GICJ REPORT

August 2020

A BRUTAL UNION:

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TRAFFICKING-IN-PERSONS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Geneva International Centre for Justice GICJ

Postal address: P.O. Box: GICJ 598 CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva – Switzerland

Email: info@gicj.org Tel: +41 22 788 19 71

Office: 150 Route de Ferney, CH 1211 Geneva 2 – Switzerland

www.gicj.org

A Brutal Union:

The Relationship Between Trafficking-in-Persons and Climate Change

Written by Rachel Kyes

Geneva International Centre for Justice
August 2020

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS	1
INTRODUCTION	2
OVERVIEW OF TRAFFICKING-IN-PERSONS	2
VULNERABILITIES TO TRAFFICKING	4
CLIMATE CHANGE AND TRAFFICKING-IN-PERSONS	5
THE SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN CONTEXT: A CASE STUDY	7
WHAT HAS BEEN DONE?	12
WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?	13
CLIMATE REFUGEES: THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE AND THE R	EPUBLIC OF
KIRIBATI	15
CONCLUSION	17
REFERENCES	19

Introduction

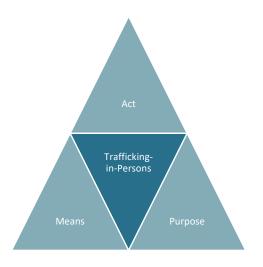
Trafficking-in-persons is a global scourge that affects the lives of millions of people around the world. Estimates of the number of trafficked individuals are crude and often misrepresent the complexities within trafficking, but the magnitude of the problem is greater than anyone would like to acknowledge. While vulnerabilities to trafficking are extensive on their own, the impact of climate change compounds these susceptibilities, making the challenge of fighting trafficking-in-persons even greater. Ignoring the ways in which climate change and trafficking intersect is a death knell for all movements to end this form of exploitation.

Overview of Trafficking-In-Persons

Attention paid to the global issue of trafficking-in-persons has increased greatly over the past thirty years. In 2000, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, commonly known as the Trafficking Protocol. In this Protocol, 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 means 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."

-

¹ UN General Assembly, *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*, 15 November 2000.



There are three elements that this definition are commonly broken down into: the act, the means, and the purpose. The act is what has been done, meaning the "recruitment, transportation, harbouring, or receipt of persons." The individual, group, or organization who has carried out the act is

considered a trafficker, regardless of their membership in organized crime or large-scale trafficking rings. It is also important to note that this definition does not require movement; an individual can be trafficked without ever leaving their home or local community. Recognizing these key factors can reduce the prevalence of common misperceptions that trafficking constitutes the movement across borders of an individual exploited by a criminal syndicate; an individual can be trafficked by a family member within their own community, requiring no movement.

The means is the 'how' of trafficking-in-persons. In the Protocol, this constitutes "the threat or use of force or other means 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." There is no requirement for multiple or all of the various means to be used in order for a situation to constitute trafficking-in-persons. Additionally, as the definition notes, abuse of a position of vulnerability is a means of trafficking. This, as will be discussed later, is particularly relevant in the context of vulnerabilities due to and driven by climate change.

Finally, the purpose of trafficking-in-persons is the 'why,' broadly defined as exploitation.

The Protocol gives examples of what forms exploitation may take, including sexual exploitation, forced labor, slavery, and the removal of organs, but notes that these forms of exploitation are the

minimum standards for what may be considered trafficking-in-persons.² While the majority of public awareness on trafficking is focused on forms of sexual exploitation, the International Labor Organization estimates that the number of individuals trafficked for the purpose of forced labor is actually much greater than that for the purpose of sexual exploitation.³

Article 3(b) of the Protocol is also worthy of note. This subparagraph notes that an individual's consent is irrelevant if any of the means described in the definition above have been used. Individuals who are facing extreme poverty or threats to security may consent to situations they may know are exploitative in order to provide for themselves or their family members, as may be the case in situations where an individual has lost their livelihood due to climate change. This is still considered a situation where trafficking is occurring, even if the individual consented, because the onus is on the trafficker.

Vulnerabilities to Trafficking

In a trafficking context, the term vulnerability must be considered through a broad, intersectional lens. To assume that vulnerability equates solely with poverty is a misrepresentation and minimization of the factors that contribute to trafficking. Vulnerability is a condition that is the result of inequalities within a society, including inequality in access to government protection and services.⁴ Poverty, migrant status, insecurity, gender inequality, and forms of discrimination based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, etc. are all vulnerabilities to trafficking.⁵ These manifest in different ways for different individuals, but the underlying basis is the same: someone

² Ibid.

³ Global estimates of modern slavery: Forced labour and forced marriage, International Labour Office (ILO), Geneva, 2017.

⁴ An Introduction to Human Trafficking: Vulnerability, Impact and Action, Background Paper, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Vienna, 2008.

⁵ Nicole Molinari, "Intensifying Insecurities: The Impact of Climate Change on Vulnerability to Human Trafficking in the Indian Sundarbans," *Anti-trafficking Review*, no. 8 (2017): 50-69.

who is experiencing one or more of these vulnerabilities is more likely to become a victim of trafficking-in-persons. Traffickers may target people exhibiting these vulnerabilities or may exploit labor in situations where they learn an employee has a specific vulnerability that decreases their likelihood of leaving or seeking law enforcement assistance, like undocumented immigrant status.

Climate Change and Trafficking-In-Persons

Climate change exacerbates these vulnerabilities. As the earth warms and the natural environment begins to respond with shrinking deserts and rising oceans, human life is threatened. Sudden-onset disasters like extreme flooding or prolonged, more frequent wildfires cause large-scale displacement within a particular region or community. The United Nations Environment Programme has found that, during environmental disaster situations, cases of trafficking may increase by 20-30 percent.⁶ This is in part due to the exaggeration of vulnerabilities like poverty or homelessness due to displacement or loss of home and livelihood, which can lead individuals to seek or accept jobs they traditionally would not take due to the need to survive.⁷

However, these sorts of disasters also have an impact on the demand for trafficked persons, particularly in the form of an increased demand for labor. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, which hit parts of the southern United States in 2004 and caused devastating damage, individuals were trafficked into New Orleans and the greater area along the Gulf of Mexico for the exploitation of their labor in the reconstruction process.⁸ In this case, recruitment companies and businesses

⁶ Michael B. Gerrard, "Climate Change and Human Trafficking after the Paris Agreement," *University of Miami Law Review* 72, no. 2 (Winter 2018): 345-368.

⁷ "Human Trafficking and Disasters," Greater New Orleans Human Trafficking Task Force. Accessed July 27, 2020. http://www.nolatrafficking.org/natural-disasters.

⁸ "Federal Jury in SPLC Case Awards \$14 Million to Indian Guest Workers Victimized in Labor Trafficking Scheme by Signal International and Its Agents," Southern Poverty Law Center, February 18, 2015,

exploited the immigration status of workers by confiscating visas and official documents, leaving them vulnerable to arrest and deportation. Federal, state, and local authorities failed to address these situations while they were occurring due to the crisis, and passively facilitated trafficking by suspending labor laws during the emergency.

Long-term disruptions, like recurring droughts, also change patterns of movement. Sources of income are lost as farms—including subsistence farms—are unable to grow crops due to changing environmental conditions, and people are forced to leave their homes to find work, food, or water. This displacement due to immediate need is one of the most drastic effects of climate change, though little attention is given to 'climate refugees' or others who migrate. Migrants are particularly vulnerable to trafficking because they often have lost connections to support structures, and may lack means to acquire legal status, access social services, and obtain legitimate employment.¹¹

Climate change is also a destabilizing force that exaggerates human security threats, leading to displacement. Climate change worsens tensions within societies that fall on economic, political, religious, or ethnic lines, especially among already vulnerable populations. This occurs because competition for limited resources like land and water increases, furthering rifts between social groups that can then lead to instability or outright conflict. Insecurity is a driving factor of migration, and individuals fleeing violence may be more at risk of exploitation because they have

https://www.splcenter.org/news/2015/02/18/federal-jury-splc-case-awards-14-million-indian-guest-workers-victimized-labor-trafficking.

⁹ Stephanie Hepburn, "Dispatches: Labor Conditions in New Orleans," Americas Quarterly, July 22, 2010. https://www.americasquarterly.org/fulltextarticle/dispatches-labor-conditions-in-new-orleans/.

¹⁰ Stephanie Hepburn, "Harvey, Irma, and Maria: Natural Disasters and Human Trafficking," HuffPost, October 5, 2017. https://www.huffpost.com/entry/harvey-irma-and-maria-natural-disasters-and-human b 59d55cdbe4b085c51090ad63?guccounter=1.

¹¹ Migrants and their Vulnerability to Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery, and Forced Labour, International Organization for Migration, 2019.

¹² Michael B. Gerrard, "Climate Change and Human Trafficking after the Paris Agreement," *University of Miami Law Review* 72, no. 2 (Winter 2018): 345-368.

a stronger need to leave their current situation. In the words of UN Secretary-General Antonino Guterres, climate change increases the "desperation that enables human trafficking to flourish."¹³

There is also a nexus between those who are most vulnerable to climate change and those who have a heightened risk to become a victim of trafficking-in-persons. Women, especially women of color and indigenous women, are the most affected by climate change because of discrimination across societies at the intersection of gender and race/ethnicity. Others, like members of the LGBT population and others who live outside of heteronormative and cis-gendered frameworks, are also increasingly vulnerable to the effects of climate change because of their differential access to resources, opportunities, decision-making power, etc. due to discrimination. The reduction of already limited opportunities and increased security threats placed on these populations due to environmental degradation further intensifies vulnerabilities to trafficking-in-persons.

The Sub-Saharan African Context: A Case Study

Sub-Saharan Africa is being greatly affected by climate change. The continent, which produces only a fraction of global greenhouse gas emissions, is highly reliant on climate-dependent sectors like agriculture for economic development, which accounts for between 30 and 40 percent of GDP. The United Nations Environment Programme estimates that over 70 percent of those living in sub-Saharan Africa depend on natural resources—especially woodlands and forests—for their livelihoods. Other estimates put the number of Africans dependent on rain-fed agriculture

¹³ "United Nations: Conflict, climate change among factors that increase 'desperation that enables human trafficking to flourish,' says UN chief," Asia News Monitor, Bangkok, 2019.

¹⁴ Nicole Molinari, "Intensifying Insecurities: The Impact of Climate Change on Vulnerability to Human Trafficking in the Indian Sundarbans," *Anti-trafficking Review*, no. 8 (2017): 50-69.

¹⁵ Amadou Sy, "Africa: Financing Adaptation and Mitigation in the World's Most Vulnerable Region," Brookings Institution, 2016, https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/global_20160818_cop21_africa.pdf.

¹⁶ "Our Work in Africa." UNEP - UN Environment Programme. Accessed July 27, 2020. https://www.unenvironment.org/regions/africa/our-work-africa.

at 80 percent.¹⁷ The effects of climate change, including drought, flooding, deforestation, and desertification will have a massive impact on the lives of the vast majority of those living in sub-Saharan Africa. Figure one shows a graph of the total number of IDPs displaced by natural disasters in sub-Saharan Africa between 2008 and 2019, the last year of available data. Since 2014, the plot of the number of internally displaced persons due to natural disaster shows an upward trend, suggesting that the impact of natural disasters, intimately tied to climate change, will only continue to increase. On a continent with a rapidly growing population (figure two), the devastating impact of climate change will be even more pronounced.

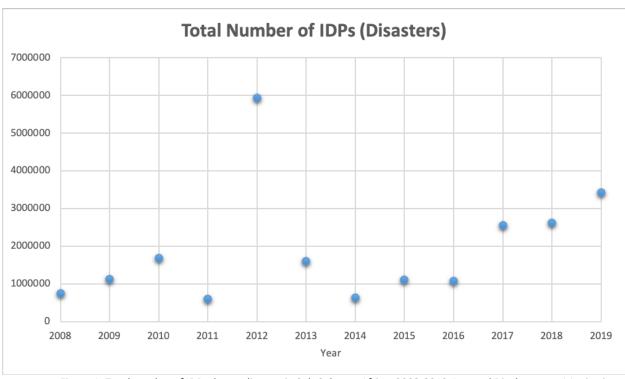


Figure 1: Total number of IDPs due to disaster in Sub-Saharan Africa, 2008-2019, Internal Displacement Monitoring
Centre

Africa is a rapidly urbanizing continent, a fact that is intimately tied to climate change. Given the large proportion of the rural population that is entirely dependent on agriculture for food

¹⁷ Amadou Sy, "Africa: Financing Adaptation and Mitigation in the World's Most Vulnerable Region," Brookings Institution, 2016, https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/global_20160818_cop21_africa.pdf.

and income, declining agricultural productivity associated with climate change has and will continue to drive people from rural areas into the cities in search of work. This is especially true of urban areas that have large manufacturing sectors, as these sectors provide a reliable source of income for economic migrants. ¹⁸ In cities that have market-based economies, however, the impact will be twofold as these cities are reliant on agriculture for trade and income, and these will be lost with the continued effect of climate change on agricultural production. ¹⁹ If rural-to-urban migrants move to these cities, the impact of these populations on jobs, government-provided social services, etc. will also be felt as they will be economically vulnerable due to the loss of agriculture.

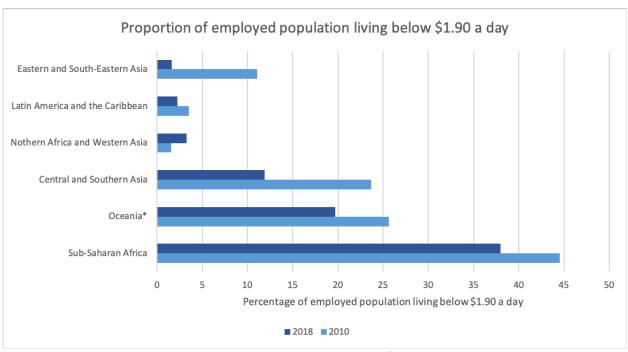


Figure 2: Proportion of employed population living below \$1.90 a day, United Nations

While migration within the continent is becoming more prevalent, migration from sub-Saharan Africa to other places across the globe, especially Europe, is increasing. According to a

¹⁸ Steven Walker, Scarlett Swerdlow, and Nini Gu, "The Role of Climate Change in Africa's Urbanization," Chicago Policy Review, January 29, 2019, https://chicagopolicyreview.org/2018/04/01/the-role-of-climate-change-in-africas-urbanization/.

¹⁹ J. Vernon, Henderson, Adam Storeygard and Uwe Deichmann, "Has Climate Change Driven Urbanization in Africa?" *Journal of Development Economics* 124 (2017): 60-82.

Pew Research Center analysis of UN data, countries from sub-Saharan Africa make up eight of the top ten sources for the fastest growing international migrant populations in the world, and the number of emigrants from sub-Saharan Africa increased by 31 percent from 2010 to 2027.²⁰ This percentage indicates a higher rate of migration than in the two decades prior. While many factors play into this increase, climate change will only amplify the underlying issues that are driving this migration. As has been previously detailed, displacement can be caused by conflict, loss of livelihood, and other factors that are all intimately connected to climate change. As Africa continues to be the continent most immediately impacted by climate change, these issues will only grow and lead to further displacement.

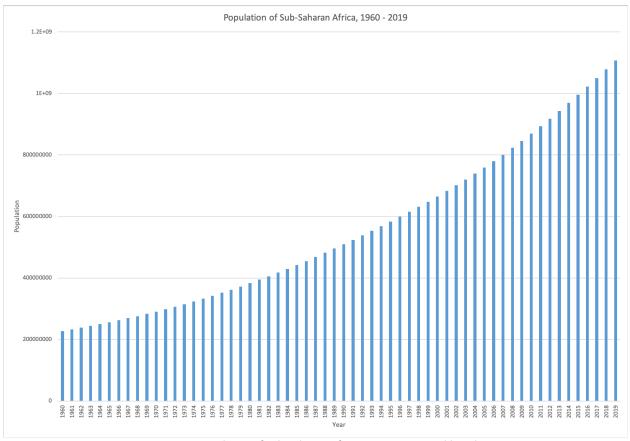


Figure 3: Population of Sub-Saharan Africa, 1960-2019, World Bank

-

²⁰ Connor, Phillip. "Migration from Sub-Saharan Africa Grew Dramatically in 2010-2017," May 31, 2020. https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/02/28/international-migration-from-sub-saharan-africa-has-grown-dramatically-since-2010/.

Displacement and related vulnerabilities are closely linked to trafficking-in-persons. Connections between trafficking and international migration flows through North African countries like Libya are well-documented. Noting again that trafficking can occur even in situations where the victim has initially consented, migrants may knowingly or unknowingly find themselves in exploitative situations as they journey from Africa to another continent, or once they have reached their destination. Internally displaced persons and internal migrants face similar threats within the borders of their own country, as do those who migrate or live with certain vulnerabilities in a particular region.

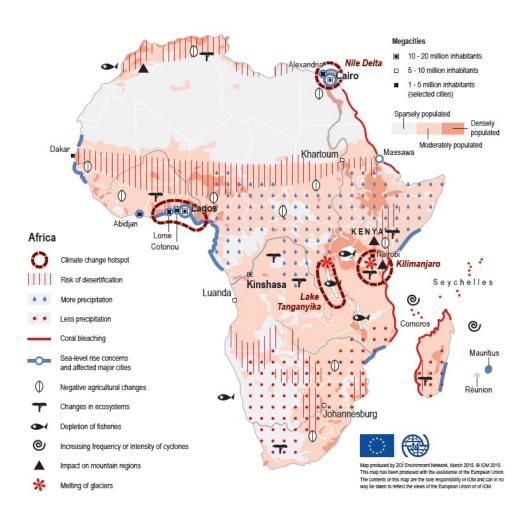


Figure 4: IOM (Mokhnacheva, Ionesco), Gemenne, Zoï Environment Network, 2015.

Climate change in Africa will cause major displacement that can create or exacerbate vulnerabilities to trafficking-in-persons, but those vulnerabilities exist without any requirement for movement. Many of those trafficked in Africa today remain near their homes and may be exploited by family members or close members of their communities, not by large-scale organized crime as is the narrative too often portrayed by the media. For this population, vulnerabilities like poverty, age, gender, sexual orientation, and other minority status are all factors that play into whether or not an individual may become a victim of trafficking. Changes in the routines, livelihoods, and patterns of living for these populations are already being seen due to environmental degradation, and the impact of climate change will only get worse. As such, action must be taken to prevent climate change from further negatively impacting vulnerable populations, both those that remain at home or migrate elsewhere.

What has been done?

Efforts to combat trafficking-in-persons have been widespread since the late 1990s. In addition to the Palermo Protocol, adopted in 2000, a number of states have passed national legislation addressing trafficking. Most notably, the U.S. law (commonly known as the TVPA) established an office dedicated to trafficking-in-persons within the U.S. State Department that produces yearly assessments of the progress made to combat trafficking for most countries (with the significant exception of the U.S. itself). While the validity and thoroughness of these reports have been questioned by many state and non-state actors, they do provide a basic benchmark with which to measure rough progress among nations. Other international agreements made in the 20th century have typically been between states or civil society, including professional societies and NGOs. For example, the Declaration of Istanbul on Organ Trafficking and Transplant Tourism

was adopted in 2008, setting definitions and standards regarding organ trafficking that transplant professionals can utilize in their work.

Despite these developments, the international community has failed to make addressing the nexus between trafficking-in-persons and climate change a priority. Little more than a few public statements and reports by UN figures and bodies exist on the subject. The Paris Climate Agreement of 2015 set up international action to limit the rising annual temperature, but the pledges made by states in this commitment are not enforceable and in sum, fail to make the necessary changes to limit the temperature increases to below 2 degrees Celsius.²¹ While negotiations leading up to the Paris Agreement set up groundwork for addressing forced migration and displacement due to climate change, the conference failed to put in writing any formal recognition of these issues.²² Without the attention of all countries, the effects of climate change on displacement and trafficking-in-persons will continue to grow.

What needs to be done?

A number of steps need to be taken to address the threats that climate change place on vulnerable populations and the impact that it will likely have on trafficking. First and foremost, the international community needs to take drastic action to reduce greenhouse gases and other environmental pollutants to reduce the unchecked warming of the climate. Vulnerabilities will only get worse as the physical environment worsens due to human action (or inaction). Communities also need to be taking steps to adapt to climate change, as reducing carbon emissions is no longer enough.

21

²¹ Michael B. Gerrard, "Climate Change and Human Trafficking after the Paris Agreement," *University of Miami Law Review* 72, no. 2 (Winter 2018): 345-368.

²² Phillip Warren, "Forced migration and the climate change negotiations," Climate and Migration Coalition, http://climatemigration.org.uk/forced-migration-climate-change-negotiations/.

Given the close links between displacement, migration, and climate change, steps need to be taken to address the mobility of those who are threatened by climate change, specifically those who are forced out of their communities because of the direct or indirect effects of environmental degradation. When migrants and refugees are stigmatized and subject to high barriers to cross borders, they can more easily fall victim to trafficking as they lack support and may be willing to use more drastic means to migrate. Both the international community and individual states must take action to address the rights and freedoms of migrants and refugees. When climate change forces people from their homes and communities, they need to be welcomed with open arms and support, not hostility and distrust.

In addition to policies allowing migrants and refugees greater freedom of movement, specific services for migrants and refugees need to be provided to ensure that they do not fall into vulnerable situations. Government institutions that already provide these types of support services, like resettlement assistance and targeted welfare for refugees and migrants, need to be strengthened to ensure they have the capacity to provide for and protect these populations as climate change continues to drive people from their homes.

In addition to services for displaced persons, specific steps need to be taken to address vulnerabilities that can lead to trafficking within communities, particularly within populations that may be harmed by the effects of climate change. For example, farmers in the Sahel region of West Africa may lost all or part of their income due to desertification. To address this and prevent poverty or further displacement, training programs should be provided for these populations to provide them with jobs in productive, green sectors of the economy. Training and employment for people in renewable energy sources should be prioritized, as should programs that encourage environmentally friendly behaviors like the planting and care of trees natural to specific habitats.

Only with adequate support will communities be able to handle the effects of climate change. This requires both top-down and bottom-up approaches to address climate change and the accompanying environmental impacts. Knowledge-sharing platforms and collaborative networks for promoting evidence-based mitigations and solutions are necessary. The United Nations and regional organizations like the African Union must take on a leadership role in this area, spearheading both regulation and adaptation programs to support the most vulnerable communities.

Climate Refugees: The Human Rights Committee and the Republic of Kiribati

The impacts of climate change are already being felt, particularly among island nations. In 2015, a citizen of the Republic of Kiribati filed a communication with the Human Rights Committee claiming that New Zealand violated his right to life under the Covenant when they denied his application for refugee status and deported him to Kiribati.²³ The author of the communication, Ioane Teitiota, claimed his reason for migration from his homeland of Kiribati was the massive extent of environmental degradation, limiting his access to fresh water, housing, and land. Levels of violence in Kiribati have increased due to the extreme lack of resources and opportunities facing citizens, including food insecurity and limited prospects for employment. Teitiota and his wife left Kiribati because they wanted to have children but saw no future for them in the island nation.

After New Zealand denied Teitiota asylum as a climate refugee, he brought his case before the Human Rights Committee. The Committee accepted many facts of Teitiota's communication, including that the rising sea levels would soon make the island nation uninhabitable. They did not

²³ Human Rights Committee, *Views adopted by the Committee under article 5 (4) of the Optional Protocol, concerning communication No. 2728/2016*, UN HRC, 127th sess, UN Doc. CCPR/C/127/D/2728/2016 (24 October 2019).

conclude that the removal of Teitiota to Kiribati by the government of New Zealand constituted a violation of his rights under article 6 (1) of the Covenant, though they acknowledged that without extensive national and international efforts to combat climate change, individuals may be exposed to a violation of their rights under articles 6 and 7 at a later time.

This example is illustrative of the impact of climate change on small island nations. The effects of environmental degradation clearly exacerbate vulnerabilities to trafficking experienced by citizens of these nations and other exposed states. Without unhampered access to basic needs like food and water and opportunities for employment or housing, citizens of island nations (or any nation suffering from climate change) will desire to migrate to better their situation in life. If destination states fail to accept and welcome these refugees—and acknowledge them as refugees, not economic migrants—their vulnerability to trafficking increases even more and they may take greater risks to leave their home nation. For example, they may attempt to migrate through non-traditional channels and find themselves exploited by employment agencies or others who have provided them with the means to migrate.

The international community must ensure that mechanisms for safe and legal migration are in place to ensure that the basic human rights of those fleeing violence, destruction, and death due to climate change are protected. Although the decision by the Human Rights Committee in Teitiota's situation did not side in his favor, it recognized the threat of climate change-induced harm and clearly stated that the non-refoulement obligations of states may be trigged in cases of great harm. This level of harm will only get more common as climate change continues to cause massive environmental degradation.

Climate Change and Small Island Developing States

Percent of population living within 5m of sea level

Average 29%

Percent of land area within 5m above sea level

Average 26%

Source: UN-OHRLLS, Small Island Developing States in Numbers, 2015.

Conclusion

Climate change is the most pressing issue of modern-day life. It causes famine, increases risk of conflict, and displaces thousands from their communities. In the words of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, "[t]he world has never seen a threat to human rights of this scope. This is not a situation where any country, any institution, any policy-maker can stand on the sidelines. The economies of all nations; the institutional, political, social and cultural fabric of every State; and the rights of all your people – and future generations – will be impacted."²⁴

Geneva International Centre for Justice (GICJ) recognizes the urgent need to reframe the viewpoint on both climate change and trafficking-in-persons. The international community, led by the United Nations, must recognize and continue to present both climate change and trafficking-in-persons as threats to the human rights of individuals across the globe. GICJ welcomes the efforts of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons to frame the issue of trafficking within a human rights narrative; only with the recognition that trafficking can never be fully eliminated through a law enforcement-based approach can progress be made. A human rights-based approach,

²⁴ Michelle Bachelet, "Opening Statement by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet," Statement, 42nd Session of the Human Rights Council, Geneva, Switzerland, 9 September 2019.

grounding efforts toward prevention and rehabilitation in the respect for the human rights of victims, must accept that exclusionary and prohibitive migration policies exacerbates vulnerabilities to trafficking and drives individuals into the hands of those who seek to exploit them. Likewise, climate change and the accompanying environmental degradation does the same for those seeking better opportunities, whether they be economic migrants looking to recoup lost income from low-yield farms or refugees fleeing dangerous conditions due to rising sea levels.

Vulnerabilities to trafficking-in-persons are closely tied to power: those who lack power and privilege in a society—due to age, gender, sexual orientation, race, education, poverty, etc.—are the most vulnerable. Climate change exacerbates these vulnerabilities, as it has been well-documented that the effects of climate change are felt most strongly by those who are unequal to the norm. As climate change continues to have more drastic effects on the daily lives of the poor while leaving those of us in rich countries relatively unharmed, focus needs to be placed on addressing the intersection of climate change and trafficking-in-persons to ensure that all are protected and free.

References

- An Introduction to Human Trafficking: Vulnerability, Impact and Action. Background Paper,
 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Vienna, 2008.
- Bachelet, Michelle. "Opening Statement by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet." Statement, 42nd Session of the Human Rights Council, Geneva, Switzerland, 9 September 2019.
- Connor, Phillip. "Migration from Sub-Saharan Africa Grew Dramatically in 2010-2017," May 31, 2020. https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/02/28/international-migration-from-sub-saharan-africa-has-grown-dramatically-since-2010/.
- "End Poverty in All Its Forms Everywhere." United Nations Stats. United Nations. Accessed August 10, 2020. https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/goal-01/.
- "Federal Jury in SPLC Case Awards \$14 Million to Indian Guest Workers Victimized in Labor Trafficking Scheme by Signal International and Its Agents." Southern Poverty Law Center, February 18, 2015. https://www.splcenter.org/news/2015/02/18/federal-jury-splc-case-awards-14-million-indian-guest-workers-victimized-labor-trafficking.
- Gerrard, Michael B. "Climate Change and Human Trafficking after the Paris Agreement."

 University of Miami Law Review 72, no. 2 (Winter 2018): 345-368.
- Global estimates of modern slavery: Forced labour and forced marriage. International Labour Office (ILO), Geneva, 2017.
- Henderson, J. Vernon, Storeygard, Adam, and Deichmann, Uwe. "Has Climate Change Driven Urbanization in Africa?" *Journal of Development Economics* 124 (2017): 60-82.

- Hepburn, Stephanie. "Dispatches: Labor Conditions in New Orleans." Americas Quarterly, July 22, 2010. https://www.americasquarterly.org/fulltextarticle/dispatches-labor-conditions-in-new-orleans/.
- Human Rights Committee, *Views adopted by the Committee under article 5 (4) of the Optional Protocol, concerning communication No. 2728/2016*, UN HRC, 127th sess, UN Doc. CCPR/C/127/D/2728/2016 (24 October 2019).
- "Human Trafficking and Disasters." Greater New Orleans Human Trafficking Task Force.

 http://www.nolatrafficking.org/natural-disasters.
- IOM (Mokhnacheva, Ionesco), Gemenne, Zoï Environment Network, 2015
- Migrants and their Vulnerability to Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery, and Forced Labour, International Organization for Migration, 2019.
- Molinari, Nicole. "Intensifying Insecurities: The Impact of Climate Change on Vulnerability to Human Trafficking in the Indian Sundarbans." *Anti-trafficking Review*, no. 8 (2017): 50-69.
- "Our Work in Africa." UNEP UN Environment Programme. Accessed July 27, 2020. https://www.unenvironment.org/regions/africa/our-work-africa.
- Population, total Sub-Saharan Africa, World Bank, 2020, https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL?end=2019&locations=ZG&start=196

- Small Island Developing States in Numbers: Climate Change Edition 2015, Office of the Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), 2015.
- Sy, Amadou. "Africa: Financing Adaptation and Mitigation in the World's Most Vulnerable Region." Brookings Institution, 2016, https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/global 20160818 cop21 africa.pdf.
- "United Nations: Conflict, climate change among factors that increase 'desperation that enables human trafficking to flourish,' says UN chief," Asia News Monitor, Bangkok, 2019.
- UN General Assembly, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons,
 Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against
 Transnational Organized Crime. 15 November 2000.
- Walker, Steven, Scarlett Swerdlow, and Nini Gu. "The Role of Climate Change in Africa's Urbanization." Chicago Policy Review, January 29, 2019. https://chicagopolicyreview.org/2018/04/01/the-role-of-climate-change-in-africas-urbanization/.
- Warren, Phillip. "Forced migration and the climate change negotiations." Climate and Migration Coalition, http://climatemigration.org.uk/forced-migration-climate-change-negotiations/.

 2019 internal displacement figures by country, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2019.

Geneva International Centre for Justice GICJ

GICJ is an independent, non-profit, international non-governmental organization dedicated to the promotion and reinforcement of commitments to the principles and norms of human rights. GICJ is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland and is governed by the Swiss Civil Code and its statutes. Basing its work on the rules and principles of International Law, International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law, GICJ observes and documents human rights violations and seeks justice for their victims through all legal means available.

Mission

GICJ's mission is to improve lives by tackling violations and all forms of violence and degrading or inhumane treatment through the strengthening of respect for human rights; reinforcing the independence of lawyers and judiciaries; consolidating the principles of equity and non-discrimination; ensuring rule of law is upheld; promoting a culture of awareness on human rights; and combating impunity.

Work

GICJ has been tackling issues of justice and accountability since it was established. GICJ maintains a partnership with various NGOs, lawyers and a vast civil society network around the world. Through these channels, GICJ is able to receive documentation and evidences of human rights violations and abuses as they occur in several countries. GICJ continues to bring this information to the attention of relevant UN bodies in order to gain justice for all victims.



Geneva International Centre for Justice

Independent, International non-governmental organisation

Postal Address

P.O. Box: GICJ 598 Vernier CH-1214 Geneva Switzerland

Office Address

The Ecumenical Centre 150, Route de Ferney CH 1211 Geneva 2 Switzerland



0041227881971

info@gicj.org

0041795365866

facebook.com/GIC4J

Geneva4Justice