



## World Health Organization

Hi, I'm Ryan Tate and I will be the head chair for this committee. I am currently a junior at MVHS, and have been in the program for all three years. This my first time head chairing, so I will do my best to make this committee run smoothly, be efficient, and most importantly, be fun! I believe MUN is about two things that have real applications in the world. The first being public speaking. Learning how to make speeches, communicate, and convey your ideas in an exceptional way is a much needed skill in today's society, especially when communication is available to anyone at an instant. The second concept that MUN teaches is active teamwork. To be able to gather people who share similar ideas to your own, and work toward a conclusion, in this case resolution, is vital to today's society. Compromise and Collaboration is vital when working people, making sure that you don't strong arm your fellow delegates, but also not letting people overturn your ideas at every corner. With these two concepts in mind, I'd like to wish you good luck at the conference!

Hi delegates my name is Alex Lopes, and I will be our vice chair. This is my second year of MUN, but my first year of MUN with MVHS. I am a freshman and I'm really taking a liking to the high school environment. Aside from school I am on the cross country team and I like to do programming. I have gone to five conferences between the two years and I recommend that all of you put the most amount of effort into everything you do and I also recommend that you are kind and respectful towards your fellow delegates and engaged at all times so that when working towards resolutions you can all be on the same page and have a smooth time. Treat others how you would want them to treat you and you should be fine. Can't wait to see you at the conference!

If you have any question with the topics, the conference, or anything else in general, please contact us at [mvhsmun\\_who@gmail.com](mailto:mvhsmun_who@gmail.com)

Position papers due via email on December 15th, 2017.

### **Topic 1: Importance of Mental Health**

#### **Background:**

Mental health is described as your mental ability to cope with everyday tasks, function normally, work productively, and deal with stress. In the wake of the information revolution, poor mental health has become with a priority for the UN and WHO. Poor mental health is classified as a noncommunicable disease, signified by a long or indefinite duration, with the effects being constant, but the disease itself not being able to spread by regular, viral or bacterial, means. Some common mental diseases include: depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, anxiety disorder,



autism, and ADHD. In addition noncommunicable diseases are usually the primary cause of death for many developed nation's citizens. These diseases are most prevalent in nations with large amounts of people in dense urban regions or nations experiencing dramatic events. Furthermore, it has been estimated that one in seventeen people in the world having a mental disease, 1 in 4 people in the world will experience some sort of mental condition, and that 2 of 3 people who have a mental disease will not seek treatment for a variety of reasons: ignorance, financial situation, availability of treatment, or any other factors. Given this, it is clear that the responsibility to help alleviate the situations and conditions of these people It falls upon the government and moral responsibility of the international community to unite and support mental health recovery.. By providing services to help them, and reassuring their rights, these people can contribute more to society and the world, thus securing their duty to make the world a better place.

### **UN Involvement:**

The UN has passed multiple resolutions pertaining to the issue of mental health. In 1990, the UN passed resolution 45/92, which contained an article that began the process of creating guidelines to deal with the issue of mental health. In 1991, the UN passed resolution 46/119 which focuses on the protection of people with mental illness, and the improvement of mental health care. This resolution guaranteed the rights of individuals suffering from mental diseases to the best mental health that can be provided (Resolution 46/119, Section 1) and to nondiscriminatory treatment regardless of their mental state. Furthermore, in 2016, the UNHRC adopted a similar resolution that protected the rights of people with mental health conditions from discrimination and against actions, unless imposed by their personal will. It reaffirms their rights as described in resolution 46/119, and goes further stating that states of the world have a duty and obligation to actively protect the rights of citizens with mental health issues, and protect them from discrimination and harm.

Additionally, the UN has been also been dealing with this issue through the World Health Organization, which has devoted a multitude of resources and assets to deal with the issue. Starting around the 2000s, WHO has set up and developed multiple departments and groups to handle certain aspects of the mental health issue. For example, the Mental Health Atlas Project analyzes each country's mental health care system, in an effort to make improvements to the healthcare system in different countries without relying on a blanket solution. Additionally, WHO-AIMS (World Health Organization Asset Instrument for Mental Health Systems) recommends changes and set baselines in specifically in developing nations. Lastly, the WHO department of Mental Health and Psychological Support in Emergencies is another effort that focuses on providing support to people or populations suffering from extreme stress related factors like war, famine, terrorism, disease outbreaks, etc.

### **Possible Solutions:**



There is a wide range of possibilities in terms of methods that can be used to treat mental health conditions. For example, through rehab is a current solution already being used, it could be expanded upon and made more efficient in its process. In addition, the use of medication could be a resolution, as seeking a way to expand the availability, decrease their cost, and develop new and improved drugs based on further research is crucial. Furthermore, in regards to dealing with the rights of people with mental health issues, resolutions should focus on either stating their rights as equal to other people, or focus on changing their rights in order to match up to how their mental health condition affects their life. For instance, resolutions could focus on the eradication of discrimination, how to best address the social and economic treatment which individuals with mental illnesses often face in society. Finding methods of tearing down negative stereotypes and creating environments that can help tend to their conditions and foster healthy interactions is also important.

Delegates do not need to worry about funding, as all monetary needs will be covered by the World Bank for the sake of this committee. Delegates should focus on building well constructed resolutions that handles both of the issues related to mental health: protecting the rights of people with mental health issues and the best treatment for people with mental health issues. In addition, delegates should keep in mind that as the conference progresses, solutions should be flexible enough to adapt to information that is brought up by different perspectives on the issue. However, please remember that your country's policy is your base for which your solutions are based, so try not to stray from your country's current policy.

### **Guiding Questions:**

1. What are some primary issues that people with mental health conditions in your country face?
2. In what ways can your nation react to these issues that better helps people with mental health conditions in your country?
3. What are some ways medication can be made more available that people with mental health conditions can access them?
4. How will your country maintain a long term goal of helping people with mental health conditions?

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## **Topic 2: Immunization**

### **I. Background:**

Immunization is the action of making a person or an animal resistant to infection, through the use of vaccines.. The first vaccine created was a vaccine used to cure people of cowpox. It was created by extracting fluid from a cowpox blister and then giving this same fluid to someone who has not had the virus yet. Then when that said person comes in contact with the virus they will be immune. Immunization saves 2 to 3 million lives a year, and the ingredients used to produce vaccines have been deemed safe by International Conference on Harmonisation of Good Clinical Practice (ICH-GCP). However, due to constantly changing scientific advancements and discoveries, vaccines can pose threats when not tested for a period of time long enough to be able to see any adverse long-term effects. Vaccines work by is stimulating the body’s immune system, and creating B and T cells to fight against the disease or infection that may later be caught. This allows the body to have a faster and more likely recovery.



Moreover, vaccines are efficient because they do not require a dramatic change in lifestyle. Rather, immunization is the easiest, most cost effective, practical method of eradicating diseases such as smallpox, in both developed and developing countries. Nonetheless, the distribution and access to vaccinations has been a consistent barrier which prevents the progress of immunization. The distribution of vaccines can very inefficient in developing countries due to a complex cycle involving licensure and methods of distribution that are entirely dependent on a country and the national vaccination standards. As a result, many developing countries may rely on simpler variants of a vaccine which are cheaper to manufacture, but may not be as effective or as thoroughly tested. Additionally, immunization standards have also become an issue. Standard vaccination of all people in a population is essential to the success of vaccinations because without universal vaccination, a single individual could introduce a disease back into a population that has eradicated it, henceforth repeating the cycle of disease.

Furthermore, ethical debates over immunization have also been posed. Despite the statistics of vaccines being proven helpful, and accepted by the scientific community on a worldwide basis as a safe, some nations disagree. For example, some physicians believe that an ingredient in vaccines, thimerosal, is linked to autism in children. Immunization can be seen through very common vaccines such as vaccines for Hepatitis B, measles, Meningitis A, mumps, polio, tetanus, and yellow fever. In all of these cases, immunization has greatly benefited mankind and in many cases, has led to almost complete eradication of these epidemics.

## **II. United Nations Involvement:**

The World Health Organization (WHO) has been able to help with immunization standards all around the globe. Because of WHO's aid DTP3, diphtheria tetanus, shots have been given to 86% of the world, maintaining the 85% or more average since 2010. This means that only 19.4 million people have not received routine vaccinations a huge improvement since 2000, when 33.8 million children did not have the vaccine. Of the 194 WHO members, 126 countries have reached and maintained a 90% immunization target for DTP3. Other smaller vaccines percentages increased, such as Hepatitis B which went from 29% of children vaccinated in 2000, to 84% in 2015. In 2016 huge progress was made with three different diseases, polio, rubella, and tetanus. Polio was eliminated in one country, tetanus was eliminated in three countries, and rubella was eliminated in one region. In 2012, WHO has endorsed the Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP). Four vaccines have hit the 80% mark. These vaccines are DTP3, polio, measles, and Hepatitis B. In 2015, India, Madagascar, Cambodia, and Mauritania eliminated maternal and neonatal tetanus as well as boosting coverage for DTP3. Africa has become closer to eliminating polio with Nigeria being removed from the list of polio endemic countries. Now Pakistan and Afghanistan remain polio endemic.

## **III. Possible Solutions:**



For the solutions focus on how the arrival of new diseases requires research to find out the most effective way to combat these ailments. For the research aspect, focus on the development of scientific information and the importance of ongoing studies in order to ensure public safety and health. and. Additionally, though education and awareness are key aspects of furthering immunization in order to create an educated public population and protect the future, they should not be the only solutions delegates present, Furthermore, delegates in this committee do not need to worry about funding, as it will be provided by the World Bank. oc Instead, emphasis actions that can be taken to give people more access to vaccines as well as focus on ways to vaccinate more people. Create solutions that deal with the distribution of vaccines to all people, regardless of gender, class, or location; and suggest new tactics that can be used to improve the current immunization process. Overall, delegates are encouraged to come up with creative and insightful solutions on a region by region basis. Blanket solutions are not recommended, as this issue affects every nation and how they need to combat the situation differently.

#### **IV. Bloc Positions:**

**Western:** In Western nations, breast, prostate, and colon cancer, and coronary heart disease are all common. Vaccines have been made for breast cancer which target a specific protein found in many breast cancer cases known as mammaglobin-A. Prostate cancer vaccines known as Sipuleucel-T have been developed to boost the immune system to help it attack prostate cells. The colon cancer vaccine functions very similarly to the breast cancer vaccine by targeting a protein. Flu vaccines might be a possible way of defeating cardiovascular disease.

**Asian/Pacific:** The Asian/Pacific region is plagued by many tropical diseases such as malaria, yellow fever and avian fever. Though many diseases in the region can be prevented through vaccine and many countries do have coverage for the common vaccine-preventable diseases, the problem is many countries have certain vaccines that should be strengthened or are just not up to par.

**African:** Four African nations: Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia, have all been trying to introduce the WHO's approach to the integrated management of childhood illness, which covers ARI, diarrhoea, malaria, measles and malnutrition. This would allow the children of the region to be fully immunized to ARI, malaria, and measles.

**Latin America:** Though the Latin American Bloc is quite successful in immunization, it still has its flaws. More work is needed to maintain current progress, research, and introduce new vaccines. The Commission for the Future of Vaccines in Latin America (COFVAL) wants to strengthen evidence-based-policy-making as well as reducing region inequalities in immunization.

**Middle East:** The Middle Eastern Bloc is plagued by a disease known as Middle Eastern respiratory syndrome. Symptoms of this disease are fever, shortness of breath, and a cough. As of now many NGOs, funding agencies, and researchers are trying to find a vaccine to combat this disease.



## V. Guiding Questions:

1. What are some diseases that do not have any immunization?
2. What is some research that is being worked on or already published that has possibly found ways to combat said diseases?
3. From what you know, what type of education would provide to the general public so that they are aware of what efforts are being made, what to do in case them or a loved one is afflicted with the said disease or diseases, and how to avoid people and places that could possibly transmit this disease?

## VI. Works Cited

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