



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

SOCOMUN XXVIII

NOT FRESHMAN G

TOPIC: CYBERBULLYING



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NOT Freshman G Cyberbullying

Hello! My name is Bridget Hayden and I will be your chair at SOCOMUN this year. I'm a senior at Santa Margarita, and this is my fourth year in MUN. I thoroughly enjoy MUN and all of the world problems it allows me to become aware of. MUN has also granted me the fun opportunity of traveling to the BMUN conference at University of California Berkley my sophomore year. I will also be travelling to Prague, Czech Republic for an MUN conference in January of this schoolyear. Outside of MUN I am on the Varsity Golf Team at SMCHS and love hanging out with friends and family. I cannot wait to meet all of you at this conference!

Hello, I am John Rupp and I will be your vice-chair for the SOCOMUN conference. I am currently a sophomore in MUN, and I personally like MUN because it teaches a lot about current world problems, as well as it helps with public speaking. I believe that the program pushes for teamwork and is a great opportunity to learn more about current events.

Hi, my name is Ashley Prentice and I'm so excited to be your secretary for SOCOMUN! I am currently a sophomore and I have loved participating in MUN for the past two years I've been at SMCHS. I'm so excited to be attending Berkeley MUN in the spring as well! I have gotten to debate so many different topics and have helped develop some incredible resolutions over the conferences I've attended. I love MUN because of all the interesting and exciting solutions I've found to some pretty difficult topics, and there isn't ever a time where I don't learn something new. MUN has made me a much better public speaker and researcher, skills that will surely follow me into college and beyond.

We hope that SOCOMUN will be an amazing and educational experience for all of you! We will begin with substantive debate, in which delegates give speeches regarding their solutions on the topic. In order for delegates to discuss their solutions in more depth, they can motion for a caucus, during which they can interact with other delegates to discuss solutions which can then be implemented in resolutions. It is important to understand your country's policy on the topic, as well as the topic itself! If you have any questions, do not hesitate to email us at socomunnotg@gmail.com We look forward to meeting all of you, and best of luck!



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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/cybercrime.html> - Information about Cybercrime and combatting cybercrime. Also information about cybercrime and the sustainable development goals.

<https://www.unodc.org/e4j/mun/resources/cybercrime.html> - Looks like the other link but scroll down and you will see some links to additional resources. The Study on the Effects of New Information Technologies on the Abuse and Exploitation of Children would be beneficial to look at. (You might want to Ctrl + F search for cyberbullying because it is a lengthy report)

Background:

Cyberbullying is a prevalent issue in our society today. Cyberbullying as defined by the UNODC is, “the use of Information and communication technology (ICTs) to harm a victim or victims in deliberate, repeated, and hostile ways.” Some ways that people cyberbully today is through the use of cell phones, the Internet, or other devices to use text messages or images to intentionally hurt another person. Some methods of cyberbullying can include, threats, sexual harassment, spreading lies, and damaging a reputation. Many people find cyberbullying as an easy way out because it can be anonymous, and you are not confronting the victim face to face. While cyberbullying can become apparent through mediated communication at school, it usually occurs outside of school when the cyberbully feels they will not get caught. Not many countries have legal systems that address cyberbullying. Although some have put laws in place that state that invasion of privacy is a criminal offense. With the higher rates in child suicide many countries are beginning to link that to cyberbullying and believe we need to put an end to this. Cyberbullying can occur in different countries and victims may be located in different regions. This makes it hard for a victim to stand up to the bully and this is why there needs to be an international response.

On September 18, 2011, Jamey Rodemeyer committed suicide due to cyberbullying. He was constantly bullied throughout middle school because he was gay. He wanted to take a stand, and this is why he started a YouTube channel to help people get through similar situations he was in. He also made a video about the “It Gets Better Project” which was a website dedicated to stopping teenage suicide. After his death many celebrities, such as Lady Gaga began to take a stand. They met with President Barack Obama to help prevent bullying in schools. In a 2016 Microsoft research study about adults and teens in 14 countries, it was proven that 65% of them had been victims of cyberbullying. This study also proved that young people are more exposed to cyberbullying due to their high levels of interaction online. Out of these young people, white males are more likely to be rude on the internet than girls. The first time any nations took part in creating a global campaign to face cyberbullying was during the International Symposium on School Violence and Bully, which was organized by UNESCO and the Institute of School Violence Prevention. As a result of this meeting, a multi-stakeholder meeting took place between March 26-27 in 2017 in London to expand on the creation of a global campaign to address



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cyberbullying. During this meeting nations discussed how young people are most affected by online violence and how a global campaign needs to come into action soon. The nations also discussed how a national education sector needs to get involved to prevent this cyberbully in schools. This would be done through the 4th United Nations Sustainable Development Goal for Quality Education. An organization named “The End to Cyber Bullying” (ETCB) has a mission designed to “combat cyberbullying in this modern age.” They plan to raise awareness about this issue and educate people in school about how harmful cyberbullying really is. On April 17, 2019 the Governor of Maryland, Larry Hogan, signed a bill updating the cyberbullying law. This bill will allow for authorities to have more freedom in condemning bullies of hate crime and cyberbullying. Hogan had decided to name the bill, “Grace’s Law 2.0,” after Grace McComas of Howard County who committed suicide due to online bullying from a peer. It includes a \$500 fine and up to one-year jail time for cyberbullying and includes a \$10,000 if the victim commits suicide. This is an example of how we are coming together to solve this issue and making small steps toward the future.

Possible Solutions:

The following are possible solutions to guide you that may be effective in combating cyberbullying, however, it is imperative that you come up with your own solutions and collaborate with delegates to make a coherent resolution to this issue. Lastly, make sure that your country policy aligns with the solutions you present.

Cyberbullying has been an ongoing struggle at many schools. Kids feel insecure and start to lash out at school due to bullying. Parents are insisting that the school gets more involved in trying to solve this issue. Many school shootings have occurred due to this issue and this is why we need a solution now. First, it is imperative that parents monitor their children’s devices. Parents understand their children and do not want to see their child get hurt or bullied. A parent can tell when their child is feeling down, but a teacher is not always going to be able to tell when a child is being bullied. By creating an app that can monitor the child’s apps and what they are posting/commenting a parent will be able to make sure that their child is not a victim of cyberbullying or bullying other children.

Next, we need to implement an education program about cyberbullying. This program would visit every school and discuss the dangers that cyberbullying carries. This way the teachers can become more aware when they see a child is feeling down and try to tackle this issue before it turns into something bigger. The children can also see how harmful their words really are to other students and realize that they need to stop.

Lastly, there needs to be guidelines created by the United Nations about cyberbullying. Nations would discuss security measures they can take to ensure that information is kept private and not shared throughout the world. This guideline could also highlight how there needs to be more security in protecting a person’s files and how we can also prevent hacking that may lead to someone getting cyberbullied.



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Questions to Consider:

The following questions are an outline for how you should conduct your research, but do not need to be specifically answered at the conference.

1. Is your country very involved in this issue? If not, is your country doing anything to prevent cyberbullying?
2. Does your country support an active approach to cyberbullying?
3. What actions can the United Nations take to downscale cyberbullying?
4. Has your country had any serious cyberbullying attacks? If so, how did they deal with them?
5. What effects could cyberbullying have on your country's economy and well-being?
6. Would your country implement any non-governmental agencies to help combat cyberbullying?
7. How could a country who does not want to take action against cyberbullying be persuaded to change their mind?
8. What international mandates must be put into action to avoid more deaths from cyberbullying?

Works Cited

1. *A New Global Campaign to Address Cyberbullying* | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/a_new_global_campaign_to_address_cyberbullying/.

The article explains the background of cyberbullying, and how it affects children and their school. The article then describes a call for a global initiative that is supported by the NGO, No Bully. The article describes how the United Nations is helping to fix the problem, as well as some background. The article seems to have no bias, as this is a global issue everyone is tackling, as well as it is only giving out facts. The article can go into the background of an essay, as well as UN involvement. Provides a lot of information on the topic.

2. VOA. "UN: Half of Young Teenagers Face Violence or Bullying in School." VOA, VOA, 19 Sept. 2018, learningenglish.voanews.com/a/un-half-of-young-teenagers-face-violence-or-bullying-in-school/4576923.html.

The article touches upon cyberbullying and the effects that it can have on children and young teenagers. The article gives useful statistics and touches on the physical harm cyberbullying can cause. The article does not contain bias, but only facts. The article fits perfectly in with the background of any position paper regarding this topic.



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3. “Around the World, Bullying and Cyber-Bullying Are at the Top of Children's Concerns | UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children.” *United Nations*, United Nations, [violenceagainstchildren.un.org/news/around-world-bullying-and-cyber-bullying-are-top-children%E2%80%99s-concerns](https://www.un.org/news/around-world-bullying-and-cyber-bullying-are-top-children%E2%80%99s-concerns).

The article talks about what the United Nations plans on doing to help combat cyberbullying, as well as some solutions and background. The article has no bias, as it is a United Nations document that gives solutions and facts. This article fits in perfectly with the solutions, involvement, and background of a paper.

4. “The History of Cyberbullying.” *Bark*, 22 Mar. 2019, www.bark.us/blog/the-history-of-cyberbullying/.

The article talks about the history of cyberbullying, and how it became so mainstream and what led up to it being so relevant. The article has little to no bias, as it is, once again, saying facts and nothing more. The article fits in perfectly with the background as it gives a perfect background to cyberbullying and its history.

5. Hackett, Liam. “Cyberbullying and Its Implications for Human Rights | UN Chronicle.” United Nations, United Nations, www.unchronicle.un.org/article/cyberbullying-and-its-implications-human-rights.

This was a great article that really just put the impact of cyberbullying into perspective. It recognizes cyberbullying as a direct attack on identity and follows a shocking report on the number of harmful/abusive tweets found online. This is a great source for background and introduction to the topic of cyberbullying, as well as one that addresses the rights violations found within cyberbullying.

6. “Study on the Effects of New Information Technologies on the Abuse and Exploitation of Children.” UNODC, 2015. https://www.unodc.org/documents/organized-crime/cybercrime/Study_on_the_Effects.pdf

This source has much detail and many informative studies. Section I, from pages 6-13, focusses on the problem that cyberbullying poses to human health and rights. Section III, from pages 36-58, goes through the different legal works and aspects of cyberbullying, as well as basic methods for combatting it. This source is very informative, but best for skimming and not deep reading.

7. Beyazit, Utku. “An Examination of the Predictive Factors of Cyberbullying in Adolescents.” *Social Behavior & Personality: An International Journal*, vol. 45, no. 9, Oct. 2017, pp. 1511–1522. EBSCOhost, doi:10.2224/sbp.6267. <http://eds.a.ebscohost.com/eds/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=2&sid=7bd3968d-468a-4153-bdc9-6f7849eb119c%40sdc-v-sessmgr01>

This is a great lab-like study that focusses on the effects cyberbullying through the use of information and communications technology has on adolescents, specifically those at a high school in Turkey. It is an interesting study that goes through a real-life case of what happens



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through cyberbullying, with statistics drawn from data that find out the most likely factors that entice cyberbullying to occur.

8. “Third Committee Approves New Text Protecting Children from Bullying, Sending 14 Drafts to General Assembly | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases.” United Nations, United Nations, www.un.org/press/en/2014/gashc4125.doc.htm.

This source described the Third Committee and the General Assembly's role in creating 14 draft resolutions on the topic of bullying and cyberbullying. The resolution itself created more awareness in other countries. This would be a source that describes UN involvement and effects of just its draft resolutions.

9. Ashktorab, Zahra, and Jessica Vitak. “Designing Cyberbullying Mitigation and Prevention Solutions through Participatory Design With Teenagers.” University of Maryland, College Park
https://s3.amazonaws.com/academia.edu.documents/41517963/Ashktorab_Vitak-CHI_2016.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAIWOWYYGZ2Y53UL3A&Expires=1554181265&Signature=MbodRxaqO%2FfjvWZBXWXUdSIG%2F8g%3D&response-content-disposition=inline%3B%20filename%3DDesigning_Cyberbullying_Mitigation_and_P.pdf

This was another study that followed specific teenagers through their cyberbullying experiences and used their ideas as ways to combat it. It was a great way to understand different solutions for dealing with cyberbullying and is very unique as it is from affected students' perspectives and ideas. This is a great resource for possible solutions and/or starting ideas for deeper solutions.

10. “Bullying and Cyberbullying | UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children.” *United Nations*, United Nations, violenceagainstchildren.un.org/content/bullying-and-cyberbullying-0.

The article provides a clear definition of what cyberbullying is, and it provides a background of how cyberbullying effects the people academically, as well as mentally. The article does not contain bias and is a good source for background. The article fits in perfectly with background as well as the facts can be used to help draw up solutions.



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