**Country:** Malaysia

**Committee:** UNODC

**Agenda Item:** Combating Human

Trafficking for Organ Removal

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UNODC is an agency of the United Nations which is committed to combating illicit drugs and organized crimes.

 **A. Combating Human Trafficking for Organ Removal**

The agenda item of the committee is *“Combating Human Trafficking for Organ Removal”* which is a serious problem in the 21st century acknowledged by Malaysia. Due to the increase in population or the unwillingness to donate organs, finding organ donors is way harder than it used to be. And as a result of that, some individuals who are in need of appropriate organs are consulting illegal ways such as procurement or even human trafficking which directly violate human rights and damage victims’ physical health as well as their mental health. This subject is what we are going to talk about in this agenda.

Malaysia is a popular destination amongst migrant workers for economic reasons and this vulnerable group is more likely to face with human trafficking. So that migrants and the other people who live in Malaysia do not have to face with human trafficking for any purpose, especially for organ removal, and to raise awareness about human trafficking The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) was established. The commission’s main target is to promote human rights in Malaysia as well as combating human trafficking in general.

In Malaysia you can be a living donor just for your close blood relatives such as brother, sister, parent or child what prevents, in some degree, organ trade as some recipients hide the trade by making it look like a normal organ donation. And the actions which are being taken against organ trafficking are not limited to just these. According to the Declaration of Istanbul, countries should prohibit and criminalize the trafficking of human organs and trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal. Organ donation should be a financially neutral act. Malaysia’s efforts can also be seen in its participation in Humanitarian Summit where Istanbul Declaration was adopted. Istanbul Declaration covers many human issues including human trafficking and organ removal.

Laws of Malaysia emphasize that providing opportunities for organ trade and human trafficking is considered just the same as trading and those who contribute to commerce are subjected to nearly the same punishments which likely dissuade contribution intentions. But even though there are many laws regarding to human trafficking and organ removal, Malaysia is still having difficulty in carrying out them like the other countries.

 Contrary to what is believed, religion (Islam) is not the main reason why Malaysians feel hesitant about donating their organs, the main reason is lack of information about the process. That is why Malaysia is working steadily on raising awareness about organ donation. With the risen awareness, Malaysia will be able to decrease the number of incidents of human trafficking for organ removal. But the country believes that the true purgation can only be provided with the collaboration worldwide. With the entity of Persatuan Transplan Malaysia (Malaysian Society of Transplantation), government and non-government organizations are being encouraged to contribute organ donation and transplantation. The entity also steadily collaborates with government and nongovernmental organizations in an effort to promote the development of transplantation in Malaysia. With that being said Persatuan Transplan Malaysia also assists and undertakes public awareness programs through talks, seminars, the print and electronic media on organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Malaysia stepped up its efforts to curb the problem by amending the Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling Act 2007 and launching National Anti-Trafficking in Persons 3.0 (NAPTIP 3.0 ). NAPTIP 3.0 is a strategic blueprint that outlines Malaysia’s plans for combating human trafficking. NAPTIP 3.0 and the amended Anti-Smuggling Act represent significant efforts to combat human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants more effectively, especially with the reopening of international borders.

Even though there are many steps taken to eradicate human trafficking for organ removal, Malaysia is still having difficulty in truly providing a safe environment. And we are aware of the fact that one country is not enough to exterminate human trafficking as the cases show that incidents happen internationally. To provide the safest environment, Malaysia believes that collaboration is vital and indispensable. We lastly would like to state that we are open to collaborations in order to exterminate human trafficking for organ removal.

 **SOURCES**

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