



Transnational Threat: Cross-border Cooperation in Combating Organized Crime

Sub theme- Criminal Law and Justice Reform

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Abstract

Organized crime has become a multidimensional global threat, encompassing cybercrime, environmental crimes, and cultural heritage trafficking, in addition to standard offenses like drug and human trafficking. With transnational criminal networks exploiting global financial systems and digital platforms, international cooperation is clearly called for. But legal frameworks, enforcement capabilities, and technological differences remain significant barriers to effective global action. This paper critically explores international mechanisms UNTOC, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, and INTERPOL cooperation that could be utilised to stem these growing evils. Case studies of Operation Thunderstorm, a US-Mexico collaboration related to the current fentanyl crisis affecting both countries; and India taking leadership in South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN), highlight successes achieved while pointing towards challenges persisting as sovereignty concerns, corruption, and uneven access to technology. A dedicated section addresses gender- based violence in the context of organized crime, pointing to the Rohingya crisis and trafficking from India's Sundarbans region. The paper also assesses India's contribution to international law enforcement, particularly in terms of legal reforms such as the ITPA Amendment of 2013 and India's participation in the Colombo Declaration of 2016. The conclusion stresses the need for increased international cooperation, suggesting the creation of specialized task forces, the use of shared technologies such as blockchain, and a comprehensive legal framework to address emerging transnational threats, noting that only through these steps can global efforts be more effective, balancing crime control with the protection of human rights.

Keywords: Organized crime, transnational cooperation, cultural heritage trafficking, gender-based violence, UNTOC, INTERPOL

Introduction

In the twenty-first century, organised crime has grown beyond its historical bounds to become a multifaceted threat that jeopardises global stability and security. It encompasses the traditional crimes of drug and human trafficking, smuggling, and money laundering, but it also covers more recent crimes like cybercrime, environmental crime, and trafficking in cultural assets. Organized crime is defined by its systematic structure, global reach, and profit-driven motives; it thrives on exploiting economic inequalities, technological gaps, and weak legal frameworks across nations.

These threats have undergone a complete transformation in terms of their nature. Old crimes like drug trafficking and human trafficking continue to thrive, but newer dimensions have come to the forefront. Cybercrime uses digital media in committing financial fraud, ransomware attacks, and all sorts of illegal online markets. Environmental crimes include illegal wildlife trade, marine pollution, and deforestation affecting biodiversity and sustainable development. Cultural heritage trafficking mainly occurs due to politically unstable regions or the world-wide demand for items. Such operations are highly related and have extensive networks that penetrate global financial markets, digital fronts, and voids in regulation to further their business. Strong international cooperation is a need to deal with these highly challenging issues. International cooperation like United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), and INTERPOL have been successful as frameworks of cooperation. Legal, enforcement, and technological inequalities act as major deterrents in dealing with these crimes globally.

This paper critically examines the international mechanisms used in combating organized crime by focusing on case studies and the successes achieved and persistent challenges. It further presents innovative solutions, such as shared technologies such as blockchain, and the development of specialized task forces, for improving global cooperation while ensuring the respect of human rights.

Dimensions of Organized Crime

1. Drug Trafficking: Drug Trafficking: Drug trafficking remains one of the most profitable and widespread kinds of organized crime. It is said to be the most profitable criminal industry, generating estimated \$320 billion in revenue per year¹. Here, heroin flows from Afghanistan across Iran, Turkey, and Balkan states to Western Europe. The route prospers by corruption, weak law enforcement, and porous borders. The profitability and existing infrastructure have seen the route continue to exist even with international efforts like the UNODC's counter-trafficking initiatives. The UNODC estimated the yearly value of the world's cocaine and opiate markets alone to be \$85 billion and \$68 billion, respectively, in 2009².

¹ World Drug Report 2011 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.XI.10). Available from www.unodc.org/wdr.

² World Drug Report 2011

2. Human Trafficking: Human trafficking has developed into an international scourge characterized by forced labor and sexual exploitation. Crime perpetrators mainly tend to target and exploit target vulnerable populations in conflict zones, such as the Rohingya refugees,. According to an estimate by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), there are around 2.4 million victims of human trafficking at any given time, and the industry generates roughly \$32 billion in profits annually³. Legally punishing traffickers has also not been effective in reducing the crime, despite the fact that it is the primary legal process to prevent human trafficking⁴.

Rising Trends of Crime

1. Cybercrime: Ransomware assaults and cybercrime have also increased with the digital era. An obvious example is the Conti ransomware hackers' 2022 attack on Costa Rica, which paralysed operations and demanded multimillion-dollar ransoms for access to government and vital infrastructure networks. Attacks of this nature highlight the weakness of digital platforms and the necessity of international collaboration to fortify cybersecurity frameworks.
2. Environmental Crimes: Environmental crimes, from smuggling wildlife to logging, have havoc-wreaking ecological and economic impacts. The best example of such environmental crime is the Madagascar rosewood trade, wherein scarce species of hard wood were trafficked to fulfill the international demand mainly in Asia, bypassing CITES. With weak enforcement and corruption, trafficking remains unchecked, foreshadowing threats to biodiversity as well as local livelihoods.
3. Cultural Heritage Trafficking: Cultural heritage trafficking thrives in zones of conflict as instability fosters looting. The pillaging of antiquities from Syria and Iraq during times of war further puts this in perspective. In the black market, these black markets bring smuggled artifacts: priceless, rare statues, manuscripts, etc. -a sort of theft against a nation of their identity through their cultural heritage. International efforts, such as UNESCO conventions, have led to some recoveries, but the challenge persists due to high global demand and insufficient enforcement. These dimensions of organized crime reflect its complexity and adaptability. Addressing these threats requires not only strong legal frameworks but also coordinated global action, technological innovation, and robust enforcement mechanisms.

³ Based on 2005 estimates from the International Labour Organization (ILO). More recent and precise estimates by ILO on overall forced labour trends however would lead us to think that the scope of the problem is much bigger. (International Labour Office, A Global Alliance against Forced Labour: Global Report under the Followup to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (Geneva, ILO, 2005))

⁴ Seo-Young Cho, Evaluating Policies Against Human Trafficking Worldwide: An Overview and Review of the 3P Index, 1 J. Hum. Trafficking 86, 86-99 (2015).

International Legal Mechanisms and Cooperation

Internationalized crime has transformed into an intercontinental menace requiring full-scale international legal mechanisms and cooperative structures. Initiatives, such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and INTERPOL's work have been fundamental for addressing most facets of organized crime. By collaborating with countries and equipping them to handle such risks, these mechanisms aim to counter both established and emerging transnational crime.

1. United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) This is a comprehensive framework for the fight against transnational organized crime that came into existence in the year 2000 and lays down laws for punishment of one's involvement in organized crime, money corruption, laundering etc., The Palermo Protocol, which is geared toward ending human trafficking, strongly focuses on the protection of victims and international judicial cooperation. To date, the Palermo Protocol is arguably the most important international anti-trafficking instrument. In consequence of this effort, many state governments have enacted new anti-trafficking legislation and amended existing legislation to meet international requirements⁵.

However, there are weaknesses. Although the protocol requires criminalization and the protection of victims, its execution has been haphazard. Most countries have no resources for victim rehabilitation services or to put culprits on trial properly. To address the current concerns, the Palermo Protocol must be amended or supplemented with more instruments for the new crimes such as cybercrime and environmental crimes.

2. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) – It seeks to control international trade that would protect species in their natural habitats. It classifies species into Appendices I, II, and III that create differences in trade restrictions, depending on the level of risk to which the species is involved.

Despite the obvious successes in stopping ivory trade and a plethora of similar human activities, CITES faces the dilemma of corruption, insufficient resources, and the growing demand for exotic species and products, which hampers its implementation.

For instance, the profitable pangolin scale and rosewood timber trade exemplify the illicit networks that derive opportunities from regulatory loopholes and enforcement loopholes. CITES, the local authority, and international enforcement agencies should strengthen partnerships that help reduce environmental crimes effectively.

3. Cooperation with INTERPOL- INTERPOL has emerged as a key institution in international cooperation against organized crime, connecting law enforcement agencies from 195 member countries. The databases, alerts, and task forces allow for the sharing of intelligence and support for transnational investigations. Its

⁵ David Brewer, *Globalization and Human Trafficking*, 2009 Topical Rsch. Dig.: Hum. Rts. & Hum. Trafficking 46, 48 (2009).

specialized units include drug trafficking, human trafficking, and cybercrime, providing real-time assistance during operations. However, its effectiveness is often limited by the varying commitment levels of member states and reliance on domestic agencies for execution.

Notable Operations

- Operation Thunderstorm

Coordinated by INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization, Operation Thunderstorm was conducted throughout 92 countries in 2018. With over 1,800 confiscations of items such as living animals, ivory, and wood, it demonstrated the existence of international trafficking groups⁶. The coordination of enforcement shows promise, but significant systemic issues with weak judicial structures prevent sustained benefits.

- Operation Pangea

Operation Pangea aims its operations against falsified medicines and illegal pharmaceutical products across the world. During the latest 2021 iteration, Operation Pangea shut down numerous illegal online pharmacies, seized millions of fake or spurious pharmaceutical products, and drew public awareness toward health implications through the indiscriminate supply of unregulated medicine, such as spurious antiviral vaccines against COVID-19⁷. At the same time, this exercise showcased the integral contribution of multinational collaboration toward cracking cyber-facilitated crime.

Country-Specific Efforts and Regional Collaboration

International attempts to intensify the fight against criminal organisations in the 1990s led to the UN Convention definition. Although it has been criticised for being excessively vague⁸, Effectively fighting organized crime necessitates both country-specific efforts and regional cooperation. The individual nations must work together to destroy domestic and international criminal organizations while regional actions provide support for the efforts of countries through pooling of resources, intelligence, and harmonized law enforcement. This paper discusses how the United States and Mexico cooperate on the issue of fentanyl; India's regional leadership on the issue of combating wildlife crimes in South Asia; and Europol's European Union initiatives.

⁶ Carsten Weerth, WCO and INTERPOL on Wildlife Crime 2023: Results of the Joint Thunder Operation 2023, <https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.22662.79688> (2024).

⁷ INTERPOL, Online Sale of Fake Medicines and Products Targeted in INTERPOL Operation, (Oct. 13, 2016), retrieved Jan. 13, 2023, from <https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2016/Online-sale-of-fake-medicines-and-products-targeted-in-INTERPOL-operation>.

⁸ Fabrizio Calderoni, A Definition That Does Not Work: The Impact of the EU Framework Decision on the Fight Against Organized Crime, 49 *Common Mkt. L. Rev.* 1365, 1365-1394 (2012).

Case study 1: US-Mexico Cooperation against Fentanyl Overdose Crisis

The United States and Mexico have a common problem of the fentanyl crisis and the greater issue of international drug trafficking. Fentanyl is the leading cause of overdose deaths in the United States. It is mostly imported from Mexico, which serves as a transshipment and production hub for the drug, often using precursor chemicals from nations like China⁹. Fentanyl trafficking in Mexico is carried out by major criminal organisations such as the Sinaloa drug trafficking operation and the Cartel Jalisco Nueva Generación. Fentanyl production can readily expand from China and India to many other countries, including Mexico, over time¹⁰

DEA in the US has collaborated with the Mexican law enforcement agencies against trafficking networks of fentanyl. Joint operations have been undertaken that have dismantled major cartels, including Los Chapitos- a faction of Sinaloa Cartel to which fentanyl production and distribution are largely attributed. Perhaps most dramatically, U.S. and Mexican forces collaborated on a major operation last year in 2023 where they took into custody tonnes of fentanyl-laced pills and precursor chemicals, besides high-ranking cartel leaders. Despite these achievements, there are still challenges. Corruption in Mexican law enforcement and judicial systems often undermines sustained progress, while different legal and enforcement standards make cross-border coordination challenging. However, efforts such as the Bicentennial Framework for Security, Public Health, and Safe Communities have enhanced bilateral cooperation, focusing on intelligence sharing, training programs, and supply chain disruptions.

Case Study 2: India's Leadership in SAWEN

India comes out as a regional leader in the region fighting wildlife crimes through its active membership in the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN). SAWEN is an eight-member countries collective that prevents transnational wildlife trafficking through increased regional cooperation.

Under India's leadership, several successful operations have been conducted against poaching and illegal trade in species like tigers, pangolins, and rhinos. For instance, Operation Save Kurma, an inter-agency effort under SAWEN, was aimed at putting a stop to the illegal trade of turtles and tortoises across South Asia. The operation resulted in the seizure of thousands of live animals and the arrest of several traffickers¹¹.

India has also enhanced its domestic framework to counter crimes against wildlife. It collaborated with SAWEN through the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) at the regional level, coordinating operations and serving as a portal for sharing intelligence. India's Wildlife Protection Act¹² has been well used in prosecuting these offenders and sets a precedence for surrounding countries to do likewise. Nonetheless, the challenges remain with porous borders, weak enforcement in some member countries, and the influence of

⁹ World Drug Report 2018, *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*, <https://www.unodc.org/wdr2018/en/drug-markets.html> (last visited Jan. 13, 2023).

¹⁰ Keith Humphreys (2018), <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/world/2018-04-16/opioids-masse> Keith Humphreys, Opioids and the Masses, *Foreign Affairs* (Apr. 16, 2018), <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/world/2018-04-16/opioids-masses>.

¹¹ Press Information Bureau, Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. (2017, March 2). "Operation Thunderbird" and "Operation Save Kurma" result in huge seizures throughout the country. Retrieved from <https://pib.gov.in>

¹² Act No. 53 of 1972

organized crime syndicates involved in wildlife trafficking. The continued success of SAWEN will depend on strengthened regional capacity building, technological innovations, and sustained political will by member states.

Regional Cooperation in the European Union

Robust mechanisms exist through Europol that combat the incidence of organized crime within European Union member states. Through this Europol system, coordination regarding the sharing of intelligence and other joint operations intended to disrupt these criminal networks implicated in drug cartels, human trafficking, and cybercrime exists.

One of Europol's significant operations was Operation Blue Amber, targeting drug cartels and human trafficking rings that spanned across the European continent¹³. This multi-country operation involved over 40 nations and led to thousands of arrests, considerable quantities of drugs seized, and dismantling human trafficking networks.

Europol has similarly contributed toward reducing human trafficking by smuggling with an effective instrument termed as the European Migrant Smuggling Centre (EMSC). Involving itself deeply with state of the art tool data analytics with cross border ties, Europol has busted central trafficking routes particularly originating in the North Africa, Balkan.

Although such progress has been made, there are challenges to be overcome by Europol. First, member states' legal frameworks vary without uniformity. Its jurisdiction to enforce laws directly is limited. For sustained progress, strengthening coordination among member states and addressing disparities in enforcement capacities is crucial.

Gender-Based Violence and Organized Crime

Gender-based violence is inherently connected with organized crime, and the most affected by exploitation and trafficking are women and children. Criminal networks take advantage of systemic vulnerabilities in combination with socio-economic inequalities, political instability to target the vulnerable, and keep the cycle of violence and inequality going.

The trafficking of women and children is a glaring example of how the lines of addition are blurring. Organized criminal networks view them as commodities to be exploited in matters such as forced labor, sexual slavery, and other types of abuse. The Rohingya refugee crisis has accentuated this issue because thousands of women and children have been targeted in this fashion. Reports reveal that Rohingya women are trafficked to neighboring countries like Bangladesh, Malaysia, and India, often ending up in brothels or as domestic laborers in conditions akin to slavery. Organized crime syndicates prey on the disruption of refugee movement, using feeble border surveillance and corruption as opportunities to push victims across international frontiers.

¹³ Europol Public Information. *Europol supports huge international operation to tackle organised crime*. Europol Corporate Communications (2015)

This vulnerability is increased by the non-recognition given to Rohingya refugees, who thereby cannot seek recourse or redress under host country jurisprudence¹⁴. In India, the region of Sundarbans represents the local context of trafficking to which organized crime is connected.

This ecologically fragile and socio-economically vulnerable area, straddling India and Bangladesh, is fast becoming a hub for trafficking women and children. Rising sea levels and frequent cyclones have forced many families into poverty. Traffickers seize such an opportunity by luring the victims with job opportunities and then compelling them into exploitative situations, including household servanthship and prostitution. The dense forests and remote villages of Sundarbans provide hideouts for all these illegal activities, and porous borders are easily breached for cross-border trafficking. Some of these factors include insufficient resources for these agencies, corruption, and the high prevalence of organized crime groups that has superseded efforts at eliminating trafficking in this part of the world. India's Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act (ITPA) Amendment of 2013¹⁵ is critically a legal mechanism designed to address the question of trafficking and exploitation of women & children. It expanded the scope of the earlier Act and introduced provisions specifically for the protection of victims while making punitive measures stronger against traffickers.

The focus was not on criminalizing the sex worker but on targeting the trafficker and organized crime networks. It declared that sex workers are victims of coercion and trafficking, hence required rehabilitation rather than punishment. Special courts were also constituted to expedite cases related to trafficking so that the victims are able to have speedy justice. This amendment also considered the inclusion of new provisions on issues related to new challenges posed by technology to curb trafficking, where the same crime networks use online digital platforms more to recruit and advertise their services. The introduction of even stricter laws and sentences governing cyber trafficking by the amendment admitted the changing ways through which the traffickers would operate.

Despite all this, the ITPA Amendment is yet to see realization due to several setbacks. These include low awareness levels; lack of sufficient funding; inadequate training for the law enforcing officers, as well as the judges; and societal stigma against victims of cyber trafficking. Gender-based violence and organized crime raise very serious concerns in the light of human rights that demand instant attention. The case may vary, whether the Rohingya crisis or Sundarbans region or across broader trafficking networks. It seems evident that for such crimes, an approach encompassing legal reform, international cooperation, and grassroots intervention is critical for effective deterrence.

Legal Reforms to Strengthen India's Capabilities

Major legal reforms have been undertaken by India in the fight against organized crime, especially human trafficking and transnational criminal networks. The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act (ITPA)¹⁶ forms the core

¹⁴ Adam, *Understanding the Myanmar/Rohingya Conflict Is Best Achieved Through Understanding International Non-Alignment*, *The Duran* (Sept. 9, 2017), <https://theduran.com/understandingmyanmarrohingya-conflict-best-achievedunderstanding-international-non-alignment/> (last visited July 31, 2019).

¹⁵ Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013

¹⁶ Act No. 104 of 1956.

of India's anti-trafficking efforts, while protecting and rehabilitating victims. It criminalizes all activities related to trafficking, including the management of brothels, solicitation, etc. The ITPA has recently been amended to expand its scope with provisions for rehabilitation and compensation to victims, establishment of special courts to expedite trials, and impose stricter penalties to offenders. Despite these efforts, the problems remain with uneven application across states, under-prepared law enforcement agencies, and social stigma to survivors. Apart from the domestic reforms, India has strengthened its international crime control measures through extradition treaties and bilateral agreements. With more than 50 extradition treaties and MLATs, India ensures prompt apprehension and prosecution of offenders involved in transnational crimes. Examples: India's MLAT with the United States has been quite useful in generating inputs on intel in cybercrimes, money laundering, and financial frauds amongst other issues. It beefs up India's capacity for international crime control apart from being a basis for further international cooperation. On the contrary, increasing technological intensity in transnational crimes demand that the Indian legal system remain continually updated and address issues such as the use of cryptocurrencies for crime and the dark web in trafficking and illicit trade.

India's Contribution to Global Forums

India has been an active participant in international efforts to curb organized crime and used its position in global forums to develop policies and foster cooperation.

For example, India played a crucial role at the Second Regional Conference on Combating Human Trafficking where it adopted the Colombo Declaration of 2016¹⁷. The declaration not only asked for cooperation between South Asia nations in eradicating human trafficking but also further indicated by the need for intelligence sharing, border security enhancement, and mechanism creation for victim support. The India initiative, above, has led not only in making a commitment in dealing with the matter at the origination but also through a necessity for building regional capacity. Other than policy contributions, India has engaged in embracing what is described below as technological innovations in tracking and countering transnational crimes. Areas like the advanced surveillance systems, application of biometric data in criminal investigations, and consolidation of artificial intelligence for predictive policing accredit India's technological supremacy in crime control. One such platform that allows the easy sharing of data between the law enforcement agencies and helps to identify and nab offenders across the borders is Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS). India has also shared its databases with INTERPOL and, through these, has tracked stolen artifacts, identified victims of trafficking, and busted organized crime syndicates. Such technological advancements combined with active participation in global forums highlight India's growing role as a key player in international crime control. However, further investment in technology and capacity building is required to sustain and enhance these efforts in the face of evolving transnational threats.

¹⁷ World Health Organization (WHO), *Colombo Declaration: Endorsed at the Sixty-Ninth Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia (SEA/RC69/R1)*, (Sept. 9, 2016), Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Specialized Transnational Task Forces and Advanced Technologies

A very effective means of dealing with organized crime is specialized transnational task forces dedicated to prevention, enforcement, and sharing of intelligence. These would involve representatives from a number of countries working seamlessly across borders in order to hasten the responses and improve coordination. For instance, such teams could focus on drug trafficking by combining intelligence from financial monitoring agencies and law enforcement to effectively dismantle cartels. Advanced technologies such as blockchain and AI can be crucial in supporting these efforts. Blockchain, for instance, will help trace illegal financial transactions by having a transparent and immutable ledger system, thus making it very difficult for organized crime networks to launder money or fund operations. AI, in contrast, would analyze large sets of data, look for patterns, predict likely criminal activity, and support targeted intervention. For example, AI-enabled surveillance systems can follow the routes through which wildlife traffickers operate while predictive analytics can provide information on which areas are highly risky for human trafficking. Introducing these technologies into global initiatives against crime will enhance their ability to combat such crimes.

Building capacity in developing nations is important for the development of a global defense against organized crime. Most of these countries are vulnerable to transnational crimes due to weaknesses such as scarcity of resources, limited technological know-how, and weak laws. Some of these countries can be empowered by training their law enforcement, improving access to advanced investigative machinery, and foreign funding directed at enhancing infrastructure. At the same time, it is necessary to enhance transparency and accountability in enforcement agencies to minimize corruption, which is often the obstacle to crime control. Independent monitoring bodies and more stringent oversight mechanisms can check corrupt practices and ensure the integrity of law enforcement operations. Another step is strengthening the existing international legal framework. Treaties such as the UNTOC and CITES need to be developed to tackle new threats like cybercrime and environmental offenses. Ensuring member states adhere to these frameworks, coupled with punitive measures for non-compliance, can strengthen them. International efforts must also ensure there are rewards for cooperation between nations and encouragement for those who genuinely try to have control over crime. Such steps if undertaken as a whole can provide a more powerful and integrated global approach against organized crime.

Conclusion

The struggle against organized crime today is complex and multifaceted based on how criminal activities have changed over time. These crimes pose specific difficulties but also have common features: they all involve the crossing of borders, exploit global systems, and cause disastrous impacts on societies, economies, and environments. Many successes are there as well: from effective cooperation between the U.S. and Mexico to address the fentanyl crisis, to the Indian leadership in wildlife conservation through SAWEN (South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network). Much more needs to be done. All of this coupled with sovereignty concerns, technological issues, corruption, and lack of legal framework adequacy stands as the current challenges toward

the fulfillment of these objectives. International mechanisms such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, and INTERPOL help support cooperation among the nations involved.

These frameworks have formed a foundation with which to approach organized crime but are in a constant state of needing modification and fortification to respond to emerging threats, such as cybercrime and environmental destruction. Case studies of operations Thunderstorm and Pangea thus point to the possibilities of coordinated action by international jurisdictions but lie below the challenges in relation to achieving compliance and consistency over borders. Organized crime-gender-based violence is also another relatively new and more significant concern. There are legislations which has protected vulnerable groups, but coordinated efforts to watch the acts and social stigma dominate. The environments in which people live influence the decisions made by those who engage in organised crime and/or become its victims. Although they have agency, other people and the social structures in their environment influence this agency¹⁸. This paper therefore propose several options to address and correct the misdirection of such organizations: create special transnational task forces, bring in state-of-the-art crime prevention through high technologies-including blockchains and AIs; and building capacity in more developing nations.

Finally, there is a silver lining in dealing with the changing nature of organized crime-a combination of cooperation at the international level and effective solutions in the realm of law, technology, and policy. However, it is highly important to combine crime control measures with the need to protect human rights. In efforts to dismantle crime organizations, an infringement on people's rights-mostly vulnerable peoples-is likely to ensue. Human rights must form the core of any global crime control strategy.

For example, while prosecuting traffickers, providing support to survivors for recovery and reintegration into society is of equal importance. All legal frameworks have to protect the rights of all people involved so that crime control measures do not end up victimizing further. In conclusion, although significant progress can be highlighted in the context of addressing organized crime much work remains. Under the proposed framework there has been enhanced proposal for international cooperation, technological integration, and strengthening capacity building-the comprehensive path through which such aspects can be driven. However, such efforts will be made under the principle of upholding respect for human rights, such that the campaign against this crime is not in any way brought to undermine justice and dignity. It is only by addressing crime through an integral and rights-oriented approach that success in bringing back control over the multifaceted and globalizing character of modern crime is achievable.

¹⁸ Caron E. Gentry & Laura Sjoberg, *Beyond Mothers, Monsters, Whores: Thinking About Women's Violence in Global Politics* 5 (Zed Books 2015).

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