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“Children’s Exploitation and Women’s Condition: the issue of Human Trafficking”

**Speech by¹
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Scuola d’Applicazione, Institute of Military Studies
Turin, 12 June 2009

(Ladies) and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to be here amongst you today to speak on such a delicate issue as Children’s Exploitation and Women’s Condition in the phenomenon of Human Trafficking. I would also like to thank the Scuola di Applicazione for inviting me to hold this lecture in such an esteemed setting.

[slide 2]

[Video 1: “Open your eyes to trafficking”]

http://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/ungift_open_your_eyes_psa_60.mpg

"open your eyes to trafficking"

Length: 1'

Source: UN.gift, UNODC

[slide 3- Contents]

[slide 4]

III. Human Trafficking

Of all the global resources, human life is the most significant. No diamond can mine itself and no gold has the capacity to be refined without manpower; without human life, all the weapons, food and oil in the world would mean nothing. Trafficking in weapons, drugs and blood diamonds has long been on the UN agenda; however, **human trafficking has remained under-reported and under-prosecuted.** As UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-

¹ Written by Joel Levesque. Edited by Francesca Bosco and Olivia Jung.

moon recently said, “**we must add people to the list**” of all the resources currently being trafficked.²

In 2000 the United Nations adopted The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children. It was designed to supplement the Convention Against Organized Crime, also known as the Palermo Convention; it was signed by 130 nations and it has so far been ratified by 117 countries.³

[slide 5- Definition of Human Trafficking]

Article 3(a) of the Palermo Protocol⁴ **defines Trafficking in Human beings (THB) as:**

“The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.”

The consent of the victim is deemed irrelevant,⁵ as this has been deceived or coerced into trafficking. Bearing this in mind, the definition of human trafficking can be further broken down into its three components: trafficking can be better understood in terms of an Act, a Means, and Purpose.⁶

[slide 6- Components of Trafficking in Human Beings]

- **The act** – intended as the actual act of the **recruitment, transportation, harboring or receipt of a person being trafficked**.
- **The means** represents the **threat, use of coercion**, force or fraud against that person, their abduction, the abuse of power or of their vulnerability, or giving payments or benefits to a person in control of the victim.
- **The purpose** of trafficking is the particular **exploitation** for which the person is being trafficked. It can be for sexual exploitation, forced labour, organ transplant or even for military purposes, such as the forced recruitment of soldiers.

2Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s remarks to the General Assembly Thematic Debate on Human Trafficking – New York, 13 May 2009

³ For updates on the ratification status of the Trafficking Protocol, please consult http://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XVIII-12-a&chapter=18&lang=en

⁴ Article 3 (a) Palermo Protocol. (2000) Protocol to prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime.

⁵ Article 3 (b) Palermo Protocol (2000)

⁶ UNODC: What is Human Trafficking

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html>

All things considered, human trafficking can be considered the modern-day form of slavery.

[slide 7 – Human Trafficking, Modern Day Slavery]

[video 2: Not for Sale Campaign] Women and children's exploitation (good overview on modern day slavery: sexual and labour exploitation, child soldiers)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0mJHkc5k5MM&feature=Playlist&p=16E710A77BC648D0&index=4>

Length: 1'30"

Where new national legislation has been enacted or is currently being drafted, it reflects the three critical components of the act, the means and the purpose. The focus of all investigative efforts should be placed upon securing sustainable evidence within these three categories.

[slide 8- Under Reporting of Trafficking]

The trafficking of this most valuable resource, human beings, is actually under-reported, as the real scale of THB is hard to determine. This may be **for several reasons**:

- **The Difficulty Victims face in reporting Trafficking.**
The vulnerability of women and children in the condition of a post trafficking situation cannot be underestimated. As will be explored further, they are highly unlikely to trust authority figures and are unaware of their asylum rights. Therefore they are unlikely to come forward and present cases against their abusers. Many bonded laborers feel as if they owe a debt to their masters and are unaware that the actions of their traffickers are illegal.
- **The Lack of a Criminal Justice Response.**
Human Trafficking is a low priority for law enforcement agencies; there is a lack of investigation and prosecutions concerning the crime of human trafficking. Moreover, there is an inadequate level of protection for the women and children who become victims of abhorrent crime.
- **The lack of Systematic Data Collection.**
Few states collect or publish data on human trafficking and the data collected by NGO's is often program-specific. Furthermore, much of the data is not collected for comparative purposes and is therefore not capable of providing accurate global comparisons.

Identifying global trends in the number of victims detected is a hard task. Countries have different legislations and different definitions of trafficking in persons, and few have the sort of statistics that would allow for the identification of clear trends, given also that a substantial portion of trafficking victims are unreported out of their fear of retaliation, or of being arrested and deported. Nonetheless data collected by UNODC and by IOM can give some tentative insights into the profile of the victims.

Victims of human trafficking were identified through the criminal justice process and through victims' assistance organizations. The profile of the victims is highly influenced by local laws and priorities, which often focus on child victims and victims of sexual exploitation (usually women).

[slide 9 – Victims of Human Trafficking]

Bearing this caveat in mind, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimates that, in 2001, **between 700,000 to 2 million women and children were trafficked across international borders.**⁷

UNICEF estimates that as many as **1.2 million children are trafficked every year** (UNICEF).⁸ Actual numbers are likely to be much bigger.

Overall, UN.Gift (The UN Global Initiative to Fight Trafficking) estimates that, **of the total number of people trafficked each year, two thirds of the identified victims were women and 13% were girls.** Less than a quarter were men or boys.

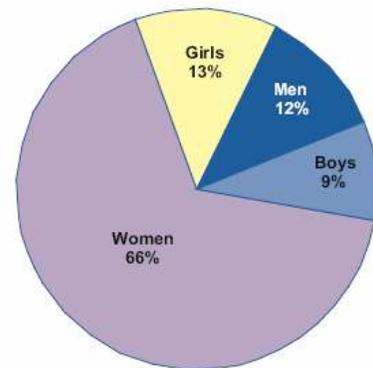
As you can see from the chart, 22% of all trafficking victims are **children**. However, in some parts of Africa and the Mekong region, children are the majority (nearly up to 100% in parts of West Africa).

[slide 10 – Victims of Human Trafficking 2]

What are the causes behind THB? From the victims' perspective, what lures them into the traffickers' trap is lack of opportunities in their home communities or countries, as well as deceit, coercion or violence; from the traffickers' perspective, the main motive is money.

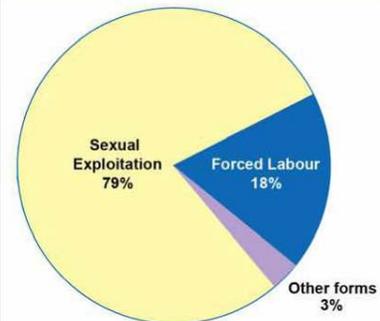
Victims of trafficking are then used for exploitative purposes. The most common trends for trafficking of

Profile of victims identified by State authorities in 61 countries where information was collected, aggregated for 2006



Source: UNODC/UN.GIFT

Distribution of victims identified by State authorities according to the form of exploitation for 52 countries where this information was collected (2006)



Source: UNODC/UN.GIFT

⁷ United Nations (2002) "Women, Peace and Security" p 17, Available at <http://www.unicef.org/emerg/files/WPS.pdf>

⁸ UNICEF. (2007). "Child Protection From Violence and Abuse". Available from http://www.unicef.org/protection/index_exploitation.html

women are for commercial sexual exploitation or labour, whilst children are trafficked to be used as child soldiers, for bonded labour, but also to work in brothels.

These are the main areas that we will be exploring more in depth today; however the inventiveness of exploitation knows few bounds and there are several other ways that the THB manifests itself. For example, "UNICEF estimates that 1,000 to 1,500 Guatemalan babies and children are trafficked each year for adoption by couples in North America and Europe." Girls as young as 13 (mainly from Asia and Eastern Europe) are trafficked as "mail-order brides." In most cases putting them at great risk of violence.⁹ Moreover, there is an "increasing demand" for trafficking human beings for the purpose of organ transplant; according to the WHO it is possible to buy a trafficked kidney for as little as "US\$ 5000,"¹⁰ (WHO – bulletin) a real bargain compared to the prices of the official organ transplant list.

[slide 11- Global Initiative to Fight trafficking]

[Video 3] "The Global Initiative to Fight Trafficking"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UgSFOiqNs2c&feature=Playlist&p=16E710A77BC648D0&index=1>

Length: 30"

video by UNODC & UN.gift introducing the issue of trafficking

The problem of human trafficking is not specific to any one area; every major region on the planet is affected by THB, as countries of origin, transit, destination or a combination of these.

In 2006 UNODC published the report "Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns" identifying **127 countries of origin, 98 transit countries and 137 destination countries**. This was an important first attempt to get a clearer picture of the problem and has been integral in the initiation of discussions on global human trafficking. Awareness of THB among policy makers must be raised, as some states were unwilling to acknowledge that the problem affected them. The use of research is however a vital component of protection of future victims and must be considered the starting point of any project to combat THB.

Examples of human trafficking across the world include:

[slide 12]

⁹ *ibid.*,

¹⁰ WHO. (2004). "Organ Trafficking and Transplantation Pose New Challenges". Available from <http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/82/9/feature0904/en/index.html>



*(Slavery is a problem around the world and very difficult to measure. The following examples are listed in geographical order and not in terms of the magnitude of the problem.)*¹¹

1. US: An estimated 20,000 people are trafficked into the US annually - many are forced into prostitution.
2. Dominican Republic: Campaigners say hundreds of thousands of Haitians are rounded up near the border and made to work on Dominican sugar plantations.
3. Brazil: Up to 25,000 people are said to be working as slave labourers - most of them clearing Amazonian forests.
4. Mauritania: Despite its abolition in 1981, chattel slavery is still strong - up to 1m people are allegedly held as "inheritable property".
5. Sudan: Campaigners say northern militias continue to take women and children in slave raids in the south.
6. Europe: Tens of thousands of women and girls are cheated, abducted and forced into prostitution right across Europe.
7. UAE: Every year hundreds of boys are reportedly trafficked from South Asia to the UAE and other Gulf states to race camels.
8. Pakistan: Men, women and children are bonded into forced labour in agriculture and industry, campaigners say.
9. Burma: Forced labour is reportedly used on a growing number infrastructure projects.
10. Thailand: Thousands of girls are sex slaves for tourists.

Furthermore, large numbers of children are being trafficked in West and Central Africa, mainly for domestic work but also for sexual exploitation and to work in shops or on farms

Children from Togo, Mali, Burkina Faso and Ghana are trafficked to Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Cameroon and Gabon. Children are trafficked both in and out of Benin and Nigeria. Some children are sent as far away as the Middle East and Europe. Women and Children from Moldova, Ukraine, Tajikistan, and Russia are sent to the Czech Republic, Poland and Western Europe.

¹¹ "World commemorates end of slavery" BBC Monday, 23 August, 2004. Available at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/3589646.stm#map>

[slide 13- Sexual Exploitation]

IV. SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

79% of all THB is for the purpose of sexual exploitation¹² and the horror of trafficking can't come into comprehension until the reality of sexual exploitation is understood. There may be a statistical bias in terms of other forms, such as forced labour, child soldiers and organ trafficking, all of which are severely under-reported. Sexual exploitation of victims of trafficking, however, is a large enough phenomenon to warrant sufficient focus.

Statistics cannot truly depict the atrocity of this modern form of slavery. A better way to comprehend such a violent and oppressive reality is through the faces of those that have suffered it. Without the grounding influence of personal testimonies, the numbers are merely abstract and conceptual indicators.

[slide 14- Anna's story]

[Video 4: Anna's story]

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kpqpHldYyUo>

Anna's story

Length: 3'41"

A survey conducted by UNICEF on Child Protection indicated that 30-35 % of all sex workers in the Mekong sub-region of Southeast Asia were between 12 and 17.¹³

Mexico's social service agency reports that there are more than 16,000 children engaged in prostitution, with tourist destinations being among those areas with the highest in number.

In Lithuania, 20–50 % of prostitutes are believed to be minors. Children as young 11 are known to work as prostitutes. Children from children's homes, some as young as 10-12 have been used to make pornographic movies.

The motives behind these activities of THB include both causes that push victims into trafficking and those that pull them there. Poverty and unemployment at home, lack of opportunities, gender discrimination, organized crime and corruption and the image of a great life abroad often act as a persuasive or violent force pursuant to THB. The corruption of other states, demand for cheap labour, weak legislation and porous borders act to make the importing of THB's easier.

¹² UNODC. (2009). "Global Report on trafficking in Persons"., p6

¹³ UNICEF. (2007). "Child protection from violence, exploitation and abuse". Available from http://www.unicef.org/protection/index_exploitation.html

Once trafficked, the odds of escape are low and even if they do manage to evade their captures they face significant problems. Often they have been trafficked across international borders, and almost always illegally, meaning that they have no valid visa. They are without citizenship, and therefore without the protection that citizenship affords. They can become asylum seekers, but they are often unaware of their rights, of the procedures to gain asylum and suffer not only from the intimidations of their exploiters, but also from fear of the police and national authorities. If they manage to traverse these problems and gain asylum than they join a section of society that is among the highest at risk from traffickers.

[slide 15 – Criminal Perspective]

From a Criminal Prosecution standpoint, there are several inherent difficulties. Many women and children who have been trafficked lack any **education on asylum rights** and are thus unaware that they qualify for asylum status. From their perspective they are an **illegal immigrant without citizenship**. Therefore, despite their desperate situations, they are “reluctant to institute proceedings and cooperate with the authorities”¹⁴. Without an understanding that they will be able to gain asylum, many will not come forward let alone institute proceedings.

Women and Children who are victims of human trafficking and manage to become repatriated **face humiliation and lack of opportunities**. Upon return to their countries they often risk being re-trafficked, not only this but also because of the almost Stockholm syndrome effect of the abuse, whereby through a state of anime¹⁵ **they know no other means to survive**, some choose to return to the brothels.

¹⁴ UNICRI. “Desk review on NIGERIA.p 8. ”- available at http://www.unicri.it/www/trafficking/nigeria/docs/dr_italy_eng.pdf.

¹⁵ Durkheim, Emile. (1893). “*The Division of Labour in Society*” - a state of relative normlessness or a state in which [norms](#) have been eroded. Alienation, [isolation](#), and desocialisation, i.e. as norms become less binding for individuals. Individuals thus lose the sense of what is right and wrong.

[slide 16 – Trafficking for Labour Exploitation]

III. TRAFFICKING FOR LABOUR EXPLOITATION.

Sex trafficking represents some of the most brutal forms of slavery, however bonded labour exists and is prominent across several regions. Based on a 2005 ILO study, at least 12.3 million people worldwide were in some form of forced labour or bondage. Out of this, 8.1 million were exploited by private agents outside the sex industry.

[slide 17- Forced Labour]

[Video 6] Forced Labour from THB

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0vRJ86fbUY&NR=1>

Length: 1'

Source: UNODC

[slide 18- Implications of Labour Exploitation]

Another significant exploitative purpose of human **trafficking** is **for forced labour, servitude and bondage**. Victims as young as 5 years old are forced to work in inhuman and often unsanitary conditions, for excruciatingly long hours, for ridiculously low wages that should, technically, “pay off their debt” to the traffickers.

This is another form of modern day slavery. Operating on the principle of a **debt that can never be paid off**, for many this means that more than one generation might have to work in conditions of slavery in a Brick kiln or in a rice mill, or in the textile industry.

Many do not understand that they are held in slavery: they believe that they are paying off their debt. If their owner were to pay them the minimum legal wage, they would be able to pay for their freedom several times over. “Victims of forced labour lose an estimated \$20 billion every year in unpaid earnings”¹⁶

The “owner” has not just cheated them out of a lifetime of wages: he has **cheated them out of a life**. Many are beaten and treated harshly. When sick they are beaten until they go back to work. There is huge risk involved in an escape as those that are re-captured are beaten publicly and severely so as to serve as deterrence to others.

While most countries have introduced legislation that deals with forced labour as a criminal offence and the issue itself is no longer hidden or taboo, others

¹⁶ UN news center. (12 May 2009). “Victims of forced labour lose an estimated \$20 billion every year in unpaid earnings”. Available at <http://un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30768&Cr=forced+labour&Cr1>

are finding it difficult to identify cases of abuse, let alone define the adequate policy responses.

There are many cases of forced labour all around the world. The following are just a few examples of it.

[slide 19- Labour Exploitation in Geographic Areas]

ASIA

Bonded labour **exists in a range of sectors** such as handloom weaving; rice mills brick kilns and stone quarrying. Bonded labourers, and sometimes their families, lose their freedom through a system of loans or advance payments for work.¹⁷

AFRICA

ILO field study in Niger found “no evidence of outright slavery”, but rather **continued “relations of dependency”**¹⁸ between slave descendants and their former masters the Court of Justice of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) recently found Niger to be in breach of national laws and international obligations on protecting its citizens from slavery. The ruling came in a case involving a woman who was released by her “master” after 10 years of slavery.¹⁹

An ILO study in Ghana on seasonal and longer-term migration found that Ghanaian migrants doing seasonal work in the south of the country were susceptible to forced labour, with young men and women in particular working in abusive conditions. Many instances were reported of employers refusing to pay the migrant workers or of intermediaries and agents cheating them of their wages.

In Kenya, a study carried out for the U.S.-based Solidarity Center in 2007 by the Kenyan Institute of Policy Analysis and Research (IPAR) identified the country as a source, transit route and destination for women, men and children trafficked for forced labour and commercial sexual exploitation. Internal trafficking involved mostly children and young women moving from rural to urban areas for domestic work and prostitution.

AMERICAS

Awareness about the extent of forced labour **is now growing** in Latin America, although only a few countries have made systematic efforts to

¹⁷ ILO, (May 2009) “Forced Labour: Facts and Figures – The Cost of Coercion:Regional Perspectives” Asia, p1. Available at http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_106243.pdf

¹⁸ ILO, (May 2009) “Forced Labour: Facts and Figures – The Cost of Coercion:Regional Perspectives” Africa, p1. Available at http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_106242.pdf

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, p.1-2.

investigate and document its incidence. Efforts by two of these – Brazil and Peru – have helped improve understanding of contemporary forced labour and its underlying causes.

Moreover, the drive against forced labour in Latin America includes **coordinated policies and practical actions** that aim to identify where forced labour exists and release forced labourers.

In Brazil, for example, legislation and government action has combined with initiatives involving employers, workers and civil society to step up the fight against forced labour. The Brazilian government publishes a “dirty list” of individual property owners and companies that have been identified as using forced labour. As of July 2008, the list contained the names of 212 people or enterprises, mainly involved in cattle raising²⁰.

²⁰ ILO, (May 2009) “Forced Labour: Facts and Figures – The Cost of Coercion:Regional Perspectives” Americas, p1-2. Available at http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_106244.pdf

[slide 20 – Child Soldiers]

IV. CHILD SOLDIERS

[slide 21 – Ishmael Beah: Former Child Soldier]

[Video 7] CHILD SOLDIERS (Sierra Leone) Ishamel Beah tells his experience as a child soldier in Sierra Leone's civil war
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ozsOLdgp_y0
Start video at 22 seconds (cut Katie Couric's introduction)
Length: 6'30" (minus initial 22" = 6'08")
Source: CBS Evening News

During the seventeen years of civil war in Sierra Leone, more than one million children were displaced; of those, at least 25,000 children were abducted and forced to become members of armed groups. The recruitment of children into armed conflict has killed more than two million children and permanently disabled more than six million. It has orphaned one million children, afflicted ten million children with serious psychological trauma, and made twelve million refugees.

[slide 22-]

According to some estimates, **over 300,000 children are** currently serving as **child soldiers in 50 different countries** around the world, from Afghanistan to Chad, Colombia, DRC, Ivory Coast, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda.²¹

These children who are trafficked into child soldiering are often abducted from home and brutally indoctrinated through torture, mind altering drugs, threats of death or dismemberment and having to **perform acts of extreme violence towards members of their own families** or respected members of their village. This atrocity is designed **to ensure that they cannot be accepted back** if they were to return to their home communities. Upon joining the forces, they are required to kill friends who don't obey the commanders, and made to watch the punishment of other child soldiers who attempt to escape. This fate is not restricted to boys, as girls and women can also be "recruited". Moreover, **girls are often also abducted and forced to become the "wives," or sex slaves** of members of the armed forces.

The biggest challenge facing child soldiers today is the hope of reintegration. If there is the possibility for them to return safely to their homes, than there is the possibility of being reintegrated back into their communities. It is not an easy task. **There are rehabilitation programs that include psychological evaluation and counselling**; these represent a source of hope and an initial step to start the healing process for their mental and physical scars.

²¹ Tiefenbrun, Susan. (2007)., "Child Soldiers, Slavery, and the Trafficking of Children", [TJSL Legal Studies Research Paper No. 1020341](#)

[slide 23 – Post Conflict Situations]

V. POST CONFLICT SITUATIONS

Even when women and children are not forced to fight as child soldiers, they are still among the most vulnerable and most likely to be affected by conflict and post conflict situations.

During conflict, women and children are exposed to emotionally and psychologically damaging events such as the loss of parents and close relatives, displacement, separation, violence, sexual assault, gang rape and detention. Ceasefires do not necessarily signal the end of violence for the most vulnerable. Statistics show that in post conflict areas, women and children are likely to become the targets of human trafficking.

As a direct result of armed conflict **more than 2 million children have died** over the last decade, **at least 6 million children have been permanently disabled** or seriously injured and more than **1 million children have been orphaned** or separated from their families.²²

The legacy of conflict is a culture of violence, economic hardship, huge social disintegration, a void of skills and a significant absence of the rule of law. Thus, the push and pull factors mentioned earlier become almost insurmountable as the pressures of post conflict life strangle economic possibilities and embolden the hand of traffickers.

During the armed conflict in Lebanon, 300,000 foreign workers were left behind when their employers were evacuated. Having abruptly lost their livelihoods and official resident status, the workers quickly became vulnerable to exploitation. Embassies struggled to assist their nationals and trafficking gangs preyed upon the desperate.²³

[slide 24- Post Conflict Situations]

Lack of Economic Opportunities.

With Post Conflict comes the inevitable economic fall out. Characterized by high unemployment rates, high inflation, structural, institutional and social capital damage and a collapse of any social services. The suggestion of a good job elsewhere becomes increasingly tempting, to the point that it overcomes inherent scepticism. Many people find themselves deeper into debt as their livelihoods are destroyed by conflict and a devastated fiscal system. However, for the poor who have no access to exterior sources of financial aid, often the only source of emergency revenue is through loan

²² *Op. cit.*, UNICEF. (2007)

sharks. These loans often incur extremely high interest rates, which, if not paid off, result in threats of violence and property seizure. Many young girls believe that they can provide relief for their families and are willing to take risks to do so, thus becoming easy targets for traffickers.

Social Disintegration

As the conflict in Lebanon shows, the disintegration of worker status can be highly pursuant to THB; however the lack of citizenship, devastation or separation of families and dependants also are highly contributing factors to the ferocity of post conflict trafficking. An **estimated 20 million children have been forced to flee their homes** because of conflict and human rights violations and are living as refugees in neighbouring countries or are internally displaced within their own national borders.²⁴

In 2006-07, UNODC provided funding for NGOs in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina to run trafficking prevention campaigns among asylum-seekers, a particularly vulnerable group. Counselling was provided to young people to raise their awareness on the risks they could incur and where they can seek help.²⁵

Culture of Violence

The intense and prolonged proliferation of sexual violence results in an ingrained cultural acceptance or apathy towards the violence directed at women and children.

Throughout the genocide in Rwanda, the rape and mutilation of women and girls by opposing groups was carried out, not only as systematic attacks against these women, but also as a means to exercise power over the men of their communities. According to the UNICEF paper on Child Protection from Violence, Exploitation and Abuse, investigative reports following the 1994 **genocide in Rwanda** concluded that, of those who survived the genocide, **nearly every female over the age of 12 had been raped**²⁶.

This cultural use of women or children as tools to wage war corresponds to the use of women or children as tools to gain capital. This represents significant gender discrimination, but also a lack of alternatives.

Lack of Skills or Alternative Ways to Make Money

²⁴ *Op. cit.*, UNICEF. (2007)

²⁵ UNODC, (no date available – post 2006) “Prevention”, Available at <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/prevention.html>

²⁶ UN (2002) “Study on Women Peace and Security” p.16. Available at <http://www.unicef.org/emerg/files/WPS.pdf>; for more see UNICEF “Sexual Violence as a Weapon of War” Available at <http://www.unicef.org/sowc96pk/sexviol.htm>

Those people who were engaged in the life of combat, after the conflict find themselves with no cause to fight for, and minimal skills to function within a society. Their options are extremely limited and they choose to do what they have the capacity for, violence. As a result Post Conflict situations maintain a level of brutality in particular towards the most vulnerable sections of society. The lack of alternatives leads some to turn to the business of trafficking.

Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programs must serve as an alternative to give people the necessary survival skills. UNICEF's DDR program in Burundi, for example, provides child soldiers with psychosocial counselling, particularly on aspects relating to the respect for children's rights, peaceful cohabitation in their communities and prevention of HIV/AIDS. The sick also received medical attention. Once home those who choose to return to school will be educated free of charge; the same applies to those who choose vocational training and wish to set up their own business.

Moreover, each former child soldier's return package includes a new pair of shoes and socks, jeans, a belt and a shirt, in addition to 10 kg of rice, 10 kg of beans, 2 kg of sugar and – to ease their travel – two loaves of bread, one tin of sardines, bottled water and soap.²⁷

DDR programmes such as this and those that are similar around the world represent a real hope of change. Change for those who are victims of trafficking for the purpose of child soldiers, forced labour or otherwise. Also change for those local communities so affected by the problems associated with child soldiers and trafficking.

[slide 25 – Women of Liberia]

[Video 8] "Women of Liberia: Fighting for Peace"

A very effective 20-minute documentary depicting the vulnerable condition of women (in Liberia) during and post conflict, focusing on their role in reintegration and DDR

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOoR1Ta_4Nc

Length: 20'

Source: Amnesty International

[slide 26- Peacekeepers and PSO's]

²⁷ UNICEF (2009) "Burundi's last child soldiers homeward bound toward a new life" Available at http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/burundi_49684.html

VI. PEACEKEEPERS – PSO’s

The existence of poverty and money side by side leads to **rapid increases in THB to post conflict states** as a destination of trafficked people. The tragic element is that much of the demand is created by the influx of foreign development and peacekeeping forces.

In Pristina (Kosovo) approximately only one third of the population was comprised of locals, while the remainder originated from Bulgaria, Ukraine and Russia. It is not clear how many women were enslaved and trafficked into Kosovo, but it is clear that the number increased when development and peacekeeping forces started to work there. A mixture of the relative wealth, distance from loved ones and discriminatory attitudes towards women²⁸ created a rapid influx of trafficked peoples forced to offer services. UNICEF found that gathering evidence was difficult as there is significant mistrust amongst those women who have been trafficked and it takes some time to develop trust if it can be gained at all.²⁹ However, all women discovered by the police in brothel raids had asked clients to help them escape. The men promised to return, but none did. In two cases men gave the young women their phone numbers.

In 2008 Save the Children reported that already **vulnerable children are particularly at risk of sexual abuse and exploitation by peacekeepers and aid workers.**³⁰ Indeed, UN statistics show a higher incidence of allegations reported against peacekeeping forces than any other U.N staff. This partially reflects the transparency that the DPKO has shown in making all allegations publicly available, a measure which Save the Children has welcomed as “managerial courage.”³¹

Peacekeepers are able to exert significant influence over communities, specifically over the most vulnerable; they are armed and provide “much-needed physical security” within the context of “extreme fragility”³². They do however currently contain a significant number of military personnel with discriminatory attitudes towards women, which is why the **Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon** recently **called for a greater influx of women peacekeepers** as by doing this “we foster a safe environment for victims to get the help they need and deserve...we [must] fight the culture of impunity that has prevailed for too long”³³

²⁸ Csaky, C. (2008) Save the Children. “No one to Turn to: the under-reporting of child sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers and peacekeepers”

²⁹ Warren, R. UNIFEM. “No Safe Place” (UNIFEM- Rachel Warren – No Safe Place)

³⁰ Op, *cit.*, Csaky. C (2008) at p 7

³¹ *Ibid*, at p 8

³² *Ibid*, at p 8

³³ United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon (29th May 2009). “There Are Still Far Too Few Women Peacekeepers” Message on the International Day of Peacekeepers.

[slide 27- Organizational Approaches]

VII. ORGANIZATIONAL APPROACHES TO THB

Combinations of macro approaches and grass roots projects have thus far been instituted across many organizations. There are large organizations supporting NGO initiatives, such as UNODC's support of the Community Vigilance Project³⁴, a project led by local leaders and women's groups, which has mobilized thousands of villagers to detect and prevent trafficking across the porous border between India and Nepal (an area of heavy cross-border human trafficking).

Trafficking in human beings can be tackled through a **three-pronged approach** addressing prevention, protection and prosecution.

Prevention

- Establishing comprehensive national programmes to combat human trafficking and to protect its victims;
- Raising awareness, warning potential victims and discouraging the demand through media campaigns and with the civil society;
- Undertaking measures to alleviate the vulnerability of potential victims of trafficking (particularly women and children), such as addressing root causes of poverty, ignorance and discrimination;
- Developing networks to exchange information on trafficking routes, traffickers' profiles and identification of victims.

Prosecution

- Making human trafficking a criminal offence in national legislative frameworks;
- Making laws to protect the victims of trafficking, especially children;
- Establishing a system of penalties congruous to the severity of the crime;
- Tackling corruption in law enforcement agencies, in the governmental and in the judiciary system.

Protection

- Providing physical, psychosocial and social recovery programmes to the victims;
- Offering safe spaces, such as housing and support centres;
- Providing counselling assistance in the victims' language;
- Addressing the special needs of women and children who have been victimized by trafficking;
- Providing educational opportunities and vocational training to improve their reintegration into society.

³⁴ UNODC (2008) "Act Against Human Trafficking". P 3

The ILO has been developing a programme with Zambia, serving as an example of how better information and data can help spur the drive against forced labour and trafficking. Following accusations that some labour brokers in the mining sector had been retaining a significant proportion of wages, Zambia's Ministry of Labour and Social Security approached the ILO in early 2006 for assistance in determining whether forced labour existed in the country.

A research programme found evidence that forced labour and trafficking did in fact exist in Zambia, with those in mining, domestic work and agriculture most vulnerable to exploitation due mainly to the informal nature of their work or the use of intermediary labour contractors. In response, the government developed a comprehensive anti-trafficking policy, it adopted a new legislation and set up an inter-agency committee on human trafficking.³⁵

UNICEF's efforts include being part of the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Subregion, an initiative established in June 2000 to facilitate a stronger and more coordinated response to human trafficking in Cambodia, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. The project aims to strengthen the regional response to human trafficking through improved knowledge, effective collaboration and better-targeted action.

In 2005, UNICEF and the United Arab Emirates signed an agreement to return back to their countries the children involved in camel racing, many of which were victims of trafficking.. According to recent statistics, more than 1,000 child camel jockeys – mostly from Bangladesh, Mauritania, Pakistan and Sudan – have been sent home, and many have been reunited with their families. UNICEF provided technical assistance and expertise. As follow-up to this initiative, in 2006, UNICEF helped organize the first ever workshop on combating child trafficking in the Arab world.

In 2002 UNICRI launched a programme designed to contribute to the efforts to curb THB from Nigeria to Italy. The program concentrated on assessment and research on trafficking responses already existing, technical cooperation and institutional capacity building across Nigerian law enforcement, Prevention and Victims' Assistance via pilot micro-credit activities in Edo State and "street units" in Turin.

³⁵ ILO (2009) "Forced Labour: Facts and Figures. *The Cost of Coercion:Regional Perspectives*" Available at http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_106242.pdf

[slide 28 – Solutions to Human Trafficking]

VIII. SOLUTIONS TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING: The need for Strong Laws, Broad Alliances, Concerted Action, and Zero Tolerance.

There should be an increase in the sense of urgency on the issue and focus on the victims of trafficking. Since the damage done to them cannot be fully redressed, there should be innovative and creative ways to minimize the harm inflicted upon these people with a series of measures that may represent something special to the victims themselves.

They need assistance that extends beyond ending their exploitation and beyond any criminal prosecution. Vocational training can reduce the risk of them being sucked into exploitative situations again. In 2006, companies in the Philippines joined the fight against re-victimization by participating in the Corporate Apprenticeship programme, a joint initiative between UNODC and the Department for Social Welfare and Development. Trafficking victims were accepted as apprentices for periods of six months to a year to gain on-the-job training in factory work, hospitality and other businesses.

DDR programs also represent a form of action that has the potential to minimize the harm inflicted.³⁶ Psychological counselling sessions, scholarships or micro credit arrangements, such as UNICRI's project in Nigeria, represent significant steps forward. However there must be comprehensive care for all victims of trafficking. It cannot be said that currently everyone who has suffered through the torture of human trafficking is now receiving sufficient care.

Here we can see a couple of UNICEF's projects on children's psychosocial support in post-conflict, and a reintegration programme for former child soldiers.

Since THB represents a transnational phenomenon, there must be sufficient transnational efforts to stem the tide. The co-operation of state and non-state actors across international boundaries is the most vital element in the solution to THB.

There are several encouraging examples around the globe, such as in Western Africa, in the Balkans, in South-East Asia and in other regions as well. Some regional instruments, such as the recently adopted Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking³⁷ have begun to fill the gaps left behind by the Palermo Protocol on Human Trafficking.

³⁶UNICEF (7th May 2008) "Over 200 child soldiers demobilized in Burundi" Available at http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/burundi_43844.html

Moreover, an increased Awareness and Co-operation between NGO's is starting to occur. Several interagency bodies have been formed in connection with THB³⁸ among these are highly valuable programs such as witness protection, family reunification, assisted relocation and scholarships for victims and family members.

These steps must be considered as a significant movement in the right direction. However the reality of human trafficking remains a matter of concern for humanity as a whole, and without sustained fervour, there will be no freedom for the trafficked child and no release for the tortured woman.

The problem of abuse from PSO's was highlighted earlier, and is a difficulty that stretches from multinationals to governments to local NGO's. Peace and Safety Operations are designed to make positive impacts and it is our responsibility to ensure that they stay true to their mandate. As the Secretary General has highlighted, a potential solution is an increased role for women in peacekeeping forces. This alone will not solve the concerns of PSO operations; it will, however, enable victims to have a more secure environment when coming forward and pressing charges against their aggressors. It is important to "draw on the power of women to strengthen peacekeeping while helping women and girls themselves to transform their destinies and societies for the better"³⁹

The most important element of the information that you have heard in this lecture is the need for action.

**"We will achieve nothing without uniting and speaking out.
We will achieve nothing by offering fine rhetoric not matched by deeds.
Moral outrage is all too easy.
Real action takes real commitment...
we must all take responsibility
we must take collective action
to combat and end it."**⁴⁰

Thank you for your attention.

³⁸ Including the Executive Committees on Humanitarian Affairs and Peace and Security UN and NGO Task Force on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

³⁹ United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon (29th May 2009). Message on the International Day of Peacekeepers: "There Are Still Far Too Few Women Peacekeepers"

⁴⁰ United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon (13 May 2009) "No longer possible to turn a blind eye to human trafficking, as world wakes up to scope of scourge," General Assembly hears in thematic dialogue" GA/10827

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2009/ga10827.doc.htm>