

Clinton MUNC II 2025



Committee: World Health Organization

Topic: Illegal Organ Trafficking

Chairs: Erica Roxas and Samantha Jeffery

Committee Type: GA

Date: April 26th, 2025

Director: Roxy Hay

Table of Contents

Conference Policies.....	3
Meet Your Chairs + Director	5
About WHO.....	8
Overview of Topic.....	9
Transplant Tourism and Trafficking	10
Past Actions.....	11
Regional Positions.....	12
Questions to Consider.....	14
References.....	15

Conference Policies:

The Clinton School Model United Nations Conference (ClintonMUN) is dedicated to fostering meaningful debate and providing students with the chance to explore a wide range of global topics while promoting collaboration and teamwork among delegates! While we encourage passionate discussion, we emphasize the importance of maintaining respectful and considerate language, especially during debates. We trust that all participants will contribute to a positive and inclusive environment. The following policies and expectations are in place to ensure every delegate has an enriching experience at ClintonMUN.

Attire: Delegates are required to adhere to formal Western business attire for the duration of ClintonMUN. Exceptions may be made in crisis committees for character-specific costumes, but prior approval from the committee chair is necessary.

Expectations in Committee: Delegates are expected to uphold decorum, respect, and professionalism during all committee sessions. While representing your assigned country's stance, please communicate your points respectfully. Please follow the expectation below in order to help us create an inclusive and engaging environment for all delegates:

- Only one delegate may speak at a time during moderated caucuses. To speak, raise your placard and wait for recognition by the chair.
- Outside of Model UN Personal attacks will not be tolerated. In cases where such behavior occurs you may be asked to leave the committee/conference.
- Please Maintain focus and respect when others are speaking
- Do not speak without proper recognition and limit talking over others
- Please limit any and all unauthorized use of cell phones
- Do not use technology or any forms of AI when not permitted
- there is no toleration of any form of harassment, whether verbal, physical and will result in removal from the committee/conference.

Technology: Crisis committees operate under a strict no-technology policy—laptops and cell phones are not permitted during sessions. General Assembly (GA) committees allow limited use of technology strictly for resolution drafting during unmoderated caucuses and approved breaks. Laptops must remain closed during moderated caucuses and while fellow delegates are delivering speeches.

Awards: Delegates will be evaluated by committee chairs and directors and will consider:

- Quality and clarity of speeches
- Collaboration and leadership
- Contributions to drafting and presenting resolutions or directives
- Creativity!

Meet Your Chairs + Director

Esteemed Delegates,

My name is Erica and I will be your chair for this general assembly. I have been a part of MUN since I transferred to Clinton in tenth grade and I enjoy participating in both GA and crisis committees! Outside of school I love to read (I am currently reading *Beware of Pity*) and I like to make matcha!

This will be my second time chairing a MUN committee and I am so excited to meet and work with all of you! As an aspiring doctor, I am thrilled to see how medicine is treated on an international level. I am eager to see the way you all make your way through working with one another to come to a common understanding of this topic. I encourage you all to thoroughly read the background guide and utilize the additional sources and questions for further research on the issue. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Looking forward to working with you all,

Erica Roxas

ericaproxas@gmail.com

Esteemed Delegates,

I'm so excited to be a part of ClintonMUNC's WHO committee for the second year in a row. I'm a Junior and have been a part of Model UN for almost three years and have started to co-lead this year. Aside from preparing for this and other conferences, I'm always listening to music or reading.

This topic is so fascinating to my co-chairs and me, and was really interesting to research for the background guide. I'm curious to see where the debate leads and hope that this committee is a great experience for everyone, whether this is your first conference or you're an experienced delegate.

If you have any questions/ comments/ concerns about the conference, please don't hesitate to contact me or my fellow co-chairs.

See you soon,

Samantha Jeffery

samantha.jeffery17@gmail.com

Esteemed Delegates,

My name is Roxy Hay, and I am thrilled to serve as the director for this board. I am a senior at Clinton School and have been actively involved in Model UN for the past four years. Having attended Clinton since middle school, I've been a part of many clubs, including Model UN, DECA, Green Team, JSU, and the Cross Country Club, among others.

I am incredibly excited to see the solutions you all come up with for this crisis and encourage everyone to make full use of this background guide as part of your preparation for the conference. I look forward to the amazing discussions and debates we will have at Clinton MUNC. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns. I look forward to meeting all of you!

Best regards,

Roxy Hay

Roxanahay@gmail.com

About the World Health Organization (WHO)



The World Health Organization (WHO) was established in 1948 by the United Nations with the intention of aiding international healthcare access, and promoting safe and healthy living standards. This specialized committee has been monitoring and working to help populations in need to overcome disease and lack of access to medicine such as vaccinations and first aid.

WHO's goals have shifted from combatting the pressing outbreaks of the mid 20th century to modern epidemics, including addressing illegal organ harvesting via human trafficking. As trafficking is a global issue, initiatives around the world vary depending on their medical resources, rate of trafficking, and other unique circumstances.

Overview of the Topic

Human trafficking, specifically for the sake of organ exploitation is referred to as organ trafficking and is a 1.7 billion dollar industry. Trafficking for organ removal victimizes most commonly migrants and refugees who are in vulnerable financial situations, though they aren't always compensated. The shortage of human organs for transplantation prevails worldwide. The organ trafficking market is on the rise, fuelled by growing demands as well as financial benefits for traffickers.

In other words, the victims may have consented to the removal of an organ, but were likely deceived because of their vulnerability, hence victims of trafficking. Globally, there is an estimated up to ten percent of all organ transplants are via the black market, however the World Health Organization suggests this number could be higher due to the rising demand for ethical organ transplants and covertness of the illegal ones.

The Palermo Convention (United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime or UNTOC) was adopted by resolution of the UN General Assembly on 15 November 2000 with the goal of preventing, suppressing, and punishing trafficking in persons. The Palermo Protocol has defined exploitation to include at a minimum "the removal of organs", alongside forced labor, and slavery or slavery-like practices. The protocol was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2000 and as of 2024, it has 192 parties.

Transplant Tourism and Trafficking

“Transplant travel” refers to patients in need of an organ transplant that tend to receive this care in another country. If a country doesn’t have the resources for a transplant, or organ trafficking is involved between two countries, this is transplant tourism. Victims can be foreign to a country and be targets, so that they are drugged and undergo a removal procedure without consent or knowledge of it occurring.

Transplant tourism isn’t an issue occurring in one country, or one region of the world, but is relevant everywhere, and as part of the trafficking industry, is difficult to regulate. Since transplant tourism often involves illegal organ trading, the victims tend to be those who are uneducated, poor, and tend to be from marginalized communities.

As a \$1.7 USD billion industry, vulnerable populations are constantly at risk. There are easily more patients in need of an organ transplant, than organs available, which is where unethical procedures arise.

Trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal (TIP for OR) is a form of human trafficking in which individuals are exploited for organs. Although victims often appear to have consented for the removal of their organs, their consent is invalid when deception, fraud, or abuse of a position of vulnerability is involved. In such cases, they are considered victims of human trafficking.

Past Actions

Since 2000, the United Nations and other relevant bodies have been trying to take action against organ trafficking. The Palermo Protocol in late 2000 first introduced organ trafficking as a criminal activity, followed by years to come of further agreements.

The World Health Organization in 2008 provided guidelines surrounding ethics of organ transplantation, highlighting voluntary organ donation against transplant tourism. Also in 2008 was the Declaration of Istanbul, backed by the World Health Organization that promoted stronger regulations and awareness about organ trafficking.

The World Health Organization and United Nations Office on Drug and Crime have been two of the most prominent bodies when it comes to calling out the need for action to be taken on organ trafficking. They encourage nations to take transplant regulations seriously, as well as protect vulnerable populations from becoming victims.

Regional Positions

North America

North American countries have some of the stricter laws surrounding transplantation, and foster less trafficking, though that doesn't stop citizens from travelling to receive transplants abroad. While less common, organ trafficking rings can run between countries, which North American countries aren't exempt from, including the case of Levy Izhak Rosenbaum.

South America

In South American countries, especially the developing nations, organ trafficking is extremely relevant. Some global trafficking hotspots take place in Brazil, Colombia, and Peru, due to lack of enforcement and resources to protect vulnerable populations. That being said, many South American countries have explicit laws against organ trafficking.

Europe

Across Europe, Eastern European countries such as Kosovo are organ trafficking hotspots, though transplant travel is popular across the continent, with Western European countries being some of the most popular destinations in the world. In 2015, the Council of Europe Convention Against Trafficking in Human Organs officially criminalized organ trafficking, though European countries have different levels of enforcement against it.

Middle East

The Middle East is home to some of the highest global rates of organ trafficking, where victims are often coerced into donating, or selling in order to overcome economic disparities. The World Health Organization has put an emphasis on helping victims in the Middle East, as well as in close partnership with the UNODC. In 2016, a major trafficking ring was exposed in Egypt, highlighting the extent of the issue.

Africa

Developing nations in Africa are some of the most prevalent hotspots for organ trafficking, such as in South Africa and Nigeria. Many African countries have some degree of regulation against trafficking, though enforcement is limited.

Asia

Asian countries such as China, India, and Pakistan are global hotspots for trafficking, known for finding ways around their country's laws against organ trafficking. Ethical debates around China's sourcing of organs has also been of debate, while WHO, UNODC, and other UN bodies have been working to provide stricter regulations across Asia.

Oceania

Transplant travel is much more common in Oceanic countries such as Australia and New Zealand as opposed to organ trafficking. Vulnerable populations are still at risk especially in smaller island nations, though there is a lack of evidence for larger rings taking place.

Questions to Consider:

- 1) Are there any ethical ways to source/harvest organs? How should this be regulated for foreign patients?
- 2) Should reparations to organ trafficking victims be made? In what form?
- 3) How can populations most vulnerable to organ trafficking be identified and protected?

References

American Society of Transplantation. "Organ Trafficking and Transplant Tourism."

American Society of Transplantation, 2023,

<https://www.myast.org/organ-trafficking-and-transplant-tourism>.

Library of Parliament. "Trafficking in Human Organs: An Overview." *Library of*

Parliament, 2020,

https://lop.parl.ca/sites/PublicWebsite/default/en_CA/ResearchPublications/202083E. Accessed 8 March 2025.

Maginn, Susan. "Organ Trafficking Facts." *The Exodus Road*, 16 January 2023,

<https://theexodusroad.com/organ-trafficking-facts/>. Accessed 8 March 2025.

United Nations Office on Drug and Crime. "Explainer: Understanding Human

Trafficking for Organ Removal." *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*,

https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2024/June/explainer_-understanding-human-trafficking-for-organ-removal.html. Accessed 8 March 2025.

World Health Organization. "Transplantation." *World Health Organization (WHO)*,

https://www.who.int/health-topics/transplantation#tab=tab_1. Accessed 8 March 2025.