



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

SOCOMUN XXXI

UNICEF

TOPIC: PREVENTING CHILDREN FROM
USING E- CIGARETTES



SOCOMUN XXXI



UNICEF

Preventing Children from Using E-Cigarettes

Delegates! My name is Sam Levine, and I'm your head chair for this year's SOCOMUN UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) committee. I am a junior at El Toro High School and am currently in my 5th year of MUN. I participate in MUN through a club team (OC Club MUN) with fellow delegates coming from schools all over south Orange County. Last year I was able to be the vice-chair for this committee and I am so excited to be back as your head chair, but also to hear all of your new innovative solutions that will work towards solving a prominent issue in today's society. One of my favorite things about MUN is getting the chance to work with other delegates and collaborate on well-thought-out, passionate solutions. MUN has given me the opportunity to develop and work on my leadership skills, has made me more aware of international issues that people in our world face as well as create some life-lasting friendships with people from my team but also, people that I've had the honor of meeting at different conferences throughout my 5 years. Outside of MUN I enjoy beach trips with my dogs and friends as well as spending quality time with my friends and family. Currently, I'm learning French and I really enjoy getting to use it and talk with people who fluently speak the language. All in all, I'm extremely appreciative of the opportunity to get to head chair this committee and I can't wait to meet all of you and see all of the hard work and dedication you have put into this conference!

Hello, incoming delegates, my name is Monica Koh, and I am honored to serve as your vice chair in SOCOMUN 2022. This is my third year of being in the MUN program at SMCHS. I remember doing SOCOMUN for my first conference, and I enjoyed the experience especially since I got to meet new people from a variety of neighboring schools. I was also a rapporteur in SOCOMUN 2021, and this was the first in-person MUN conference I had experienced. I remember having a blast and how interesting it was to see delegates from different schools creating new friendships! However, outside of MUN, my hobbies are playing golf and pottery/sculpting. Moving forward, I am so excited to meet you all and I look forward to seeing all your creative solutions brought to the table.

If you have any questions at all feel free to contact me at socomunicef@gmail.com. I am so excited to meet you all and aid you through this amazing conference.

Background:

The usage of electronic cigarettes (e-cigs), often known as vaping, has become a worldwide epidemic. The drop in cigarette consumption, which hit a new low of 16.8% in 2018, appeared to be a triumph for public health. E-cigarettes, on the other hand, grew in popularity as a result of this decline. As a result, teen usage of e-cigarettes has increased as technology has molded these e-cigarettes into more appealing colors and tastes. Adults who wanted to quit smoking cigarettes were given e-cigarettes at first, but naive teenagers viewed these well-marketed gadgets as a way to blend in and be popular. The high nicotine levels make e-cigarettes very addicting to young brains, in addition to the teen-oriented marketing and childlike flavors. In view of the fact that vaping and the



SOCOMUN XXXI



use of e-cigarettes is a relatively new technology, there is little information regarding the long-term effects of vaping, such as those associated with smoking or the use of other well-known pharmaceuticals. Teenagers cannot perceive the immediate harmful effects of vaping on their health due to a lack of information, and they do not hesitate to grab their e-cigarettes. Despite the absence of long-term studies on the detrimental consequences of using e-cigarettes, or vaping, there have been studies on strange illnesses and their relation to e-cigarette usage.

Most countries, however, have enacted legislation that does not outright prohibit the use of e-cigarettes. In Ireland, for example, it is legal to buy, use, and distribute e-cigarettes once you reach the age of 15. Juice bottles (sometimes known as "pods"), on the other hand, must be smaller than 50 mL. Although this regulation is enforced under European Law, not all European countries have signed on to it. This ambiguous legislative approach raises an even more pressing question: what will be the penalty? Punishment and enforcement, like established legislation, vary greatly by state, country, and location. While much of the little research on teen e-cigarette usage has focused on the nicotine in the devices, there has been little to no testing of the other, unknown substances present. While legislation, implementation, and enforcement are all positive advances, dangers are constantly lurking in the shadows. The black market is a large contributor to the spread of e-cigarette usage and distribution. The illicit market for electronic cigarettes is real and urgent, especially in nations where e-cigarettes are outright prohibited. These e-cigarettes are considerably riskier than regular cigarettes since they can contain far greater and fatal nicotine levels. Furthermore, in nations that have set an age limit on who can use e-cigarettes, illegal resale, and redistribution of e-cigarettes to minors is a reality. Addiction, law, rehabilitation, prevention, and other factors all play a role in this problem. Solutions to each of these issues must be offered to properly alleviate this problem.

Possible solutions:

There are a multitude of different ways that can work to combat the teenage usage of e-cigarettes. Some short-term solutions could include providing manufacturers and distributors of vaping and e-cigarettes an incentive to cut down their production amounts of vape products. Working with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other health-oriented NGOs to generate and establish incentives for these manufacturing groups to lower the production rate of vape products. Another short-term solution to consider would be to terminate child targeted marketing strategies and to raise prices of vape products making them harder for young teenagers to afford. As of now most vape and e-cigarette companies use fun flavors like cotton candy and berry blast to make flavors of vape pods more enticing to a younger demographic. They also strategize their marketing skills by using fun and bright colors and shapes that grabs the younger demographics attention.

Furthermore, the perception of vaping risks are considerably inaccurate. As of right now the perception of vape products is that they are much safer and healthier than smoking tobacco cigarettes. Although vape products and e-cigarettes contain much higher levels of nicotine or other substances like cannabis and THC. There is also a concept that the risks of health issues like lung cancer and various respiratory issues are much lower with the use of vape products compared to smoking tobacco cigarettes. Bringing awareness to the true facts about the health concerns that both vaping and the



SOCOMUN XXXI



use of e-cigarettes are about equal to if not more dangerous than smoking normal tobacco cigarettes. Creating awareness campaigns and or advanced health care campaigns to shed a light on the enormous dangers that vaping causes to your body. To continue, the use of vaping and e-cigarettes in public places is much higher than the use of normal cigarettes. Most public places mainly place smoke free orders in place to keep the smell of tobacco cigarettes away from most people who oppose the smell. However due to the fruity scents of the vape products, vapers ignore this rule and vape freely in public places portraying that it is ok to ignore most rules that are in place. Regulating the use of vaping and e-cigarettes is an imperative issue that we need to address. Because of the active use of vape products in public it represents the number of people who use those products portraying that its ok to young children and teenagers to use.

In schools currently, the stigma around vaping is positive due to the number of kids who partake in the action. Along with that, the vaping culture in schools portray an invigorating attitude towards vaping. By the side of vaping culture comes the peer pressure kids get from their friends or other kids at school to vape because it's "cool". The main demographic of e-cigarette usage comes from kids 21 and younger, that is mainly because of the portrayal of vaping through social media platforms like Instagram, Tik Tok, and streaming platforms like YouTube. Creating a set of global community guidelines that would take place on these apps to strictly flag any videos with the positive description of vaping or the use of vape products and e-cigarettes. By implementing these sets of guidelines, it neglects the positive depiction that could be placed about using e-cigarettes. The world needs containment laws. To prevent youth use of e-cigarettes, preventive measures must be taken. These precautions may include international legislation regarding the use of marketing by companies aimed at youth audiences, age restrictions, and a fixed legal quantity sold in each period. purchase times are consistent around the world and distribution laws are the same around the world. By globalizing the law, all countries can be on the same page with their prevention laws, so addicts can't just import e-cigarettes from different countries. Specifically, for marketing aimed at youth, countries could agree to ban all media through billboards, television and social media marketing, and cigarettes.

Questions to consider:

These questions are NOT MANDATORY to answer, however they may aid delegates as they prepare for the conference.

1. What are some of the ways you can convince children and teenagers not to vape?
2. How significant is peer pressure concerning vaping in schools?
3. What has your country done to combat the usage of e-cigarettes with the younger demographic in your country?
4. Are there any frameworks your country has put in place to work against teen usage of e-cigarettes and the various vape products?



SOCOMUN XXXI



Works Cited

“E-Cigarettes.” Department of Health, www.health.pa.gov/topics/programs/tobacco/Pages/E-cigarettes.aspx#:~:text=What%20can%20I%20do%20to%20prevent%20my%20child,tobacco%20and%20need%20free%20help%20quitting%2C%20visit%20smokefree.gov.

“Quick Facts on the Risks of E-Cigarettes for Kids, Teens, and Young Adults.” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 16 Dec. 2020, www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/Quick-Facts-on-the-Risks-of-E-cigarettes-for-Kids-Teens-and-Young-Adults.html#:~:text=%20What%20Are%20the%20mother%20Risks%20of%20E-cigarettes,explosions%2C%20a%20few%20of%20which%20have...%20More%20.

“E-Cigarettes: Talk to Youth About the Risks.” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2 Dec. 2019, www.cdc.gov/tobacco/features/back-to-school/e-cigarettes-talk-to-youth-about-risks/index.html.

“How Many Teens Use E-Cigarettes?” NIDA Archives, <https://archives.drugabuse.gov/blog/post/how-many-teens-use-e-cigarettes>.

National Institute on Drug Abuse. “How Can We Prevent Tobacco Use?” National Institute on Drug Abuse, 9 June 2020, www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/tobacco-nicotine-e-cigarettes/how-can-we-prevent-tobacco-use.

“Take Action to Protect Young People from E-Cigarettes | Know the Risks: E-Cigarettes and Young People | U.S. Surgeon General’s Report.” Know the Risks: E-Cigarettes and Young People | U.S. Surgeon General’s Report, e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/takeaction.html.

“Quick Facts on the Risks of E-Cigarettes for Young People.” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 28 Jan. 2022, www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/Quick-Facts-on-the-Risks-of-E-cigarettes-for-Kids-Teens-and-Young-Adults.html.

Center for Tobacco Products. “FDA’s Youth Tobacco Prevention Plan.” U.S. Food and Drug Administration, 14 Sept. 2020, www.fda.gov/tobacco-products/youth-and-tobacco/fdas-



SOCOMUN XXXI



youth-tobacco-prevention-plan.

“How to Keep Kids and Teens from Smoking and Vaping.” Www.Heart.Org, 8 July 2021,

www.heart.org/en/healthy-living/healthy-lifestyle/quit-smoking-tobacco/how-to-keep-kids-and-teens-from-smoking-and-vaping.

“Vaping: What You Need to Know (for Parents) - Nemours Kids Health.”

Kidshealth.Org,

kidshealth.org/en/parents/e-cigarettes.html. Accessed 21 Mar. 2022.