



Mission Viejo High School MUN
34th Annual Conference
Vox Populi



UNHRC: Transgender Rights

Hello delegates! My name is Samar Sheikh, and I'll be your vice chair for the MVHS MUN 2016 conference. This is my third year in MUN and I'm currently involved in numerous clubs and activities here at Mission, including outside activities such as participating in INAC, CSCA, and I'm in my third year of being on the cross-country and track team. In my free time I love to teach dance classes. I'm looking forward to be spending this weekend with you and have an amazing committee.

I. Background

In 1885 the Criminal Law Act was passed in the United Kingdom, which made all homosexual behavior illegal. Similar laws were placed throughout Europe during that period. When homosexuality was deemed as illegal, those who were suspected of it, such as Oscar Wilde, would face imprisonment and hard labor for up to two years. People who cross-dressed became easy game for the law because they were associated, in the public mind, with homosexual subculture. One of the first public cases for transvestite behavior was that of Ernest (Stella) Boulton, and Fred (Fanny) Park, who were arrested in 1870 for taking part in indecent behavior. The jurisdiction based the prosecution on their transvestism and their petition of men as women, rather than the act of sodomy. No stance could be acquired on these grounds and they were acquitted of the charge of scheme to commit a felony by cross-dressing. One of the biggest organizations for transvestite men in the US today is the Boulton and Park Society.

For years, the transgender community has had to live under constant fear of exposure since if any word got out of their sexuality, they would be harassed, arrested, or even killed. Due to religion and societal norm, this community has not been accepted until recent years. Currently, the transgender community has begun to feel more confident in the public eye as their lifestyle has become more accepted. Even though this is the case, even the most developed nations, including the US and UK, struggle in establishing equal rights. They are still subjected to immense harassment and discrimination in the work force and in society. Currently, there is a debate that being a member of the LGBT community is a choice, rather than being born a certain way. There is a major lack in the availability to treatment and transition therapy, along with a lack of mental healthcare available to those struggling with depression and other mental problems due to societal pressure and gender identity crises. Bathrooms are currently a major topic of discussion since people have varying beliefs on the idea of having a woman identifying as a man and vice versa. There is also the social stigma against the community that leads to a high number of suicide rates in this community. Currently, 30% of transgender youth have attempted suicide, and 42% have reported self-harming practices.

II. Past UN Involvement

On 29 September 2015, 12 UN entities (ILO, OHCHR, UNAIDS Secretariat, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UN Women, WFP and WHO) released an unprecedented joint statement calling for an end to violence and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people. The statement is a powerful call to action to States and other stakeholders to do more to protect individuals from violence, torture and ill-treatment, repeal discriminatory laws and protect individuals from discrimination, and an



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expression of the commitment on the part of UN entities to support Member States to do so. In the past 12 months, UNDP undertook and supported initiatives that promote the rights of LGBT people in 58 countries by working on the nexus of HIV, sexual orientation and gender identity. Moreover, together with OHCHR and other UN agencies, UNDP has also been increasingly engaged in ensuring that the rights of LGBT persons are part- and-parcel of the human rights and sustainable development agendas. The UNDP has carried out capacity-building and provided advice to governments, national human rights institutions, parliamentarians, judiciaries and other public entities on legal frameworks and social policies that concern sexual orientation and gender identity, especially on strengthening HIV responses for men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender people.

III. Possible Solutions

There are multiple solutions to end this discrimination such as making and creating a fair workplace by making sure your workplace has a written policy against discrimination based on gender identity or expression. Also, by improving school teachings about LGBT topics and enforcing school and school district to have a written policy against discrimination based on gender identity or expression. Also by make sure that there is a strong anti-harassment and bullying policy that includes gender identity or expression that students know about it and staff enforce it. Doing such small this as these will make a big impact on the world and will help the UN achieve something that they have been working on since the early 2000's.

IV. County Bloc Positions

Western: Currently, these nations are the farthest ahead of moving towards gender equality; however, with a heavy religious influence and lack of exposure to the transgender community, massive resistance in these societies has risen. These nations do wish to move towards equality, but are struggling to get the entirety of their societies behind them.

Latin American: These nations are slightly more behind than the Western bloc. With a heavy Catholic/Christian influence, these nations will be difficult to deal with.

Middle Eastern: With the Muslim influence and Sharia Law in many communities, anything on the LBGT spectrum is illegal and seen as a disgrace in the society.

Violence is common in these nations.

Asian: This bloc is more along the lines of the Western and Latin bloc, as there is a push towards equality, but there is still a negative stigma against the community.

African: In many of these nations, anything on the LBGT spectrum is illegal; therefore, there is a struggle in regards to equal rights. There are, however, groups pushing for rights of transgender people.

V. Guiding Questions

1. What has your country done to help and prevent more harm towards the transgender community?



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2. Where does most hate towards the transgender community happen? What kind of hate is the norm?
3. What kind of action does your nation want to take against the hate? Campaigns? Legislature?
4. Is there some kind of safe place the transgender community can go to get away from all the hate? If not, what can be done to establish that?
5. What can be done to provide the proper medical treatment to those transitioning?

VI. Works Cited

<http://endtransdiscrimination.org/action.html>

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=54385#.WD0jrkIw0Z>

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