



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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TOPIC: TRAFFICKING OF CHILD
SOLDIERS

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Trafficking of Child Soldiers

Hello, delegates! My name is Abanoub Abdelmalek, and I am currently a Junior at SMCHS. This is my third year doing MUN and I love doing it. Aside from MUN, I enjoy swimming (which is also my sport) and anything involving water, like going to the beach. My favorite type of food is Asian food, but I could never turn down a good steak. SOCOMUN has taught me so many things ranging from world politics to negotiation which has helped me become a better delegate. I hope all of you will be able to take advantage of this conference and I look forward to hearing your speeches and solutions and meeting you all during committee.

Hi, my name is Aveen Vahidi and I'm going to be your vice chair for this committee. I am a junior here at SMCHS and this is my third year at MUN. I love weightlifting and hanging out with my friends in my free time. I look forward to seeing you all during the committee!

Hi, delegates! My name is Kiera Kao and I'll be your rapporteur for this committee for the upcoming SOCOMUN Conference. I'm a sophomore at Santa Margarita and this is my second year participating in MUN. I play with my school and club volleyball team in my free time, hang out with my friends, and bake. I can't wait to meet you all at the conference!

Background:



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In any country where war is present the people that are the most affected are the children. They not only get caught in the collateral damage of battle but they also are getting kidnapped through human trafficking. Human Trafficking is “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of people through force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them...” (UN). The perpetrator can exploit children for things like sex slaves, soldiers, forced labor, and much more. Human trafficking can happen to anyone from children to adults and they are usually captured through means of intimidation or threats, deception or manipulation, and power abuse which can happen both inside and outside the borders of any country. Approximately 300,000-500,000 children have been taken in as child soldiers in 87 different war-torn countries. The trafficking of these child soldiers will be the primary objective of this committee.

A child soldier is classified as "any person under the age of 18 who is, or has been, recruited or used by an armed force or armed group in any capacity, including but not limited to children, boys, and girls, used as fighters, cooks, porters, spies, or for sexual purposes," (Paris Principles on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts). United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has launched, created, and overseen multiple child protection programs making camps to help rescued child soldiers by giving them the medical care and mental help necessary for them to get back on their feet. The strain of war puts a burden and mental pain on adult soldiers making the mental pain for child soldiers a hundred times worse. The horrors of war should never be witnessed and done by children. They must commit atrocious acts like killing their own family or girls forced into sex slaves. These children's well-being is being destroyed by being forced into the frontlines of war. The UN and multiple SDGs have done many things to combat the problem of child soldiers and put themselves in place to help fix the problem especially during war or in war-torn countries. The United Nations General Assembly has also acted in specifically creating the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. This protocol helps countries have a structured way to prevent the recruitment of child soldiers. This committee's main focus is to find innovative ways to prevent the trafficking of child soldiers in any capacity as well as figure out and solve what these kids need to recuperate and go through their Rehabilitation process smoothly. Rehab is crucial to the child soldiers' recovery, and we expect creative and outside-the-box ideas to be presented during committee.

The issue of child soldiers has also been addressed by the Security Council through “Resolution 1261”. This was an action by the UN to bring the problem of child soldiers as a peacekeeping issue as well. They started peacekeeping operations in 2001 and are still active today. Because of these operations, the UN has saved thousands of children and provided support for legislative reforms moving us towards a world with a strong international child protection system. The UN peacekeepers have also sent their law enforcement force with the proper training to handle all types of situations and to ensure the protection of these children. On top of that, they even monitor and report on any violations against children and bring warring parties to negotiate terms to end their conflict. They also advocate for children all over the world and bring awareness to the issue. Peacekeeping is essential to this committee, and ways of improving upon the current system should be discussed.

Possible Solutions:

Though figuring out how to save these children from their captors does a great deal, these kids carry their burden of trauma and they must heal from the horrors they have gone through



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and maybe even done. Rehabilitation solutions are a very important aspect of this issue that should be one of the main focuses. Since these kids have gone through being kidnapped, indoctrinated, exposed to drugs, seeing death at a young age, and threats of execution and tortured for disobeying orders, makes it is crucial that we consider these past horrors and have the healing process under close review. The UN has tasked UNICEF to undertake this mission leading UNICEF to create the Global Coalition for Reintegration of Child Soldiers. This is an initiative that forms an alliance among multiple countries that actively work on the rehabilitation aspect of the child soldier issue as well as help create stronger national security within nations. This is just an idea of what some of the solutions should touch on.

Another idea to touch on is the capturing aspect of this issue. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) created the “Handbook on Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism”. This handbook will help a lot in giving you an idea of what is a victim, what the role of the justice system is, and how they try and jail criminals. They will also explain the roles of the prosecutors, legislators, law enforcement, Defense council, Judiciary, and where they come in with the process of capturing and trying the people responsible for ruining and hurting these kids. In committee, we are trying to prevent this problem from happening again not only by healing the aftermath effects. There are multiple angles to fixing this issue meaning that there are multiple solutions needed. Please keep in mind that funding is assumed to be provided by the UN, and should not be a prevalent consideration when developing solutions.

Questions To Consider:

1. Which countries have the bulk of the issue? Are these countries in the same region?
2. What are current methods for rehabilitation?
3. How would you combat the spread of human trafficking specific to child soldiers?
4. What current steps or solutions has your country implemented to combat the issue?
5. Is there new technology or methods that can help make the rehabilitation process easier on children?
6. What are methods of capturing human traffickers?
7. What are long-term and short-term solutions for this issue?
8. How has this issue affected your country?

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