



# UNHRC

United Nations Human Rights Committee



**Committee:** United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

**Topic:** Addressing Identity Theft

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome delegates to SPISMUN Del Paseo 2025. We are excited to have you here to participate in UNHRC. This edition of SPISMUN will be exciting to you fellow delegates and for us as well. It is a pleasure to work and share our ideas in this committee, UNHRC. Your chairs for this simulation are Gretta De Leon as your Moderator, Jimena Rojas as your Secretary, and I, Yeonsoo Park, as your Director. We encourage you to welcome the challenges you face and have success in solving those challenges. It is an honor to be chairing this simulation and help the world become a better place. Good luck, and we wish you all the best.

For further questions or doubts contact the following email,

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Sincerely,

Yeonseo Park

## I. Committee Background

UNHRC (United Nations Human Rights Council) was established on March 15, 2006 by one of the most powerful committees in the UN, General Assembly. It is the principle intergovernmental body within the United Nations system that exists for increasing the promotion and protection of human rights all over the world. The headquarters of UNHRC is in the United Nations Office at Geneva in Switzerland. UNHRC is one of the main structures in the UN organization. It mainly focuses on protecting human rights, and protecting refugees, displaced and stateless people by advocating for their rights. The committee addresses situations of human rights violations and promotes the recommendations for each problem composed by different arguments.



The Human Rights Council is an intergovernmental body of the UN system with 47 member states that are also responsible for the protection of all human rights in the world. This council receives country-specific reports from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Since its creation in 2006, there has been involvement in strengthening the council to promote and protect human rights internationally. The situations are based on the data prepared by the State concerned, information containing reports of treaty bodies, special procedures, observations and comments by the State, and other relevant official UN documents which are assembled by the OHCHR and by other collaborators.

The Human Rights Council assists in providing better care and improvement of human rights problems from all states. Through the sessions, the Human Rights Council has the ability to debate through thematic human rights issues and situations such as freedom of association and assembly, freedom of belief and religion, freedom of expression, LGBT rights, and the rights of racial and ethnic minorities. The UNHRC has a significant tool in the form of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), which is a periodic review of the human rights records of all 193 UN Member States. The council also established international commissions

of fact-finding missions for human rights violations to help bring perpetrators of the violations to justice.

## II. Topic History

Identity theft is infringement of identity when one else uses another's personal information such as their names, SSN, or credit card number without their permission. This fraud is determined as a major problem as a whole. The term identity theft was first introduced in 1964. The phrase “identity theft” was first known in 1964. Apart from this, it has been happening for a long time on the other hand. An example is Jacob stealing Esau's birthright blessing from their father. Since 1964, it was legally defined through the U.K. and the U.S. as the term. Before cybercrime became a title, stealing others' identity was recorded as a dark, physical act.



The first group of victims included those who were targeted and possibly even killed during the early stages of identity theft. These individuals had their personal information stolen, which led to various forms of financial and emotional distress. The stolen information included the name of the victim, the social security number, and other means that belonged to the fallen victim. Information that is usually sought after in identity fraud cases includes account numbers, passwords, and other personal and confidential information. Identity theft refers to an unauthorized act by third parties in using your information, including, but not limited to, name, DOB, address, Social Insurance Number (SIN), and any other personal information, for criminal purposes.

The various countries around the globe that were highly affected by identity theft in the year 2022 include the following: India: 27.2%, United States: 13.5%, Japan: 3%, and Germany: 1.3%. 45% of Indian customers have been victims of identity fraud in recent years. People in India tend to collect information from others and release all their personal

information to the entire world. Most of this scamming information has been targeted to countries across Asia.

There are different types of identity theft such as:

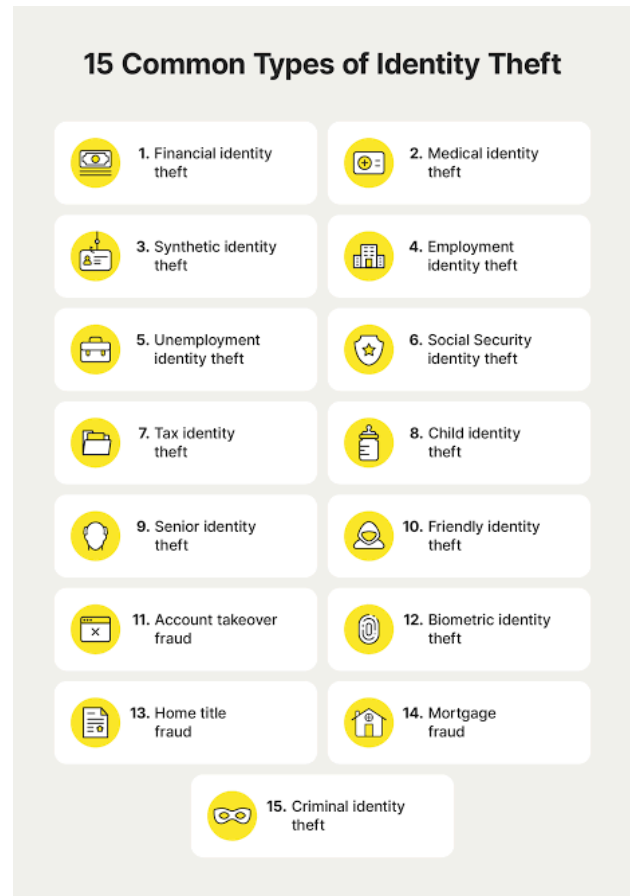
**Criminal identity theft:** This occurs when somebody uses your stolen ID or Personal Identifiable Information (PII). Criminal identity theft is one of the most frequent cases and/or types of identity theft. This crime usually happens in under-developed countries.

**Financial identity theft:** When an unauthorized person gains access to others' financial information; this is another biggest or massive case of identity theft followed by criminal identity theft.

**Identity replica:** When someone uses another person's identity to ignore his/her own self's identity.

**Medical identity theft:** Stealing another person's identity for medical purposes and information for Medicare. Usually, the thieves use this information to get medicines or drugs followed by other identities to cover their own.

**Identity theft from minors:** Someone stealing a minor or a child's personal information for their own use. This crime is also used in order to fund crimes such as illegal immigration, terrorism, phishing on the internet, and espionage. Identity thieves are usually attacking the ones with more personal information and different identities. They seek many people who



have similar features as themselves. Identity theft harms the society as a whole and the individual specifically.

Throughout this information supported and affected globally, it is a major issue to keep having identity thieves, as it results in more consequences within another. Identity theft is happening in these ways such as phishing scams, data breaching from organizations,



skimming devices on ATMs, dumpster diving for personal information, stolen wallets, etc.

There are many warnings for identity theft as well such as unauthorized charges on accounts, missing bills and/or mails, notifications of declined credit, calls from debt, etc. The impacts of identity theft are

massive as well, which includes the delay of

money throughout transactions, damaging credit score, legal issues for crime activities that were performed under a certain name, emotional stress, etc. Protecting one another is very important in this kind of situation. Being cautious of identity theft is a major pro as it will concern and protect individuals.

### III. Current Issues

- 45 percent of the Indian consumers were reported as the victims of identity theft. They were victims of fraud cases which were cases of AI-generated voices in videos. India scored as number one country with most cases of identity theft. India had 27.2 million cases reported.
- 3% of Americans have faced several forms of identity theft in their life. The identity theft scenario in the United States is 3 times higher than most other countries. This number can increase significantly every year. The USA had 13.5 million cases reported.

- Japan ranked third place among researched countries worldwide by the number of identity theft cases with an estimated 3 million annual identity theft victims and cases reported by 2024.
- China is responsible for 80% of American identity theft, including hacking healthcare companies and technology, like smart homes, sensors and 5G networks. Chinese citizens who face identity theft are about 4.5 percent of the whole population of China.
- The FTC (Federal Trade Commission) based in the USA had more than 1 million reports in 2023. There were 2.6 million more cases of similar incidents and more than \$10.3 billion.
- The UK is the European country that faces the most cases of Identity theft. About 1.9 million British consumers' identities were stolen and misused to financial accounts.
- Bangladesh has enacted laws and regulations to prevent identity theft. Bangladesh is one of the common countries with most fraud so it is common to experience it. Bangladesh enhanced its law of protecting against cybercrimes.
- FTC (Federal Trade Commission) reported 5.7 million cases of identity theft and fraud and up from 4.7 million the previous year, which equates to an identity theft case occurring every 22 seconds.
- Data breaches serve as a key route for criminals to commit identity theft. In 2023, data breaches surged to 3,205 from 1,801 in 2022. Hackers often sell stolen data on the dark web which facilitates various fraud activities.



#### IV. UN Actions and Resolutions

Identity theft concept has been passed down in the UN organization. UNODC in 2007 began a study of fraud and identity theft. It commissioned UNODC. It was presented to the sixteenth session of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice with Economic and Social Council resolution. ECOSOC has issued numerous resolutions towards this subject.

The United Nations does not have a particular program about identity theft because their purpose is peace, security, human rights, and development among its member states. The UN did not perform programs particularly regarding identity theft.

The United Nations has contributed to preventing identity theft in these ways:

- UNODC has developed a framework related to identity theft. It provides guidelines to the member states to help develop their legal and institutional frameworks.
- GA resolution promotes collaboration to enhance cyber security. Various resolutions have highlighted the need for international cooperation in combating cyber crimes. Resolution 69/202 promotes collaboration between countries to enhance cyber security.
- Capacity building consolidates the states' positions regarding the prevention of cyber crimes. The UN itself supports training programs for police and member states to enhance responding towards cyber crimes. The UN promotes awareness campaigns as it is a prevention for cyber crimes. UN's contribution to overcome most cases of identity theft has been a bequest but the growing technologies will still reach the valuable safety of innocent lives.





## **V. Essential Questions**

- What is the most common form of identity theft and why? (ID, SSN, Passports, passwords, bank accounts)
- What are the most common things that stolen identity is used for?
- What are the most common aspects of people who are chosen to be the victims of identity theft?
- How can you ensure you are safe from being one of the victims of identity theft?
- If you are a victim of identity theft, how can you recover your personal information from the stolen data?
- What kind of ways can you protect yourself from identity theft in your own region?
- How can you help and protect others from the cases and the reports of identity theft?

## **VI. Conclusion**

Identity theft is a form of crime in which a person can steal your personal information such as name, SSN, credit card, bank account information without their agreement. The purpose is to commit fraud like gaining access to resources of the victim. This can lead to a significant financial loss to the victim.

There are different kinds of cybercrime identity theft such as phishing, data breaches, malware, and social engineering. Each of these requires special knowledge to prevent. Cybercrime that is committed by identity theft can lead to a serious problem. Implemented solutions before, these problems are increasing everyday by numerous people.

Many situations in the current global environment have a direct link between identity theft and other forms of crimes that are committed in the online community. UNHRC is working with the problem of identity theft to address it in a way that is consistent with the international community and is not just a problem for the community but as a whole.

Identity theft is a serious problem in the world today as it is a serious threat to our security and society services. People need the rights of their own credits and beforehand they are required by the government to secure them. Even though people go through this process, many criminals sought their way through finding people's private information. Identity theft cases will increase as the population outgrows and will cause further issues.

Identity theft will destroy an individuals' whole life which ends with depression and illness, to prevent this from happening contacting [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov) is the fastest response. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is a site or a web which is for reporting fraud, scams, and bad business practices to alert phishing and theft.

## VII. Resources

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4. Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 2014. (2015, 30 January). United Nations General Assembly. <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n14/704/05/pdf/n1470405.pdf>
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8. Identity theft: Protect yourself. (2024, October 3). consumer.gov. <https://consumer.gov/scams-and-identity-theft/identity-theft-protect-yourself>
9. Semuels, A. (2024, September 18). Welcome to the golden age of scams. TIME. <https://time.com/7021745/the-age-of-scams-2/>