



United Nations Human Rights Committee

Hi delegates. My name is Kyle Cota and I will be your head chair for the upcoming conference. I am a junior at Mission in my 3rd year in the MUN program. I am in ASB here at mission as the club coordinator and I'm also a pitcher on the varsity baseball team. I play guitar, hockey, and baseball in my free time. I am a die-hard LA Kings fan and live for the LA Dodgers. By the time the conference comes around, the Dodgers will have either won or lost the world series and i will be either incredibly happy or depressed, depending on the results. This is going to be a great conference regardless and I hope to make it as fun as possible. Good luck and don't stress too much!

Hello Delegates! My name is Sara Rose and I will be your vice chair at the 2018 MVHS MUN Conference. I am 15 years old and a sophomore here at MVHS. I am an active member of MUN as well as other school involved activities like CSF. I currently run with the Orange County Heat Track and Field club and look forward to the indoor and outdoor season this spring. Aside from track, I love watching football, preferably my high school, as well as college and NFL. With that being said, I am optimistic that this will be a great conference and I am so excited to work with all of you in January!

Position papers are due December 15th, 2017.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email mvhsmununhrc@gmail.com

Topic 1: Capital Punishment

I. Background:

Capital punishment is the execution of convicts as a punishment for a crime. This act dates back to ancient times where it was a common occurrence in many civilizations. In modern times, developed countries have set rigid guidelines for what crimes may result in capital punishment, while other developed countries have outlawed the act entirely. For example, the UK and some U.S. states abolished the death penalty, but the federal government still has the authority to prosecute and execute convicts if the crime warrants it. In countries where it is legal, crimes warranting the death penalty are generally treason, espionage, murder while hijacking, and felony murder (which is the murder of a person while committing another crime such as robbing a store and then shooting the clerk). In undeveloped countries the death penalty may be handed out with a more cavalier attitude. While capital punishment differs from murder in that it is carried out by a government, this line is often blurred in countries with dictatorships or anarchy. China (over 1000), Iran (567), Saudi Arabia (154), Iraq (88), Pakistan (87) and Egypt (44) represent the



countries who carried out the most death sentences in 2016, in which 23 countries reportedly carried out executions. China does not release data on death sentences, so the information is estimated. However, of the confirmed executions, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Pakistan represent 87% of the global total. As of 2015, 160 countries have outlawed the death penalty. Other countries, such as the US have strictly regulated the death penalty and what crimes constitute it.

II. United Nations Involvement:

Article 6 of the ICCPR, adopted in 1966, states that the death penalty must be reserved for only serious crimes and must not be used on pregnant women or children. Though it strongly encourages the movement towards its global abolition, it does not abolish the death sentence. In 1989, the Second Optional Protocol of the ICCPR was completed. The nations that signed it agreed to abolish the death penalty within their country, fulfilling the promise in the original ICCPR to work towards abolition. In 1984, ECOSOC adopted the Safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty, which outlines the qualifications for the death penalty such as a fair trial and age. In recent years, the UN has adopted resolutions that call for serious restrictions. These resolutions, passed in 2007, 2008, 2010, 2012, and 2013 ask states to limit capital punishment to only the absolute most serious crimes and to follow the previously ratified rules and guidelines. In December of 2007, Italy prompted the moratorium on the death penalty which was passed by the General Assembly with 104 for and 83 against or abstaining. This agreement asked nations to suspend the death penalty and further limit its future use, although it did not actually prevent any nations from continuing using the death penalty as all resolutions passed by the GA are non-binding. The resolution was renewed the following year as well as in 2010, 2012, 2014, and 2016. Interestingly, the middle east, northeast Africa, Southeast Asia, China, and the US represented the vast majority of votes against the resolutions. Although this represents the UN's most recent attempts to phase out and abolish the death penalty, it is doubtful that the nations currently against the abolition will be convinced to change their opinions any time soon.

III. Possible Solutions:

Many countries are defensive of their judicial system as it represents the process by which they enforce their laws and regulations and how prepared their populations are to follow said laws and regulations. Thus, any attempt to create strong international regulations controlling the death penalty would be futile as nations that already practice capital punishment would not ratify it. Rather, a focus on creating strict guidelines as to what constitutes capital punishment could prove useful in reducing the number of unjust executions in middle eastern and third world countries. In many of these countries, the government is oppressive, meaning enforcing these regulations regarding capital punishments could be justified as a defense of human rights, increasing the likelihood that the use of force would be approved. Ultimately, not much can be done to control the



larger countries such as China and the US, so regulations that address the issue in smaller countries would likely be met with more success. In this committee, delegates are encouraged to develop creative and insightful resolutions. Blanket resolutions are not recommended, since the severity of the issue varies from nation to nation. Delegates do not need to worry about funding, since for the sake of this committee, all monetary concerns will be covered by the World Bank.

IV. Country Blocs:

Africa: Africa is evenly split between retentionists and abolitionists along with those in between. The south tends to agree with complete abolition, while the nations in west Africa lean towards non-binding policies restricting executions. The north and east are mostly retentionists with no regulations regarding executions.

North America: Mexico and Canada both have abolished capital punishment while the US refuses to conform with the regulations put forth by the UN and remain strict retentionists.

South America: A few of the countries, such as Brazil and Chile, have restricted the death penalty to major crimes only, while the majority have completely abolished executions.

Europe: Europe is almost entirely abolitionists with all except Belarus and Russia having either banned or severely restricted the death penalty.

Middle East: The middle east is unanimously in support of the death penalty without restrictions.

Asia: Almost all of Asia, namely China and India, have no restrictions on the death penalty.

V. Questions to Consider:

1. Why has your country taken the stance it has on capital punishment?
2. How has your country reacted to international regulations that would restrict their ability to do something in the past? Essentially, how stubborn is your country regarding international laws and agreements?
3. Does your country view the issue as one that merits international law and regulation or as an internal affair that should be unregulated by the UN?
4. Does your country currently any programs, laws, regulations, etc. regarding capital punishment?

VI. Work Cited:

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The Guardian, Guardian News and Media, 29 Mar. 2011

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Topic 2: Children Deprived of Liberty

I. Background:

Children all around the world are being deprived of their proper rights, freedoms, and well being. But, a significant amount of countries do not take or provide proper data as to how many children are in these situations, so the data provided accounts for fewer children than are actually affected. An estimated 151.6 million children around the world are involved in and subject to forms of abuse such as child slavery. With these children’s lives being put in the hands of police, health professionals, immigration authorities, military officials, child protection agencies and other non-state, judicial or administrative bodies, the deprivation of liberty is a widespread problem that needs to be addressed immediately. With issues such as homelessness, conflict, crime, rape, prostitution and other kinds of trafficking on the rise, countries have resorted to detaining these children in detentions as a form of protection. Additionally, in many areas facing this issue, children are currently living in unstable and unsafe situations, that have often become inhumane. This has resulted in the underdevelopment and mis development of many children’s lives, given that parents also commonly struggle to provide and pay for the needs of their children, henceforth leaving the children in a stance no better than before. Overall, countries interventions, in an attempt to take on this challenge, have resulted in subpar changes. Although, in order to have a sufficient impact, countries may need about \$13 billion in funds to provide for such a plan. That, being a significant amount of money, especially for the impoverished countries with the highest rates of child abuse and slavery, it is an unlikely solution. As this issue continues to spread across the international community, it is key that countries develop plans and possibly solutions to not only take on this issue, but solve it with maintainable standards.

II. United Nations Involvement:

In March of 2014, the United Nations, fully acknowledging children being deprived of liberty as a growing and very serious issue, met in General Assembly to open an in depth global study regarding the topic of children who are deprived of liberty. Using resolution 69/157, the Secretary General plans to included all involved countries in the global study, which will consisted of recommended practices and actions to advance toward a solution to this issue. With this plan being put to action by a United Nations Task Force, numerous societies, institutions, agencies and offices were called to action to support. In addition to the Member States and stakeholders which



have a heavy influence on the function of this plan, United Nations departments and organs such as the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and for Children and Armed Conflict, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Children, also contribute greatly to the UN involvement of the issue. Furthermore, voluntary contributions are also being reached utilized by the UN in order to involve general public and individuals who want to contribute to the eradication attempt of this issue through fundraising options. That being said, the UN is actively working on a solution to this issue, and through this committee will hopefully decide on a conclusion to this issue.

III. Possible Solutions:

With the rate of children being deprived of their basic rights and freedoms increasing, it is of paramount importance that countries around the world come to conclusions on how to decrease or solve the issue at hand. With that being said, the UN has recently stepped in using NGO's such as UNICEF to help prevent and optimistically end child slavery and labor. These should continue to be used. In addition, countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo, (DRC), have set good examples by recently implementing their action plans addressing the rising issue of sexual recruitment and violence. In terms of solutions, first, countries need to realistically view their budget and see what they can do from there. It is supported that they should focus on areas such as child slavery, labor, and abuse throughout their country. Although it has been found that an increase in child education results in a decrease in the depriving of children's liberties, this will not work in many countries across the globe who lack the resources to further their education system as a solution. Other steps that can be taken include resorting to local leaders in order to pursue a solution through them. Therefore, it would be deemed as beneficial if countries went to their leaders, on a local, or larger scale, to discuss the pressing issue, and solve them from there. Overall, a key factor to solving the issue of children being deprived of liberty is that countries and their leaders must come to terms, not only address the extent of the issue currently, but to prevent it for further generations. Delegates are encouraged to come up with creative and insightful resolutions that cover the issue on a region by region basis, rather than relying on a blanket solution.

IV. Country Blocs:

African: The African Bloc, having a long list of 22% of children being abused in ways such as slavery, labor, recruitment, sexual violence and more, results in the region struggling to address the issue. Although numerous countries have tried to fight the issue, few, if any, attempts have been successful.

Asia-Pacific: In this region alone, around 6.2 million children ages 5-17 are involved in child labor and other forms of abuse. While efforts have been made in countries like Myanmar or Burma, there



continues to be a significant amount of child soldiers, laborers and slaves.

Eastern European: With the availability of information on children being deprived of liberties being limited until recently, an increasing amount of countries have taken action to advance towards a solution to the issue. Much research and planning has been done to implement new plans and laws throughout the region, proving optimistic in the years to come.

Latin American and Caribbean: With the rates in this region dropping over 2 million children involved in the past 4 years, the Latin American and Caribbean Bloc seems to be taking steps toward a stronger solution to the issue. Although the abuse of children has not nearly gone away, they have had multiple successes in developing legal protections.

Western: With a major decrease in child abuse and labor rates around the twentieth century, the Western Bloc has the education system to thank. With the introduction of schooling laws, the region saw a large drop in their rates. While this is a possible solution, it may not work throughout the rest of the world as there are differing or lacking education laws and systems that will prevent them from having the same effect.

V. Questions to Consider:

1. What is the severity of the child abuse in your country?
2. What has your country done in the past about the issue of children being deprived of their liberties in abusive ways such as labor, slavery and trafficking?
3. How has the UN responded in terms of your country's actions?
4. What does your country plan to do to prevent a further increase? Do you plan to use any NGO's or other organizations?

VI. Works Cited:

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