Human trafficking is a national security threat that destabilizes nation, states, and regions (Brown, 2010). Brown goes on to highlight recent published policy documents that, on the national level and the combatant command level, also list human trafficking as a national security issue worthy of exploration due to its correlation with unstable conditions that give rise to Violent Extremist Organizations (VEO) continued operations and growth (Brown, 2010; US Department of State, 2003).

- According to a study by Omelicheva et al (2015), drug dealers and human traffickers can be recruited while in prison to be terrorists ("Research To Map Organized Crime, Terrorism Hotspots In Eurasia", 2015). The FBI also recognizes transnational organized crime (TOC) syndicates as a threat to national security and public health.
    - Omelicheva stated that after 9/11, the U.S. led efforts to clamp down on money laundering and other financial operations that supported terrorism led to terrorist organizations relying on new funding streams; i.e., the human trade, the drug trade ("Research To Map Organized Crime, Terrorism Hotspots In Eurasia", 2015).
    - The FBI is dedicated to eliminating TOC groups that pose the greatest threat to the national and economic security of the United States ("Transnational Organized Crime", n.d.)
    - TOC groups operate without regard to geography
    - TOC groups' primary goal is economic gain, and they will utilize a variety of lawful and illicit schemes to turn a profit. Criminal acts such as drug trafficking, migrant smuggling, trading in humans, money laundering, firearms trafficking, illegal gambling, extortion, counterfeit goods, wildlife and cultural property smuggling, and cybercrime are keystones within TOC enterprises. These TOCs often use complex communication devices and employ technology in their daily operations within a cyberspace (Avedan & Omelicheva, 2021; "Transnational Organized Crime", n.d.).
    - Significant racketeering activity carried out by TOC groups can involve prostitution, exploitation of children, alien smuggling, and more.
- Child sexual exploitation online is constantly evolving and is shaped by advancement in technology. Mobile connections, increasing internet coverage in developing countries, and the development of pay-per-view streaming solutions, which provide a high degree of anonymity to the viewer, are furthering the trend in the commercial live-streaming of child sexual abuse ("Child Sexual Exploitation", 2021). Live, on-demand, streaming of child sexual abuse is contributing to the vast enormity of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) online.
- According to the Internet Watch Foundation (2019), the past several years have seen the greatest rise in the use of the dark web as an agent to engage in the sale of child sexual exploitation material (IWF, 2019). These underworld markets of abuse and criminal activity use cryptocurrencies to conduct their illegal purchases and fund their criminal enterprises.
    - The use of cryptocurrencies, such as Bitcoin, to purchase child sexual exploitation material (CSEM) is on the rise (ICMEC, 2021).
    - In 2019, $930,000 worth of payments to CSEM providers via Bitcoin and Ethereum were tracked using chainalysis (ICMEC, 2021). A 32% increase over 2018, which was a 212% increase over 2017 (Chainalysis Team, 2020).
    - Some CSAM-focused darknet sites in existence allow users to upload their own content in exchange for credits to view more content (Chainalysis Team, 2020). Thus, online availability and spread of CSAM is increased on digital platforms.
    - The EARN IT Act would go a long way in the prevention of child sexual exploitation material's (CSEM) prolific spread across digital platforms.

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