Introduction to the Seminar

Scope and Objectives

This seminar brings together law students from numerous countries (9) to explore the evolving challenges of **human trafficking in the digital age**, through the lens of **comparative criminal law**. Participants will work in **mixed-nationality teams** to analyze their respective legal systems, identify gaps and tensions in criminal law approaches. The aim is to collaboratively propose model legal frameworks or policy recommendations.

The seminar combines academic analysis with practical, solution-oriented teamwork. It is designed to encourage **comparative legal reasoning**, foster **cross-cultural collaboration**, and promote legal innovation in the fight against tech-facilitated trafficking.

You are part of an international working group tasked by a (fictional) UN Committee to propose legal and regulatory strategies that can effectively combat human trafficking as it appears and evolves in the digital space. You represent (X) different legal systems, with diverse approaches to privacy, criminal enforcement, digital evidence, and platform responsibility.

POSSBILE TOPICS

01. COMPARATIVE LEGAL MAPPING

Analyze how participating jurisdictions define human trafficking, exploitation, and digital facilitation. Prepare a comparative chart highlighting similarities, divergences, and potential gaps in national criminal codes. Draft a proposal for a harmonized or model definition suited for digital-age trafficking.

02. DIGITAL EVIDENCE AND PROCEDURAL LAW

Examine rules of evidence, data protection, and cyber-investigation tools. Identify challenges in collecting and admitting digital evidence (e.g., encrypted messaging, social media). Propose recommendations for balancing investigative efficiency with privacy and fair trial rights.

03. LIABILITY OF ONLINE PLATFORMS

Explore how different legal systems regulate (or fail to regulate) the responsibility of social media, dating apps, or online job platforms in trafficking facilitation. Assess liability frameworks and design a model regulatory scheme.

04. VICTIM PROTECTION IN THE DIGITAL SPHERE

Compare victim identification, support, and protection measures, focusing on online recruitment and exploitation. Design a "digital victim support protocol" including anonymous reporting, digital shelters, and safe online environments.

05. TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION

Analyze how mutual legal assistance, Europol/Interpol tools, and joint investigation teams function in trafficking cases with digital elements. Identify bottlenecks and propose reforms or model cooperation agreements.

06. EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND RISKS

Study how AI, blockchain, cryptocurrency, and the dark web are misused for trafficking. Evaluate whether current laws cover these technologies and propose legal reforms or policies to address emerging risks.

07. SENTENCING AND SANCTIONS

Compare penalties, aggravating circumstances, and sentencing practices in digital trafficking cases. Assess proportionality and deterrent effects, then draft a "model sentencing guideline" consistent with human rights standards.

08. PREVENTIVE POLICIES AND EDUCATION

Investigate preventive strategies (digital literacy, awareness campaigns, regulation of online advertising). Prepare a policy paper outlining innovative prevention campaigns tailored for the digital context.

09. GENDER, CHILDREN, AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

Examine how minors, women, and migrants are affected by digital trafficking (e.g., grooming in online games, job scams). Compare special protections across jurisdictions and propose international minimum standards.

10. TRAFFICKING IN BUSINESS CHAINS OF INDUSTRY

Assess how human trafficking can be identified in global and regional business supply chains (e.g., agriculture, construction, textiles, digital services). Compare legal obligations for businesses (due diligence laws, transparency in supply chains, corporate liability). Develop proposals for effective monitoring mechanisms and model legal responses to ensure corporate accountability.

Examples of Expected Outputs

Note – the following list contains examples, you can integrate multiple of them.

Outputs can be short written papers (5–10 pages), comparative charts/tables, model legal texts, policy briefs, infographics, or presentations.

Combine formats (e.g., written policy brief + visual chart) so the results are useful both academically and practically and you can have more fun!

Comparative Legal Mapping	- A comparative **table or matrix** of definitions of trafficking and exploitation across jurisdictions. - A **short legal commentary** identifying key gaps or contradictions. - Draft of a **"model definition"** suitable for digital-age trafficking.

- A **flowchart** showing how digital evidence is collected, secured, and admitted in different countries. - A **set of best-practice guidelines** for investigators and prosecutors. - Draft proposal for a **model rule of evidence** on digital data in trafficking cases.	**Digital Evidence and Procedural Law**

Liability of Online Platforms

- A **comparative chart** of liability regimes (criminal, civil, administrative).
- A **policy paper** outlining pros and cons of platform liability.
- A draft **"model regulation"** or checklist for online intermediaries.

Victim Protection in the Digital Sphere

- A **protocol or toolkit** for digital victim support (hotlines, reporting apps, safe online communication).
- A **case study collection** comparing victim protection practices in different jurisdictions.
- Draft of a **model victim-centered framework** for online exploitation cases.

Transnational Cooperation

- A **map or diagram** of cooperation tools (Europol, Eurojust, MLA, joint investigation teams).
- A **policy brief** identifying bottlenecks in cross-border digital trafficking cases.
- A draft **model cooperation clause** for bilateral/multilateral treaties.

Emerging Technologies and Risks

- A **risk assessment report** on misuse of AI, cryptocurrencies, or the dark web.
- A **scenario analysis** (e.g., "traffickers using blockchain-based recruitment").
- Draft of **legal reform proposals** to cover emerging technologies.

Sentencing and Sanctions

- A **comparative table** of penalties, aggravating factors, and sentencing ranges.
- A **case digest** of notable judgments involving digital trafficking.
- A draft **model sentencing guideline** that balances deterrence and rehabilitation.

Preventive Policies and Education

- A **mock awareness campaign** (poster, social media post, slogan).
- A **policy paper** recommending digital literacy initiatives for vulnerable groups.
- A **comparative review** of prevention strategies (e.g., Germany vs. Turkey vs. Hungary).
- Develop a **board game concept** for prevention aims

Gender, Children, and Vulnerable Groups

- A **case study comparison** on minors targeted in online grooming or job scams.
- A **policy recommendation paper** for minimum international standards.
- A **visual infographic** showing how different groups are affected by digital trafficking.
- A **mock awareness campaign** (poster, social media post, slogan).

Trafficking in Business Chains of Industry

- A **supply chain risk map** highlighting vulnerable industries (e.g., agriculture, construction, IT).
- A **comparative analysis** of due diligence laws and corporate obligations.
- Draft **model "Transparency in Supply Chains Act"** or compliance checklist for businesses.