# An Examination of the Internet-based Marketplaces and Crypto Currencies by Human Traffickers for the Trafficking in Persons Around the Globe

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## Abstract
In the last twenty-three years, the use of online marketplaces and virtual currencies by human traffickers have resulted to more sophistication and dynamism of human trafficking crime around the world. Considering the dangers that this new trend of criminality pose on the developments of humanity, this work sought to study the menace of using online marketplaces and virtual currencies to traffic humans around the globe. The paper was framed around the routine activity theory to explain the causes of trafficking victims using online marketplaces and virtual currencies by human traffickers around the globe. The paper relied on content analysis of secondary sources of data and desk review of extent literature. The article revealed that the nature of using online marketplaces and virtual currencies by human traffickers involved the use of cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin and Ethereum to facilitate encrypted access and transactions of trafficking in persons. It was further discovered that these encrypted transactions of online trafficking of humans was domesticated within dark webs using the blockchain technology. Also, it was revealed that this technology allowed transactions in several private data bases for the purpose involuntary recruitment, transportation, harbouring and sale of victims. More so, it was discovered that the major challenge in the effective fight against human traffickers' use of online marketplaces and virtual currencies was poor cooperation among local and international law enforcement agencies and financial regulatory institutions. Based on these findings, it was recommended that government around the globe must legislate new laws and enhance capacity building for operatives of their law enforcement agencies to help them deal with online marketplaces and virtual currencies for the trafficking in persons.

*Keywords:* *Humans, Trafficking, Online Marketplaces, Virtual Currencies, Dark Web*

## Introduction
In recent times, specifically between the years 2000-2022, technological developments and deployment of online marketplaces and virtual currencies have resulted to increase in the complexity and sophistication in the hitherto dynamic crime of human trafficking around world (Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking of Persons of the United Nations (ICAT), 2021; United States Government Accountability Office, 2022). Countries that are specifically located in North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, Southern America, East Asia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia have been negatively affected due to rising incidences of unemployment, abject poverty, risen trends of inflation, rural-urban migration, privacy issues law enforcement and regulations (United Nations of Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 2021).

The menace of human trafficking have been facilitated by globalization issues like climates, violent conflicts and displacement. Similarly, human traffickers mostly target millions of innocent individuals that have been made vulnerable as a result poverty by using modern technology of online marketplaces such as social media platforms, dark nets and virtual currencies like Bitcoin and Ethereum (Di Nicola, Baratto and Martini, 2017; Polaris, 2019; Stochhem, 2020). Considering the sophistication of the crime of human trafficking, human traffickers have remained abreast with the currents trends in technological advances as organized criminal syndicates have succeeded in reintegrating their heinous criminal activities with contemporary online marketplaces of dark net cites and virtual

currencies usage within internet based platform (UNODC, 2020; L'Hoiry, Moretti and Antonopoulos, 2022).

The first incidence of trafficking humans using an online marketplace occurred on the year 2000 when it was reported by the UNODC that a free-standing online page was used to link buyers and sellers of sexual exploitation and forced labour from innocent victims by using local agents. By the end of 2021, human traffickers had further explored and exploited the possibilities of using online resources from mere advising of victims in the form of pictures and videos to recruitment of local/ international agents, recruitment of online operators of cyber trafficking platforms, transfer of monetary proceeds, the actual transportation, sale and trading of humans (ICAT, 2021; UNODC, 2022a). It was further noted by ICAT (2021) and Jain, Shende, Bhosale, Deshmukh, Gajra and Yadav (2023) that the use of online marketplaces and virtual currencies were not only used by human traffickers to exploit victims sexually and through forced labour, but were further used to coerce victims into crimes such as trading human organs harvested from the trafficked victims like kidneys.

Despite the growing abuse of online marketplaces and virtual currencies by human traffickers to facilitate the trafficking in persons, there continue to remain a dearth in the available global statistical figures of the persons or victims trafficked via online marketplaces and virtual currencies (European Union Agency for Law Enforcement for Law Enforcement (EUROPOL), 2020; ICAT, 2021). Thus, governments, anti-human trafficking agents and civil society organizations rely on estimates to analyse and fight the menace. In 2020, the UNODC (2020) reported that 50% of the global victims of human trafficking through online marketplaces, virtual currencies and physical forms were trafficked for sexual exploitation while 38% of these victims were trafficked for the purpose of forced labour. The UNODC (2020) further revealed that only 6% of the victims were trafficked for other criminal intents while 1% were trafficked to carry out begging around the globe. Conversely, the UNODC (2020) revealed 11.0% of the illicit

proceeds from online trafficking of persons were shared by individual-human-traffickers.

Thus, it was in line with this background that the paper attempted to appraise the use of online marketplaces and virtual currencies for human trafficking around the globe.

**Conceptual Clarification**
*Human Trafficking*
The United States Government Accountability Office (2022) defined human trafficking as the criminal manipulation of an individual via coercion for purpose involuntary labour or money-making sex services, or the exploitation of minors by engaging the under aged person in profit-making sex activities or forced labour. United States Government Accountability Office (2022) noted that there are two main categories of human trafficking which are sex and labour trafficking. The advent and continuous use of the internet has brought about fertile social context which made the criminality of human trafficking to flourish clandestinely in online marketplaces and through payments with virtual currencies.

*Virtual Currency*
The United States Government Accountability Office (2022) defined virtual currency as digital representation monetary value usually not issued by a country's central bank as legal tender. It further noted that there are no common applicable statutory meaning for virtual currency but added that the United State Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2020 refer to virtual currency as a "value that substitute for currency".

Virtual currencies are used to in payment of goods and services from service providers who accept payment in virtual currencies. By and large, there is a limited information about the use of virtual currencies for the payment of goods and services from retailers'. The virtual currency market which is generally estimated worth $2.6trilion US Dollars as at the 4th Quarter of 2017 (https://coinmarketcap.com/charts/). However, the most common use of virtual currencies are for the purchase, trading of derivatives and lending for speculative reasons to in payment of goods and services from service providers service providers. Polaris (2019) noted that virtual currencies have

increasingly been used for the payment illicit services such as human trafficking from organized criminal syndicates and their facilitators while victims of this heinous crime were being used on the basis of forced labour and sex slaves. According to Alvary, Shakarian and Snyder (2016) and International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (2021), the most commonly used types of cryptocurrency in the trafficking of humans were Bitcoin and Ethereum (ETH).

The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (2022) and Jain *et al.,* (2023) opined that efforts of governments around the globe to develop new strategies to assist financial and regulatory institutions to report, arrest and prosecute syndicates that engage in the use online marketplaces and virtual currencies for human trafficking have been very challenging. The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (2022) and Jain *et al.,* (2023) further noted that secrete clandestinely use online marketplaces and virtual currencies for human trafficking by organized criminal network have increasingly indulge in the use of mobile and online payment platforms to facilitate human trafficking.

### *Darknet/ Dark Web*
Edubird (2022) defined the dark web as that portion of the internet which is not listed by traditional search engines and requires unique search engines and specific softwares to gain access offering anonymity of the individuals involved while also encrypting the data sent and received by the individuals and making it the ideal place for illicit services to sold and bought. Furthermore, Beshiri and Susuri (2019) defined the dark web as a deep web that is made up complex interlink which is not indexed by traditional search engines and its webpages cannot also reached by traditional search engines that are used to access the first layer of the internet. Beshiri and Susuri (2019) also defined the dark web as a segment of the deep web which cannot be accessed except with the use of illicit apps such as Tor, 12P and Tail OS which provide complete facelessness, secrecy and the opportunity of non-exposure.

### Objectives of the Paper
The work achieved the following objectives:
i.      Understand the nature of using online marketplaces and virtual currencies for the trafficking in persons by criminal syndicates around the globe;
ii.     Investigate the methods used by human traffickers to use online marketplaces and virtual currencies to traffic victims around the globe.
iii.    Appraise the challenges encountered by law enforcement agencies and prosecutors in fighting the use of online marketplaces and virtual currencies for the trafficking of persons around the globe.

### Theoretical Framework: Routine Activities Theory
This work was framed around the Routine Activities Theory propounded by Cohen and Felson (1979) and the theory falls under the Rational Choice Perspective of Criminology (Akers and Sellers, 2004). Akers and Sellers (2004) argued that the Routine Activities Theory was a revision Cesare Beccaria' (1764) Rational Choice Theory which was the first attempt to explain crime from a social and economic perspective. Some of the proponents of this theory are Landa and Messna, Raffallovich and McMillian (2001).

The central assumptions of the Routine Activities Theory is that all potential criminals are rational actors who subjected themselves to conscious decision making out of their free-will of human action (rational choice). The theory further argued that they simultaneously work towards achieving the maximum benefits with minimum cost of being caught and prosecuted of the crime about to be committed, which is presented by a situation that is accompanied by routine opportunity. The theory also posited that crime is predisposed by an opportunity and this opportunity could be related to cost benefits, socio-economic position, risk of detection, dependent on situational circumstance, nature of offence and access to external profits. Cohen and Felson (1979) also elucidated that potential criminals who are rational actors create a routine of committing crimes through being

influenced with circumstances that provide the opportunity to commit crimes. Cohen and Felson (1979) argued that the Routine Activities Theory of crime is hinged on three basic cues which are:

i. There must be an appropriate target, either persons or properties, in respect to its value;

ii. There must be a target whose guardian, (such as police, vigilante and passers-by) can be easily overcome by the potential criminal and;

iii. There must be a criminal or offender who will consciously and deliberately plan to find a suitable target or else stumble across it with specific motivation that is germane for criminal activities.

In applying the theory to explain the work implied that individuals who engage in this criminality are rational actors who routinely always make use of the available opportunity of blockchain technology to subject themselves to conscious decision making out of their free-will of human action (rational choice). Furthermore, it implied that they simultaneously work toward achieving the maximum benefits and with minimum costs of using online the blockchain technology of the use cryptocurrencies within online marketplaces that privately and permanently record its transaction history. Also, the recorded data gave them a cover of an encrypted block between the participants in the human trafficking activities without being caught or apprehended, prosecuted and punished for human trafficking.

Similarly, this mean that human traffickers routinely leverage on the machine-learning algorithms to monitor and analyse behavioural patterns and interpret information on public blockchain. This further enabled the human trafficking syndicates to monitor and predict the success of their nefarious activities online and the possible illicit proceeds that would accrued to them without being caught. More so, the issue of safeguarding the privacy rights of online users have further created an undue excuse for criminal syndicates to hide under the pretext of protecting the privacy human rights.

## Methodology

This study basically carried out a review on the use of online marketplaces and virtual currencies for the trafficking in persons by criminal syndicates around the globe. The study explored the use of extant literature that were published in peer reviewed journals, textbooks and online materials. The paper also used content analysis of official documents from available secondary data.

## The Nature of Online Marketplaces and Crypto Currencies Usage for Human Trafficking

The technology of both online marketplaces and the virtual currency is generally believed to come with socio-economic benefits that individuals, groups and societies could leverage on in order to achieve level of positive growth and development of human and material resources (ICAT, 2019; United States Government Accountability Office, 2022). However, this technology is inherently embedded with certain features which regularly exploited by human traffickers to facilitate their criminal activities (Stochhem, 2020). One of this feature is the blockchain technology which are recorded on a ledger in a public and private accounts. The blockchain technology allows human traffickers to carry out their transaction in private data bases for the involuntary recruitment, transportation, harbouring and sale of victims whom are usually in bondage by encrypting the access to the online places and payment platform which such transaction s are carried out (Reid and Fox, 2020).

The blockchain technology which privately and permanently record its transaction history on the data base in a distributed ledger, does that by recording the transactions in an encrypted block between the participants in a network used by human traffickers (EUROPOL, 2020). Conversely, virtual currency technology carried out in online marketplaces uses a machine-learning algorithms to monitor and analyse behavioural patterns and interpret information on public blockchain. This further enables criminal syndicates to monitor and predict the success of their nefarious activities online without being caught on the dark webs (UNODC, 2020).

Stochhem (2020) and Jain *et al.,* (2023) averred that the use of dark web for the trafficking of human have risen in recent times making it major task for intelligence and security agencies around the globe because the dark web now provides a significant contexts for online or internet activities with 96.0% while only 4% of space was available for the surface web. Jain *et al.,* (2023) argued that majority of the sale and purchase humans occur in a dark web called "Black Death" mainly for the sale of exploited sex services and harvested human organs. Jain *et al.,* (2023) further argued that this dark web is owned by a clandestine organization which regularly changes its Universal Resource Locator (URL) while operating in encrypted format. Similarly, Alvary *et al.,* (2016) and International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (2021) noted that carrying transactions on the dark web enabled through cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin and Ethereum which makes difficult for authorities and law enforcements around the globe to detect, arrest and prosecute almost all crimes perpetrated on the dark web.

More so, the issue of safeguarding the privacy rights of online users have further created an undue excuse for criminal syndicates to hide under the pretext of protecting the privacy human rights (Beshiri and Susuri, 2019). The transactions of virtual currency usually carried out in online marketplaces requires that every user (inclusive of human traffickers) of this complex financial system possess a virtual wallets that uses public keys to open virtual accounts in the financial system and received cryptocurrencies (UNODC, 2020; Jain *et al.,*2023). It also requires that individual users must possess private keys which are passwords that would then enable the users or human traffickers access into their own clandestine virtual wallets (UNODC, 2020). Unfortunately for regulatory and law enforcement institutions, virtual wallets do not store currencies, rather they only record certain information about the public and private keys relating to the encrypted transactions cryptocurrencies illicitly sent and received by individuals within human trafficking syndicates (Stochhem, 2020; Jain *et al.,*2023).

The contemporary use of online marketplaces and virtual currencies by several human traffickers have made these criminals to become more dreaded and skillful in the use of internet-based resources than many law enforcement agents particular in the several developing countries are lacking the capacity of ICT proficiency required to fight organize internet crimes (ICAT, 2019; UNODC, 2022b). The use of online marketplaces such as dark webs and virtual currencies by human traffickers have enable them to function from several locations around the globe and also assist them to simultaneously victimize innocent persons (ICAT, 2019). While sexual exploitation has remained one of the major reason for trafficking of persons using online marketplaces and digital currencies, the UNODC (2022a) reported that for the first time, forced labour was detected to become the major reason for the online trafficking of human persons using the online marketplaces and digital currencies.

The UNODC (2021) revealed that the market value of victims trafficked through online marketplaces and virtual currencies increases as the exploitation stage reaches its zenith because victims with international travelling documents could be sold by traffickers online for as high as $25000 in each country. Additionally, the UNODC (2021) human trafficking have continued to rake in millions of US Dollars because women and girls with future potentials for sexual exploitation were sold online for $5000 while the agents who sourced for the trade receive a commission of as much as $2000. However, victims without international travelling documents were sold out online for as low as $250 without dignity.

The global community in the last 16-18years have witnessed a steady rise in both males and females but surprising, the numbers of men, boys and girls that were successfully trafficked and made victims have further risen while there is decline in the incidences of older women trafficked from 70% to less that 50% in 2018 (UNODC, 2020; Jain *et al.,* 2023). More so, Sub-Saharan African countries and the countries of South Asia have lower detection rates of online human trafficking via physical mediums and online markets places

and virtual currencies with 22% and 14% (UNODC, 2020).

In this inhuman and illicit trade, organized criminal groups in the chain of facilitating human trafficking through online markets and virtual currency, the government officials, opportunistic-groups and individual-human traffickers have remained perpetually central in this vicious cycle of criminality (Jain *et al.,* 2023). The UNODC (2020) revealed that globally, 57.0% of the proceeds of trafficking in persons via through online markets and virtual currencies were earned by business-enterprise-types of organized groups controls, 18.0% was corruptly earned by governance-type of organized criminal groups while 14.0% were corruptly earned by were opportunistic-groups-human traffickers.

**Strategies used by Organized Syndicates to Traffic Humans through Online Marketplaces and Crypto currencies.**
Organized criminal syndicates who engage in human trafficking have been using several methods in the use of online marketplaces and virtual currencies to traffic victims around globe. Among these different methods used by human traffickers, two are mostly used by human traffickers (ICAT, 2021). The two mostly used online strategies are:

**i.      Hunting Strategy**
Under the hunting strategy, traffickers and their agents actively look for certain type of clients online using internet platforms like social media, online marketplaces. Human traffickers routinely use the hunting strategy to get in contact with a targeted victim that possesses some features with a view to purposely establish links with potential buyers of the victims for exploitative services (Di Nicola *et al.,* 2017). Some of these special features that human traffickers hunt for are socio-economic vulnerability, weak emotional composure, weak law enforcement or institutional protection and other vulnerabilities. All these vulnerability traits make it easier for traffickers to traffic the targeted victims using online marketplaces and virtual currencies. These in sum, make the potential victim being hunted online very prone to manipulation and abuse

(UNODC, 2020). The UNODC in 2021 reported that there were 21 cases and 176 victims of hunting strategies and that in instances where hunting strategies were used, social media apps like Facebook, Instagram, Tik Tok, WhatsApp, Twitter among others, provided the human traffickers with a large base of information about potential targets. Some of these information were provided by some of the victims themselves and from the ability of the human traffickers to collect such data on the victims (UNODC, 2022b).

These cases illuminate how the hunting strategy routinely used by human traffickers via online marketplaces and virtual currencies makes the potential victims very vulnerable, less protected by the law enforcement agencies and without the human traffickers risking being arrested and prosecuted. This conformed to the tenets of the routine activities used a theoretical frame work for this paper. This unfortunate case further explicate how innocent young men and women are prone to routinely manipulated and exploited sexually, engaged in forced labour and other criminal activities in their efforts to escape socio-economic, political and climate challenges in their various countries of origins.

**ii.      Fishing Strategy**
Under this strategy, human traffickers and their agents use deceptive advertisement and unsolicited friendship messages to lure their victims into being trafficked (Di Nicola *et al.,* 2017). By and large, human traffickers routinely use the fishing strategy to post fake advertisements online while waiting for potential clients whom are unfortunately made victims when they respond and eventually trafficked (Di Nicola *et al.,* 2017; Stochhem, 2020).The UNODC in 2021 reported that there were 45 cases and 296 victims of fishing; where human traffickers routinely used fraudulent job advertisements of well-paid jobs that seemed accessible to any interested individual.

This fishing strategy in several instances prompts the potential victims to contact the information with the organize syndicates of human traffickers (Jain *et al.,* 2023). Additionally, human traffickers routinely use high level of deception to lure job

seekers by placing job advertisement in overseas countries (Reid and Fox, 2020; Jain *et al.,* 2023). In a particular case that was reported by UNODC (2021), it was revealed that a syndicate of human traffickers used fake profiles on the social media platform known as *Vkontakte* to advise several modelling jobs exclusively available for women in overseas countries. The report further revealed that in this particularly case, the human traffickers succeeded in sexually exploiting approximately 100 women via fishing who were scammed by the fake advisements. These innocent women were eventually recruited into forced sexual activities The fishing strategy used by human traffickers is also used to lure potential clients by posting fake advisements of escort services and prostitution services. These fake adverts posted by human traffickers usually ask interested clients to contact the information provided on the fake advisements posted online (Stochhem, 2020; UNODC, 2020). In the end, 30 women who called or sent messages applying for professional job services were actually forced into sexually exploitative services with customers. This particular case of 30 women subjected to manipulation and exploitation indicated the main benefit of using the fishing strategy by human traffickers which enables them to access multiple possible victims or clients without the risks of being arrested and at the same time simultaneously increasing the level of the criminal operations (UNODC, 2020).

These cases illuminate how the fishing strategy routinely used by human traffickers through online marketplaces and virtual currencies make the potential victims very vulnerable, less protected by the law enforcement agencies and without the human traffickers risk being arrested and prosecuted. This conformed to the tenets of the routine activities used a theoretical frame work for this paper. This unfortunate case further explicate how innocent young men and women are prone to being routinely manipulated and exploited sexually, engaged in forced labour and other criminal activities in their efforts to escape socio-economic, political and climate challenges in their various countries of origins.

This preceding revelations about the nature and strategies of online human trafficking by human traffickers conforms to the theoretical orientations of this article. This was because applying the Routine Activities Theory to explain the use of online marketplaces such as dark web and cryptocurrencies by human traffickers to carry out trafficking of humans for the, this implied that individuals who engage in this criminality are rational actors who routinely always make use of the available opportunity of blockchain technology to subject themselves to conscious decision making out of their free-will of human action (rational choice). Additionally, this implied that they simultaneously work toward achieving the maximum benefits and with minimum costs of using online the blockchain technology of the use cryptocurrencies within online marketplaces that privately and permanently record its transaction history on the data base in an encrypted block between the participants in the human trafficking activities without being caught or apprehended, prosecuted and punished for the gruesome crimes they routinely commit.

Also, applying the theory illuminate how human traffickers routinely use the virtual currency technology within online marketplaces by leveraging on its machine-learning algorithms to monitor and analyse behavioural patterns and interpret information on public blockchain which further enables the human trafficking syndicates to monitor and predict the success of the nefarious activities online the possible illicit proceeds that would accrued to them without being caught. More so, the issue of safeguarding the privacy rights of online users have further created an undue excuse for criminal syndicates to hide under the pretext of protecting the privacy human rights.

**The Challenges Encountered by Law Enforcement Agencies and Prosecutors in fighting the use of Online Marketplaces and Virtual Currencies for the Trafficking of Persons**

There are several challenges preventing national and international law enforcement agencies from the fight against the use of online market places and virtual currencies for human trafficking (International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), 2024a). Some of these challenges included:

i. The weak cooperation among local and international law enforcement agencies and financial institutions to human trafficking through the use online marketplaces and virtual currencies is a challenges inhibiting law enforcements fight against the use of online marketplaces and virtual currencies for the trafficking of humans (ICAT, 2019; EUROPOL, 2020). This weak cooperation militates the swift response of the international society to respond to the ever increasing use of dark web through the use of online marketplaces and virtual currencies (Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, 2020).

ii. Another major challenge in combatting online human trafficking is insufficient legislations to serve as a guideline and tools (ICAT, 2019; EUROPOL, 2020). When there are sufficient guideline and tools for combating online human trafficking, it would help in conducting diligent investigations, arrests and prosecutions of criminal syndicates. At the end, it would deter criminals and potential criminals against use online marketplaces and virtual currencies for the human act trafficking humans (International Criminal Police Organization, 2024b).

iii. The increasing level of high variance, incompatibility and sophistication in the nature of ICT hardware's and softwares available in different countries is another major challenge in combatting online human trafficking (ICAT, 2019; EUROPOL, 2020). Due to the persistent increase in the high level of variance, incompatibility and sophistication in the nature of ICT hardware's and softwares, human traffickers exploit these gaps to facilitate the trafficking of victims through online marketplaces and virtual currencies (International Criminal Police Organization, 2024b). More so, many countries especially in the developing countries of Africa, Latin America, South Asia and Eastern Europe experience serious deficits in the availability of ICT equipment (Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, 2020).

iv. Lastly, there is the challenge of insufficient capacity from law enforcement agencies and judiciary in the fight against the use of online market platforms for human trafficking (International Criminal Police Organization, 2024b). According to ICAT (2019), EUROPOL (2020) and Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (2020), there is a disturbing shortage in the capacity of law enforcement agencies and judiciaries around the globe to effectively fight online human trafficking. They added that this has led to the increase in the complexity of using online marketplaces such as stand-alone pages, dark webs and cryptocurrencies transactions to traffic humans by criminal syndicates around the globe.

**Conclusion**
This work concluded that the technology of online marketplaces and cryptocurrencies have the potentials to drive significant socio-economic and political benefits. These technologies can empower individuals, groups and societies to achieve positive growth and development. However, the same technologies are being exploited by malicious actors, including human traffickers around the globe. One of such technology is the blockchain that though has transparency and a technology, but are also used for obscured illicit transactions and facilitate criminal activities.

**Recommendations**
Based on the findings, it was recommended that:
i. Regulatory and law enforcement institutions should leverage on the machine-learning algorithms trait of the virtual currency blockchain technology carried out within online marketplaces. This will enable them to trace and detect illicit internet transactions carried online with the aim of using online marketplaces and virtual currencies to traffic human.

ii. It was further recommended that governments around the globe should legislate and introduce new laws and policies against online human trafficking using digital currencies. This new laws and policies would to mandate financial institutions to report suspicious transactions associated with human trafficking, forced labour regimes and sexual exploitation of victims.

iii. The article further recommended that governments around the globe should engage in capacity building for the operatives' of financial regulatory institutions and law enforcement agencies. This is to prepare them on how to deal with incidences of online marketplaces and virtual currencies being used by criminal syndicates to traffic humans around the globe.

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