



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

SOCOMUN XXXII

NOT FRESHMAN F

**TOPIC: TERRORISM – COUNTERING
VIOLENT EXTREMEISM**



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NOT Freshman F Terrorism – Countering Violent Extremism

Hello delegates! My name is Brian Drago and I am more than excited to be your Chair for SOCOMUN XXXII. I am a senior at Santa Margarita Catholic High School, and this is my 4th year in MUN, as well as my second year in a leadership role at SOCOMUN. During my time in MUN I have made countless new friends, developed valuable skills that can be utilized both in life and my future line of work, and even been fortunate enough to travel to Washington D.C. during my junior year of high school. My time in MUN will always be impactful as I have developed key skills such as public speaking, leadership, problem-solving, collaboration, and proper diplomacy. All in all, MUN has provided me with the proper foundation to build a successful future as well as a prosperous time here at Santa Margarita. I look forward to meeting you all in committee and witnessing firsthand the collaboration and effort that all of you put into your MUN experiences. If you have any questions about committee procedures, conference schedules, or any other questions about the conference or committee please feel free to contact me at socomunnotf@gmail.com. I hope you enjoy SOCOMUN just as much as I do, and I look forward to meeting you all soon!

Hello delegates. My name is Varun Marrey, and I will be your Vice Chair for SOCOMUN XXXII. I have participated in MUN since my freshman year of high school, and I plan on continuing it throughout the rest of my high school experience. MUN has improved my confidence, my public speaking skills, and my ability to work with others. MUN has also made me more knowledgeable on current events and issues that we currently face today. I participated in SOCOMUN 2020, and it was both an extremely enjoyable as well as informative experience. I enjoyed my SOCOMUN experience, and I hope you all do too. Best of luck to you all!

Hello delegates, my name is Carolynn Keyes, and I will be your rapporteur for SOCOMUN XXXII. This will be my second year being a part of MUN, and throughout my experience I have gained great qualities; a few being the importance of hard work, improvement in my public-speaking skills, and the ability to write informational papers on diverse topics. I believe this has helped develop me into the well-rounded individual I am today. Apart from MUN, I play golf for the Santa Margarita JV team, and through this I have also learned the value of effort and participation. Overall, I have enjoyed my time spent at SMCHS and in MUN and I hope to make your experience the same during SOCOMUN. Good luck!

Shortly after opening ceremonies, committee will begin. We will start with a brief, but informative introduction to MUN. After the introduction, roll call will be performed. During roll call, every country name involved in Not Freshman F will be called out in alphabetical order. Your job will be to respond either as “present” or “present and voting”. The difference between the two responses is that someone who states “present” can abstain from voting, whereas someone who states “present and voting” cannot. After you respond to roll call you will receive your placard and nametag. After roll call is finished, a speaker’s list will be established. A speaker’s list is just a list of who speaks in what order. Whoever is on the speaker’s list will be required to give a speech detailing your countries’ policies, solutions, and some background into the issue we will be exploring. During your speaker’s list speech try to avoid a lengthy background or policy section and instead try to focus the majority of your time on solutions.



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Delegates are not required to volunteer for the speaker's list. If, however, you want to join the speaker's list just raise your placard at any time during opening speeches and request to be added. After each speaker's list speech, two delegates will be selected by myself to give a comment. Comments should include polite feedback and any suggestions you may have to improve their solutions. While we go through the speaker's list, we will pause for informal consultations and moderated caucuses. Informal consultations are more collaborative-based, in which delegates will meet together to discuss solutions and form groups without as much restriction. Moderated caucuses are similar to speaker's list speeches except they have a specified topic in which every participant must focus on, as well as a generally shortened speaking time. At the end of committee, the groups you form during informal consultations will collaborate to make one, unified "resolution paper", in which all of your group's individual solutions will be merged. The resolution papers will be presented by elected delegates from each group and voted on by the entire committee. If you have any additional questions, once again please reach out to me at socomunnotf@gmail.com.

E4JMUN Resources from the UNODC:

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is a great place to start your research for our committee. It features a lot of beneficial information on organized crime worldwide and provides a staple foundation for any solutions you may come up with. Provided below are sections of the UNODC website that are especially helpful for MUN delegates:

<https://www.unodc.org/e4j/mun/resources/organized-crime.html> – This is a link to the "home page" of the MUN portion of the UNODC website. This provides MUN delegates with information on corruption, terrorism, crime prevention, and more. This "home page" also provides helpful links to UNODC resolutions, the official document system of the UN, and even the well-known "Best Delegate" MUN website.

https://www.unodc.org/documents/terrorism/Publications/Module_on_Human_Rights/Module_HR_and_CJ_responses_to_terrorism_ebook.pdf - This is a helpful resource for formulating solutions. This link contains information on criminal justice responses to terrorism. Terrorism and violent extremism oftentimes work hand in hand so the criminal justice responses provided within this article can also be applied to violent extremism. Try to not copy the mentioned solutions within this link word for word, but instead use the responses as a basis for your own, unique solutions.

<https://www.unodc.org/pdf/terrorism/TATs/en/3IRoLen.pdf> - This is another helpful resource for drafting solutions. This link provides information on preventing terrorist acts and can be utilized to create solutions that will affect violent extremism in the long-term. Make sure to develop solutions that both prevent the issue from occurring in the future as well as reduce the issue currently present in the world. This can be used as a basis for future-focused solutions, just make sure to calibrate any strategies you may use to correctly address violent extremism.

Background:



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Violent extremism is yet to be finitely defined by the United Nations. However, as the Australian government directly states, “Violent extremism is the beliefs and actions of people who support or use violence to achieve ideological, religious or political goals”.

Violent extremism is oftentimes associated with terrorism, and similarly to violent extremism, terrorism is defined in a multitude of different ways. Some of the most notable examples of violent extremism include terrorist organizations such as ISIS, the Taliban, and Boko Haram. All the aforementioned terrorist organizations use extremist tactics of violence to accomplish their religious goals. ISIS wants to create a unified state governed by their interpretation of the Islamic sharia, the Taliban are devout Muslims that work to oppose corrupt Afghani leaders and create a new Afghanistan under Muslim principles, and Boko Haram wants to create a purely Islamic state ruled under their interpretation of the sharia. One of the most notable terrorist events in history is the September 11th World Trade Center attacks in New York City. These attacks were the work of an Islamic extremist network known as al-Qaeda. The 9/11 attacks resulted in the deaths of nearly 3,000 people and injured thousands more. Countless other notable terrorist attacks have taken place throughout history including the Mogadishu bombings, Boko Haram Uprising in 2009, and Rais massacre in 1997.

According to the Global Terrorism Index, as of 2022 the countries that are most impacted by terrorism include Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Somalia, and Mali. As can be seen from the top 4 worst countries in terms of terrorism, terrorism is most prevalent in this day and age in the Middle East and Africa. The 2023 Global Terrorism Index report indicates that lethality in terrorist attacks has jumped by 26%, as well as a decline in the Western portion of the world but a surge in the Middle East and Africa. While the overall number of terrorist attacks has decreased from 5,463 to 3,955 in 2022, the issue is still extremely prevalent as nearly 4,000 terrorist attacks took place in the span of a single year.

Since terrorism initially became prevalent, the United Nations has been actively involved in combatting terrorism and violent extremism. In 2017, the United Nations adopted the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism (UNCCT). Since then, the UNCCT has implemented 40 different programs and projects to combat terrorism. The UNCCT has also trained over 2100 individuals to carry out projects and conducted 15 meetings and 10 technical missions. In addition to the UNCCT, the general assembly in 2006 adopted the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) which states that all signatories and member states agree to implement a list of practical steps to combat terrorism. These steps range from strengthening state capacity to improving the coordination of the United Nation’s counter-terrorism activities. The GCTS is also focused on four central pillars. These four pillars are: addressing the conditions that make the spread of terrorism possible, preventing and combatting terrorism, strengthening the state’s capacities to properly prevent and combat terrorism, and finally ensuring the protection of all human rights while combatting terrorism.

Regarding violent extremism, in February 2016 the General Assembly adopted the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. Within this plan is a list of over 70 recommendations for countries to successfully prevent the spread of violent extremism. In addition to this plan, the United Nations Office in Geneva hosted the “Geneva Conference on Preventing Violent Extremism – The Way Forward” on April 7th and 8th, 2016. To summarize, the United Nations has been actively involved in the deterrence and reduction of violent extremism and terrorism for decades.



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To find further research and information on violent extremism and terrorism, consider looking into specific terrorist groups such as al-Qaeda and ISIS, any other UN resolutions and actions taken that were not mentioned, and countries such as Afghanistan and Burkina Faso that are most affected by this issue. By taking a deeper look into the political shape, geographic make-up, religious make-up, and even economic make-up of these countries, you can obtain a higher understanding of the causes of terrorism and weaknesses that make these countries especially susceptible to terrorist attacks, and in turn, create more detailed and profound solutions.

Possible Solutions:

Take into consideration the complexity and ambiguity of violent extremism. The fact that the United Nations itself does not have a distinct and rigid definition of violent extremism directly points to the idea that one solution is not feasible to address the topic as a whole. In order to effectively address violent extremism and terrorism in its immense complexity, you have to take into account each terrorist organization's goals. Try to find a common ground between each major terrorist organization and form a solution based off said common ground.

In addition to organizational-focused solutions, try to focus a few solutions around victims of violent extremism. Consider both the physical and mental effects of violent extremism on a person. Try to address the mental and physical health aspect of violent extremism, possibly by implementing health clinics or support groups within countries overrun by terrorist organizations. Partnering with health centered non-governmental organizations (NGOs) should be part of your solution but try to avoid making NGOs a solution by itself. Partnering with NGOs should not be the solution in its entirety, but rather a small but significant detail of a much broader and complex solution.

Since violent extremism can be most closely associated with religion, try to appease the religious goals of major terrorist organizations. Although some countries have a policy of not negotiating with terrorists under any circumstances, solutions can be implemented in which both sides can be pleased.

In addition to appeasing terrorist organizations, consider the opposite. If possible, try to come up with solutions that disband the organizations as a whole. Try to be as creative as possible, but also consider that these solutions must be realistic.

Finally, try to develop some solutions that work to fix war-torn countries. Some countries that have been overrun by terrorism, such as Afghanistan and Burkina Faso, are extremely underdeveloped. Try to develop solutions that work to strengthen these countries internally so they have a better chance at combatting these terrorist organizations on their own. Solutions can include strengthening the economies, building infrastructure, developing educational initiatives, and establishing a viable trade-network to create a reliable source of revenue for the country. Afghanistan itself holds a massive deposit of untapped minerals, yet is still one of the least developed countries worldwide. By establishing infrastructure and a strong trade-network, Afghanistan can quickly turn into a self-sufficient country capable of defeating terrorist organizations on its own.

Questions to consider:

The questions listed below are not required to be answered in committee or your solutions. They are completely optional. However, they are good questions to consider when starting research and forming solutions.



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- 1) Is your country directly affected by terrorism/violent extremism. How?
- 2) Has your country taken any steps in combatting terrorism/violent extremism?
- 3) What is your country's policy on terrorist organizations. Is your country in support of any specific terrorist organizations?
- 4) What is the fundamental cause of violent extremism? How can you directly address the cause of violent extremism?
- 5) What health issues arise in the victims of violent extremism?
- 6) Is there a specific link between the economy of a country and the prevalence of terrorism/violent extremism within said country?
- 7) Are there any countries that share your country's policy? Or is your country's policy unique and how could you word it to better collaborate with other countries within committee?
- 8) What NGOs could you partner with your solutions to strengthen them?
- 9) How could you help countries that are currently overrun by terrorism/violent extremism? How could you fix the problem within these countries and help them prosper?



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