

**not freshman D**

TOPIC:Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice- Access to education in prisons



SOCOMUN XXVIII

NOT FRESHMAN D

Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice- Access to education in prisons

Hello! My name is Briana Emerson and I will be one of your co-chairs for SOCOMUN. I am a senior at Santa Margarita and this is my fourth year in MUN. Through MUN, I have gained self-confidence and become aware of global affairs, I have attended conferences all around southern California, as well as BMUN 66 at UC Berkeley, and I have been further invited to attend the London Invitational Conference. Apart from MUN, I am involved in our school’s theatre program; Talon Theatre, and I am an inducted and active member of our school’s Thespian Honors Society troupe. Outside of school, I dance, paint, and love to travel. I am excited to see the creative solutions you have prepared and I look forward to seeing you all in committee!

Hi! My name is Juliana, and I will be one of your co-chairs for SOCOMUN XXVI. I am a junior at Santa Margarita and this is my third year in MUN. Through MUN I have been able to experience conferences at universities such as USC, UCSD, and UCI. MUN has given me the opportunity to become more aware of current issues in the world, and has empowered me to find viable solutions to these global issues. Outside of MUN, I am a dancer and am a part of the SMCHS Dance Team.

I’m Naveen, a Junior at Santa Margarita High School and your vice-chair. Over the past two years I’ve experienced firsthand what MUN is all about, by participating in conferences across Southern California. MUN has made me a citizen of the world, as I learn the real issues our world faces, and how we may possibly bring about their end. I hope you benefit from this excellent program as much as I have and recognize the potential for positive change our generation can bring to the future.

My name is Sam Caspino and I am currently a freshman at Santa Margarita High School. I will be serving this conference as a rapporteur for my first time. As a freshman, SOCOMUN was my first conference that I attended and taught me the best way to achieve success in MUN. I’m very excited to guide you through this conference and make it a very positive and learning experience.

SOCOMUN was all our first MUN conference ever and we hope you all have as great of an experience as we did. Come prepared with solutions on the issue that you can present to the committee in speeches, comments, and caucus. Make sure you have researched your country’s standpoint on the topic so you can create solutions according to your country’s policy. Debate will begin with speeches that all delegates are encouraged to give to share in your country’s policy and solutions on the topic. We may also move into caucus where you can freely discuss your solutions with other countries. If you have any questions, feel free to email us at [socomunnotd@gmail.com](mailto:socomunnotd@gmail.com)

**E4JMUN Resources from the UNODC**

The UNODC has provided some great resources for students involved with Model United Nations.

<https://www.unodc.org/e4j/mun/crime-prevention/crime-prevention-and-criminal-justice.html> - Information about crime prevention and criminal justice. Also information about crime prevention and criminal justice and the sustainable development goals.

<https://www.unodc.org/e4j/mun/resources/crime-prevention-and-criminal-justice.html> - Looks like the other link but scroll down and you will see some links to additional resources. The Introductory Handbook on the Prevention of Recidivism and Social Reintegration of Prisoners is a good document to look over. (You might want to Ctrl + F search for “access to education” because it is a lengthy report)

**Background:**

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is a UN specialized agency with the task of aiding member states in their efforts to reduce illicit drugs and international crime. One of the specific focuses of the UNODC is Crime prevention and criminal justice reform. The goal is to ensure criminal justice systems are fair and prison are humane. The UNODC works hand in hand with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. Sustainable Development Goal 16 is “Peace, Justice and strong institutions” which has specific goals pertaining to criminal justice systems. A critical part to the UNODC’s goals for the criminal justice system are prison reforms, specifically access to education in prison. In 2017 the UNODC released an updated version of “the Nelson Mandela Rules”, newly called “The Roadmap for the Development of Prison-based Rehabilitation Programmes.” The manual includes steps and reasons to improve prison conditions pertaining to education, training, and work programmes. Despite this, over half of prison inmates do not receive an education program while in prison and while 68 percent of them are eligible for a college prison program only 9 percent do. In the EU only less than a quarter of the 640,000 inmates are provided with education. Many countries are committed to providing education they are faced with the issues of limited space and financial resources. The UNODC is working to help these countries with “ready-to use checklists on relevant steps to take when planning for the initiation of educational, vocational training and work programmes in prisons” (UNODC).

Social Reintegration is also a large part of the UNODC and it goal for prison education. Social reintegration focuses of incarcerated peoples life after prison in the education field. “Social integration interventions are therefore attempts by various components of the justice system, in partnership with social agencies, NGOs, educational institutions, communities and the offenders’ family, to support the successful social integration of individuals at risk of offending or reoffending” (UNODC). After prison reintegration should include a “smooth transition from the prison to the community, reinforce the gains achieved in prisons through treatment and education programmes, and continue until a successful reintegration is completed” (UNODC). However, these sorts of programs are rarely available because of the same reasons education in not being provided in prisons.

Studies have proven that education programs in prison reduce recidivism and therefore decrease crime. A 29 percent reduction rate in recidivism was seen in result of correctional education in prison. Additionally, “recidivism rates for incarcerated people who had participated in prison education programs were on average 46 percent lower than the rates of incarcerated people who had not taken college classes” (Prison Studies Project). Implementing education systems is also cost effective because correctional education is almost twice as cost effective as incarceration. “Post-secondary education also yields multiple public benefits, including greater societal productivity, increased tax revenue and decreased reliance on governmental support” (Prison Studies Project). Education systems also showed violence reduction as inmates were highly cautious so they would not risk their spot in the education program. This makes prisons with college programs safer. Finally, when incarcerated parents engage in college classes it encourages their children to do the same stopping the cycle of poverty.

**Possible Solutions:**

Prior to your attending of the conference, make sure you have drafted your own well-thought out and creative solutions. Be sure that your solutions are also compatible with other delegates and that you are able to improve solutions and form effective resolutions. Also, make sure that your solutions align with your country’s policy and the bloc position.

It has been statistically proven that education in prisons is a benefactor in reducing the rate of crime. These statistics are often not acknowledged and is one of the many reasons for why prisoners who are released may go back to a life of crime. Since the IHEP reports that nearly 7 out of 10 people who have formerly been incarcerated will return to a life of crime and half will return to prison within three years, it is crucial that the proper tools and programs are developed to reduce the possibility of a relapse. This is why ensuring that a majority of prisons are able to provide the inmates with a general college education. To do this, a viable solution is to continue to partner with local universities to provide professors and instructors to administer prison inmates with a college-level general education.

It would also be ensured that this service can be provided throughout all local institutions so that every inmate can continue to learn if they are transferred. The outcome is that inmates are able to pursue an education and are often able to go on to be more productive members in society, lowering the recidivism rates. Although this solution is feasible, a few facets of it need to be refined. For example, the full assurance that all costs will be covered is difficult to achieve. These costs would include materials and supplies, and having instructors to teach the courses. In developed nations, top universities and colleges have already begun this process and the results have been proven to be very effective.

**Questions to Consider:**

These questions are not required to be answered during committee, however are good to think about while forming solutions.

1. What actions has your country taken in the past to help education systems in prison?
2. Does your country believe in prison education at all?
3. Does your country provide grants or tuition aid to prisoners for college?
4. What steps has the UN took to help education systems in prison? Has your country backed this?
5. What NGOs could your country optimize to help implement education systems in prisons?
6. What benefits does prison education have? What are some positive examples of the impact of prison education?
7. Are all races, ages, and genders granted the same access to education in prison? How can you fix this?

Works Cited

Paynter, Ben. “California's Prison Education System Is Yielding Impressive Results.” *Fast*

*Company*, Fast Company, 26 Mar. 2018, [www.fastcompany.com/40547877/californias-prison-education-system-is-yielding-impressive-results](http://www.fastcompany.com/40547877/californias-prison-education-system-is-yielding-impressive-results).

This article provides the reader with researched and proven statistics for why education is necessary in prisons. Inmates who have received a general college-level education have proven to succeed and contribute to the economy and society, and the recidivism rates have heavily decreased as well. This article leaves the reader to think about details that need to be refined within the education system of inmates.

Anne-Sophie.fernandes. “Roadmap to a New Chance: UN Releases New Guidance for

Prison-Based Rehabilitation.” *Roadmap to a New Chance: UN Releases New Guidance for Prison-Based Rehabilitation*, [www.unodc.org/dohadeclaration/en/news/2017/12/roadmap-to-a-new-chance-un-releases-new-guidance-for-prison-based-rehabilitation.html](http://www.unodc.org/dohadeclaration/en/news/2017/12/roadmap-to-a-new-chance-un-releases-new-guidance-for-prison-based-rehabilitation.html).

This article explains the new international standards for prison in the “The Roadmap for the Development of Prison-based Rehabilitation Programmes” which lays out reasons prisons should invest in education programs. The article also explains the efforts of the UNODC to help the prison systems and the obstacles that must be overcome to do so.

*Introductory Handbook on the Prevention of Recidivism and the Social Reintegration of*

*Offenders*.

<https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/crimeprevention/Prevention_of_Recidivism_and_Social_Reintegration_12-55107_Ebook.pdf>

This article explains the process of social reintegration, and the benefits of it. When done correctly social integration can be highly beneficial in helping those fresh out of prison build a new life, however is rarely available as a resource.

Katharina.kiener-Manu. “MUN Crime Prevention & Criminal Justice.” *MUN Crime Prevention Criminal Justice*, [www.unodc.org/e4j/mun/crime-prevention/crime-prevention-and-criminal-justice.html](http://www.unodc.org/e4j/mun/crime-prevention/crime-prevention-and-criminal-justice.html).

This article explains the UNODC’s role in crime prevention and criminal justice reform. This article is useful in connecting how crime prevention and criminal justice reform is linked to the SDGs and provides several resources that further go in depth about crime prevention and criminal justice.

Nancy.cao. “United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.” *About UNODC*, [www.unodc.org/unodc/about-unodc/index.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/about-unodc/index.html).

This article explains what the UNODC is and it role in the UN. This article is helpful for background on the UNODC.

“Report Shows Benefit of Prison Education.” *Inside Higher Ed*, [www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2019/01/16/report-shows-benefit-prison-education](http://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2019/01/16/report-shows-benefit-prison-education).

This article explains the benefits of education in prison and gives great statistics on prison inmates and their education percentages.

*Roadmap for the Development of Prison-Based Rehabilitation Programmes*.

<https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/17-05452_ebook.pdf>

“Why Prison Education?” *Prison Studies Project*, prisonstudiesproject.org/why-prison-education-programs/.

This article also explains the benefits of prison education, as well as providing details about how education increases employment, reduces costs and violence, and has positive effects on the children whose parents are incarcerated.

“Education - United Nations Sustainable Development.” *United Nations*, United Nations,

[www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/education/](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/education/).

This article discusses education throughout the international community, the various statistics, the goals for the future and other supportive facts. This article is objective for it is all facts and does not show any bias. The use of the article would be beneficial in writing United Nations Involvement.

Zoukis, Christopher. “Unexpected Benefits of Prison Education – PrisonEducation.com.”

PrisonEducation.com, Publisher Name Prisoneducation.com Publisher Logo, 11 Oct. 2018, [www.prisoneducation.com/prison-education-news/unexpected-benefits-of-prison-education/](http://www.prisoneducation.com/prison-education-news/unexpected-benefits-of-prison-education/)

This article discusses how education in prisons has been proven effective in minimizing the number of former inmates who return to incarceration. There is no disadvantage of education in prisons and it will help raise the confidence and self-esteem of the inmates. This article does not show much bias but seems to support improving the conditions in prisons for prisoners. This article would be helpful for solutions since it lists the benefits of education in prisons.