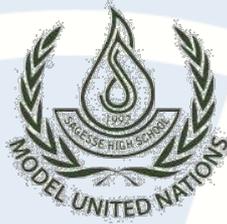


Save the Children 





COMMITTEE INTRODUCTION

The Special Conference is free to put any issue of international politics on its agenda. Unlike the GA committees. It is therefore not limited to any frame of responsibilities. In this SHSMUN, the Special Conference will be discussing child-related issues as they are of utmost importance. Children are being abused in a variety of different ways which is why the special conference opens its doors to 30 member states from around the globe in order to discuss the topics of child sex trafficking and child labor.

Topic I: *Child Sex Trafficking*

General Information and History:

What Is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is the act of gathering, moving, receiving, or keeping human beings by threat, force, or deception, for exploitative purposes.

This includes:

- The exploitation of prostitution of other or other forms of sexual exploitation
- Forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery servitude.
- The removal of organs.

Sex Trafficking:

Sex trafficking is a part of human trafficking, with the soul purpose of forcing men, women, and children into prostitution. Sex trafficking has been around for a very long time, some dates even going back to the 1400s, and to this day, it has not been stopped. Although many corporations and committees, with the help of the United Nations, have tried to put an end to this problem, it still goes on while escaping the law.



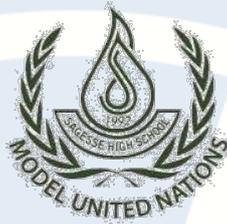
Sex Trafficking statistics:

According to the United States government, around 600,000 to 800,000 women, children and men were bought and sold across international borders every year and exploited for forced labor or commercial sex. As said by the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), from the reports they have collected, 27% of the victims were under aged children. Those are about 160,000 to 220,000 children that have been victimized by sex trafficking. Sex trafficking has even spread to online sites that aid the criminals in selling or trading the victims. It is estimated that 76% of transactions for sex with underage girls start on the Internet. As of 2012, the estimated amount of victims of sex trafficking worldwide is about 21 million people.

History of Child Sex Trafficking

The sex trade can be traced back to the Sumerians and Babylonians. It flourished in the urban regions during the middle ages. It was considered sinful by all religious entities. The Roman Catholic Church exhibited some tolerance to the sex trade, with the aim of preventing the bigger evils of rape and sodomy. Regulations against the sex trade increased across Europe after the outbreak of syphilis in Naples during the fifteenth century. Sex trafficking increased across the world in the 19th century. The trade boomed in the latter half of the 20th century as a result of globalization and western tourism.

Women and children have been the victims of sex trafficking for thousands of years. This practice, going on throughout the centuries, finally became a political issue in the early 1900s. In 1902, the International Agreement for the Suppression of the White Slave Traffic was drafted. Its purpose was to prevent the procurement of women and girls for immoral purposes abroad. After a few years twelve countries around the world ratified it.

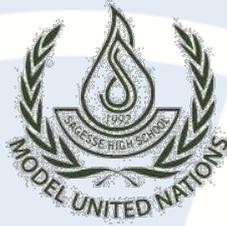


This eventually led to the United States passing the Mann Act of 1910, which forbids transporting a person across state or international lines for prostitution or other immoral purposes. With the problem of sex trafficking still growing in the middle of the century, the United Nations felt it necessary to address the problem. This was done by the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, which was ratified by forty-nine countries around the world.

International Actions:

Every human with a heart knows that sex trafficking, and specifically child sex trafficking is a horrendous problem that our society faces nowadays; this is why a lot of countries tried and are trying to remedy this issue. Many have tried, yet few positive results are happening. Some conventions that were done to help are the following:

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), and the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography (2000), prohibits trafficking in children for any purpose, including for exploitive and forced labor. “Taking all appropriate measures to promote physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of a child victim of: any form of neglect, exploitation, or abuse” is a requirement written in article 39 of this convention. Also, the original protocol requires assistance and protection for child victims. Additionally, the ILO’s Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention (Convention No. 182 of 1999) prohibits criminals from using children under 18 years of age for all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, trafficking, debt bondage, forced or compulsory labor, and prostitution. Article 7.2.b and c asks States to use effective procedures to provide for the rehabilitation and integration of former victims, and to ensure their access to free basic education. According to the OHCHR, states are required to take effective and timely measures to provide for the rehabilitation and social integration of former victims of the worst forms of child labor, including trafficking, as well as to ensure their access to free basic education, and, wherever possible and appropriate, vocational training. A human rights-based approach to tackling trafficking gives equal importance to prevention, protection, and prosecution. This victim-centered approach requires collaboration between representatives, prosecutors, law enforcement, service providers and other victim supporters.



OHCHR is working to combat trafficking the application of the human rights- based approach. The recommended principles and guidelines on human rights and human trafficking explains this approach in an explicit manner. OHCHR provides support to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council that tackle the issue of trafficking and violation of human rights; such as, the special rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Facing this terrible tragedy, you delegates need to take action and quickly. A lot of things can be done to help solve or fix this issue. Some important aspects to look into would be; how to help children who were faced with this trauma, how to provide security, mentally and physically, for the children, and how to provide aid for their families. Delegates it's time to take action. Good luck.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- 1) What has your country done to solve sex trafficking?
- 2) Are the past international actions helpful in general and towards your country?
- 3) What can be done to minimize the numbers and percentages of child trafficking?
- 4) What laws does your country have about the topic at hand?

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Topic II: *Child Labor*

General Information:

Child Labor is an ongoing problem that affects every corner of this world. Child Labor is work that subjects children to harmful and dangerous acts. These acts do not always have to be physical, they can also be mental. Children worldwide are forced to work at all types of jobs regardless of the consequences it can have on them. The primary cause of child labor is the growing gap between the rich and the poor that has forced children to leave school and start working. Child labor is generally considered bad since it violates a nation's minimum age laws, threatens children's physical, mental, and emotional well-being; since it involves intolerable abuse like child slavery and trafficking, and prevents children from going to school. The ILO (International Labor Organization) claims that there is around 215 million children worldwide working under conditions that are harmful, illegal. To add, 114 million children working are in Asia and the Pacific, 14 million live in Latin America. and 65 million live in sub-Saharan Africa.

Types of Child Labor:

1. **Child Labor and Agriculture:** researches have proved that 60% of the child labor occurs in the agricultural field which includes fishing, foresting, and hunting. This amounts to over 98 million girls and boys. Sadly 67.5% of these 98 million children are not paid for the hazardous work they do due to them being family. The agricultural field is not an easy field to work in. As a matter of fact it is one of the three most dangerous sectors in terms of work-related fatalities, non-fatal accidents, and occupational diseases.
2. **Child Labor and manufacturing :** About 14 million children are estimated to be directly involved in manufacturing goods such as carpets (India, Pakistan, and Egypt), clothing (Bangladesh) Glass and bricks (India), and Fireworks (China, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, India, and Peru)

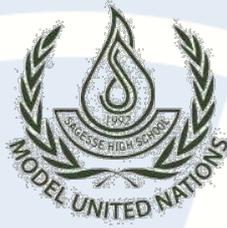


3. **Child Labor and mining:** Children are forced to go deep underground through tunnels only as wide as their bodies. They are also forced to carry loads of coal that often weigh more than they do, and sit for long hours under the sun to work out gold using toxic mercury with only their hands. About one million children work in mines and the numbers have recently been increasing. Mining can damage a kid physically through carrying loads of weight, and touching toxic, hot, and cold items.

Although there are more types of child labor such as domestic work, and many worse cases, these are the primary ones. Also, it is important to note that the worst case possible is through child trafficking; which is the second topic on the agenda, and it will be thoroughly debated .

History of the Topic:

- **Child Labor in Pre-Industrial societies:** Child labor forms an intrinsic part of pre-industrial economies. Children often begin to actively participate in activities such as child rearing, hunting, and farming as soon as they are competent. Also, they are perceived as adults at the age of 13. The work of children was important in pre-industrial societies, as children needed to provide their labor for their survival and that of their group. Pre-industrial societies were characterized by low productivity and short life expectancy. Preventing children from participating in productive work would be more harmful to their welfare and that of their group in the long run. In pre-industrial societies, there was little need for children to attend school. This is especially the case in non literate societies. Most pre-industrial skill and knowledge were amenable to being passed down through direct mentoring or apprenticing by competent adults.
- With the beginning of the industrial revolution in Britain, there was a huge increase in the exploitation of labor, with special emphasis on child labor. Children as young as four were employed in mines, forced to work for long hours under dangerous, and even fatal conditions; they had to crawl through tunnels too narrow and low. Boys also sold matches, crossed sweepers, and selling other flowers and cheap goods. Child labor was most famous for domestic services. There were 120,000 domestic servants in London whom worked for 80 hours a week. The children of the poor were forced to work for their family's income. Sadly children were only paid 10%-20% of adult's wages. In the second half of the 19th century, child labor witnessed a decrease due to regulation and economic factors. The first act to regulate child labor was in the year 1803 in Britain. During 1831 , Royal Commission recommended that children aged 11-18 must work for 12 hours per day, and anyone under the age of nine was not permitted to work. The decline is generally due to the improvement in technology which required educated employees, thus encouraging people to educate their children.



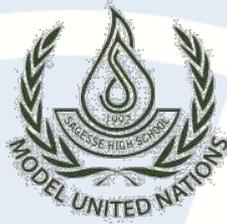
- During the early 20th century, thousands of boys were employed in glass making industries, which was a tough and dangerous job keeping in mind that they did not have the technology we have today. Children were forced to touch heated and melted glass, and they were exposed to heat. This caused a vast array of problems. In 1910, 2 million children were employed in the United States in jobs like rolling cigarettes, textile mills, bobbin doffers, and worked in coal mines.
- During the 21st century Child labor is still common in many parts of the world. Estimates for child labor vary. It ranges between 250 and 304 million if children aged 5–17 involved in any economic activity are counted. If light occasional work is excluded, ILO estimates there were 153 million child laborers aged 5–14 worldwide in 2008. This is about 20 million less than ILO estimate for child laborers in 2004. 60 percent of the child labor was involved in agricultural activities such as farming, dairy, fisheries, and forestry. Another 25 percent of child laborers were in service activities; such as, retail, hawking goods, restaurants, load and transfer of goods, storage, picking and recycling trash, polishing shoes, domestic help, and other services. The remaining 15 percent are labored in assembly and manufacturing in informal economy, home-based enterprises, factories, mines, packaging salt, operating machinery, and such operations. Two out of three child workers work alongside their parents in unpaid family work situations. Some children work as guides for tourists, and are sometimes combined with bringing in business for shops and restaurants. Child labor predominantly occurs in the rural areas (70%) and informal urban sector (26%).

International Actions:

Seeing as child labor is an important and threatening issue that society faces, countries tried and are trying to take actions.

Conventions:

To reach agreements, conventions are held; these conventions are international agreements developed by the United Nations. The first legally binding international tool to incorporate the complete assortment of human rights for children is **The Convention on the Rights of the Child**. It includes civil, cultural, economic, political, and social rights. This convention classifies a child as anyone under 18, and grants them the basic human rights that any child should have; such as, but not limited to, protection from economic exploitation, **article 32**, and the right to education, **article 28**. This convention is ratified by all countries, except for two; United States of America, and Somalia. The International Labour Organization (ILO) developed the two of the most important conventions that focus specifically on Child labour; they tackle the topics of minimum age for admission to employment, and the worst forms of child labor. The first convention is **Convention No.138 that was made in 1973 on the minimum age for admission to employment**. 156 out of 183 member states of the ILO ratified this convention at the end of 2010. These countries agree to a legal promise to stop child labor, and monitor who is being accepted to check whether he/she is underage. The second convention is **Convention No. 182 that tackles the worst form of child labor**, and it was made in 1999. At the end of 2010, 173 out of 183 member states ratified it. This convention protects all boys and girls under the age of 18, which goes with the definition of the child under the UN convention on the Rights of the Child.



Conferences:

The drive for action received a boost at the Global Child Labor Conference, which was organized by the Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, in close collaboration with the ILO (and in cooperation with UNICEF and the World Bank), in The Hague in May 2010. More than 500 delegates from 97 countries agreed on a road map aimed at “substantially increasing” global efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor by 2016.

Organizations:

Apart from the ILO, UNICEF also works in this area and ILO/IPEC is increasingly part of wider networks that aim to promote concern with child labor as part of the “Delivering as One” concept in the UN system. IPEC supports a variety of inter-agency initiatives covering research (Understanding Children’s Work programme), education (Global Task Force on Child Labor and Education For All), agriculture (International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labor in Agriculture) and child trafficking (UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Child Labor should be taken seriously, and societies should start diving into solutions. A lot of things can be done; however it is up to the people to start making a difference. During this conference, you are urged to look into ways that will improve the parent’s conditions, provide awareness on the danger of this topic, trainings, family support, child support, and the most important one which is education for children and parents. Try to make sure that your country is making new, effective, and child free labor, and is trying to help the families of these children. Hopefully, this conference will have good solutions in order to take a step further in achieving these basic rights for children and helping their families. Good Luck to you delegates.

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