

August 12, 2025

Women's Rights are Human Rights: Reflections on the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) from LWV Delegates

Agenda

Moderator: Connie Sobon Sensor

Welcome: Dianna Wynn

Overview of CSW: Jane Colvin

Focus on Human Trafficking:

Sarah Warner, Anne Hefter & Sharon Hill

Focus on CEDAW & Women in Politics:

Jane Ruby, Michele Honora Thorne,

Anu Sahai & Camille Brewer

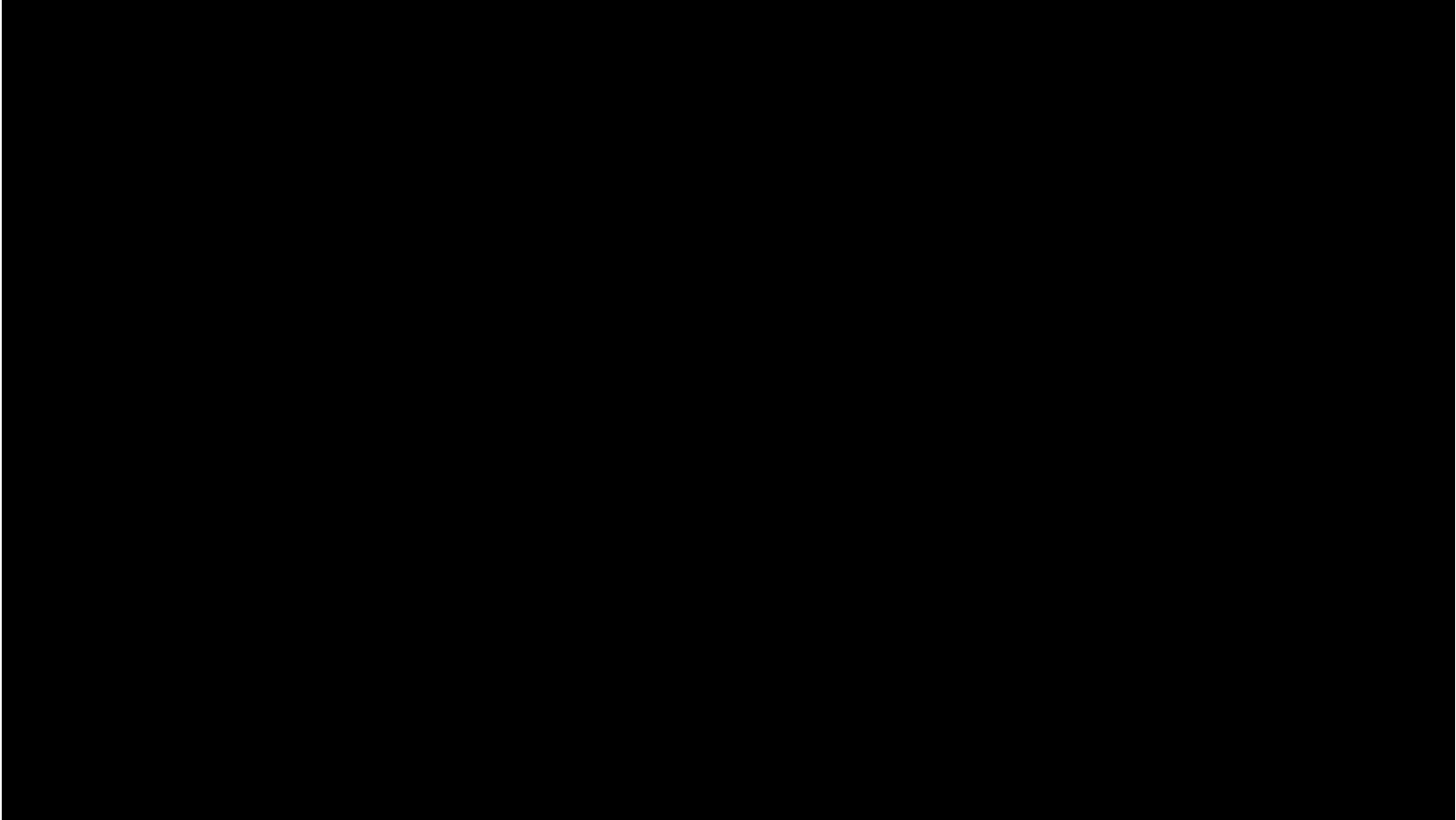
Discussion



FYI/Community Norms

- This webinar is being recorded and will be shared in an email afterwards, and posted on the LMS UN Observer page
- Please use the chat box to talk to each other and the presenters.
- Please use the Q&A for questions that you would like the presenters to answer at the end of the webinar
- All questions are good questions. We are here to help!

Welcome Message from LWVUS President Dianna Wynn





A (Really) Brief History Commission on the Status of Women



- Created in 1946 - at the urging of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt
- At first, a Sub-Commission; within a few months, a full-fledged Commission under the ECOSOC
- Tasked with assessing "problems relating to the status of women" and to advise the UN Commission on Human Rights

Their First Report Recommendation

“The work of the Sub-Commission should last until women had reached the point where they were on equal footing with men in all fields of human enterprise.”

Almost **Eight Decades** later, the Commission is still working on it.





Today's UN CSW



- 45 member states, elected every 4 years
- Still focused on the empowerment of women, the human rights of women and girls, and global gender equality.
- Conducts annual 2-week Session to discuss gaps in advancing gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment with one theme.



UN CSW69 Session



- **Focus: 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action**
Theme: Accelerating the Achievement of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
- **Side and Parallel events held by Member states, Permanent Missions, intergovernmental organizations, UN entities and NGOs**
- **The largest ever gathering of the CSW:**
 - ~ over 13,000 people attending the session
 - ~ 5,845 representatives from NGO's
 - ~ over 1,000 in-person and virtual meetings

Human Trafficking

Thinking Globally, Acting Locally - CSW And Beyond

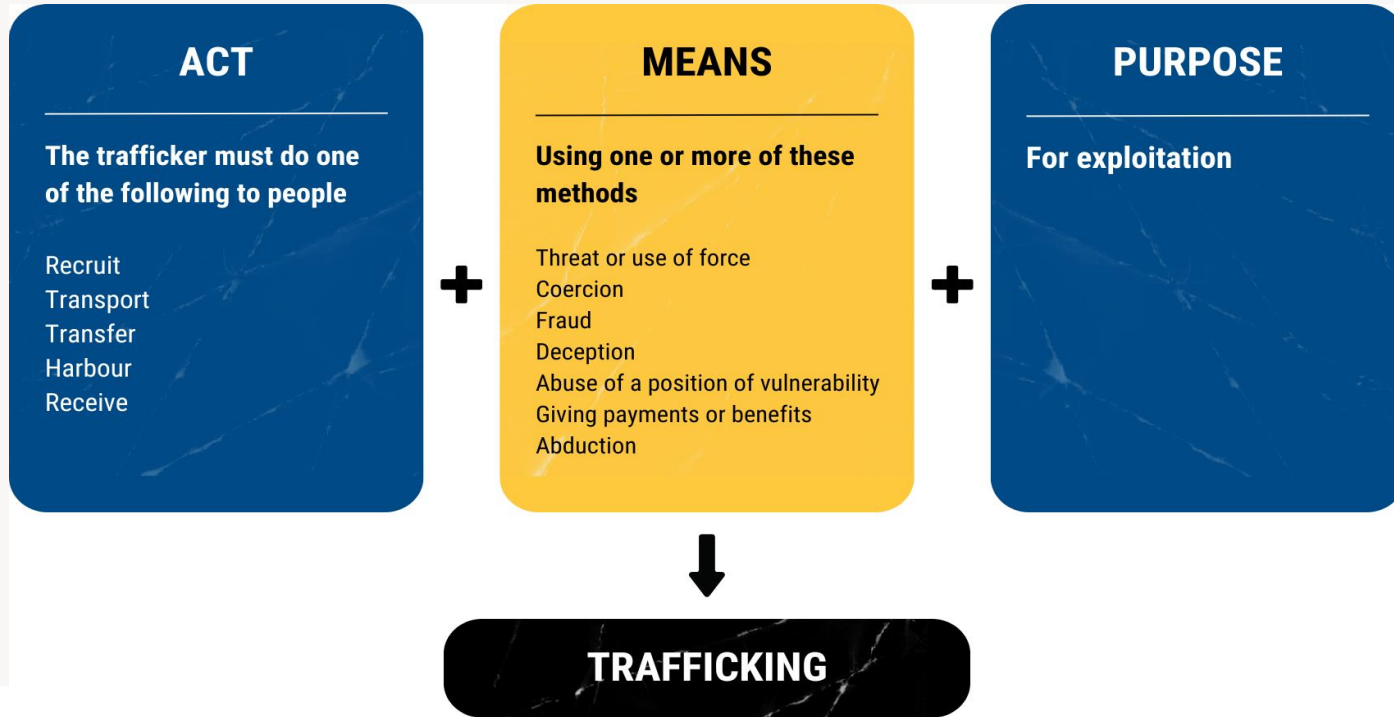
What is “Human Trafficking”

Trafficking in Persons is defined 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...

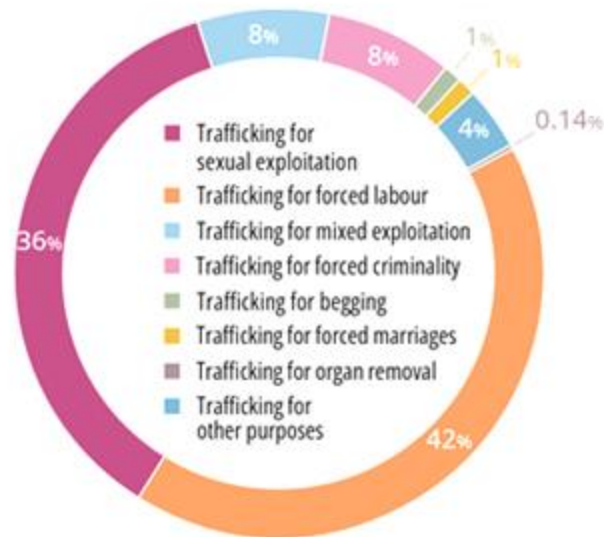
Exploitation shall include, at a **minimum**, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs”

The A+M+P Model in Trafficking in Persons



Global Overview

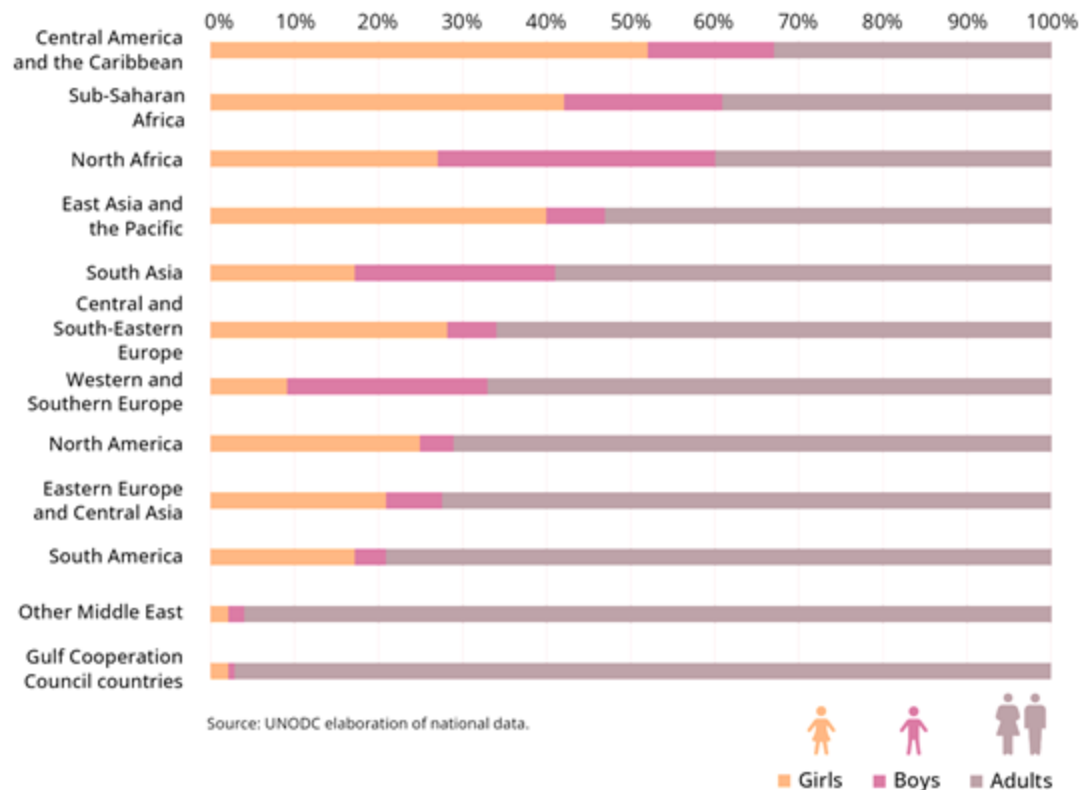
Fig. 7 Share of detected victims of trafficking, by form of exploitation, 2022 (or most recent)*



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

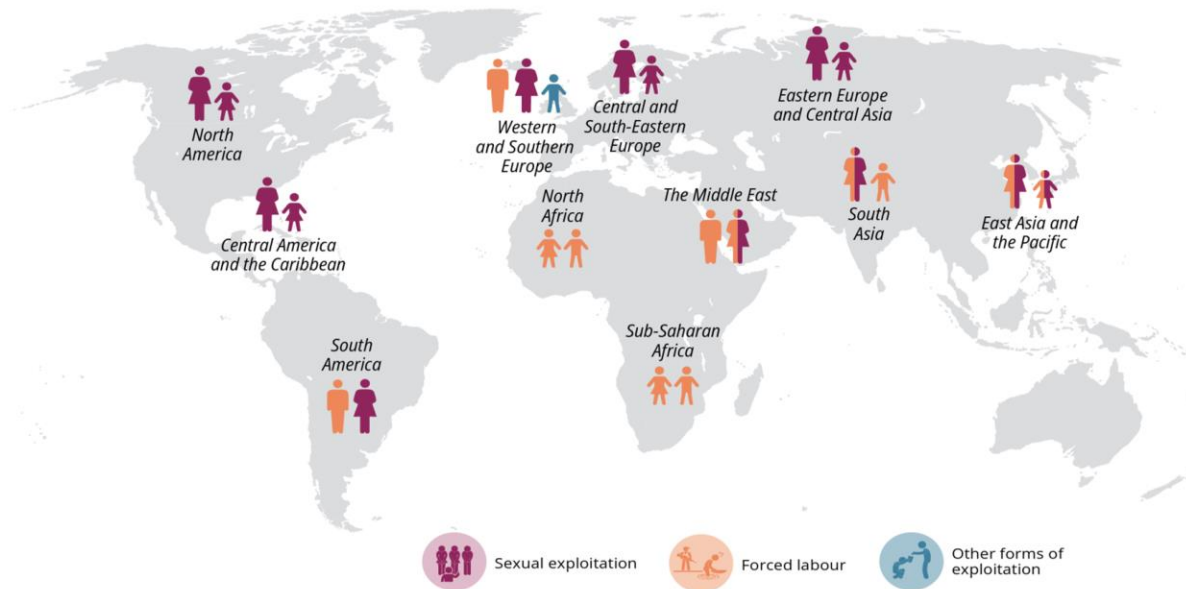
* Based on information from some 65,339 victims detected.

Fig. 37 Share of detected victims of trafficking in persons, by age group and sex, by region 2022 (or most recent)



Global Overview

Map. 4 Main detected victims and forms of exploitation



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

Human Trafficking Has Many Faces



Trafficking Patterns Shift In Response To:

- Environmental Disasters
- Economic Collapse
- Infrastructural Failures
- Conflict and Political Instability
- Forced Migration/ Displacement
- Cultural Attitudes Towards Gender Roles
- Immigration Laws

Vulnerabilities To Exploitation That Can Lead To Trafficking:

- Lack of access to basic needs
- Lack of access to legal/political rights
- Lack of social safety net
- Lack of infrastructure/public safety
- Forced migration/ displacement
- Lack of access to support systems
- Lack of access to economy/ finances/ work
- Early/Child Marriage

Why is HT Central to CSW

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by HT, According to the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons (2022) :**61% of trafficking victims were women and girls.**

Since 2018 there has been a **31% increase in child trafficking**

The intersectional vulnerabilities to trafficking and exploitation exist across cultural and legal boundaries, and are a global issue seen in every community

Increasing conflict situations, climate disasters, and forced migration all lead to greater risks of exploitation and trafficking globally.

Discussion of this on the global stage is crucial to networking advocacy and resources as we work to tackle the issue at every level.

Amplifying voices of survivors and creating space for survivor-led initiatives helps us to make responsive and responsible policy & programming– CSW helps create a platform for this.

NGO CSW Tackles HT From Many Angles

Bankrupting The Business of Human Trafficking,
Advancing Global Efforts Against Human
Trafficking: Innovations & Partnerships

No Child Left a Bride: Successes & Setbacks in
the Global Effort to End Child Marriage

Prostitution: Equality (Nordic) Model vs
legalization and decriminalization in reducing
violence against women

Understanding Human Trafficking From a
Feminist Lens

Services and Referral Networks Assisting Women
Survivors of Human Trafficking

Human Trafficking: Process, Causes, effects &
working to eliminate Human Trafficking

Further Reading

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-Trafficking/Human-Trafficking.html>

https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2024/GLOTIP2024_BOOK.pdf

<https://www.walkfree.org/projects/global-estimates-of-modern-slavery/>

https://acf.gov/sites/default/files/documents/otip/Human%20Trafficking%20Prevention%20Month%20Toolkit_January%202024.pdf

<https://www.ilo.org/publications/major-publications/global-estimates-modern-slavery-forced-labour-and-forced-marriage>

https://www.unodc.org/res/human-trafficking/2021the-protocol-tip_html/TIP.pdf

What It Looks Like: State and Local Reports and Outreach

Georgia's First Lady Marty Kemp PSA in partnership with the Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) and the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC), a public service announcement (PSA) on Human Trafficking: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGOk4i_qo2s

- The Statistics
- Collaboration and Victim Support
- Challenges and Ongoing Fight

Opportunities to Be the Difference: Examples of Local Partnerships

Hearing from Lived Experiences: The Candy Shop a PBS Special:
<https://youtu.be/dbMib1yh9rk?si=9rKmO7K26XQD687X>

Table on Delk - Video of the work within the North/South Interstate corridor in Cobb County, The Table sees over 1300 individuals each year on Delk Opportunity to confront that silence. It's a space where we listen to real stories of brokenness, but also of resilience and healing. It's a time to remember that these aren't just issues, they're people. People in our neighborhood, many of which are survivors of sexual exploitation. thetableondelk.org

Opportunities to Be the Difference: Examples of Local Partnerships continued

Prevention with a Focus on Youth:

Justice for Girls/ Southern Christian Leadership Conference, SCLC: Not just in British Columbia and Canada, to name a few, National SCLC's former First Lady Dr. Cathelean Steele, Retired Educator answered the call and joined with other advocates, to create a health and safety prevention curriculum for young girls. Featured with self-defense, safety, self-development and motivational professionals, Justice for Girls has been a catalyst within schools equipping students and communities. Joining with national anti-violence and trafficking campaigns like The Purple Purse and The Red Sand Project. <https://www.wabe.org/sclc-conducts-justice-girls-roundtable>

Advocacy in Action by LWV!!

<https://www.lwvduluth.org/human-trafficking.html> Duluth

https://lwvsa.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=571900&module_id=505356 San Antonio

<https://youtu.be/mxII1oFDAGa?si=ix1AQuzXxsFNf-jZ>
Seattle, King County

<https://youtu.be/mxII1oFDAGa?si=ix1AQuzXxsFNf-jZ>
Greater Omaha

Including Wisconsin, Worcester County, Litchfield County
and others.



League of Women Voters of Georgia 2025
Convention Red Sand Sidewalk Demonstration,
with members from Rome, Augusta, West
Piedmont and Marietta-Cobb County. Rome
Georgia, near the Berry College Red Sand
Earthworks Demonstration.

Simple Steps to Get the CEDAW Ball Rolling

1. Identify like minded organizations and nonprofits.
2. Build coalition and set up a working group.
3. Depending on your city/ county/ town governing body, identify officials who will be good allies and sponsors.
4. Reach out to them and teach them about CEDAW and sell the concept to them.
5. They can then reach out to colleagues who will be interested in supporting/ promoting/ co-sponsoring
6. Help them draft a resolution/ ordinance with the asks. This is a tricky part as they may want to do it on their own
7. Help the sponsors explain and sell the idea to their colleagues.
8. Put together talking points to counter opposition
9. Have an elevator speech ready for all members of working group.

Solidarity for Human Rights: Discussion



Follow UN Observers & Actions

- <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/advocacy-litigation/lwv-un-observers-resources>
- Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/LWVUSUnitedNations>
- Join UN Google Group:
contact csagona@lwv.org

