



XXXVI  
LATIN AMERICAN MODEL  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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LAMUN XXXVI**

**UN WOMEN**

**Topic A Handbook**

**“Actions against the trafficking of migrant women in the Middle East”**

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Dear delegates,

In the name of the Universidad de las Américas Puebla and the chair, I give you a warm welcome to the committee UN WOMEN of the Thirty-Sixth edition of the Latin American Model United Nations, LAMUN. We, as a committee, feel extremely grateful for your participation and we are thrilled to meet you on the day of the event and see your performance as delegates. I have no doubt that it will be outstanding. As a committee we are expecting compromise, participation and, more than anything, enthusiasm from your part. Come prepared, do a deep research of both topics, how every country on the committee has been involved with the issue and the posture of your country. But most importantly, we invite you to participate and have fun.

Sincerely,  
The Chair of the UNWOMEN Committee



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## UN WOMEN

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women is the full name of the United Nations agency which was created in order to promote issues about women. The creation of UN Women was not easy as it was after decades of activism that finally in 2010 the agency was established and started operating until 2011. This was made through a resolution of the General Assembly.

The creation of UN Women was necessary, as it was created because of the necessity to start making a discussion and solutions about gender equality and women rights. This agency has the mandate to work for the elimination of not only violence but also discrimination against women, to encourage them to have more participation and leadership, to promote gender equality when talking about conflict situations and to develop policies and programs for gender equality.



## TOPIC A

### Trafficking of migrant women in the Middle East

During the 16th century human trafficking was a common thing, as people were being sold and taken back from Europe and Africa constantly. Over the next 300 years, around 12 million people were shipped from Africa. But in 1807 the unthinkable happened, Britain outlawed this practice and the United States did not stay behind for a long time, as just 13 years later they also outlawed it.

Nevertheless, things are never resolved that easily, because the traffic of women was still a thing, and it took a big role in society, mainly targeting Chinese women who were being trafficked into the United States and they received the most degrading treatment. The US promised a job and a life for this woman but the number of immigrants grew in ways that they did not imagine, becoming a racial target. Due to this, the Page Act of 1875 was created and the immigration of these women stopped in its majority. But, a problem arised, and it was that in the 1880s, there were a lot of men that were from China in the US, this made the illegal traffic of chinese women easier, they were forced to do sex work with gangs and were sexual assault constantly.

In the 19th century an agreement came into force, in which 13 countries signed the International Convention to make all these actions stop. But it was not until 1921 when The International Convention For The Suppression of Trafficking Women and Children came into force. This was followed by the United Nations Convention For The Suppression Of The Traffic In Persons And Of The Prostitution Of Others, but it is important to keep in mind that as of today, only 66 countries are part of this convention.

In the 1970's and the 1980's, there was a high demand of working migrants, these being specific to the zones of the Persian Gulf, such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. This caused the abduction and the trafficking of women for domestic jobs. The Libano conflict only exacerbated the issue, women were in a really vulnerable situation as they were trying to run away and migrate to other cities. This vulnerable state ended up attracting traffickers. One would think that nowadays things would be different, but they could not be worse, the trafficking of migrant women is rising and being a more demanding thing in the middle east due to all the international and national conflicts that they are facing. (Nasri, 2013)



The United Nations Population Fund estimates that in 2021 there were more than 3 million migrant women in just the Persian Gulf. (Gabriela Pombo & Organización Internacional para las Migraciones, 2014)

This topic is very important and it is absolutely necessary to talk about. As it is trying to inform about the lives of people, the lives of women that are being put in the most dangerous and horrible situations. Many of them have been abducted, and did not have a choice. Many of them were coerced into thinking that this was their only choice to survive, many of them were promised a fulfilling life with a promising future, and many of them were just in a vulnerable situation and a perfect target. This women in the Middle East are suffering constant abuse, psychological and physical torture day after the day and things seems to be getting worse.

There are many things to take into consideration before acting. Such as political, economic and sociological things, some countries have ratified the Treaty of Human Trafficking as Slavery but regions such as Central Africa have not, which makes things even more difficult as other nations cannot force another to do something, not even organizations like the United Nations can, the only way would be if they willing sign a convention and in future years ratify it. It is a whole process and not as easy as it may sound.

Given the situation of the Taliban in Afghanistan and Pakistan, the Middle East as of right now is a very sensitive zone with ideological and religious conflicts in hand. With the Taliban in power, women have little to no rights and the situation of migration is getting out of hand, leaving children and women to be the most vulnerable and in the majority of situations being held captive or trafficked. Also the Libanon conflict and the religious problem in Jerusalem are making the situation far more complex.

The International Organization for Migration is responsible for offering various support services for migrants. The Migrant Response Centers in Bosaso and Hargeisa are where the most frequent assistance is to victims of trafficking. The number of victims increases year after year, just last year 2022 the number of affected women was 106,700, which is alarming because if we compare with the results of 2021, which were 53,000 victims, we can observe that the number doubled. This increase implies needing more funds to be able to adequately provide the required humanitarian assistance to more people. However, the opposite



happens, lack of money has caused the IOM to stop supporting community centers. (Somalia | IOM Regional Office for East and Horn of Africa, n.d.)

Between 2011 and 2013, in collaboration with the Egyptian Center for Assistance to Women and the Union de l'Action Feminine of Morocco, this organization carried out a three-year anti-human trafficking program that spanned to three countries. To reduce women's vulnerability to human trafficking, the program received almost one million in funding from the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. Through the joint work of governments, non governmental organizations (NGOs) and lawyers, several countries were able to adopt anti-trafficking laws or more effective measures for their application; rights-based services were created to empower survivors; and awareness was raised on the issue through campaigning and networking.

In 2007, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol against Trafficking in Persons was written. Its purpose was to promote cooperation to prevent and effectively combat transnational organized crime. It sought to increase the number of States taking effective measures against transnational organized crime and to forge and strengthen international cooperation. It respected the differences and specificities of diverse legal traditions and cultures, while promoting common terminology and helping to remove some of the existing obstacles to effective transnational collaboration. (Crime, 2004)

The Convention focused primarily on crimes that promote the lucrative activities of organized criminal groups. Its Supplementary Protocols were aimed at certain specific types of organized criminal activity that require special provisions. The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which complements the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, has three basic purposes: to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, to protect and assist victims of such trafficking and promote cooperation between States (Crime, 2004).



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L A T I N A M E R I C A N M O D E L  
O F T H E U N I T E D N A T I O N S

All this was created even before the creation of this committee, but the statistics do not lie. Despite the creation of this document 16 years ago, the problem still prevails, without sanctions for the countries whose conditions encourage trafficking.

### **Guiding questions**

1. What is the situation regarding the issue of your delegation?
2. What actions has the government of your delegation taken to resolve the crisis?
3. What is the historical context of your country with the topic at hand?
4. What is the ideological posture of the country regarding this kind of topic?
5. Has your country collaborated before in similar problematics and if it has, in what ways was the cooperation done?
6. Given the context of the problem, in which ways could the government of your country collaborate on the issue?
7. What's the diplomatic posture of your country's allies regarding this topic?



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