**Dear Delegates,**

It’s a pleasure to welcome you to the 2025 Peebles High Model United Nations conference.

In this briefing paper will intend to guide you in researching the topic of **sex trafficking** in the PHSMUN 2025, Women’s Committee. The information you gather will eventually come to help you write your resolution. For the Women’s Committee your two amazing chairs in June will be Jason Claridge, he/him and Alec Weston so you will be in great hands.

The more information and understanding you gain on the two topics of debate, the more you can influence the process of resolution writing, open floor debate and your PHSMUN experience all together. Just a quick reminder, if you choose to write a resolution you will need to email it to our chair, Jason and bring in an extra paper copy with you on the day of the conference. We encourage you to learn all you can about your topics and your country in regard to the two selected topics. For this briefing paper, it will talk about **sex trafficking** (led by Jason). Please send all your resolutions etc relating to sex trafficking to Jason Claridge with a link to his email below.

Hope you enjoy and we look forward to seeing you in June!

Please feel free to contact Jason if you come into any challenges or difficulties with formatting or your resolutions, whose email is shown below:

Email Jason Claridge here (resolutions etc)

(Please find the briefing paper on the following page)

**Topic: TQO Sex Trafficking**

**Topic Summary:**

**Sex trafficking** is a form of human trafficking where individuals are coerced, deceived, or forced into sexual exploitation. It is a global human rights crisis affecting millions, particularly women and children. Victims are often trafficked across borders or within their own countries, frequently by criminal networks. Root causes include poverty, lack of education, gender inequality, armed conflict, corruption, and weak law enforcement.

Sex trafficking is a lucrative illegal industry, generating an estimated **$99 billion annually** (according to the International Labour Organization). Despite widespread condemnation, efforts to combat it are often hindered by insufficient international cooperation, underreporting, victim stigma, and inadequate support systems.

Relevant UN Resolutions & Actions:

1. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol) – 2000
	* Supplement to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Defines trafficking and outlines state obligations.
2. UN General Assembly Resolution 68/192 (2013)
	* “Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons” – promotes international cooperation and victim-centred approaches.
3. Security Council Resolution 2331 (2016)
	* Recognizes human trafficking as a security issue, especially in conflict zones.
4. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
	* Target 5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, including trafficking.
	* Target 8.7: Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking.
5. UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)
	* Publishes the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, monitors trends, and assists countries in implementing anti-trafficking laws.

**Global Context:**

Sex trafficking is a widespread and deeply rooted global issue that affects every region of the world. According to estimates from the International Labour Organization (ILO), over 4.8 million people are trapped in forced sexual exploitation, with women and girls accounting for approximately 99% of the victims in the commercial sex industry. While commonly associated with developing countries, sex trafficking is prevalent in both developing and developed nations, often hidden in plain sight. Regions such as South and Southeast Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Eastern Europe are particularly affected, although no country is immune. Vulnerable populations—including those living in poverty, conflict zones, refugee camps, or under authoritarian rule—are especially at risk. Armed conflicts and mass displacement often lead to spikes in trafficking as criminal networks exploit the instability. Additionally, the rise of digital technology has introduced new challenges, as traffickers increasingly use online platforms and social media to recruit victims and advertise illegal services. Despite growing awareness, sex trafficking remains underreported due to fear, stigma, corruption, and inadequate enforcement. Addressing this global crisis requires international cooperation, comprehensive legal frameworks, victim-centred approaches, and strategies that target the systemic inequalities fuelling the trade.

**Useful Links for Research and Resolution Writing:**

* UNODC – Human Trafficking Overview

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/humantrafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html>

* Palermo Protocol

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instrumentsmechanisms/instruments/protocol-prevent-suppress-and-punish-trafficking-persons>

* Global Report on Trafficking in Persons (UNODC, 2022)

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/data-and-analysis/glotip.html>

* UN General Assembly Resolution 68/192
<https://undocs.org/A/RES/68/192>
* UN Sustainable Development Goals (Goal 8.7, 5.2, 16.2)
<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>
* International Labour Organization – Forced Labour and Human Trafficking
<https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/lang--en/index.htm>
* Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime
<https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/human-trafficking/>