine State, Myanmar, for example, traffickers lure victims with offers of transportation to international job markets. From countries such as Cambodia and Thailand, women are trafficked regionally and internationally to other booming sex markets in countries, such as Japan and Korea. These victims are often exploited for sex work due to their licit wages not being high enough to support their families.³³

It is estimated that one third of the prostitutes in Cambodia are under the age of 18³⁴, with the majority of them being Vietnamese. These vulnerable children in Cambodia who become victims of the domestic sex trade are abused and often killed. These girls are subjected to torture by electric shock in underground dungeons under the brothels to keep them compliant and ready to work. Poor economic conditions drive women and children into this industry, which may seem to be more attractive than their regular jobs on the surface, but the reality is certainly not the case. In addition, increasing demands for brides in wealthier countries such as China provides another reason for trafficking.³⁵

Although women and children are mainly affected by sex trafficking, they are also victim to forced labour or traditional slavery. According to the United Nations, forced labourers account for 18 percent of all human trafficking victims. For instance, Thailand is infamous for its fishing industry because it is heavily supported by slave labor.³⁶ Victims are often lured into forced labor, believing that their jobs would be legitimate and able to provide a steady income. Other times, victims are kidnapped and forced into service.

Similarly, victims of child trafficking are often exploited for forced labour, including work in factories, agriculture, fishing, and construction, sexual exploitation, including child prostitution or child pornography, forced marriage, or begging. In Vietnam, from 2012 to 2018, there was an increase in the number of trafficked victims referrals arriving in the United Kingdom from 135 to 739.³⁷ These children are commonly sold to traffickers by consenting parents, who receive payments or other forms of compensation..³⁸

Current known regional pathways for child trafficking include children from Cambodia to Thailand for begging, girls from Vietnam/Myanmar to Cambodia/Thailand for sexual exploitation, and girls from Laos to Thailand for domestic or factory work.³⁹ Furthermore, trafficking of children from

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ <https://thediplomat.com/2019/11/vietnams-human-trafficking-problem-is-too-big-to-ignore/>

³⁸ <https://www.aic.gov.au/publications/tandi/tandi415>

³⁹ Ibid.

Southeast Asia is increasingly directed outside of Southeast Asia, often from Bangladesh to the United Arab Emirates, the Philippines to Costa Rica, and Thailand to South Africa.⁴⁰

Possible Solutions

Investment in Female Education/Public Awareness

Many cases of human trafficking, especially women and children, are due to the lack of education and awareness. Women and children are often lured into trafficking by a false promise of a better life or employment. To counteract this, governments could establish awareness campaigns to advocate for women's rights through the improvement of women and girls' education. Establishment of educational centers or public awareness campaigns would heighten public concern around human trafficking and educate women to take the necessary precautions. Though this solution may be harder and more expensive to implement, it would be a possible long term solution to the issue.

Implementing Stricter Border Control

Most trafficking occurs interregionally as traffickers are able to bribe border guards and officials to pass through Southeast Asian national borders. By implementing stricter border controls and punishment for offences, countries can discourage traffickers or even stop some trafficking from occurring. In addition, countries could implement strict guidelines for border guards and government officials. A main reason that traffickers are able to bring victims across borders is because of corrupt officials. By setting stricter guidelines and punishments, this would prevent these guards from taking bribes.

However, this may only be a short term solution and may not be a viable long term answer to the problem. The constant improvement of technology increases the ways traffickers can navigate around border restrictions.

Extra-Regional Cooperation

With the assistance of other ASEAN Dialogue Partners, regional organizations, and relevant specialized agencies of the UN, ASEAN could enhance information exchange towards the sharing of critical information on the identities, movements, and activities of known transnational criminal organizations. Furthermore, ASEAN could seek technical assistance from said organizations particularly with regards to training and the acquisition of equipment for preventing and identifying trafficking. Broadening cooperation between countries and organizations enables the cutting off of trafficking supply chains since human trafficking is an interregional issue.

Increasing Job Opportunities

The sex industry emerged in Southeast Asia during the mid 20th century as a way for struggling migrant and local women to generate more income to support families or themselves. Globalization is rapidly changing Southeast Asia and has created many new job opportunities. However, in order to prevent young girls or women falling victim to trafficking, governments could increase minimum wages or provide access for more jobs in order for people to support their families. When creating jobs, governments have to take into account the risk of trafficking and make sure the occupations provide enough wages for families. Such areas for potential new job

⁴⁰ Ibid.

opportunities may be the service sectors: with the rise of consumerism in Southeast Asia, countries could take advantage of the increase of tourism and implement more jobs around the service and travel industry. Furthermore, governments could also increase job opportunities for women by implementing rules or laws against discriminatory hiring practices.

By increasing the labour force and employment rates, countries could raise their citizens' average incomes, thus eliminating the potential for traffickers to lure impoverished civilians through misleading promises of employment.

Bloc Positions

Increased Regulations

These countries focus on implementing strict enforcement and punishment for traffickers and offenders. Said countries are firm believers in the principle of deterrence: by implementing harsher punishments, criminals are disincentivized from perpetrating crime. Countries such as Singapore, Indonesia, and the Philippines focus on lengthy jail sentences and penalties for trafficking offenders. Though some countries, such as the Philippines, have implemented campaigns to protect victims and raise awareness, they mainly prevent organized crime by detaining, deporting, and charging potential traffickers instead of employing a victim-centered approach. In addition, these countries may have specific task forces to combat the issue. Indonesia, for example, has provincial level task forces that specifically target and prevent human trafficking. In general, these countries would focus more on retribution rather than rehabilitation. They would support increasing regulations that strengthen law enforcement, the punitive system, and jail sentences.

Reformist

Some countries take an alternative approach to combating this issue and focus on the victims and preventative measures. Countries like Vietnam, Malaysia, and Laos all have similar preventative programs that focus on raising awareness. The Reformist bloc recognizes that one of the main causes of trafficking is the lack of education and awareness of the problem. The bloc focuses on implementing assistance and assessment centers for victims and funding public awareness campaigns. They see the education of citizens as paramount in ending women and children trafficking. Countries like Vietnam have been broadcasting human trafficking awareness and the stories of past victims on their national television to educate their population. Other media outlets like bulletin boards and factory awareness programs are also solutions they have implemented. This method is largely for countries who believe that the mental health and care of the victims is far more important than purely punishment for the offender. Indeed, another focus of this bloc would be rehabilitation programs for the perpetrators. Principally, the countries in this bloc will largely focus on treating the symptoms of the crime to reduce the total number of trafficking.

Non-Interventionist

This bloc lags behind other countries in terms of human trafficking prevention and shows limited to no increase in efforts to combat women and children trafficking. Brunei and Myanmar have displayed limited efforts in prevention and are constantly ranked second tier and second tier watch list based on the TVPA. These country do not comply with TVPA's minimum standards in combating human trafficking and may depend on trafficking to support their economy or may deem prevention unnecessary and costly. Although they may institute some methods of deterrence, such as lengthy jail sentences or expensive fines, these governments have not been actively seeking new

and creative ways to improve the situation. One potential justification for non-interventionist countries is that they have key informal markets that are dependent on illegal activities. For example, Thailand relies heavily on its red light district in their tourism industry. However, much of the red light district runs on illegal human trafficking. In general, these countries may either prioritize other problems they face or simply disregard the trafficking situation due to the benefits it brings to their economy.

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