



# STRATEGIES TO REGULATE THE TRADE OF HUMAN ORGANS WITHIN AND ACROSS BORDERS

ECOSOC- BATHMUN 2023

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## Committee Introduction

Dear Delegates,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the 1st edition of the Bath Model of the United Nations. Throughout this weekend and the months before, you will have the chance to learn the role of diplomats. You will research countries, engage in debates and come up with solutions to complex issues. The issue we choose this year is a little different from the standard topics discussed in MUN conferences. It is titled *"strategies to regulate the trade of human organs within and across borders"*.

We choose to discuss this topic in the ECOSOC committee because illegal trafficking of human organs is a big problem in many countries and this committee's goal is to promote social progress. According to the Penn Medicine at least 100.000 people require transplants but is it correct to trade human organs as any other

commodity<sup>1</sup>? What consequences would legalizing trade of human organs have on the donation culture? Will it lead to the exploitation of vulnerable individuals? Answering questions like this will not be easy, but we trust that our delegates will come to a consensus favoring the citizens of their countries. To do this we require everyone to do their own research regarding the topic and prepare their positions well. In addition, it is crucial to act in accordance with the official positions of your countries to make this simulation as real as possible.

Beyond this we want to remind delegates that this conference is an amazing opportunity to make friends, share past experiences or new opportunities and visit the beautiful city of Bath. Our team is very excited to welcome all of you and contribute to changing the world.

Best of luck from the BathMUN team!

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<https://www.pennmedicine.org/updates/blogs/transplant-update/2023/april/6-quick-facts-about-organ->

[donation#:~:text=Did%20you%20know%20that%20there.an%20organ%20to%20become%20available.](#)

## Chairs Introduction

### Aylina de la Mano

Dear delegates, welcome to BathMUN!! My name is Aylina de la Mano Markau, and I am beyond excited to serve as your Head-Chair at the ECOSOC committee. I'm a second-year Philosophy, Politics and Economics student at King's College London. I was originally born in Brussels, the de facto capital of the European Union. When I was twelve, my family decided to move to Madrid, which at the time was one of the most challenging changes of my life, especially having grown up in a German household until that point. But it also led me to my love for debate. Luckily, my high school had a strong debate team, which made me enter the MUN world much sooner than others. By the time I started my second year of IB, I had already been a chair at an MUN conference. I believe this will be my 17th MUN Conference. But what I could not have known at the time was that I would make this my career. Today, my dream is to work in an internationally recognised organization like the EU or UN. When not working on this dream, I can be found reading crime or young adult books, doing sports or hanging out with my friends. My favorite sports are running, swimming, anything related to dancing or gymnastics and recently boxing. I am very easygoing, so please don't hesitate to reach out, as I am happy to answer all your questions. Can't wait to see you all this weekend!



### Ana Nalbach

Hello Delegates! Also from my side a warm welcome to BathMUN! My name is Ana Nalbach, from Germany and Georgia and I am more than excited to serve you as a Chair at our ECOSOC committee. Currently I am a second year Student

for the Bachelors program of European Studies in Maastricht. When I was 15 I got introduced to the international arena, when I moved to Georgia to study at the British International School of Tbilisi. I learned



how to interact and hold discussions with international students which very soon became my hobby during my first year of university. I joined the Permanent Delegation (a committee from the United Nations Student Association Maastricht) in 2022 where I met like-minded people who shared the same passion about debating just like me. As a committee we attended three MUNS, had multiple workshops and trained our negotiation skills. Besides debating and MUNS, I love traveling with my family or my friends to discover new places and cultures. My favorite destination so far is Georgia, Tbilisi. Moreover, I love dancing, playing football (soccer), reading thriller books and recently I became a wine nerd. I can't wait to meet all of you in the upcoming days and I am certain we are going to have fruitful debates and unforgettable socials together!!!

### Giorgia Masciovecchio

Hello to all our esteemed delegates, it is with immense pleasure that I extend a warm welcome to Bathmun! I am truly excited to introduce myself as one of the three chairs of the ECOSOC committee. My



name is Giorgia, and I come from the beautiful country of Italy, although I currently call Maastricht, the Netherlands, my home as I pursue my studies. I am in my second year of Global Studies at Maastricht University, and it



was through this program that I had my first taste of the captivating world of Model United Nations. Last year, I had the privilege of being a part of the permanent delegation within the United Nations Student Association of Maastricht. Thanks to this role I discovered my passion for diplomacy. Regardless of whether you are a seasoned MUN veteran or a first-time delegate, please understand that your unique perspectives and contributions are absolutely vital to the success of this committee. I wholeheartedly

encourage each and every one of you to actively participate, share your valuable insights, and foster collaboration among your fellow delegates. But remember, above all else, to have fun! Bathmun promises to be an enriching and memorable experience, and I am here, along with my fellow chairs, to guide and support you every step of the way. Can not wait to meet you all and have stimulating discussions, innovative ideas, and, most important, a lot of fun!

## Committee Mandate

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)<sup>1</sup>, under the overall authority of the General Assembly, coordinates the economic and social work of the United Nations<sup>2</sup>. They design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to foster international cooperation for development. ECOSOC's job encompasses so many topics that it has multiple commissions to assist it. Some are referred to as functional commissions, such as UN Women (UNW), while others are regional commissions, such as the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

The UN Charter mandates ECOSOC to:

- promote higher standards of living, full employment and economic and social progress
- find solutions of international economic, social and health problems
- promote international cultural and educational cooperation
- promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.<sup>3</sup>

The organization was established by the UN Charter in 1945 and started off with 18 members. Today, it has 54 members, elected by

the General Assembly for three-year terms. It meets throughout the year and holds a major session in July, during which a high-level meeting of Ministers discusses major economic, social and humanitarian issues. The most important documents that inspire the works of this organization are the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (art. 1 and 2), the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations Development Agenda (UNDA).

The Rules of Procedure of this committee are not different from other UN committees. Each Delegate will represent one Member State, with each delegate having the right to speak, vote, raise motions or points and submit working papers.

At this time, the presidency is exercised by Paula Narváez, a Representative of Chile. She was elected as the seventy-ninth president of the Council on 27 July 2023, succeeding Lachezara Stoeva. One of the first things she wants to focus on is strengthening the support for and between countries to boost the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>3</sup>.

Some of the global challenges the ECOSOC committee has focused its attention on have been the Haiti Crisis, the COVID-19 recovery in Least Developed Countries and climate change.

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<sup>2</sup> Economic and Social Council (n.d.), United Nations. <https://www.un.org/en/model-united-nations/economic-and-social-council>

<sup>3</sup> (2023, July 27). *Urgent Call to Action: New ECOSOC President Emphasizes Stronger Support for Countries to*

*Tackle Global Challenges and Boost SDGs.* ECOSOC. <https://ecosoc.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-08/Election-of-New-President.pdf>

## Topic Introduction

*Description of actors and their roles<sup>4</sup>:*

Recipient: The (prospective) recipient of an organ transplant. Also denoted as 'patient' or 'organ buyer'

Donor: The person who donates or sells an organ. Also denoted as 'victim', 'supplier' or 'organ seller'

Recruiter: Solicits / recruits recipients and donors

Escort: Accompanies or 'chaperones' recipients and donors to, from and within countries

Broker: Operates transnationally, handles payments, connecting doctors, recipients, donors and other actors in the scheme

Fixer: Arranges transport, accommodation and other logistics for donors and recipients in transit and destination countries. Also depicted as 'minder'

Driver: Transports donors and recipients from/between hotels, airports, hospitals and other locations

Transplant coordinator: Coordinates transplant logistics, schedules transplants

Nephrologist: Medical doctor who specializes in treatment of kidney disease

Transplant surgeon: Medical doctor who conducts the donor nephrectomy (organ removal) and transplantation.

Anesthesiologist: Medical doctor who specializes in perioperative care, develops anesthetic plans and administers anesthetics during surgery

Interpreter: Provides translation services between donors, recipients and other actors

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<sup>4</sup> Ambagtsheer, F., & Bugter, R. (2023). *The organization of the human organ trade: a comparative crime script analysis*. *Crime, Law and Social Change*, 80(1), 1-32.

## Timeline of events

Illegal organ trade, also known as the "black market" for human organs, is a criminal activity that involves the purchase and sale of organs from living or deceased people. The history of this illegal business is difficult to trace because it is mostly conducted under the counter and is illegal in most countries. However, we can provide a general overview of major events and developments in the illegal trading of organs.

There is a lack of available data on organ trafficking before the 1990s. Nevertheless, it is possible to identify a potential starting point for this illicit trade around 1920, a period during which organs were predominantly obtained through clandestine means, such as theft or secretive transactions<sup>5</sup>.

Since the late 1980s, China primarily sourced its transplanted organs from executed prisoners. Additionally, prior to 1994, India had no legislation prohibiting the sale of organs. The combination of low costs and high organ availability made India one of the world's leading kidney transplant centers. However, several issues emerged during this period. Patients often received far less money than promised for their organ donations, and some reported having their kidneys removed without their consent after undergoing unrelated medical procedures.

The first reports on commercial trade in human organs date from the 1980s and concern the selling of kidneys by poverty stricken Indian citizens to foreign patients, especially from the

Middle East. It was reported that around 80% of all kidneys that were procured for transplantation in Indian hospitals were transplanted into patients coming from the Gulf States, as well as Malaysia and Singapore.<sup>6</sup>

Transplant tourism, as defined by the United Network for Organ Sharing, involves the purchase of transplant organs from foreign countries, bypassing the legal processes of the involved countries. The term "transplant tourism" underscores the commercial aspects of illegal organ trade, although it is essential to note that not all medical tourism for organ transplants is illegal. In some cases, both the organ donor and recipient travel to a country where the surgery is legal. In other instances, the recipient travels to obtain an organ from a distant relative.

Transplant tourism raises concerns because it involves the movement of healthy organs in a manner that depletes the regions where organs are being purchased. Typically, this transfer follows certain trends, including movement from less developed to more developed countries, from South to North, from females to males, and from people of color to white individuals.

For instance, in 2007, approximately 2,500 kidneys were purchased in Pakistan, with two-thirds of the buyers being foreign recipients. During the same year, experts in Canada and the United Kingdom estimated that 30 to 50 of their transplant patients had acquired organs illegally from abroad

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<sup>5</sup>Stehlik, J., Edwards, L. B., Kucheryavaya, A. Y., Benden, C., Christie, J. D., Dobbels, F., Kirk, R., Rahmel, A., & Hertz, M. I. (2011). *The Registry of the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation: Twenty-eighth Adult Heart Transplant Report—2011*. *Journal of Heart and Lung Transplantation*, 30(10), 1078–1094. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.healun.2011.08.003>

<sup>6</sup>González, J. C., Garijo, I. C., & Sánchez, A. R. (2020). *Organ Trafficking and Migration: A bibliometric analysis of an untold story*. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 17(9), 3204. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph17093204>



## Past attempts to solve the issue

The black market for human organs has been a long-standing and complex issue that has persisted around the world. Various attempts to address this issue have been made in the past, but it remains a significant challenge. Among the efforts to combat the black market for human organs are:

Between 1987 and 2010: the WHO (via its World Health Assembly) worked to establish ethical standards for human organ and tissue donation and transplantation. The first version of the Guiding Principles on Human Organ Transplantation was adopted in 1991, with a focus on key issues such as free and voluntary informed consent and the non-commercialization of human organs and tissues.<sup>7</sup>

In 2008: China claimed to have ended the practice of harvesting organs from executed prisoners but this claim is still being challenged.<sup>8</sup>

In 2008: a group of world-renowned medical experts gathered in Istanbul, Turkey, to devise strategies to combat organ trafficking and transplant tourism. The organization understands the desperation felt by many patients in need of a transplant. It proposed a number of principles and proposals to promote both deceased and living donor transplantation around the world in a way that protects both recipients' and donors' health and welfare while putting an end to exploitation. These principles were turned into a

policy document known as The Declaration of Istanbul.<sup>9</sup>

In 2010: the Declaration of Istanbul Custodian Group (DICG) was formed to promote the principles of the Declaration internationally. The Transplantation Society (TTS) and the International Society of Nephrology (ISN) are two major international professional organizations that support the DICG. The Declaration of Istanbul has been endorsed by over 80 international professional societies and governmental agencies.<sup>10</sup>

In 2014: according to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, approximately 0.3% of all reported persons trafficked are trafficked for organ removal, and approximately 50 countries worldwide are involved in some way in organ trafficking. In Europe, the Council of Europe and the European Union, through the European Parliament, are actively developing new strategies to combat and prevent what is now regarded as a global criminal offense.<sup>11</sup>

In 2017: Project ENACT<sup>12</sup> (Enhancing Africa's Response to Transnational Organised Crime) seeks to assist police in Africa to adopt proactive strategies to combat organized crime threats, facilitate information exchange and enhance investigative skills. Project ENACT is funded by the European Union and implemented by INTERPOL and the Institute for Security Studies,

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<sup>7</sup> González, J. C., Garijo, I. C., & Sánchez, A. R. (2020). *Organ Trafficking and Migration: A bibliometric analysis of an untold story*. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 17(9), 3204 <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph17093204>

<sup>8</sup> Organ donation. (n.d.). Google Books. <https://books.google.nl/>

<sup>9</sup> May, A. C. (2008). *The Declaration of Istanbul on Organ Trafficking and Transplant Tourism*. Transplantation, 86(8), 1013–1018. <https://doi.org/10.1097/tp.0b013e318185ffc9>

<sup>10</sup> May, A. C. (2008). *The Declaration of Istanbul on Organ Trafficking and Transplant Tourism*. Transplantation,

86(8), 1013–1018. <https://doi.org/10.1097/tp.0b013e318185ffc9>

<sup>11</sup> González, J. C., Garijo, I. C., & Sánchez, A. R. (2020). *Organ Trafficking and Migration: A bibliometric analysis of an untold story*. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 17(9), 3204 <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph17093204>

<sup>12</sup> Interpol (2015, May 10). *North and West Africa: INTERPOL report highlights human trafficking for organ removal*. <https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2021/North-and-West-Africa-INTERPOL-report-highlights-human-trafficking-for-organ-removal>

in partnership with the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime.

*In 2018:* The United Nations issued the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, emphasizing the importance of: coordination among United

Nations entities in efforts against organ trafficking; full implementation of provisions against organ trafficking; focusing on vulnerable populations and preventing abuses of power; increasing efforts to identify victims; and addressing international supply and demand and raising awareness.

## Current Situation

### Low Supply, High Demand

It has to be mentioned that due to its illegal nature, it is challenging to provide a comprehensive and accurate overview. However, the situation in the Black Market of Human Organ trade became extremely complex over the recent years. The World Health Organization has recently warned that illegal trade of organs on the black market is increasing across the world. It is estimated that approximately 10.000 organs are traded illegally on the black market every year whereas kidneys are the most popular with approximately 75% of the overall trade, whereby people are willing to pay as much as US\$200,000 for an organ on the black market<sup>13</sup>.

In the United States, the waiting time for a kidney transplant can be seven to 10 years and as of October 2021, about 106.800 people were on the waiting list nationwide for organs of all types. In the United Kingdom, the average waiting time for a deceased donor heart transplant is 18-24 months, while in Canada the Institute for Health Information notes that as of December 31, 2021 a total of 4.042 Canadians were on the waiting list to receive a transplant. In 2021, a total of 652 Canadians were removed from the organ *Outcomes of Transplant Tourism Procedures*<sup>16</sup>

Transplant recipients may receive inadequate operative reports, written in an unfamiliar language to their own. Surgical complications, such as postoperative hemorrhage, pulmonary embolism, and wound infection or dehiscence, may arise which may be difficult to manage if

transplant wait list. Of these, 38 percent have died<sup>14</sup>.

### Transplant Tourism<sup>15</sup>

Transplant Tourism refers to individuals traveling overseas to a variety of destinations in order to obtain organs legally or even illegally. Due to the mismatch in supply and demand for organs, transplant tourism has increased over the last several decades and now accounts for 10% of transplants worldwide. Patients from the USA, who pursue transplantation legally or illegally abroad, travel mostly to China, the Philippines, Pakistan, and India. Other popular destinations for transplant tourism are Egypt, Moldova and Colombia. The chosen destinations of those individuals mostly include countries with lax regulations, poor populations, or weak law enforcement. The most popular destinations are China, India, the Philippines and Pakistan. In countries such as the United States, Canada and Australia, it is illegal to buy organs for transplantation, but in a few other nations, authorities tend not to notice it is going on. Iran, as an outlier, allows donors to sell organs to recipients.

premature hospital discharge occurs. Acute organ rejection may be secondary to inadequate immunosuppressant therapy. Invasive fungal infections, HIV, hepatitis B and C are among the many infectious risks which may occur in this

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<sup>13</sup> Medical Devices & Pharma (2020, May 17). *WHO warns illegal organ trade is increasing rapidly*. Healthcare. <https://healthcare-digital.com/medical-devices-and-pharma/who-warns-illegal-organ-trade-increasing-rapidly>

<sup>14</sup> Taylor, R. (2023, August 15). *The Black Market Trade in Human Organs*. The Crime Wire. <https://thecrimewire.com/institutional/The-Black-Market-Trade-in-Human-Organs>

<sup>15</sup> Ambagtsheer, F. (2023, June 27). *Illegal organ trade is more sophisticated than one might think - who's behind*

*it and how it could be controlled*. The Conversation. <https://theconversation.com/illegal-organ-trade-is-more-sophisticated-than-one-might-think-whos-behind-it-and-how-it-could-be-controlled-207446>

<sup>16</sup> Flaherty, G. T. (2021, January 15). *Transplant Tourism and Organ Trafficking: Current Practices, Controversies and Solutions*. International Journal of Travel Medicine and Global Health. [https://www.ijtmgh.com/article\\_132577\\_6f0fdaa85cfc4799ece63a1ff8b68c5b.pdf](https://www.ijtmgh.com/article_132577_6f0fdaa85cfc4799ece63a1ff8b68c5b.pdf)

setting<sup>17</sup>. Additionally it has to be mentioned that transplant tourism is likely to happen on illegal terms due to the lack of sufficient and reliable registry and due to the unregulated environment of it.

### Vulnerable Communities

While organ trafficking exists in all regions of the world, it is of particular concern in North and West Africa where impoverished communities and displaced populations are at greater risk of exploitation. Organized criminal groups profit from the desperation of the unemployed, migrants, asylum seekers and refugees to coerce them into selling an organ. Victims of human trafficking for sexual and labor purposes also find

themselves at additional risk. There are several techniques used for the recruitment and control of the victims such as promises of job opportunities abroad, as well as the use of threats and violence. Those techniques are used for other types of human trafficking as well<sup>18</sup>.

The socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is expected to fuel Trafficking in Human Beings for the purpose of organ removal (THBOR) as it is likely to be easier for brokers to coerce individuals of vulnerable communities to improve their economic conditions. This is exacerbated by the fact that legal organ donations, and therefore transplants, have suffered major decreases since the outbreak of COVID-19<sup>19</sup>.

### *The Trafficking Network*<sup>20</sup>



<sup>17</sup>M. Lexica (n.d.) MegaLexica, [Medical Dictionary - online-medical-dictionary.org](https://www.megalexica.com/medical-dictionary-online-medical-dictionary.org)

<sup>18</sup> Ambagtsheer , F. (2023, June 27). *Illegal organ trade is more sophisticated than one might think - who's behind it and how it could be controlled*. The Conversation. <https://theconversation.com/illegal-organ-trade-is-more-sophisticated-than-one-might-think-whos-behind-it-and-how-it-could-be-controlled-207446>

<sup>19</sup> Ambagtsheer , F. (2023, June 27). *Illegal organ trade is more sophisticated than one might think - who's behind*

*it and how it could be controlled*. The Conversation. <https://theconversation.com/illegal-organ-trade-is-more-sophisticated-than-one-might-think-whos-behind-it-and-how-it-could-be-controlled-207446>

<sup>20</sup> Hughes , N. S. (2014, May 1). *HUMAN TRAFFIC: EXPOSING THE BRUTAL ORGAN TRADE*. New Internationalist. <https://newint.org/features/2014/05/01/organ-trafficking-keynote/>

## Expected Points of Discussion

- Buyers/sellers hard to identify → black market

Identification Difficulties in the Black Market: As the black market is secretive, it is difficult to identify both buyers and sellers. The inability of law enforcement agencies to effectively monitor and control illegal organ trafficking activities is hampered by a lack of transparency and regulation. This not only perpetuates the exploitation of vulnerable people, but also makes it difficult to prosecute those involved in the illegal trade.

- Post-medical care → post-operation period can be dangerous

Post-Medical Care and Risks in the Postoperative Period: For individuals involved in the black market for organs, the postoperative period can be dangerous and fraught with health risks. Organ sellers may suffer severe complications, infections, and long-term health consequences due to a lack of proper medical supervision and follow-up care. The lack of accountability in the black market exacerbates these risks, leaving sellers without needed assistance or recourse.

- Profit motivation: sellers do it voluntarily (due to living conditions)

Profit Motive and Voluntary Participation: Many people may sell their organs because they are desperate due to their living conditions. The profit motive is frequently the result of financial difficulties and limited access to alternative sources of income. Exploiting vulnerable populations in dire economic situations feeds the cycle of poverty and exacerbates the socioeconomic disparities that contribute to the existence of the black market.

- Lack of regulation and oversight: the black market operates underground → challenging for law enforcement agencies

Lack of Regulation and Oversight: The underground operation of the black market presents regulatory authorities with a significant challenge. Because there are no comprehensive legal frameworks or effective oversight mechanisms in place, illegal organ trade thrives across borders. The lack of coordination among international law enforcement agencies makes addressing the transnational nature of the black market and holding those involved accountable for their actions difficult.

- Global phenomena: the black market is often transnational where organs are being shipped from one country to another → who to blame?

Transnationality and Accountability: The global phenomenon of the black market for human organs frequently involves organ transportation from one country to another. This calls into question the accountability of a wide range of stakeholders, including individuals, criminal networks, and even governments. Determining responsibility and implementing effective measures to combat cross-border organ trafficking necessitate international cooperation and a cohesive legal framework that crosses national borders.

- Lack of increased organ donation awareness, lack of legal frameworks that can help mitigate the black market?

Lack of Awareness and Legal Frameworks for Organ Donation: The ongoing shortage of organ donations is exacerbated by a lack of awareness and education about the importance of organ donation. Inadequate legal frameworks exacerbate the difficulties



in regulating organ donation practices. Developing comprehensive legal frameworks that prioritize ethical organ donation and implementing awareness campaigns are critical steps in addressing the root causes of the human organ black market.

➤ The necessity to explore alternatives solutions to increase organ donation

To effectively combat the black market for human organs, alternative solutions that

prioritize ethical organ procurement and transplantation practices must be investigated. Promoting and incentivizing voluntary organ donation, implementing transparent and well-regulated organ allocation systems, and investing in medical research for alternative organ sources are critical steps in reducing black market demand for organs and ensuring ethical practices in the field of organ transplantation.

## Key Stakeholders / Blocs

*During the conference delegates will have to team up with their allies accordingly. But in an attempt to make this easier we want to highlight some information the UN has about organ transport in different countries and group these into blocs.*

### Asia

This bloc will include countries such as China, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Russia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. In 2007, several of these countries were named as some of the biggest organ-exporting countries by the World Health Organisation. However, these countries also have some of the most complex loopholes allowing for illegal and unethical practices. According to UN Human Rights experts there is credible information that detainees from ethnic, linguistic or religious minorities in China may be forcibly subjected to blood tests and organ examinations without their informed consent<sup>21</sup>. In Indonesia organs can be bought via social media. India has a big issue with kidney trafficking as victims are mostly women or in an economically disadvantaged position. In Japan due to cultural reasons and a relative distrust of modern medicine, the rate of organ donation is significantly lower than in Western countries<sup>22</sup>. The Philippines is struggling with a steady decline from 227 organ donors in 2012 to 12 in 2020 due to the decreasing number of

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<sup>21</sup> UNHCHR, (2021, June 14). *China: UN human rights experts alarmed by 'organ harvesting' allegations*. United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2021/06/china-un-human-rights-experts-alarmed-organ-harvesting-allegations>

<sup>22</sup> Paalam (2021, September 28). *How organ donation works*. <https://www.paalam.ph/help-support/how-organ-donations-work>

<sup>23</sup> Mudur, G. (2004, January 21). *Kidney trade arrest exposes loopholes in India's transplant laws*. National Library of Medicine. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1143790/>

willing donors. Lastly, the UN Human Rights mechanism also highlighted concerns about the practice of removing organs from prisoners in these countries<sup>23</sup>.

### Europe and North America

This bloc will be composed of Germany, United Kingdom, Belgium, France, Italy, USA and Canada. All of these countries are strong developed countries with international relevance. In relation to organ transplants they have a very strong stance against illegal organ trade. They believe that the ethical, legal and medical concerns require a set system of procedures and regulations<sup>24</sup>. Their focus is especially on increasing the number of organ donors. European countries and the European Parliament have implemented different measures in the legal framework in order to combat and prevent organ commercialism and trafficking. Measures such as a draft law presented by Germany, that seeks to boost much-needed organ transplants<sup>25</sup>. A "dual opt-out" donation system which would make everyone in Germany automatically a registered organ donor. While the U.S. government sponsored several organ donation and transplantation collaboratives, leading to significant increases in organ donation over several years<sup>26</sup>.

<sup>24</sup>Watson, R. (2003, November 1). *European parliament tries to stamp out trafficking in human organs*. National Library of Medicine. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC261687/>

<sup>25</sup> Welle, D. (2019, January 4). *Germany mulls law to make everyone an organ donor*. Deutsche Welle. <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-presents-law-to-make-everyone-an-organ-donor/a-48146709>

<sup>26</sup> Wynn, J. J. (2011, January 5). *Increasing organ donation and transplantation: The U.S. Experience over the past decade*. National Library of Medicine. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/21208297/>

### Africa<sup>27</sup>

The African bloc will be composed by Nigeria, Libya, Egypt, Sudan and South Africa. Compared to the previous bloc these countries still experience big problems with Sudan's conflict perduring or extremist groups still clashing in Nigeria. As a result, there is a great scarcity of donors, particularly cadaver donors in Africa. For example, only three countries in sub-Saharan Africa; Nigeria, Kenya, and South Africa, have a functioning kidney transplant program with only South Africa performing cadaver transplants. Consequently, the route many individuals take is illegal organ trafficking. This is of particular concern in North and West Africa where impoverished communities and displaced populations are at greater risk of exploitation. Organized crime groups profit from the unemployed, migrants, asylum seekers and refugees to coerce them into selling an organ. The techniques used for the recruitment and control of the victims are for instance promises of job opportunities abroad, as well as the use of threats and violence.

### South America<sup>28</sup>

Some of the countries that will be representing this bloc are Brazil, Colombia and Guatemala. Overall, Latin America is taking increased measures to counter organ trafficking. However, there exists an enormous gap between the waiting list candidates and the donors. On average a kidney would sell for \$10,000 in Peru and around \$6,000 in Brazil, offering the victims a potential profit whereas there is no guarantee the seller will receive the promised amount in full. As long as Latin American countries suffer from high poverty rates and the gap continues to widen between organ donors and waiting list candidates, organ traffickers will look for ways to circumvent the law.

### Iran<sup>29</sup>

Iran is the only country where organ selling is recognized as a legal act. Iran has established a base price for organs at \$4,600, but that is only when the organs are procured legally—which is often not the case, as poor people still go through brokers and are paid an unknown amount.

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<sup>27</sup> Interpol (2015, May 10). *North and West Africa: INTERPOL report highlights human trafficking for organ removal*. <https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2021/North-and-West-Africa-INTERPOL-report-highlights-human-trafficking-for-organ-removal>

<sup>28</sup> Fox, E. (2012, July 19). *Desperation, Lack of Donors Drives Organ Trafficking in Latin America*. InSight Crime.

<https://insightcrime.org/news/analysis/desperation-lack-of-donors-drives-organ-trafficking-in-latin-america/>

<sup>29</sup> Alesi, F. (2015, May 10). *Kidneys for sale: Iran's trade in organs*. The Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/may/10/kidneys-for-sale-organ-donation-iran>

## Points a resolution could address

*Some of the points a well-grounded resolution could address are:*

- What techniques do states use at a national level and how can we incorporate them internationally?
- What methods of controlling and monitoring trafficking of human organs can be used?
- How can we increase the donors of human organs?
- How to help minorities or disadvantaged groups in accessing transplants?
- Which policies are not working and must be revised?
- How can member states collaborate with different bodies to continue implementing the changes?

## Extra reading

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