

WHY ILLEGAL MIGRANT WORKERS IN JAIL? :

AN INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WORK PERSPECTIVE

Muhamad Fadhil Nurdin, Ali Maksum & Mohd. Haizzan Yahaya

Abstract

This article explains the dilemma of Indonesian illegal migrant workers (PATI) in Malaysia regarding "injustice" treatment during their prosecution. As we know, those who could not complete their travel documents are prohibited to enter any single country in the world, while same treatments are also given to Illegal migrant workers. However, what happened in Malaysia is illegal workers were arrested and treat as a criminal. The Indonesia and Malaysia government did not realize this policy is inefficient, require a huge budget and allegedly colored with human rights abuses. The two countries should transform this policy and commence to formulate an effective and accountable policy. The Japanese's policy in order to handle illegal migrant workers is feasible and should be learned. Japanese government will deport and transfer directly to the home country while could not show their immigration documents. It looks more prudent, accountable and efficient without any single moral abuses which relatively unproblematic whether to the host or home country. Therefore, this article attempts to observe and analysis as well as propose recommendation in relation to illegal migrant workers management to the both countries.

Keywords: migrant workers, Indonesia, Malaysia, international social work.

INTRODUCTION

Social work and international affairs: a short view

Generally social work is contextualized in the local levels and tends to be a responsible of the local authority. However, along with the changes of international political situation and triggered by rapid development of information technology, social work become one of important issue around the globe. It is because social work has close correlation with human rights and human security issues which are become high attention especially after the Cold War era in 1990s onwards. Consequently, all types of issues are indirectly and vastly entertain world society beyond the state borders. Furthermore, globalization also became more popular and one of crucial factor behind the wider attention of many issues related to human developments including social work issues. Nonetheless, although social work normatively can be included into international perspective, yet still debatable among their scholars regarding the position of social work itself as an applied discipline (Midgley 2001: 22). Gray (2005) for instance tend to concern about relationship between social work in the context of globalization–localization, Westernization–indigenization, multicultural–universalization and universal–local standards. Engstrom and Jones (2007) have five areas which potentially could empower social work as a

discipline especially to social work students in international area specifically culture and behavior, experiencing of being different, comparative views of social welfare, global responses and local responses and different contexts and social work practice.

As abovementioned globalization is a critical factor behind the raise of social work become more internationalize. The raise of globalization is phenomena which made world become more complex. Since then global society witness so called economic interdependence, while the concept itself also become more enlarge and involving non-state actors /transnational[.], so that emerge what liberalism scholars call as “complex interdependence”(Keohane and Nye, 2001:20-32). Keohane and Nye (2001) believe that “complex interdependence” occurred due to international relations become more complex and not emphasize on state-to-state relations *per se*. People-to-people relations as well as inter-organizations also should taking into account as international relations phenomena. Hence, the existence of the relationships was real and not easy to control. This is because the emergence of so called multiple channels (Keohane and Nye, 2001:21) in the globalization era which totally affected to transformation of human relations. Everybody could build relationship and contact with their partners worldwide beyond the state borders. Abubakar Eby Hara (2009) opine that transnational relations emerge due to the role of non-state actors such as mass media, NGOs supported by internet access facilities become more dominant and critical in international affairs.

The migration is one of easy sample how human movements become freely and hardly uncontrolled including in Malaysia-Indonesia migration phenomena. Migration is often framed as a security problem - a threat to public order, national identity and welfare - (Huysmans, 2006) and irregular migration a criminal offense (Bigo, 2003, AasFranko, 2007, Pinyol-Jiménez, 2012). Whereas trade and finance are subject to global regulation, human mobility is not governed by a formal regime (except for refugees) (Kalm, 2012). In short, while capital, goods and skilled workers circulate freely; *unskilled* migrants do not, at least not in a legal fashion. Thus, “mobility is a privilege that is unevenly distributed among human beings” (Pécoud and de Guchteneire, 2006). Migration control is a complex and costly endeavor including border patrols, issuing of visas and residence permits, prosecuting, detaining and removing undocumented migrants (Pécoud and de Guchteneire, 2006). Whereas developed countries have the resources necessary

to enforce strict migration control the developing countries subject to the largest influx of immigrants are for the most, neither well equipped to protect their borders, nor to accommodate refugees and migrants. The paradoxical development with a free flow in capital but not in human beings and the uneven burden sharing of immigration raise several ethical, social and political questions. What impact do changing border-control regimes have on migrants? Can developed countries be ethically justified in excluding migrants from underprivileged parts of the world? What rights and duties hold between migrants and states? Do affluent nation states have any particular duties towards the global poor? These questions were seen very critical including in the context of Indonesian migrants phenomena in Malaysia. In term of social work perspective it was related to how the countries handle these issues, while diplomatically both countries also has attempted to manage the issues properly. Human rights issues also should put at the discussion due to human rights will be bridging between social work and migrant issues management. The terrible treatment towards Indonesian workers in Malaysian will be suitable if analyzed from human rights and be widened to a critical discourse especially moral and ethics.

Social work as international social work

Social Work is the professional activity of helping individuals, groups, or communities enhance or restore their capacity for social functioning and creating societal conditions favorable to this goal. Social Work practice consists of the professional application of Social Work values, principles, and techniques to one or more of the following ends: helping people obtain tangible services; counseling and psychotherapy with individuals, families, and groups; helping communities or groups provide or improve processes. It aims to help people develop their skills and their ability to use their own resources and those of the community to resolve problems (Payne, 2006). Social work is concerned with individual and personal problems but also with broader social issues such as poverty, unemployment and international affairs. Besides, human rights and social justice are the philosophical underpinnings of social work practice. The uniqueness of social work practice is in the blend of some particular values, knowledge and skills, including the use of relationship as the basis of all interventions and respect for the client's choice and involvement. In addition, social workers involved in policy analysis, policy

development and planning are usually working in federal and provincial departments or social planning councils (Hingham, 2006).

Meanwhile, International Social work can best be defined as its contribution to social work in a global society. International social work is a social work which deals with problems or matters caused between nations or across national boundaries or efforts beyond national boundaries which to be solve. International social work thinks of an acts for the well-being of all people. International social work does not attach to any special meaning or importance in value to any specific country or people. International social work is irreconcilable with egocentrism, ethnocentrism, and xenophobia, and unable to do without “ compound eyes” or eyes from the out side. It is always necessary to carry around two blank world maps in one’s pocket, one with national boundaries and the other one is without national boundaries.

In addition, by having a historical perspective is necessary. The definition of international social work itself has developed in early days. “ International” in the term inter-national social work was an adjective or a modifier to “ social work” while in later days, those two parts were combined into an inseparable concept of “ international social work”. The writers describe that the historical development of the international social work definition in a “ Three Phase Theory” by ways of breaking through national boundaries of social work which are: (1) On immigration and wars and international social work conferences; (2) With joint work and in-cooperation with other countries, and; (3) Across national boundaries.

Sanders & Peterson (1984) asserted that an international experience as part of social work would expand knowledge base by exposing them to other cultures, social welfare policies, and to different ways of approaching and solving practice issues. The international perspective would enable social worker to make that shift to ethnorelativism by freeing them from what Sanders & Peterson call cultural myopia. This myopia is the tendency to view social problems from no other than their own cultural perspective. However, The study of international issues offers much focus to Culture and Behavior, Experiencing of Being Different, Comparative Views of Social Welfare, Global Responses and Local Responses, Different Contexts and Social Work Practice. Social worker can also learn about how the policies of the developed world have consequences for less developed regions. Sensitizing to these issues is the first step toward advocacy for social

and economic justice as a worldwide goal (Asamoah, 2003). Learning about the relationship between global and local conditions prepares practitioners to intervene or advocate at home more effectively with transnational issues like adoption, trafficking in people and drugs, immigration, and refugee resettlement (Healy, 1988). Social workers need an understanding of their cultural and geographic roots, and as such they provide social workers with knowledge and skills for working with diverse populations (Hokenstad, 2003).

Furthermore, the contribution of international social work in a global society are such as effectively intervene, ameliorate, solving social problems and life difficulties caused in the global society, promote and prevent the forces of globalization, and the most important is promoting social functioning by all means. Professional social workers are on the frontline addressing some of today's most pressing international issues. They organize relief programs for displaced populations and coordinate human services and psycho-social support. Social workers witness firsthand the effect of policy on the populations around the world. The recommendations outlined below are set forth to promote economic stability, fair treatment, and equal access to services.

The background of Indonesian immigrant workers in Malaysia

Looking back to the past century, the existence of Indonesian migrant workers in Malaysia known as *Tenaga Kerja Indonesia* (TKI) was close correlation with regional powers before the arrival of bevy colonial. Such empires as Majapahit, Srivijaya and Malacca were among kingdoms which have huge influence and power in the Southeast Asian region. Lili Yulyadi (2009: 364) opined that among people in the region has a good relationship in relation to communication, trade and cultures indeed. It can be said that people to people contact or cross-border activities arguably has established since early through various and multiple channels. Manuscripts and many historical stories such as *Sejarah Melayu*, *Hikayat Hang Tuah* and *Hikayat Melayu dan Bugis (Tuhfat al-Nafis)* mentioned that trade and wars are mediums used by peoples in the region to interact each other in order to build intensive cooperation/communication. Furthermore, colonial and Malay authorities were also encouraged and really welcome Indonesian workers to Malaya (Liow 2005: 45). The cross-border activity between the

two countries slightly down when the emergence of *Konfrontasi* 1963-1966, though still smoothly maintain (BNP2TKI 2012). Hence, this scenario totally changes after the occurrence of bloody ethnic riots in 13 Mei 1969. Consequently, Malaysian government especially UMNO the ruling party felt that Malay supremacy was under threaten and seek to make a balance. UMNO observed that the existence of Indonesian migrant seen as a potential voters and very prospective to enhance Malay power. Under this circumstances the arrival of huge number of Indonesian migrant to Malaysia were totally encourage, appreciated, unofficial and “silently welcomed” (Liow 2005: 46).

Culture similarities such as language, ethnic and custom were significant factor behind the easy and rapid assimilation of Indonesian migrant with local community especially Malay ethnic. The May 13th, 1969 riot became a momentum to accomplish Indonesia-Malaysia relationship which jeopardized by Sukarno’s aggressive policy. Furthermore, the arrival of Indonesian migrant also supported by international agenda namely war against communism which became attention between the two countries concurrently. Along with the rest and slow down of communism attack, while the influx of Indonesian migrant are still increase from time to time. This is because Malaysia was under good condition after the government launched New Economic Policy (NEP), while the demand towards Indonesia cheap workers significantly rose. However, large number of unemployment notably in Java Island is the main factor behind this scenario (Liow 2005: 47).

Having close culture and similarities notably religion, the skilful and hard workers of many Indonesian were the main reason of Malaysian to more recognize and appoint Indonesian workers than others (Nor Azizan Idris, 2005: 148). Ironically, in the mid of Malaysia rapid development and the rise of huge number of middle class income many Malaysian are tend to neglect the “dirty and rough” jobs. Automatically this vacancy totally utilized and fulfilled by many Indonesian workers which recognized as hard workers and specialize in 3D sectors namely (dirty, dangerous and difficult) (Muhammad Iqbal dan Arifin Zainal 2009). Former Malaysian minister of communications and multimedia Zainuddin Maidin also recognize that “many Malaysian are selective in job vacancies and unskillful compared to Indonesian. Without

Indonesian workers we are in difficult situation” (Buletin KJRI 2007: 16). Accordingly, Malaysia is highly dependent towards Indonesian workers notably informal sectors.

Malaysia totally take benefits from the existence of Indonesian workers, while Indonesia also obtained reimbursement. Indonesia got advantages in two types namely socially and economically. Socially, the arrival of many Indonesian in Malaysia could diminish huge number of unemployment especially in Java Island. Economically, Indonesian foreign workers make a contribution to the national economy through their remittance. The demand towards Indonesian workers could be traced since 1970s and 1980s. Between 1970s and 1980s Malaysia needs towards Indonesian workers approximately 38%-45% a year which posted in plantation sector. This number is gradually increase from time to time and reach 57% or 12,277 workers in 1991 (Silfia Hanani 2009). Nonetheless, Indonesian national protection and placement workers body or *Badan Nasional Penempatan dan Perlindungan Tenaga Kerja Indonesia* (BNP2TKI) reported that since 2012, Malaysia is not main destination to Indonesian workers. Arab Saudi replays Malaysia as main host to many Indonesian workers around 1,427,928 followed by Malaysia in the second place with 1,049,325 workers (BNP2TKI 2012). BNP2TKI release was contradictive with real condition as well as International Organization for Migration (IOM) record. IOM have fantastic number of Indonesian workers in Malaysia which arguably as the second largest migration in the world after Mexico-US cross border. Hence, IOM believe 95% of Indonesia workers in Malaysia were illegal (International Organization for Migration April 2008). The BNP2TKI reports are probably based on fixed number (legal workers) obtained from statistical data and neglected huge number of illegal workers in Malaysia.

Following the arrival of huge number of Indonesian workers in Malaysia, there were emerging some problems relating to their involvement in various cases. The most important case is illegal workers or known as *pendatang asing tanpa izin* (PATI). Since 2005 some reports announced that 80% of 1.2 million of Indonesian workers in Malaysia are illegal (PATI) (Nor Azizan Idris 2005: 148). However, Indonesian embassy in Kuala Lumpur believed that this number doubled. The latest source up dated that up to 2012 Indonesian workers in Malaysia close to 2 million and 50% are illegal (Caraka 2012). Consequently Indonesian workers began to involve in some various cases such as crimes and social problems. Joseph Liow (2005: 148) noted that up to 1987

around 36% of prisoners in Malaysia were Indonesian migrant. Furthermore the trend of Indonesian migrant involvement in criminal significantly growing up especially after 1990s. In 1996 for instance, a report announced that among criminal cases which many migrants involved were murder case 27.3%, attempted murder 18%, group armed robbery 35.6% and individual armed robbery around 16.3%. Approximately 50% of these numbers are involving Indonesian migrant (Nor Azizan Idris 2005: 152).

Observing above situations Malaysian government was taking into account seriously through some strategic actions. Government stake holders prepared for handling migrant workers such as immigration, army and civil volunteers or *Ikatan Relawan Rakyat Malaysia* (RELA). However, the results not significant while crime index involving Indonesian migrant are considerable increase. Indonesian migrants began to involve in some serious crime activity including riots and attacking police for example in Semenyih Selangor detention camp in 1998, Machap Umboo Melaka immigration detention in 2001 and riot in Pekan Nenas, Pontian, Johor detention. In the same year, Indonesian migrant also involve in a riot and attacking police in Nilai, Negeri Sembilan (Nor Azizan Idris 2005: 153). Therefore, Malaysia hardly desire to re-examine Indonesian workers and launch “Hire Indonesians last” (Liow 2005: 149). Local elite especially Malay politicians also worry due to some of them were Christian and allegedly preaching their religion to the local community (Liow 2003: 49).

Since then, the image of Indonesian workers began to downgrade and fortunately they obtained mistreatment from their employers especially in domestic sector such as sexual harassment, bad settlement, exploitation and so forth (Wan Abdul Rahman Wan Ab. Latif 132). Meanwhile, the three negative images which embedded in Indonesian workers notably women are maids, “part-timer” or prostitutes and “mistress” (Silfia Hanani 2009). Analysts pointed out that it was probably due to the lack of education among workers. A report figured out that the majority of Indonesian workers in Malaysia were secondary school graduates (Muhammad Iqbal dan Arifin Hj. Zainal 2009). However, Indonesian ministry of welfare estimate differently where 56,8% of Indonesian workers were no more than elementary school (Kementerian Sosial Republik Indonesia, 2007). The Indonesian government point of view accuse that the negative images embedded to Indonesian workers were stimulated by the uses of “*Indon*” by Malaysia mass

media to exploit Indonesian workers (Nasrullah Ali Fauzi, 2009: 483). At the same time, Malaysian government and media also do not hesitate to award Indonesian workers as “troublemaker” (Liow, 2004).

Both countries have taken serious action around 1970s up to 2000s through consultations and meetings to handle Indonesian workers. However, only two meetings have been made by both parties throughout 1980s to 2000s. Firstly is so called Perjanjian Medan or Medan Agreement in 1984 which directly followed by mass huge deportation of Indonesian illegal workers through *Program Pemutihan PATI* (1989-1991) and *Program Pengampunan PATI* (1991-1992) to switch their status being a legal one (Nor Azizan Idris 2005: 154). On spite of that, Malaysian government seen unsatisfied with Indonesian government, Malaysia also witness Indonesia is unserious and did not really taking into account toughly in handling PATI. Conversely, Indonesian accused Malaysia tend to exaggerate the PATI issue (Liow 2005: 149).

In August 2001 both governments were agree to overcome PATI problems after Megawati visit to Kuala Lumpur. In the next year, both parties officially sign an agreement in Bali in August 2002 following massive deportation of Indonesian migrant by Malaysian government. This action implement by Malaysian government in order to conduct *Operasi Nyah (Ops Nyah)* to control PATI enrolment in the mid of 1997 Asian financial crisis. Malaysian immigration estimates that up to July 2002 roughly 253,540 PATI successfully transferred to the home country where 82% were Indonesian (Liow 2005: 155). Nonetheless, these meetings were unsuccessfully to make both parties satisfied (Liow 2004: 59). Hence, some NGOs like *Suara Rakyat Malaysia (SUARAM)* and *Tenaganita* hugely criticize and condemn the durable policy of Malaysian government which suspected as human rights abuses. The NGOs also accuse that series of riots that emerged in some areas were allegedly triggered by police provocation (Liow 2003).

In fact, the Indonesian worker issues is a reality should be faced by Indonesia and Malaysia. However, both countries seen dilemmatic due to the issues are enlarged and spread to illegal workers which enormously disturbing to the two nations. In Indonesian point of view, the mass migration of Indonesian workers to Malaysia is highly advantage to the decline of unemployment while it could contribute to the national income. In the same thing, Malaysia also

obtained benefits while their arrival some time influence to social and political stability. Malaysia has to recognize that Indonesian workers were greatly contributed to the national economic development. Regrettably, along with the open and transparency era the cases involving Indonesian workers issues obtain massive attention from the people of Indonesia especially related to maid's torture up to 2004 and beyond. Overall, Indonesian migrant further a sensitive issue from time to time between the two brotherhoods nations. However, both countries sometimes use and manipulate these cases along with their political interests while the number of illegal workers still boost and produce many serious problems.

Fight against illegal migrant in Malaysia?

In the above development of Indonesian workers in Malaysia highlighted some issues related to the actions against Indonesian illegal workers. Some operations were implemented in order to control illegal foreign workers which suspected as a source of a lot of social problems in Malaysia. The operations indicate that Malaysian government taking into account regarding illegal migrant workers seriously. Automatically, the actions against illegal workers mostly Indonesian were receive hard reactions and condemned whether by Indonesian government as well as the public. Mass media in Indonesia also massively make provocative reporting which indirectly influence to the perception of Indonesian society towards Malaysia specifically in relation to the arrestment of Indonesian illegal migrants. Unfortunately, Malaysia mass media also make a bad reporting and tend to marginalize Indonesian illegal workers. Undocumented may be become main issues behind the mass operation by Malaysian government. However, Malaysia and Indonesia also could deny that the existence of Indonesian workers were gave a positive contribution to the both countries while some negative impacts also should be resolve promptly. Regarding the recent operation Minister of Home Affairs Zahid Hamidi argued that the operation was implemented in order to handle and securing country from social problems as well as to preserve national security. Nonetheless, Indonesian ambassador to Malaysia should be honest that he wants all Indonesian workers in Malaysia be legally. Indonesian ambassador estimate that during last Ramadhan in 2013 approximately 120 Indonesian illegal workers arrested during operation due to has running a business and did not have official documents (Cakra Agustus 2013).

Some researchers also conducted a fieldwork in Malaysia and of course significant finding obtained. The question also has risen particularly regarding the domestic political forces in relation to policy making process to protect migrant workers. From January up to April 2011, for instance a decision making were largely influenced by a variety of societal actors, lobby groups and individuals (Santoso, 2012). Furthermore, during negotiation process totally determine also by the quality of communication of the negotiators. There is also involving multi-level and multi-stage interactions beyond the discussion. At this point, international social worker should take an opportunity to engage whether in the context of negotiation or discussion process. In response to the situation, a social worker should be responsible to make sure that all the process could be running smoothly. Both governments should involve social worker with various types of professional backgrounds such as broker, advocator, case manager, educator, facilitator, manager, and organizer. However, analytical skill was seen as a crucial for social workers in order to interact with people, educating workers and giving assistants.

In the context of Indonesian migrant in Malaysia, it is relatively similar with such cases as asylum seekers and refugees in terms of their own travel documents which totally undocumented. A country has a privilege whether to oppose or welcome them and they could not enter a country without any single permission from the host country. However, in a critical situation sometime a country should give permission while protection, assistants and welfare should give them too. Moral and human dignity is the two values which should be considered to those who respect to the human rights itself without any single political interest. Nevertheless, it is interesting to note that in the case of Indonesian illegal workers in Malaysia there is exist some problems which seen as abuses towards human rights and human dignity. We should recognize as mentioned before that the majority of Indonesian workers were illegal. Hence two crucial aspects which quite simply to solve yet still hard to implement is travel documents and in jail process after arrestment and during prosecution. The two issues indicated that both country too wasting energy and should be suspicious conducting human rights abuses and even refusing their contributions to the both countries.

In fact, the two problems namely undocumented migrants and in jail process remaining a critical issue in relation to human rights abuses. Moreover, both countries were also maintaining to

implement this policy with various reasons. We should recognize that it is not easy and need huge energy to handle a large number of foreign illegal migrants. However, we argue that by enforcing and referring to the international regulation both countries Indonesia and Malaysia were actually will be effectively handle this problems. It means that those who have entered a country should be deported to the home country without any in jail process and “interrogations” actions. By referring this regulation both countries will be more effective in terms of money (only for returning to the home countries expenses) and did not abusing human rights. Conversely, if maintaining the current actions (in jail process) both countries will allocate much expenditure such as jails along their equipments which need huge budget, while the policy itself allegedly abusing human rights.

Indonesian consulate in Penang through a short interview argued that “in jail process post-operations was a very tragic action. They actually just sent back to the home country and finish.” At the same time, every Indonesian representative particularly in Malaysia also has own detention in order to handle Indonesian workers who obtained problems in term of their document or bad treatment from employers. Nevertheless, they also got same treatment and stay in jail, while the facilities were very bad, lack of food and worst environment. Although some official argued that the policy was “transit” process before they will returning to Indonesia due to some workers were still waiting for their rights mostly salaries. Yet, if the official think rationally it is unnecessary to put them “in jail” and just for Indonesian representative should finish the problems and the workers just stay and waiting at home. Hence, Indonesian representatives could cut the budget, while human rights abuses could be avoided.

In the meantime, a social worker could also take a role as educator. Why are they should take this role is due to based upon our visit to a jail in northern Malaysia few months ago shown that the majority of Indonesian illegal workers (PATI) did not realize and have knowledge regarding cross-border regulation anymore. Many of them did not aware that both countries have international borders. Becoming an educator might be one of the challenges to social workers due to they should providing knowledge and skill to handle the PATI which really uneasy. Otherwise, social workers also should make sure that the “innocent PATI” not being manipulated by any irresponsible parties or interest. All in all, both governments should take into account the

illegal workers in jail seriously. Illegal workers are not a criminal and should be treated as illegal person. It means illegal workers they should not be treated as a criminal which to follow all process such as detention, court sentences and jailed. Both governments should to think hardly to solve this problem. The best way to solve the “illegal migrant in jail” is referring to international regulation namely be deported to the home countries, while those who enter this country whether for job or vacation with fully documented should be welcome and given protection.

Conclusion

This article concludes that Indonesian illegal migrant were totally could be analyzed from international social work perspective. It is because the phenomena were really correlated with trans-border activities especially between Indonesia and Malaysia. Furthermore, as it mentioned above highlight that people-to-people contact has established since the early of the nations building. However, the illegal migrant phenomena were become taking into account seriously after 1990s along with the increasing number of illegal migrant in Malaysia. Malaysian government has taken serious actions to decrease the number of illegal migrant mostly from Indonesia. Nevertheless, the efforts of the governments were remaining serious problem due to the emergence of “immigrant jail and detention” in nationwide whether in established by Malaysian government or located in Indonesian representatives so-called “shelter.” Consequently, the illegal migrant which actually could return to the home country vastly were detained and under uncertain situation during in jail period of time. They were treated as like a criminal especially by security official, while the government itself did not aware that have conducted human rights abuses. Hence, a recommendation proposed to improve and to solve this problem and will explained as below section.

Recommendation

This article also proposes recommendation to improve the role of social work in general. The main goal of this recommendation is to support global human services solutions and strengthen health systems while maintaining commitments to prevent and treat migrant worker problems and access to all human services.

- Increase access to a full range of psycho-social services within communities, both for prevention and treatment, utilizing social work expertise to maximize impact.
- Work towards creating universal access to family services. Provide funding for school-based, age-appropriate, culturally informed education programs and introduction to skills for making personal skill choices about human capacities.
- Increase funding for life skills training and comprehensive systems of care for people.
- Fund research to accurately assess the effectiveness of primary and secondary prevention and educational strategies, service delivery models and the effect of related policies. Research protocols should include bio-psycho-social issues as well as spiritual issues when relevant of people living (e.g. women, children and adolescents). Work to eradicate modern-day slavery and the growing incidence of human trafficking.
- Strengthen immigration policy to eliminate employers' use of forced labor.
- Carefully craft international trade agreements to adequately protect workers, especially groups of foreign workers traveling to unfamiliar countries, from exploitation and restrictive work agreements and environments.

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