



KING'S ACADEMY MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2026

THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

PRESIDENT RESEARCH PACKET

PRESIDENT: Hende Nabulsi

**Preventing the Human Trafficking and Exploitation
of Women in Libya**



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President's Letter:

Dear esteemed Delegates of the Commission on the Status of Women,

We are meeting at a critical moment where gender inequality continues to threaten the safety, dignity, and rights of women across the world. From conflict zones to healthcare systems, women are too often the ones who bear the greatest burden of instability and neglect. The Commission on the Status of Women is not just a space for discussion, it is a platform for action. It is where awareness must turn into solutions, and where policy must translate into real protection and progress. Your voices, perspectives, and determination are essential to achieving this mission.

At this conference, we will focus on two urgent and connected issues: Preventing the Human Trafficking and Exploitation of Women in Libya, and Addressing Maternal Mortality in India through healthcare, policy, and social norms. In Libya, ongoing political instability has created an environment where women are increasingly vulnerable to trafficking, exploitation, and abuse, often with little protection or accountability. In India, while progress has been made, maternal mortality remains a serious concern, particularly for women in rural and marginalized communities, highlighting gaps in healthcare access, policy implementation, and societal attitudes toward women's health. Though these challenges occur in different contexts, they both reflect a broader global failure to fully protect and prioritize women's rights and well-being.

My name is Hende Nabulsi, and I am honored to be the President of the Commission on the Status of Women at this year's KAMUN conference. When I first joined MUN, I saw how powerful diplomacy can be in making real change. The ability to negotiate, challenge ideas, and find solutions is what keeps us moving forward. This committee is where your ideas can become actions, and that responsibility is in your hands.

This committee is your chance to share ideas, work together, and find real solutions. Let's use this opportunity to bring peace where there is conflict and create change where it is needed.

I can't wait to see you all soon!

Best Regards,

Hende Nabulsi,

President, Commission on the Status of Women

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Introduction:

Preventing human trafficking and the exploitation of women in Libya is a critical global issue, deeply entwined with the nation's turbulent socio-political history. Following the 2011 overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi, Libya descended into prolonged instability, allowing criminal networks and armed groups to thrive. This chaos has significantly heightened the vulnerabilities of women and girls, who are frequently trafficked for sexual exploitation, forced labor, and other forms of abuse. Trafficked women often endure horrifying conditions: many are held in makeshift detention centers where they face physical and sexual violence, sold into forced marriages, or coerced into prostitution rings. Others are forced to work in domestic servitude or exploited on farms and construction sites under inhumane conditions. These crimes are perpetrated both within Libya and across its borders, as women are transported through clandestine routes to Europe, where they are further exploited by transnational criminal networks.

Smugglers and traffickers capitalize on Libya's lawlessness and strategic location along major migration routes to deceive or coerce women into their networks. Refugees, migrants, and internally displaced persons (IDPs), particularly those from sub-Saharan Africa, are especially at risk. Many are lured with promises of a better life or safe passage to Europe but instead find themselves trapped in cycles of abuse. Some women take immense personal risks to avoid capture, such as concealing their identities, avoiding well-known trafficking hotspots, or traveling in male-dominated groups for protection. However, these measures are often insufficient in a country where governance is weak and law enforcement is either complicit in or incapable of combating these crimes.

Addressing human trafficking in Libya is not only a humanitarian imperative but also a matter of regional stability and international security. The migration routes through Libya toward Europe have turned this crisis into a geopolitical challenge. Effective prevention requires a concerted international effort, strengthened governance, enhanced law enforcement, and comprehensive victim support. Appendix A provides a detailed overview of Libya's critical ranking in global trafficking indices, illustrating the scale of the problem. At the same time, Appendix B offers insights into the plight of internally displaced persons, who are especially vulnerable to trafficking in the current volatile environment.

KING'S ACADEMY MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2026**Definition of Key Terms:**

Militias: These are armed groups formed along tribal, regional, or ideological lines that emerged post-Gaddafi to fill the security void. They control territories, engage in criminal activities including human trafficking, and often operate outside state authority. Militias have significant influence over local populations, impacting governance, security, and the rule of law in Libya. Their activities range from providing security to engaging in illicit trades and exploiting instability for financial gain and political power.

Human Trafficking: The illegal act of recruiting, transporting, harboring, or receiving individuals through force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of exploitation. This is a major issue in Libya, exacerbated by the country's instability and weak governance.

Exploitation: It refers to the unfair or unethical use of someone or something for personal gain or advantage. It often involves taking advantage of vulnerabilities, such as economic need, lack of power, or social position, to extract benefits without equitable compensation or consent. Exploitation can occur in various contexts, including labor practices, relationships, and natural resource extraction.

Transnational Criminal Networks: Organized groups operating across Libya and international borders, profiting from human trafficking. They exploit Libya's instability and strategic location to traffic people to Europe and beyond.

UN Security Council Resolution 2240: A resolution that allows member states to act against trafficking and migrant smuggling by seizing vessels suspected of such activities. This measure aims to protect vulnerable women and children from trafficking.

Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP Report): A report by the US Department of State that assesses global efforts to combat human trafficking, evaluating how well countries are addressing issues affecting women and girls.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): People forced to flee their homes but remain within Libya's borders. IDPs are particularly vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation due to their precarious living conditions and lack of protection.

Migration Routes: Pathways used by migrants traveling through Libya toward Europe. These routes are hotspots for trafficking, where smugglers and criminal networks exploit vulnerable individuals.

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Major Parties Involved:

Muammar Gaddafi: The former leader of Libya, Gaddafi's regime ruled for over four decades until his overthrow in 2011 during the Arab Spring uprisings. His regime's collapse left a power vacuum, contributing to the country's current instability and creating conditions conducive to human trafficking and exploitation. Gaddafi's era was marked by authoritarianism, widespread corruption, and complex tribal dynamics, which continue to influence Libya's socio-political landscape post-revolution.

Libyan Militias: Armed groups formed along tribal, ethnic, or ideological lines, emerging in the power vacuum after Gaddafi's fall. These militias control various territories and exploit Libya's instability for financial gain, including means such as human trafficking. Their motives are driven by revenue generation, and their biases often reflect tribal or regional affiliations, influencing their targets and methods. Their activities perpetuate insecurity and instability, exacerbating the trafficking crisis. One prominent example is the **Zintan Brigade**, a powerful militia group that gained control over key territories in western Libya after the fall of Muammar Gaddafi.

Transnational Criminal Networks: Organized crime syndicates that operate across borders, often exploiting Libya's lawlessness. These networks are major players in the trafficking landscape, smuggling and exploiting women for forced labor and sexual exploitation. Their operations are profit-driven, expanding their activities to maximize financial gains while evading law enforcement. Their involvement contributes to a broader international criminal ecosystem, complicating efforts to combat trafficking.

Libyan Government and Authorities: Official entities and law enforcement agencies within Libya, including the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Justice. These authorities are tasked with combating trafficking and maintaining national stability. However, their effectiveness could be improved by political instability, corruption, inefficiency, and capacity gaps. Despite their objectives to uphold human rights and restore law and order, these challenges hinder their ability to effectively address trafficking.

The Libyan Women's Forum (LWF): This group works to enhance women's political participation and raise awareness about gender-based violence, including trafficking. They provide legal support and resources for women facing exploitation and abuse.

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The Libyan Women's Rights Organization (LWRO): Focuses on combating domestic violence, sexual exploitation, and trafficking. The LWRO advocates for legislative changes to protect women's rights and provide better support to victims of gender-based violence.

Tadamun Foundation: Tadamun addresses legal reforms and offers direct support to victims of human trafficking and domestic violence, helping women reintegrate into society and gain access to justice.

Libyan National Army (LNA): Led by General Khalifa Haftar, the LNA is a significant military force in Libya. While primarily focused on territorial control and military conflict, the LNA's influence over various regions affects local security conditions. This, in turn, impacts the safety of women and their vulnerability to trafficking and exploitation.

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Timeline:

Early 20th Century:

Italian Colonial Rule (1911–1943): Italy's colonization of Libya was marked by widespread exploitation, including forced labor and trafficking of women. These practices set a precedent for future patterns of exploitation in Libya.

1969:

Gaddafi's Coup: Muammar Gaddafi seizes power in a military coup, establishing the Libyan Arab Republic. Initially, Gaddafi's regime is marked by social and economic reforms aimed at modernizing Libya, but these reforms come with severe restrictions on political freedoms and human rights. Despite efforts to improve some aspects of Libyan society, women's rights remain restricted, and the regime faces accusations of various human rights abuses.

1970s–1980s:

Repression and Human Rights Abuses: During Gaddafi's rule, there are reports of severe repression and human rights abuses. Although Gaddafi promotes himself as a champion of anti-imperialism and pan-Arabism, his regime is characterized by political oppression, including the suppression of women's rights and severe restrictions on civil liberties. The lack of legal protections for women and the general climate of fear contribute to an environment where human trafficking and exploitation can flourish.

1990s:

Increased Trafficking Activities: The 1990s see a rise in human trafficking within Libya, driven by economic instability and declining governance. Women and girls become increasingly vulnerable to trafficking for sexual exploitation and forced labor. The regime's focus on maintaining control rather than addressing social issues allows trafficking networks to grow.

2000s:

Libya as a Trafficking Hub: Libya emerges as a significant hub for human trafficking, with women being trafficked for sexual exploitation and forced labor. The Gaddafi regime's failure to effectively address these issues is attributed to a combination of political repression, corruption, and a lack of institutional capacity to combat trafficking.

2011:

Fall of Gaddafi Regime: The uprising against Gaddafi, backed by NATO, leads to the fall of his regime. The power vacuum and ensuing civil war create a lawless environment where human trafficking networks thrive. The chaos post-Gaddafi exacerbates the exploitation of women, making it more difficult to combat

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trafficking.

2017:

CNN Report on Slave Auctions: CNN's investigation reveals the existence of slave auctions in Libya, highlighting the dire conditions faced by trafficked women. This report brings global attention to the trafficking crisis in Libya and increases international pressure on both Libyan authorities and the international community to address these abuses.

2018:

UN Sanctions: In response to the human trafficking crisis, the United Nations imposes sanctions on individuals and entities involved in trafficking. The goal is to dismantle trafficking networks and hold perpetrators accountable, though the effectiveness of these measures is limited by ongoing instability and conflict.

2020:

International Support: International organizations and agencies continue their efforts to support Libya in combating human trafficking. This includes funding, capacity building, and legal reforms aimed at improving victim protection and law enforcement, despite the persistent challenges of political fragmentation and insecurity.

2021:

Formation of Interim Government: The establishment of an interim government through the UN-backed Libyan Political Dialogue Forum offers a new chance to address human trafficking. However, political divisions and ongoing instability continue to impede effective anti-trafficking measures and the enforcement of human rights protections.

Present: Human trafficking and the exploitation of women in Libya remain critical issues, with women being trafficked for forced labor, sexual exploitation, and prostitution amid the country's ongoing instability. The lack of a unified government and the power of militias have left victims vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, while international organizations continue to document these abuses despite limited access and political obstacles.

Implications:

So far, the global response to the human trafficking and exploitation of women in Libya has been inadequate, with limited international intervention and insufficient measures to combat this crisis. This lack of action to prevent the human trafficking and exploitation of women in Libya has severe consequences, not only for the victims but also for the broader socio-economic stability of the region. The economic implications are profound, as trafficking disrupts local economies and perpetuates cycles of poverty, ultimately affecting regional and global economic stability. Socially, the trauma inflicted on survivors of trafficking leads to long-term psychological harm, undermining social cohesion and perpetuating gender-based violence and inequality. Technologically, traffickers are leveraging advanced methods to evade law enforcement, exacerbating the challenge of dismantling trafficking networks. This underscores the need for enhanced international cooperation and investment in technology to effectively address the issue. The short-term implications include immediate human suffering and community destabilization, while the long-term consequences involve sustained socio-economic underdevelopment and the perpetuation of systemic gender inequality. Addressing this issue is not only a moral imperative but also essential for global stability and progress. If we fail to act, we allow these injustices to continue, regressing to a darker past rather than moving towards a just and equitable future.

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Proposed Solutions:

Recognizing the significant role of armed militias and transnational criminal networks in perpetuating human trafficking in Libya, exacerbating the humanitarian crisis,

Noting with concern the findings of the Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP Report) that highlight Libya as a source, transit, and destination country for trafficking, with women and girls being particularly vulnerable,

1. **Calls for** the development of victim support programs that provide comprehensive care for trafficking survivors;
 - a. *Advises* that these programs include medical, psychological, and legal services tailored to the needs of women and girls
 - i. *Recommends* partnerships with international health organizations to deliver specialized care to survivors,
 - ii. *Suggests* the provision of legal aid services to assist survivors in seeking justice and compensation,
 - b. *Suggests* the creation of safe shelters and reintegration services to help survivors rebuild their lives,
 - i. *Supports* the establishment of community-based reintegration programs that involve local NGOs,
 - ii. *Encourages* the development of vocational training programs to empower survivors economically,

KING'S ACADEMY MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2026**"Food for Thought":**

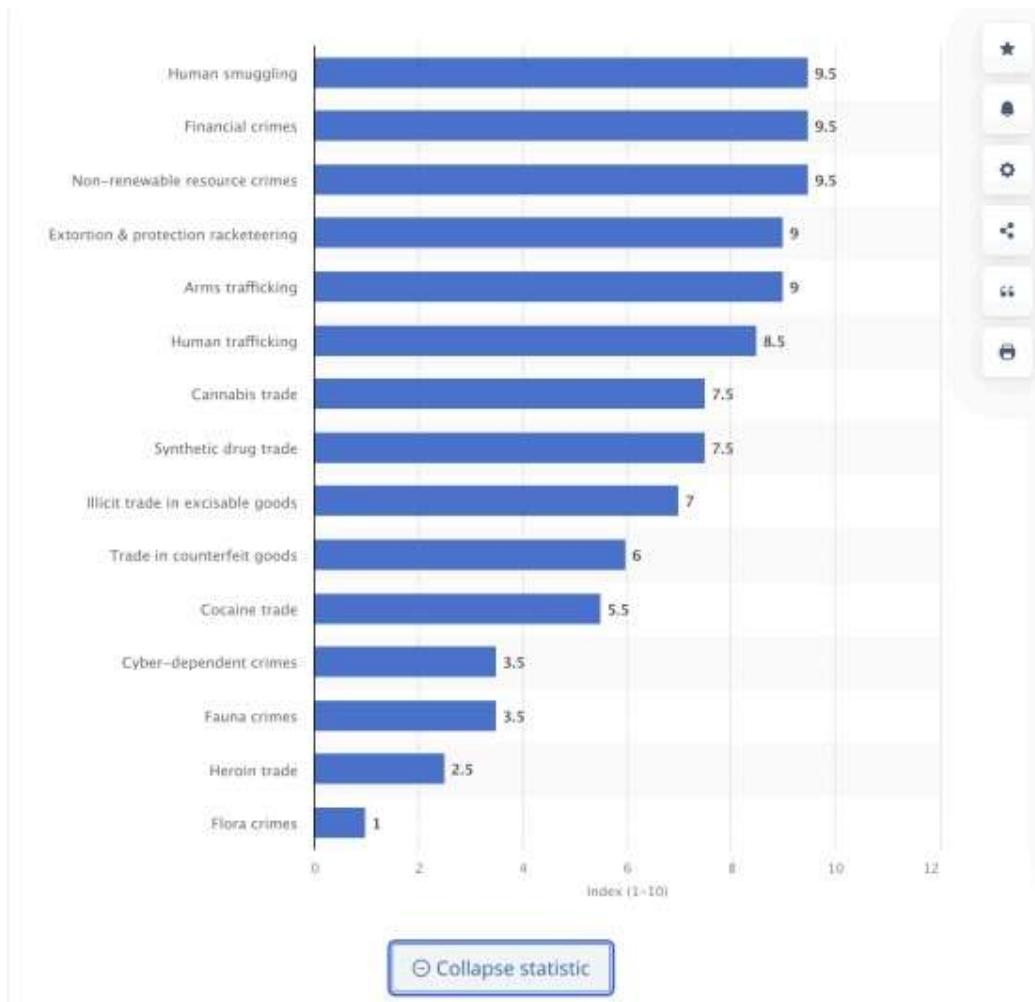
- How can NGOs and local organizations be more involved in protecting women from trafficking in Libya?
- What cultural or societal factors in Libya contribute to the exploitation of women?
- What are the key obstacles to providing support and rehabilitation for trafficking survivors in Libya?
- How has the political instability in Libya since 2011 contributed to the rise of human trafficking, and what specific conditions have made women particularly vulnerable?
- What role do international criminal networks play in trafficking within Libya, and how do their operations intersect with those of local militias?
- In what ways has the international community, including the United Nations, succeeded or failed in addressing human trafficking in Libya? What are the obstacles to implementing effective anti-trafficking measures?
- How can the Libyan government be strengthened or reformed to more effectively combat human trafficking, considering the current state of governance and law enforcement?
- What specific actions have Libyan authorities taken to address human trafficking, and how effective have these measures been?
- What role do cultural attitudes towards women in Libya play in perpetuating trafficking and exploitation?
- How can educational and economic opportunities for women in Libya help reduce their vulnerability to trafficking?

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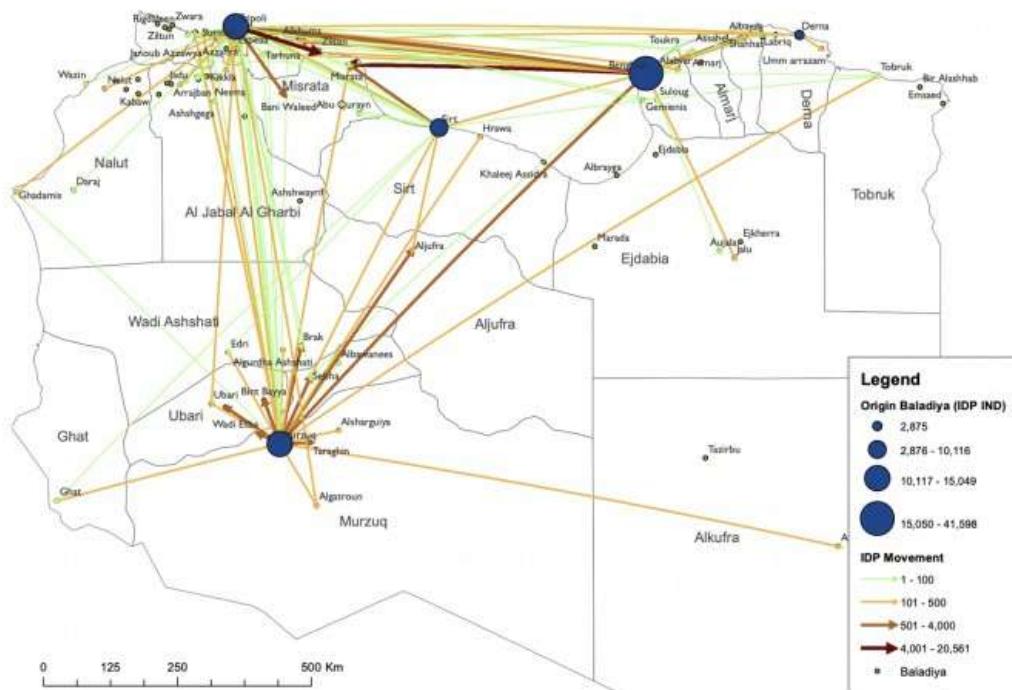
Appendix A: Global Organized Crime Index - Human Trafficking in Libya - 2023



This graph will provide a visual representation of Libya's ranking in human trafficking globally, showing its score of 8.5 out of 10. It also highlights the country's rank in resilience (1.54 out of 10), depicting its limited capacity to combat human trafficking

Appendix B: United Nations Report - Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Libya - August 2022

Fig 12 Movement of individuals displaced in Libya from locations of origins to locations of displacement



A map showing the distribution and estimated number of IDPs in Libya, particularly those who are vulnerable to human trafficking due to the ongoing security situation.