

**NOT Freshman D**

**North Korea**

**Introduction:**

Hello, my name is Ashkaan Mahjoob, and I will be your chair at SOCOMUN 2018! I am currently a senior at Santa Margarita Catholic High School, and this is my fourth year being a part of our Model United Nations program. I have participated in sixteen MUN conferences throughout my high school career, including competitions at Georgetown University and the University of California Irvine. I have attended the University of California Los Angeles MUN Institute and studied global conflict resolution at the University of Notre Dame this past summer. I firmly believe that MUN provides an individual an avenue to not only become more educated on global affairs, but become exposed to new perspectives, ultimately cultivating more open-minded and diplomatic future leaders. Aside from MUN, I am Vice President of my school’s ASB, on the swim team, and a member of the steel drum band.

Hello delegates, my name is Matt Trueman and I will be serving as your legal for the 2018 SOCOMUN Conference. I am a Junior as of the 2018 new school year and as such this is my third year in the MUN program. I have attended the BMUN 66 Conference at the University of California, Berkeley and have been further invited to attend the London Invitational Conference, I also participate in Long Jump on our Track and Field team. MUN has offered me an incredible experience to open my mind to the complexity and reality of the world and has presented me with the great opportunity to expand my public speaking abilities and my confidence in front of audiences and likewise I hope we as your dais can help grow your own self-assuredness.

Hello, my name is Jessica Hamra. I am a sophomore and have done MUN since my freshman year. My favorite committees to be in UNHCR and the SPD. I am in color guard and was appointed flag captain my second season. I have an older sister who does MUN and is a current junior at Santa Margarita. I also have a younger brother in 8th grade and a younger sister in 6th grade, whom I love to spend time with outside of MUN.

We look forwards to a positive learning experience for novice delegates, while stimulating insightful conversations and solutions. We will begin committee by going down the speaker’s list: there is no general debate at SOCOMUN, only substantive, meaning that only country policy and solutions are to be discussed in speeches. We encourage delegates to participate in unmoderated caucus, where delegates can freely share their ideas, and create a resolution. Formal caucus and voting bloc will follow, in which delegates will present and vote on resolutions. Additionally, please refrain from using first person in committee, but rather refer to yourself as your country’s name. Please take the time to review the topic synopsis and conduct your own research. It is imperative that you are familiar with your country policy, and adequately represent it throughout committee. Please feel free to email the chair with any questions, comments, or concerns you may have at [socomunnotd@gmail.com](mailto:socomunnotd@gmail.com). We look forward to meeting all of you and wish you good luck in the upcoming conference! Go Eagles!

**Background:**

For the past several decades, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, or North Korea, has ignited tensions between a vast array of nations as a result of their aggressive leadership and development of their nuclear program. The DPRK’s initial involvement in the nuclear realm began in 1985, when they signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. This United Nations agreement aims to incorporate collaborative measures between nations and uphold a promise to only use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. As of today, more than 191 member states boast a signature on this treaty, including nuclear five nations holding nuclear weapons. Under this, each sovereign state agrees to inspections from the International Atomic Energy Agency, or the IAEA, to insure compliance and adequate safety regulations. Throughout the 1990s, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea engaged in numerous missile tests, ultimately withdrawing from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 2003. The United Nations has responded with numerous economic sanctions in hopes of deterring the nation from creating more weapons. Their main ally, China, illegalized trading items that could potentially be used to construct nuclear missiles to North Korea in 2013. It is imperative to note that throughout history, China has remained one of North Korea’s most trusted allies. Successful peace talks in the past have involved China as a key facilitator between North Korea and more westernized nations.

Unfortunately, many of these efforts have not yielded the best results, as the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea has continued their missile launches, each one reaching even greater lengths than the previous ones. Moreover, they have made several concerning threats, such as bombing of the US territory, Guam, which has manifested into a deep hostility and heightened tensions between the two nations, prompting angry remarks from the United States President, Donald Trump. Further, they have launched several test missiles as a display of their nuclear arsenal. Nations such as the United States have put into place emergency measures in case of a nuclear attack, specifically in high risk areas like Hawaii.

Just like their international relations, North Korea has experienced a rocky relationship with their neighbor, South Korea, as well. After signing the 1953 Armistice to end the Korean War, for a time, it seemed that an amicable friendship was forming. Both nations were willing to send trains across borders, and the world looked towards a brighter future. These hopes shattered when North Korea sent troops into South Korea in 1996, directly violating the Korean Armistice. However, these relations have recently improved. After Kim Jung Un was instated in 2011, tensions generally began to decline. Peace talks ensued, and North Korea even sent athletes to the recent Winter Olympic Games held in South Korea’s capital city, Seoul. While there are still leaps that need to be made to achieve amicable relations, the nation is in hopes that North and South Korea can establish a more beneficial neighboring relationship. Despite this, the question still remains regarding their nuclear arsenal, as many nations are worried about their safety when such an unpredictable leader is in charge of such an impressive nuclear arsenal.

Domestically, the Democratic People’s Republic of North Korea has experienced several issues as well. Recent reports have revealed that the nation’s population are severely lacking in several key areas. Primarily, more than 60% of North Koreans do not have the means to purchase food and require state distributed meals in order to survive. Due to censorship, it is difficult to say for certain, but it is believed that North Korea experienced a devastating famine in the 1990s, resulting in hundreds of thousands of deceased citizens. Children have a high mortality rate, specifically from diseases such as diarrhea and pneumonia – hinting at the country’s failing health care system. The United Nations has affirmed a recent improvement, largely due to humanitarian aid, but there is still much to be done to improve the standard of living of these citizens. When regarding these issues, key questions comes to mind: who has jurisdiction over aiding these citizens, North Korea or other nations, and how bad does it need to get for other countries to intervene?

In addition to health, censorship remains another domestic concern. North Korea is frequently regarded as the one of the most censored nations across the globe. The state oversees and maintains ownership of all news outlets, thoroughly controlling the dissemination of information to its citizens. North Korea deals out severe consequences for anyone that attempts to access uncensored information. Furthermore, the state combats technological advancements with even stricter censorship, continuing to brainwash its citizens with information only the supreme leader, Kim Jung Un, deems appropriate.

In regards to missile testing, on April 21st, 2018, North Korea announced that it “no longer needs” to test its weapons. Kim Jong Un claims that the “mission has been completed,” according to several reliable news sources. However, despite this recent update, the global community remains skeptical about the legitimacy of this claim. When writing your paper and formulating solutions, do so as if Kim Jung Un is continuing to further the nuclear agenda in compliance with the theory that this is a false claim.

**Possible Solutions:**

While the following solutions all could be potentially effective in dealing with the situation in North Korea, it is imperative that you formulate your own individual solutions, while simultaneously collaborating with other delegates to create resolutions. While you may use these solutions as a baseline, creating your own shows more creativity and knowledge on the topic. Original solutions, also, will receive higher marks in grading. When creating your solutions, be sure to take into account your country policy by researching past actions to get a feel for their position. Do not put too much focus on finding sources for funding, as this will be taken care of by the UN’s Fifth Committee and the World Bank.

One possible solution could be to incentivize North Korea to partake in more peace talks and work towards diplomatic relations. A summit could be established with a neutral party to facilitate this process and insure that everything goes smoothly. During the conversation, one could propose improved economic benefits, such as increased trade and resources, if they comply with the demands, such as a reduction in the production of their nuclear weapons. Using less punitive measures could prove beneficial in establishing more amicable relationships between the North Korea and other member states, opening the door to the possibility of living in a less hostile world under the constant threat of a nuclear attack.

If one has a more aggressive country policy that views incentives as weak, sanctions could provide an effective alternative. While these punitive measures have been implemented in the past, they could be altered to increase effectivity and motivate the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to take the desired action. However, nations must be careful not the make the sanctions too drastic, to refrain from angering North Korea and coaxing them into releasing their weapons. Further, when establishing sanctions, one must take into account the current state of the nation. With such limited access to quality health care, sanitation, and food for its citizens, sanctions could be damaging to the population, increasing the burden on the already resource deprived NGOs providing humanitarian aid.

When considering aiding the undernourished North Korean population, consider the best ways of providing foodstuffs without angering the government. Look for NGOs or UN bodies that have already been successful in doing this in the past, or new ones that could also provide aid. Consider how difficult it would be to transport the foodstuffs within the North Korean borders, and whether or not volunteers would be sent, or simply packages of supplies. Also, consider the health care and sanitation systems in North Korea. Try to find solutions that would help to aid the situation with such a strict dictator in power. Are there NGOs that have refurbished health care systems in other countries successfully? If not countries, what about specific regions, even refugee camps?

Furthermore, do some research into the role that China plays within this concept. Since North Korea and China have similar governments, the nation often feels less threatened when conversing with them as opposed to another country with nuclear capabilities, such as the United States. Throughout history, China has often remained North Korea’s most trusted ally. If western nations hope to achieve international peace, they must begin forming bridges with China, as well as other nations like it, that have stronger ties with North Korea. This in turn will hopefully break the ice and pave the way for a more diplomatic relationship.

Finally, consider North Korea’s frequent missile tests and threats of nuclear destruction. Are there any other ways besides economic sanctions and incentives that could motivate them to stop? Perhaps analyze past conflicts in history. How have nations dealt with authoritarian governments in the past successfully?

**Questions to Consider**

1. Has your country done anything in the past regarding the conflict?
2. What specifically can your country do to improve the situation?
3. What is your country policy? Are they supporting a specific side?
4. Are there any recent developments on the conflict?
5. Are there any NGOs that can help you implement your solutions?
6. How has the United Nations responded to this issue or others like it in the past?
7. How has your country policy been updated?

Works Cited

Albert, Eleanor. “Understanding the China-North Korea Relationship.” *Council on Foreign Relations*, Council on Foreign Relations, 28 Mar. 2018, [www.cfr.org/backgrounder/china-north-korea-relationship](http://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/china-north-korea-relationship).

This article from the Council on Foreign Relations provides a projection of China and North Korea’s confusing trade alliance, China’s policy on the encroachment of refugees and the ongoing humanitarian crisis within the DPRK, and the US’s position on the aforementioned matters. This article is an in-depth evaluation of the Korean Peninsula’s tension and the impact it has had on the world since the DPRK’s first nuclear test launch in 2001. It has extensive substance with nearly three dozen linked sites and PDFs further explaining the conflict and its global influences. This site will allow for a proper representation of the complicated relations that North Korea maintains as well as providing a wide source of background as the topic of relations is a common discussed theme within a DPRK committee.

Bowden, Mark. “How to Deal With North Korea.” The Atlantic, Atlantic Media Company, 9 Aug. 2017, [www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2017/07/the-worst-problem-on- earth/528717/](http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2017/07/the-worst-problem-on-%09earth/528717/).

The article is about different solutions on how to deal with North Korea. It goes through solutions and their flaws. This magazine has a lot of research done and has been written recently making it credible. This reference is useful because it gives ideas on how to deal with North Korea and shows different methods.

 Calamur, Krishnadev. “How North Korea Cheats Sanctions.” *The Atlantic*, Atlantic Media Company, 8 Aug. 2017, [www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2017/08/north-korea-cheats-sanctions/536169/](http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2017/08/north-korea-cheats-sanctions/536169/).

Sourced from *The Atlantic*, this site further explicates the lengths that North Korea goes to in order to retrieve materials and weaponry as banned by past and current UN placed sanctions. Discussing the UN’s effort in the past in correlation to the DPRK’s increase in illegally obtaining such banned supplies questions the efficiency of UN Resolutions. This source gathers a great deal of information on the DPRK’s inability to follow international law and how they are evading such laws and are still obtaining resources denied to their country. As the importance of UN Resolution legitimacy is a major deal in maintaining DPRK sanctions, delegates must be able to understand the role of developing solutions that enforce UN code and yet that are reasonable enough for Security Council action.

Geraghty, Jim. “North Korea's Recent History of Random, Sudden, Violent Provocations.” *National Review*, National Review, 10 Aug. 2017, [www.nationalreview.com/the-morning-jolt/north-korea-agression-toward-south-korea/](http://www.nationalreview.com/the-morning-jolt/north-korea-agression-toward-south-korea/).

This review of North Korea’s past militaristic aggressions as well as their explicit violation of DMZ conduct helps to prove the instability of the DPRK’s sense of provocation. Explaining past conflicts and incidents, this assessment of North Korea investigates the probability of either nuclear contention or diplomatic negotiations. Covering North Korea, South Korea, and the US under both the Obama and Trump administrations, this article certainly provides a wide explanation of both provocations and their respective responses. Delegates must be able to reference the complicated policies the belligerents of this conflict have and proper responses within their own policies. Hence, a proper understanding of the probable causes and effects as listed in this article can be imperative to comprehending the associated dangers.

Goodby, James E. “North Korea: The Problem That Won't Go Away.” Brookings, Brookings, 28 July 2016, [www.brookings.edu/articles/north-korea-the-problem-that-wont-go-away/](http://www.brookings.edu/articles/north-korea-the-problem-that-wont-go-away/).

This article focuses on the relationship between North and South Korea and the nuclear crisis. The source is creditable because it is a .edu so it is from a college that is reliable. This website is useful because it goes deep into the conversation and acknowledges minor details and everything that contributed to the story.

Nations, AFP at the United. “UN Warns Tough North Korea Sanctions Risk Hurting Millions in Need of Aid.”*The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 11 Dec. 2017, [www.theguardian.com/world/2017/dec/11/north-korea-sanctions-human-rights-toll-united-nations](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/dec/11/north-korea-sanctions-human-rights-toll-united-nations).

This issue of *The Guardian* provides an outlook on the true outcomes of UN Sanction Groups, especially those of the strict Res. 2317, when it effects the humanitarian efforts within the DPRK. Discussing the conflictions between UN sanction emplacement and humanitarian aid, it is confirmed that stricter sanction codes have limited financial and sustenance support going into the nation to aid its 18 million struggling citizens. Including excerpts from interviews and speeches of UN, Chinese, and American consultants and officials, this article offers a controversial view on the strengthening of sanction groups. This controversy will be a key aspect for delegates to debate around and will therefore offer an additional perspective on the implementation or removal of sanctions.

“North Korea: 6 Experts on How We Can Solve the Problem.” Time, Time, time.com/north- korea-opinion/.

This page goes over different solutions to the North Korea problem and also show the flaws in other solutions. This page is reliable because they have experts who do research and Time is a trustworthy magazine that is recognized nationwide. This would be a good source because it shows you some of the flaws in arguments that people might have.

“North Korea Fast Facts.” *CNN*, Cable News Network, 2 Mar. 2018, [www.cnn.com/2013/10/29/world/asia/north-korea-fast-facts/index.html](http://www.cnn.com/2013/10/29/world/asia/north-korea-fast-facts/index.html).

This website provides basic facts about North Korea and a timeline with background. It also has links so specific details about North Korea. This source is creditable because of its international recognition and multiple research centers. This source is helpful because it lays out the country’s past and shows how problems have excelled.

PARK, KYUNG-AE. *Non-Traditional Security Issues in North Korea*. University of Hawai'i Press, 2013. *JSTOR*, [www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt6wqk3m](http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt6wqk3m).

This website provides a PDF of a book on North Korea and summaries on each chapter. The chapters are about different problems in North Korea. This source is creditable because the book has high ratings and reviews and had a lot of research on it. I believe this will be helpful because it covers most of the issues in North Korea and with detail.

“U.S.-China Dialogue on Internal Developments in North Korea.” *U.S.-China Dialogue on Internal Developments in North Korea | Center for Strategic and International Studies*, [www.csis.org/programs/china-power-project/security/us-china-relations-and-north-korea/us-china-dialogue-internal](http://www.csis.org/programs/china-power-project/security/us-china-relations-and-north-korea/us-china-dialogue-internal).

The chance of obtaining multilateral talks is crucial to better diffusing the situation in North Korea and likewise, this source from the Center for Strategic and International Studies, CSIS, provides an excellent viewpoint on such matters. Gathering a great assortment of bilateral talks, this source overviews conferences such as the USIP Briefing, CICIR, and ICONS which brought new definition to US-China relations. With multiple linked sites within the page, the CSIS has obtained an informative and well-defined report on such talks and provides many aspects on the topic. Since negotiation talks are of the utmost importance in a conflict such as North Korea’s, the previously mentioned conferences provide a good basis for delegates reflect upon.