



UNHRC: Child Abuse

Hello Delegates! My name is Alex Murg, and I will be your head chair for the MVHS MUN 2016 conference! This is my fifth year in MUN and I am currently the Middle Secretariat USG of Conferences at Mission. Outside of MUN I am involved in the IB program, Girls' Varsity Basketball, Mock Trial, as well as numerous clubs, including but not limited to CSF, NHS, Key Club, and FCA. When I'm not studying, or tied to something else school related, I love to go paddle boarding, surfing, and hiking. This year I know that you all will be absolutely fabulous and I am expecting a wonderful compilation of unique solutions. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at mvhsmununhrc@gmail.com.

I. Background:

Child abuse has been a predominant part of many children's lives since the beginning of families themselves. Throughout history, child abuse has been mainly unrecognized, seeing that in many cultures children were considered property of their fathers. In the 1870s, the issue of child abuse sparked under the case of Mary Ellen Wilson, an American girl who was whipped and beaten daily by her foster parents. Child abuse encompasses the physical, emotional, mental, or sexual abuse by a parent or guardian.

Physical abuse is comprised of both nonfatal violence such as beating, kicking, biting, as well as fatal violence such as homicide. Victims are commonly very young, and are often shielded from the outside world. Statistics from countries such as New Zealand, Switzerland, and the US, have shown that, "while approximately 50% to 75% of murders of children aged under 10 are by family members, this proportion drops to about 20% of murders of children aged 10 to 14, and 5% of murders of children aged 15 to 19." Females are also twice more likely to be killed by a parent or guardian than a male child.

Emotional abuse, often a byproduct of neglect, is another contributor of child abuse. Often emotional abuse is hard to record or track due to the inability to measure the intention of the perpetrator's actions. Mental abuse often overlaps into this category as physiological torment-threats, insults, isolation, and emotional indifference- can all stem from emotional abuse.

Sexual abuse is defined as, "when an adult uses a child for sexual purposes or involves a child in sexual acts". In a report conducted by the WHO, it is estimated that 150 million girls and 70 million boys experienced sexual violence throughout their childhood, however these statistics are probably underestimated due to the factors of shame and fear that play a role in a child's decision to report the abuse. Sexual violence can occur by immediate family members, typically males (if the victim is female) but is also seen in child marriages.

Today the problem still continues. Every day five children die due to child neglect and abuse. It is pertinent that the United Nations recognize the urgency of these life-threatening situations these children are placed in and investigate into further prevention and education of child abuse.



Mission Viejo High School MUN

34th Annual Conference

Vox Populi



II. Past UN Involvement:

The United Nations has sought to help prevent and extinguish the atrocities of child abuse seen around in the international community. In 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, though nonbinding, stated the equality between all members of the international community of all ages. This was further specified to children in 1959 when the General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of a Child. Within the document, which was outlined into ten basic principles, it stated that children were holders of human rights. The document also created a basic legal principle to address child abuse. Beginning in 1993, the Committee on the Rights of a Child conducted annual reports on child violence to add guidance for States' on how to address child abuse related issues. Most recently in 2014, on September 8, the United Nations Security Council acknowledged the need for harsh punishment toward the perpetrators of children. Also, with the recent spike in child soldiers, the UN has created under UNICEF has launched the Children, Not Soldiers campaign which denounces child violence.

III. Possible Solutions:

Delegates, it is now your turn to help design unique and intricate solutions to help solve this international situation. The Dias will be grading you upon your ability to create multi step, in depth plans that stay true to your country policy. One of the option to helping solve this is basic awareness. While the Dias recognizes that this is an important aspect of child abuse may be incorporated into your solution, try to go deeper into the topic than a simple “add billboards” or “have conference.” Explain the billboards. Develop your conferences if this is one of the paths you will take within this topic. Education and child services are other examples to help get you started your solutions.

IV. Country Bloc Positions

Western: Legislature has been passed by these governments, and child abuse is deplored by these societies.

Latin American: Many of these nations deplore the idea of abuse, but depending on the nation, it could be seen as a parenting tool.

Middle Eastern: There are many nations where laws are not established and punishments for minor crimes that children could commit could be abusive.

Asian: This situation varies between these nations, but many do have issues with child abuse.

African: Child abuse is definitely an issue, but to these societies, it is not deemed as abuse.

V. Guiding Questions

1. What is the main source of child labor?
2. Are child marriages a form of abuse in themselves?
3. How can the life of a child soldier be improved?
4. How will long term peace be ensured with county where child abuse is cultural?



Mission Viejo High School MUN
34th Annual Conference
Vox Populi



VI. Works Cited

<http://family.findlaw.com/child-abuse/child-abuse-background-and-history.html>

<https://www.childhelp.org/child-abuse/>

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/sc11932.doc.htm>

https://www.unicef.org/protection/57929_58022.html#violence against children

[https://www.unicef.org/lac/full_text\(3\).pdf](https://www.unicef.org/lac/full_text(3).pdf)

<http://www.who.int/violenceprevention/about/participants/unicef/en/>

<http://www.pramun.com/2016-2-HR2-1.pdf>

