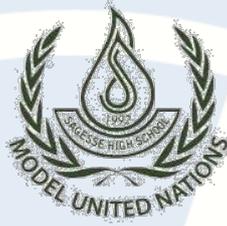


**HUMAN  
RIGHTS**





## COMMITTEE INTRODUCTION

Human Rights Council, HRC, was first created by the UN General Assembly on the 15th of March 2006, as the Commission on Human Rights was closed. (UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL Office of the High Commissioner) The Council is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations “that strengthens the promotion and protection of human rights around the world”. (Human Rights Council). The Human Rights Council’s members are elected by The UN General Assembly, as it is composed of 47 United Nations member states. The aim of the Council is advancing all inclusive appreciation for human rights, addressing situations where human rights are abused and making proposals to UN member states. (Manskliga Rattigheter)

As the United Nations Human Right Council, UNHCR, is an essential board of trustee and the main forum present; it contains many important functions such as:

- It helps the member states meet their human rights responsibilities.
- The rights remain inherent, independent on the nationality, origin, sex, language, etc.
- It gives the General Assembly recommendations and proposals in order to develop the international law in the field of human rights.
- The council implements an Advisory Committee in which it provides guidance and knowledge about the human right around the globe.
- The council includes a Complaint Procedure in which complaints and personal judgements are accepted and taken into consideration.

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

In this conference, you delegates will be representing the UNHRC council in order to find a way to solve and discuss two major topics: the legalization and provision of abortion and the abolition of child marriages.



## Topic I: Legalization and Provision of Abortion

When a pregnancy is terminated either by persons lacking the necessary skills or in an environment that does not conform to minimal medical standards, unsafe abortion occurs. On average, 40 to 50 million abortions are performed each year, implying there are approximately 125,000 abortions per day by the WHO's statistics. In 2008, there was an estimated number of 47,000 deaths due to unsafe abortion, and Africa is disproportionately affected, with nearly two-thirds of all abortion-related deaths. Women, teenagers included, with unwanted pregnancies often must choose to have an unsafe abortion when they are not granted access to safe abortion. Barriers to accessing safe abortion include laws which restrict abortion, poor availability of services, high costs, social rejection, objection of health-care providers, and hindering, unnecessary requirements such as third-party authorization. In more developed areas, it is approximated 30 women die out of every 100,000 unsafe abortions. The number raises to 220 per 100,000 in developing regions and 520 per 100,000 in sub-Saharan Africa. Unsafe abortions can also lead to many damaging health effects such as incomplete abortion, which is the failure to remove or expel all of the pregnancy tissue from the uterus, hemorrhage or heavy bleedings, infections, uterine perforation from the uterus being pierced by a sharp object, or general damage to the genital tract and internal organs by inserting dangerous objects such as sticks, knitting needles, or broken glass into the vagina or anus. How can this issue be prevented? By increasing the quality of sexual education and more available provision of legal, safe abortion, as well as other factors. There are also major social and financial costs imposed on women and their families, communities and health systems. It was estimated in 2006 that \$680 million was provided to treat serious aftereffects of unsafe abortion. The WHO provides global guidance, technically and politically, on the utilization of contraception to prevent unwanted pregnancies, safe methods of abortion, and treatments for complications brought on by unsafe abortions.



## Topic II: Abolition of Child Marriages

The second topic we'll be dealing with is the *Abolition of Child Marriages* around the world. Child marriage is the formal/informal unification of two individuals, where either of them is younger than 18. In some countries, the legal age of marriage is below 18, especially when it comes to girls. Other countries allow the marriage of two individuals who are younger than the legal age, as long as they have the consent of a parent(s). In certain countries, citizens tend to defy the legal marital age because cultural traditions are prioritized over legislative laws. Child marriage has an effect on both girls and boys, however it tends to have a larger effect on girls. According to the estimation of the UNFPA, more than 140 million girls will become child brides between 2011 and 2020; 50 million of those girls will be under 15. It is said that girls married young are more prone to violent marriages due to the domination of their partner. Furthermore, pregnancy complications and childbirth are the leading cause of death in women between the ages of 15-19. Other consequences are HIV/sexually transmitted diseases, cervical cancer, and deadly/harmful effect on offspring. Child marriage is a global issue which threatens individuals within every country, however it is mostly takes place in rural sub-Sahara Africa where 42% of women aged 15–24 have been married before the age of 18 in Africa, and 29% in Latin America and the Caribbean and 48% in South Asia. Hence, due to the legal and health issues, it is crucial to find a solution for this issue.

Delegates, you are asked to find solutions for these problems the world struggles with. These acts are against the basic rights of citizens and solutions need to be found. The changing or eradication of certain laws will surely facilitate the protection of individuals and provide them with the basic necessities they should be subjected to. It's up to you, delegates.



## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- What is your country's position on both of these topics?
- How has your country contributed in solving these problems?
- What were some of your country's national and international actions?
- How can your country effectively help in solving both topics?
- Would financial support help in diminishing these problems?
- How should countries implement laws required to alleviate these problems?
- Would educational support help in reducing instances of child marriages?

## REFERENCES

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## FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

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