FORUM: The Human Rights Council
QUESTION OF: Measures to Address Online Recruitment and Cyber-Facilitated Human Trafficking in Southeast Asia
MAIN SUBMITTER: United States of America
CO-SUBMITTER: North Macedonia, Ghana, Bulgaria, Albania, South Africa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cuba

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL,

Noting with deep concern that human trafficking not only strips an individual's freedom and dignity, but also puts them at extreme risk of physical, sexual, and mental abuse,

Deeply concerned about the increasing difficulty of preventing human trafficking due to recent technological advancements,

Bearing in mind that victims are often lured through false job offers from abroad that offer appealing salaries or other attractive benefits,

Emphasizing that social media and online dating apps are frequently used to target victims for human trafficking, with having identified over 950 potential sex-trafficking victims recruited online since 2015,

Fully aware that victims frequently experience food deprivation, sleep deprivation, and extreme working hours from up to 19 hours a day when in captivity,

Deploring that approximately the human trafficking industry, which is now generating approximately $236 billion in annual revenue,

Recognizing that Southeast Asia serves as both a source and destination region for trafficking victims, with almost 300,000 people working in operations across Southeast Asia,

1. Calls upon member states to improve the identification of victims of human trafficking, including those who have been compelled to work in scam operations thought ways such as but not limited to:
    a) Strengthening international cooperation for victim protection in ways such as:
        i. Facilitating the safe cross-border referral of victims,
        ii. Ensuring that victims are not penalized or prosecuted for unlawful acts committed as a direct result of their exploitation,
    b) Victim-centered assessments to determine if they should be considered suspects or potential victims of trafficking using:
        i. Careful research to reveal evidence that any illegal acts were a direct result of the trafficking situation or were carried out under duress,
        ii. A justice system that considers the possibility of coercion;

2. Strongly urges member states to strengthen the difficulty to disguise false recruitment advertisements in way such as but not limited to:
    a) Encouraging social media and job-searching platforms to improve monitoring systems, including:
        i. Frequently reviewing and flagging content identified to be correlated with human trafficking,
        ii. Using automated detection systems to identify potential false recruitment advertisements,
    b) Establishing accessible reporting and support mechanisms, through ways such as but not limited to:
        i. Providing channels for victims to report trafficking,
        ii. Ensuring access to legal and financial assistance;

3. Encourages stronger regional and international cooperation in investigating and disrupting transnational human trafficking networks, particularly across Southeast Asia, in ways such as but not limited to:
    a) Strengthening the cooperation between law enforcement agencies and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) led arrangements for intel-sharing methods, in ways such as but not limited to:
        i. Exchanging information with officials on trafficking networks and recruitment method patterns,
        ii. Conducting coordinated cross-border investigations with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL),
        iii. Providing secure communication between nominated contact points,
    b) Improving the cooperation with international organizations regarding the collection and use of digital evidence through ways such as but not limited to:
        i. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in coordinating regional anti-trafficking initiatives,
        ii. INTERPOL in supporting investigations of global criminal networks,
        iii. Developing common procedures for the preservation of online evidence,
        iv. Providing training for investigators on cyber-facilitated trafficking,
        v. Setting up joint investigation arrangements to ensure timely provision of Mutual Legal Assistance,
    c) Organizing regional cooperation through ways such as:
        i. Regular meetings between national law enforcement agencies,
        ii. Joint training programs to train personnel on identifying online trafficking,
        iii. Establishing a regional communication network to improve coordination between countries,
    d) Recommend that procedures are developed to ensure that electronic evidence is handled in a manner that ensures:
        i. Evidence is beneficial and obtained legally,
        ii. Personal data is protected from unauthorized release;

4. Strongly recommends the implementation of public awareness campaigns to prevent online recruitment-related trafficking through ways such as but not limited to:

a) Campaigning for public safety advertisements on social media platforms, recruitment-dedicated websites, and video entertainment platforms containing:
    i. Suggestions of verifying online job recruiters before accepting them,
    ii. Suggestions of verifying online job recruiters before accepting them,
    iii. Information about the existence of online recruitment in Southeast Asia, increasing wariness,
b) Pushing harder for digital literacy education through:
    i. School-based educational programs,
    ii. Community workshop targeting vulnerable communities,
c) Encouraging partnerships with civil society organizations through ways such as but not limited to:
    i. Collaborating with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to distribute materials to raise public awareness,
    ii. Promoting channels for reporting suspicious recruitment activities;

5. Calls upon member states to strengthen transparency and accountability within government institutions in ways such as but not limited to:
    a) Improving law enforcement capabilities through:
        i. Providing specialized training on cyber-facilitated human trafficking, especially in indications of human trafficking and fraud,
        ii. Strengthening procedures for collecting and authenticating digital evidence,
    b) Ensuring effective implementation of anti-trafficking legislation through ways such as but not limited to:
        i. Regularly evaluating national anti-trafficking policies,
        ii. Encouraging cooperation between government institutions and international organizations,
    c) Encouraging the creation and/or strengthening of independent monitoring agencies within relevant public sectors to include:
        i. Border/Immigration Control,
        ii. Enforcement and Employment Agencies,
    d) Investigating potential acts of corruption and reporting them to the government such as:
        i. Recognizing bribery, fraud, and the ignoring of irregularities during employment checks and transport across borders,
        ii. Misuse of power to assist, protect and/or facilitate human trafficking,
    e) Ensuring members of the public, victims, and witnesses to report corruption safely by providing suitable safeguards for those reporting suspected corruption by methods such as but not limited to:
        i. Providing safety for retaliation against witnesses,
        ii. Ensuring the confidentiality of witnesses' confessions;

6. Calls upon member states and NGOs to establish and fund internet investigator teams tasked with identifying and reporting individuals and organizations involved in trafficking in Southeast Asia to INTERPOL and relevant police through:
    a) Recruitment and training of online investigators, using methods such as:

i. Employing individuals with experience in cybersecurity, digital forensics, and online investigations as well as recruiting the "online vigilantes",
ii. Providing training on identifying indicators of online recruiters for trafficking,
iii. Establishing ethical standards and supervisors to prevent abuse of investigative authority,

b) Monitoring publicly accessible online platforms, by ways such as but not limited to:
i. Identifying suspicious recruitment offers and other potential recruitment methods such as job offers and advertisements with unrealistic benefits,
ii. Documenting and reporting suspected trafficking activity to the appropriate law enforcement authorities,

c) Cooperation with technology companies and online platforms, to encourage:
i. Platforms to preserve relevant evidence in accordance with applicable laws,
ii. Cooperation between platforms and law enforcement agencies during investigations,

d) Working together with other police in ways such as:
i. Reporting suspicious accounts that has a history of putting any suspicious offers on the internet,
ii. Allowing other police departments to get reports of those suspicious accounts and successfully shutting them down;

7. Encourages partnership with International Organization for Migration (IOM), relevant UN bodies, civil society and voluntary international partners to encourage long-term reintegration and rehabilitation processes for victims of human trafficking,
a) Encouraging victims to have full support including:
i. Safe accommodation, medical and psychological support,
ii. Legal support and assistance in obtaining new/lost essential documents,

b) Where appropriate, encouraging safe voluntary reintegration by ensuring:
i. Decisions are made by the victim with informed choice,
ii. Partnership with relevant consular bodies and communities to ensure the risk of re-trafficking is kept to a minimum,

c) Providing victims with education, training and opportunities by partnering with corporations such as but not limited to:
i. Education bodies, local employers and civil society,
ii. Training to help improve skills,
iii. Employment assistance and community recovery programs,

d) Inviting support from member states, international bodies and voluntary donors to help rehabilitate victims by:
i. Providing voluntary funding and technical support to current programs,
ii. Clearly tracking funding;

8. Encourages member states to, in collaboration with UNODC and major digital platform operators, create transparency for cross-border job advertisements on social media, messaging applications, and others through ways including:

a) Requiring correct documentation before allowing to publish overseas employment listings that offer packages that help with relocation:
    i. Implementing automated detection systems to remove fake recruitment campaigns,
    ii. Creating dedicated departments to investigate the source of illegal cross-border job advertisements,
b) Establishing cross-border protocols for the authentication of digital evidence before criminal syndicates can erase evidence by:
    i. Saving all digital evidence automatically to a cloud server that cannot be edited without permission from ASEAN,
    ii. Limiting local access to digital evidence without a justified reason approved by ASEAN;

9. Urges member states, particularly within ASEAN to strengthen the enforcement of local officials in ways such as but not limited to:
    a) Creating dedicated forces to combat corrupt officials and raid scam compounds by:
        i. Sending UN task forces to investigate border, immigration, and law enforcement officials that are related to facilitating illegal transportation or tipping off scam compound operators prior to raids,
        ii. Conducting coordinated joint cross-border operations with INTERPOL to dismantle dispersed scam compounds operating in places with weak jurisdiction,
    b) Sending funds to assist with recruiting personnel and creating dedicated teams by:
        i. Sending funds to ASEAN and recording the usage of funds to prevent misuse,
        ii. Receiving donations through human rights organizations and more to assist with funding.