

# Evaluating Anti-Human Trafficking Efforts: A Comparative Review of UNODC and USAID Interventions in Bangladesh, India and Nepal

By Jemie Shrestha

February 2025



## THE GLOBAL POLICY HORIZONS LAB

*Empowering Evidence-Based Solutions*

*For a Better World*



**Webster University**  
470 E Lockwood Ave, St. Louis, MO 63119, USA



## INTRODUCTION

Human trafficking has grown into a vast global industry, generating billions of dollars by exploiting the lives of millions of people, including countless children. These victims are stripped of their dignity and freedom, paying a heartbreaking price as others profit from their suffering (IOM, 2005). The UN defines “Trafficking in persons shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability, or of the giving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.” (United Nations, 2000).

Human trafficking, also referred to as trafficking in persons, involves coercive recruitment, transfer, or harboring of individuals for exploitation, primarily in forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation. Globally, human trafficking is the second-largest criminal industry, impacting over 25 million people, with women and girls constituting 70% of identified victims (USAID, 2023).

In Bangladesh, women and children are commonly trafficked for various exploitative purposes, including sexual exploitation, forced labor, domestic servitude, organ sale, and, for boys specifically, camel jockeying. Although trafficking of men does occur, it is rarely highlighted in mainstream studies, which tend to label men as “migrants” and focus on women and children as “trafficking victims.” This perspective reinforces a gender bias in how trafficking issues are presented. Among significant studies on this issue, a joint report by the Bangladeshi Ministries of Home Affairs, Social Welfare, and Women and Children Affairs is frequently cited. This report estimates that, in the last five years, over 13,000 children have been trafficked out of Bangladesh, with only about 4,700 rescued. The findings are based on data from police records and media sources (Laczko and Gozdzia, 2005).

The open 1,740-mile border between Nepal and India, established under the 1950 treaty, enables unmonitored movement, which has contributed to trafficking in women and children. Without immigration controls, collecting data on migration and trafficking remains challenging. Many Nepalese girls are taken to India and forced into brothels, while boys are trafficked for labor, including embroidery, hotel work, and other manual jobs. In some cases, Nepalese girls end up trafficked further afield to places like Hong Kong and the Gulf countries (Laczko and Gozdzia, 2005).

In 2021, authorities identified 5,934 trafficking victims in India, with the majority exploited in labor trafficking, including 667 cases of bonded labor (U.S. Department of State, 2023).

India has the world’s highest estimated number of people in modern slavery, with nearly 8 million affected, followed by Pakistan (3.2 million), Bangladesh (592,000), and Nepal (171,000). (Oosterhoff et al., 2018)

India’s commercial sex industry includes large numbers of trafficking victims, often coerced through false job promises or debt bondage. Women and girls from Nepal, Bangladesh, and other regions are frequently trafficked into India for sex exploitation, with traffickers targeting marginalized communities, including Scheduled Caste individuals. Certain cultural practices, like the Jogini system, where young women are dedicated to temple deities, can also lead to sex trafficking in some Indian regions.



Additionally, child sex tourism is prevalent in major tourist and pilgrimage areas across the country (U.S. Department of State, 2023).

The Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) reported rescuing 355 victims of domestic trafficking; 37 men, 5 women, and three girls were rescued from countries like Libya, India, Dubai, and Italy. In 2018, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) rescued 903 men, 312 women, and 174 children involved in transnational trafficking. The Association for Community Development (ACD) assisted in repatriating 55 victims from India, including 35 girls, 10 women, and 10 boys (U.S. Department of State, 2023).

The Human Trafficking Bureau reported that 270 people were rescued from trafficking, 56.8% of women, 39.5% of children, and 3.5% were men from 2019-2021. However, 1,179 were reported from the Judiciary. This gap highlights critical deficiencies in both legal frameworks and procedural measures, obstructing the prosecution of traffickers and denying victims access to justice and compensation (National Human Rights Commission Nepal, 2022).

The Research Question for this research is to find out How effective are the interventions of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in combating human trafficking in Bangladesh, India, and Nepal, and what challenges remain in addressing this issue comprehensively? Likewise, the study focuses on a comparative evaluation of UNODC and USAID's anti-human trafficking efforts in South Asia highlights significant progress in prevention and victim support but reveals gaps in policy enforcement, coordination, and survivor reintegration, underscoring the need for sustainable, holistic strategies.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### ***UNODC***

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) plays a significant role in advancing global security, justice, and health by addressing critical issues related to drugs, crime, trafficking, corruption, and terrorism (UNODC, 2023). In 2020, for the first time since the UNODC began tracking trafficking data, the global detection of trafficking victims decreased by 11% from the previous year. The most significant declines occurred in cases involving sexual exploitation, down by 24%, and in cross-border trafficking, down by 21%.

The Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants (GLO.ACT), a program by the UNODC, plays a crucial role in understanding how international organizations combat human trafficking in Bangladesh. This initiative tackles major trafficking and migrant smuggling issues, focusing on vulnerable populations. Its work includes developing policies, strengthening legal frameworks, building capacity, protecting victims, and promoting international cooperation across Asia (UNODC, 2023).

The UNODC helps draft and support anti-trafficking legislation and national action plans. For example, Pakistan's Trafficking In Person law was developed with GLO.ACT's guidance, including Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for implementing this legislation. The project organizes extensive training for law enforcement, judiciary, and intelligence agencies. This training is often supported by mentoring to ensure sustainable knowledge transfer. Through partnerships with IOM, the project provides direct



support to trafficking victims, such as setting up helplines and victim referral mechanisms. GLO.ACT strengthens cross-border coordination and facilitates inter-governmental communication, especially in cases of transnational trafficking. UNODC has taken steps to ensure the sustainability of the GLO.ACT initiatives by embedding anti-trafficking practices and knowledge within local government agencies. This approach is reflected in institutions like the Ministry of Justice in Bangladesh, which incorporate anti-trafficking materials developed by UNODC into their official training curricula (UNODC, 2023).

The UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT), led by UNODC, organizes diverse events—such as conferences, public campaigns, and training sessions—to unite stakeholders from various sectors in the fight against trafficking. These gatherings serve to establish best practices, build consensus on anti-trafficking policies, and encourage shared responsibility among participants. Additionally, UN.GIFT funds awareness campaigns to educate vulnerable populations on trafficking risks and available support. This educational outreach is especially important in South Asia, where specific cultural and socio-economic factors heighten the risk of trafficking (UNODC, 2011).

The UNODC-supported Blue Heart Campaign aims to raise global awareness about human trafficking and symbolize solidarity with victims through its "blue heart" symbol. This emblem has become widely recognized in the fight against trafficking, encouraging participation from individuals and organizations. In South Asia, the campaign tailors its approach to local contexts, utilizing media outreach and community events to spotlight trafficking issues. By engaging the public and policymakers, the campaign promotes a sense of community responsibility and garners support for stronger anti-trafficking laws and initiatives (UNODC, 2021).

In India, the campaign has led to various local initiatives, such as community workshops in Maharashtra and West Bengal, to educate community members on trafficking risks and victim support, helping citizens recognize signs of trafficking. In West Bengal, where many vulnerable young girls are trafficked across borders, the campaign has influenced local authorities to increase border patrols and set up community vigilance groups that work closely with police to report suspicious activities. UNODC's Blue Heart Campaign has strengthened ties between local NGOs and law enforcement agencies in Bangladesh. The campaign's focus on awareness has led to the creation of community-based helplines and support networks, especially in high-risk areas like Dhaka and Chittagong. In Nepal, the campaign has significantly impacted border areas near India, such as in the Terai region, where trafficking across the open border is common. The Blue Heart Campaign has collaborated with local organizations to train border officials and empower community members with knowledge about trafficking risks. This collaboration has fostered a watchful community, and local groups now assist border security in identifying and preventing trafficking attempts. Furthermore, campaign-driven awareness programs have helped reduce the stigma against survivors, encouraging family and community reintegration for those rescued from trafficking.

The UNODC provides essential support to South Asian nations by aiding in the drafting and revision of anti-trafficking legislation, aligning these efforts with international standards such as the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons. This legislative support has strengthened countries like Bangladesh and Pakistan by refining their legal definitions of trafficking and closing loopholes that traffickers have exploited. (UNODC, 2011).

UNODC offers training for law enforcement, prosecutors, and the judiciary to deepen their understanding of trafficking, focusing on victim identification, evidence collection, and trauma-informed



approaches. These programs ensure that officials are equipped to address the psychological needs of victims, making enforcement efforts both effective and compassionate (UNODC, 2023).

## *USAID*

USAID's Counter-Trafficking in Persons (C-TIP) approach is built around the "4Ps" framework: Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, and Partnerships. The organization has invested over \$340 million in anti-trafficking initiatives across 88 countries since 2001 (USAID, 2023, 23). Human trafficking, a form of modern slavery, affects millions worldwide, with trafficking cases occurring in both labor and sexual exploitation. In South Asia, trafficking is exacerbated by regional issues such as economic vulnerabilities, migration, and porous borders, creating opportunities for traffickers to exploit individuals, especially women and children.

The Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report Tier placements evaluate countries on their adherence to the minimum standards set by the U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), assessing their effectiveness in preventing trafficking, protecting victims, and prosecuting traffickers. Countries are ranked into four main tiers (p, 68).

Several indicators determine a country's placement on the Tier scale: Legislative and Policy Frameworks, Victim Protection and Support Services, Prosecution and Conviction of Traffickers, and Preventative Measures. Tier 1 includes countries fully compliant with the TVPA standards, demonstrating proactive and sustained anti-trafficking measures. Tier 2 applies to countries not fully meeting these standards but making significant efforts toward compliance (p. 70).

For instance, Tier 1 and Tier 2 countries tend to have robust laws criminalizing trafficking with penalties that reflect the gravity of the crime, while Tier 3 countries often lack effective legal frameworks. Bangladesh and Nepal, ranked in Tier 2, have launched awareness initiatives to educate communities and reduce vulnerabilities, while Afghanistan, in Tier 3, lacks substantial preventative programs, limiting its progress. Pakistan, also in Tier 2 but on the Watch List, has made some efforts, yet its enforcement inconsistencies impact its standing. (p. 71-77). Key programs under BC/TIP include the National Plan of Action (NPA) for 2018-2022, which mobilizes various ministries and strengthens community-based Counter-Trafficking Committees (CTCs) across districts. In terms of success, BC/TIP has made notable strides in community mobilization, reaching millions through media campaigns and local radio broadcasts. Awareness programs include peer-led initiatives, school sessions, and theatre performances that educate vulnerable populations on trafficking risks and prevention (USAID, 2018, 43-47).

Nepal serves as a source, transit, and destination country for trafficking victims, with men, women, and children exploited in forced labor and sex trafficking. Hamro Samman project, valued at \$8 million over five years, collaborates with the Nepalese government, civil society organizations (CSOs), and the private sector to create a sustainable, system-based approach to combat trafficking. The Hamro Samman project strengthens Nepal's anti-trafficking response by enhancing data collection, boosting awareness through media, and building capacity for government and CSOs to support victims. It improves trafficking case identification and services, empowers CSOs in advocacy, and leverages private-sector partnerships for resources and referrals. The project also supports at-risk individuals with skills and job opportunities, creating a holistic approach to trafficking prevention and victim support in Nepal. (USAID, 2023, 3).



## **POLICIES RELEVANCE**

The Palermo Protocol, formally known as the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, is a cornerstone international agreement established in 2000 under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) (UNODC, 2023). The Palermo Protocol is an international framework that sets a global standard for combatting trafficking, with a focus on preventing trafficking, protecting victims, and prosecuting traffickers (UNODC, 2023). The Protocol is built around three core pillars: prevention, protection, and prosecution. It mandates countries to implement measures addressing root causes of trafficking, such as poverty and gender inequality, provide support for victims, and ensure traffickers face justice (Rout et al., 2023).

The USAID Policy on Countering Trafficking in Persons (C-TIP) highlights the protocol and principles that guide their efforts to combat human trafficking effectively. USAID adopts the "4Ps" paradigm—Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, and Partnerships—to tackle trafficking. This protocol aims to cover all aspects of anti-trafficking efforts. A critical component of USAID's C-TIP protocol is the survivor-centered approach, which focuses on the needs, autonomy, and dignity of trafficking survivors. The Protocol encourages leveraging technology and innovation to enhance the effectiveness of anti-trafficking efforts. This can involve data analytics, monitoring tools, and digital platforms to track trafficking trends, facilitate victim identification, and improve resource allocation. The C-TIP Code of Conduct mandates that USAID staff and partners adhere to strict ethical standards, which prohibit any engagement in trafficking activities. Partnerships with host governments, civil society organizations, and the private sector are central to USAID's C-TIP protocol. Collaborative efforts enhance program reach and efficacy, helping to build local capacity and support sustainable anti-trafficking policies and practices. USAID's C-TIP initiatives prioritize vulnerable groups, including migrants, refugees, women, and children, who are at heightened risk of trafficking. USAID works to address the unique challenges these groups face, offering targeted support that reduces their vulnerability and promotes resilience (USAID, 2021).

## **COUNTER-ARGUMENTS**

Recent incidents illustrate the severity of human trafficking in Nepal, revealing the varied and often harrowing experiences of its victims. Some Nepali individuals have been coerced into joining foreign military forces in the Russia-Ukraine war, highlighting a troubling trend of forced recruitment. Others have faced prolonged captivity abroad, enduring physical and psychological hardship in unfamiliar environments far from home. Additionally, traffickers have increasingly targeted Nepal's youth, exploiting them through online scams that deceive and manipulate. Young girls have been especially vulnerable, often lured into the country's adult entertainment sector under false promises of employment or a better life, only to find themselves trapped in exploitative conditions. Together, these cases underscore the urgent need for comprehensive action against human trafficking to protect Nepal's vulnerable populations which the International Organization has not addressed (Rimal and Simkhada, 2024).



Nepal's downgrade from Tier 2 to the Tier 2 Watch List in the United States' 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report signals deep concerns about the country's ongoing struggle to combat human trafficking. Nepal's downgrade from Tier 2 to the Tier 2 Watch List in the United States' 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report signals deep concerns about the country's ongoing struggle to combat human trafficking. With this downgrade, Nepal risks further demotion to Tier 3, which could cut off essential non-humanitarian aid from international agencies. (Rimal and Simkhada, 2024).

Women and children are trafficked internally and internationally, often ending up in forced sex work in neighboring countries like India and other parts of Asia. Rohingya refugees are especially vulnerable due to limited legal employment options, with trafficking networks exploiting them for sex work and labor, particularly in the border area of Cox's Bazar. Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, especially young girls, are vulnerable to sex trafficking due to lack of legal protections, restricted mobility, and limited access to education and employment. Local networks reportedly transport these individuals for trafficking both domestically and internationally. (U.S. Department of State, 2023)

The 2012 Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act (PSHTA) criminalizes sex and labor trafficking, with penalties of five years to life imprisonment and fines of at least 50,000 Bangladeshi Taka (BDT). However, enforcement is inconsistent, and bonded labor is treated as a separate offense with lower penalties. Government officials have reportedly accepted bribes from traffickers, with some law enforcement officials and border control agents complicit in trafficking networks. This complicity hinders effective law enforcement and protection measures. There are gaps in support and rehabilitation services, especially for male victims and Rohingya refugees. NGOs are sometimes limited in the support they can offer due to delays in government approval for foreign funding.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### A. POLICY AND LEGAL REFORMS

#### 1. *Amend Legal Frameworks*

Align national anti-trafficking laws with international standards, such as the Palermo Protocol. Conduct comprehensive reviews of national laws, identifying gaps in definition, prosecution, and penalties. Adopt broad definitions of trafficking to include modern practices like cyber-facilitated exploitation, debt bondage, and organ trafficking.

Criminalize all forms of labor and sex trafficking, explicitly addressing gaps in current legislation. Develop protective clauses for victims, ensuring that they are not penalized for crimes they were forced to commit under trafficking conditions (e.g., prostitution, illegal immigration).

#### 2. *Strengthen Enforcement Mechanisms*

Ensure stricter penalties for traffickers and complicit officials to enhance deterrence. Establish minimum penalties for traffickers, complicit officials, and business entities involved in trafficking schemes. Integrate asset forfeiture into sentencing, ensuring traffickers' wealth supports victim restitution.





Enforce existing laws consistently to eliminate legal loopholes that traffickers exploit. Train law enforcement uniformly on new laws and protocols. Use advanced technologies, such as biometrics and AI, to detect trafficking operations and prevent document fraud.

### ***3. Enhance Victim Protection Policies***

Establish comprehensive Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for victim identification and referral. Create clear, trauma-informed guidelines for identifying victims during law enforcement operations, border crossings, and workplace inspections. Develop inter-agency coordination mechanisms to streamline referrals for assistance.

Introduce robust victim compensation frameworks and ensure their effective implementation. Establish victim compensation funds sourced from traffickers' assets and government allocations. Simplify claims processes to ensure accessibility for all survivors, regardless of legal or economic status.

## ***B. CAPACITY BUILDING***

### ***4. Training Programs***

Expand training for law enforcement, judiciary, and border officials on identifying and prosecuting trafficking cases. Expand anti-trafficking training to include advanced investigative techniques, digital evidence collection, and international legal cooperation. Ensure judges and prosecutors are trained in survivor-centric approaches to minimize traumatization during legal proceedings.

Focus on trauma-informed approaches to ensure sensitivity when dealing with survivors. Equip first responders and social workers with skills to handle survivors sensitively, recognizing signs of trauma and fostering trust. Emphasize cultural competency to address the unique challenges faced by foreign or marginalized victims.

### ***5. Institutional Strengthening***

Increase resources for anti-trafficking units, including dedicated budgets, personnel, and infrastructure. Secure dedicated funding for infrastructure, personnel, and technology in specialized units.

Develop specialized anti-trafficking task forces at local and national levels. Increase personnel in anti-trafficking units to reduce caseloads and improve investigative quality. Create multi-disciplinary task forces at local, regional, and national levels to coordinate efforts across law enforcement, social services, and NGOs.





## ***C. VICTIM SUPPORT AND REHABILITATION***

### ***6. Enhance Shelter and Rehabilitation Services***

Provide adequate funding and infrastructure for shelters and reintegration programs. Invest in long-term shelters that provide comprehensive care, including medical treatment, psychological counseling, and vocational training.

Expand services to include adult male victims and marginalized communities.

### ***7. Survivor-Centered Approaches***

Reduce stigma and ensure community and family reintegration for survivors. Work with local leaders and family members to reintegrate survivors into supportive environments. Provide support networks for survivors, including peer groups and community-based advocates.

Offer vocational training and employment opportunities to reduce the risk of re-trafficking. Partner with private sector employers to offer skill development programs and job placements for survivors. Tailor training to market demand, ensuring survivors gain sustainable employment opportunities.

## ***D. AWARENESS AND PREVENTION***

### ***8. Community Engagement***

Implement grassroots awareness campaigns, especially in high-risk areas, focusing on vulnerable populations like women, children, and marginalized communities. Collaborate with community leaders to disseminate culturally relevant information on trafficking risks. Use media (e.g., radio, social media, community theaters) to reach vulnerable populations, especially in rural or remote areas.

Use local languages and culturally relevant materials to maximize outreach. Provide support networks for survivors, including peer groups and community-based advocates.

### ***9. Educational Initiatives***

Integrate anti-trafficking education into school curricula to raise awareness from an early age. Integrate modules on trafficking prevention, online safety, and human rights into primary and secondary education. Encourage role-playing and interactive sessions to build awareness and resilience among students.

Partner with NGOs to provide community-based educational programs on trafficking risks and prevention. Collaborate with NGOs to offer workshops, training, and resources in communities most at risk of trafficking.



## ***E. CROSS-BORDER AND REGIONAL COLLABORATION***

### ***10. Strengthen Regional Cooperation***

Enhance collaboration with neighboring countries for cross-border trafficking investigations. Establish joint task forces and intelligence-sharing mechanisms with neighbouring countries to dismantle trafficking networks. Conduct cross-border operations to rescue victims and apprehend traffickers.

Develop bilateral agreements to streamline victim repatriation and ensure swift legal processes. Include survivor protection measures in bilateral agreements to prevent trafficking during repatriation.

### ***11. Promote Data Sharing***

Establish centralized databases for trafficking cases to improve tracking and analysis.

Facilitate information exchange between countries to dismantle transnational trafficking networks.

## ***F. MONITORING AND EVALUATION***

### ***12. Regular Impact Assessments***

Conduct periodic evaluations of anti-trafficking programs to identify gaps and improve strategies. Develop databases that track trafficking cases, monitor patterns, and identify high-risk zones.

Incorporate feedback from survivors and stakeholders to refine policies and practices. Establish platforms for survivor advocacy, allowing them to contribute insights based on lived experiences.

## **CONCLUSION**

The evaluation of anti-trafficking measures reveals a complex landscape of successes and persistent challenges. While significant efforts have been made to combat human trafficking, gaps in legal frameworks, enforcement mechanisms, and victim protection continue to hinder progress. The lack of alignment with international standards, inadequate implementation of policies, and insufficient support for survivors highlight the urgent need for a more cohesive and survivor-centered approach.

This analysis underscores the importance of holistic strategies that prioritize not only the prosecution of traffickers but also the prevention of trafficking and the rehabilitation of victims. Strengthening legal frameworks, enhancing regional and international collaboration, and investing in community-based awareness and education are crucial steps forward. Moreover,



placing survivors at the center of anti-trafficking efforts by providing comprehensive support and reducing stigma can foster long-term resilience and recovery.

To truly eradicate trafficking, it is essential to address the root causes, such as poverty, inequality, and systemic corruption, that create vulnerabilities. A multi-stakeholder approach involving governments, civil society, and international organizations is key to building sustainable and effective solutions. By acting decisively and collaboratively, we can pave the way for a future where human trafficking is no longer a pervasive threat.



## WORKS CITED

Asia Foundation. Nepal's Silent Crisis: Human Trafficking Under the Spotlight. Accessed November 4, 2024. <https://asiafoundation.org/nepals-silent-crisis-human-trafficking-under-the-spotlight/>.

International Organization for Migration. Data and Research on Human Trafficking: A Global Survey. Edited by Frank Laczko and Elzbieta Gozdzia. Geneva: International Organization for Migration, 2005.

Laczko, Frank, and Elzbieta Gozdzia, eds. Data and Research on Human Trafficking: A Global Survey. Geneva: International Organization for Migration, 2005.

National Human Rights Commission of Nepal. Human Trafficking Report 2022. Kathmandu: National Human Rights Commission, 2022.

[https://www.nhrcnepal.org/uploads/publication/TIP\\_Report\\_Inner\\_compressed.pdf](https://www.nhrcnepal.org/uploads/publication/TIP_Report_Inner_compressed.pdf).

Oosterhoff, Pauline, Raudah Yunus, Charity Jensen, Francis Somerwell, and Nicola Pocock. Modern Slavery Prevention and Responses in South Asia: An Evidence Map. London: Department for International Development, 2018.

U.S. Department of State. 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report: Bangladesh.

<https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-trafficking-in-persons-report/bangladesh/>.

U.S. Department of State. 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report: India. Accessed November 4, 2024.

<https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-trafficking-in-persons-report/india/>.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Final Evaluation Report: Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants (GLO.ACT). Vienna: United Nations, 2023.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2022. Vienna: United Nations, 2022.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). UNODC Annual Report 2023. Vienna: United Nations, 2023.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Perspectives on Cooperation to Combat Cross Border Trafficking between India, Nepal, and Bangladesh. Vienna: United Nations, 2023.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The Palermo Protocol: Why It Has Been Ineffective in Reducing Human Sex Trafficking. Vienna: United Nations, 2023.

United Nations, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, Article 3(a), November 15, 2000.

USAID, Policy on Countering Trafficking in Persons (C-TIP) (Washington, DC: U.S. Agency for International Development, December 2021).



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jemie Shrestha graduated in December 2024 and is originally from Nepal. Her major in International Relations focuses on international organizations, migration patterns related to human trafficking, and labor rights issues. Jemie currently works at the International Institute of St. Louis. There, she assists refugees, immigrants, and trafficked victims by providing settlement and holistic services. Her dedication to human rights and fostering solutions for vulnerable populations underpins their academic and professional journey.





## **ABOUT THE GLOBAL POLICY HORIZONS RESEARCH LAB**

Webster University's Global Policy Horizons Lab is a policy-focused research entity where students, Lab researchers, affiliated faculty, as well as members of the policy community from across disciplines, can explore national and global security issues, generate original research, as well as produce peer-reviewed policy papers and commentaries. The Lab pursues innovative research focusing on unconventional threats, identity and security, role of technology in security, economic security, as well environmental and food security. The goal of the Lab is to become a knowledge hub that informs national governments and other members of the global policy community on contemporary and future security challenges.

The current Director of the Lab is Professor Dani Belo, PhD.

