



SOCIAL CULTURAL AND HUMANITARIAN COMMITTEE

TOPIC BULLETIN

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Bergen County Academies MUN

- THE EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE -

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Hi Delegates!

My name is Christina Xue and I am so excited to meet you all in February. I am currently a senior in the Academy for Business and Finance here at BCA, and have been involved in Model UN since my freshman year. Last year, I was the Head Chair for DISEC at AMUN XVII, and this year, I also have the privilege of being the Director of External Affairs on Secretariat. Model UN holds a special place in my heart because it was one of the first clubs I participated in when I came to BCA, and had no idea it would become something I truly love doing. Model UN has encouraged me to learn more about international affairs and current events, and has given me the opportunity to experience a plethora of committees. Along the way, I have won numerous awards around the country. Through MUN, I have refined my public speaking, debating, and resolution writing skills, and each conference makes me a more experienced delegate. There is always something new to learn, which makes MUN exciting. The people I have met at MUN come from all corners of the globe and I still keep in touch with friends from Thailand, China, the Dominican Republic, and more. While the conferences may last only a few days, the memories and knowledge gained truly last a lifetime.

Besides MUN, I am also involved in class council as my class President, DECA, the Federal Reserve Challenge, the Microfinance Club, ACE Tutoring, and our varsity volleyball team. Outside of school, I enjoy hiking, eating ice cream, going shopping, and playing with my Siberian husky! I truly hope you enjoy AMUN XVIII, and develop a passion for MUN. The SOCHUM dais and our Secretariat have worked tirelessly to make AMUN XVIII the best AMUN yet. We look forward to a productive and stimulating conference, and hope all the delegates have an incredible time. Please email me if you have questions about anything!

Best,
Christina Xue, Chair, SOCHUM
chrxue@bergen.org

Hello Delegates!

My name is Angela You, and I am currently a senior in the Academy for Business and Finance at BCA. Last year, I served as a chair for SOCHUM during AMUN XVII, and I'm back for more during AMUN XVIII! In addition, I am honored to be the Director of External Affairs on Secretariat along with my cochair, Christina Xue. I have been an active member of BCA MUN since my freshman year, and have attended numerous conferences at Yale, Princeton, George Washington University, Johns Hopkins University, and more. Moreover, I served as the Director of External Affairs for JAMUN I in my sophomore year, and the Secretary General for GIMUNC I in Thailand during the summer of 2015.

Model UN is one of the best opportunities available to high school students because everyone has so much to gain from it. Yes, the thrill of retrieving your first gavel in front of thousands of delegates is utterly intoxicating, but it is the little things that make MUN so special. MUN is bonding over barely edible catering with your bloc, getting trampled by (if you're short like me) mosh pits at the delegate dance, meeting people from tiny islands you've never heard of, latenight strategy+cookie meetings with your delegation – the list goes on and on.



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MUN also teaches you how to deliver a speech on the spot, maneuver through committee politics (which often parallel those of real-life), write resolutions like Samantha Power, and negotiate like a Wall Street veteran. Above all, MUN teaches everyone to have a sense of pride in their own voices and opinions. By the end of this conference, I hope that every delegate walks out having gained something, whether it is a newfound passion for one of the debate topics, or even the simple desire to explore more.

In addition to Model UN, I have also been involved in the Federal Reserve Challenge, DECA, Varsity Debate, economic research, and various community service organizations. In my spare time, I enjoy maintaining my food blog, watching James Bond movies, freaking out over Game of Thrones, and playing the piano for my church. If you have any questions about parliamentary procedure, the topics, or anything in general, please don't hesitate to email us.

Best regards,
Angela You, Chair, SOCHUM
hajyou@bergen.org

Hi Delegates!

My name is Jessie Ko and I would like to welcome you to the 18th Academy Model United Nations! I am honored to serve as your head chair for the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM). I am currently a junior in the Academy of Medical Science Technology, also known as AMST. I have been participating in Model UN since freshmen year. At first, I didn't realize that clubs such as Model UN existed! I never got a chance to participate in debate. For me debating was kind of scary at first because I wasn't used to the formal settings and getting up in front of people to share my ideas. I first joined the Model UN club along with my friends as they were very passionate about international affairs and debating. I was just a tag along as I wasn't sure of what clubs I wanted to take a part of when I first got into high school. Through this experience, I have realized that I do have a passion debating about international affairs. This passion has motivated me to attend high school and even the college conferences. Actually, AMUN was my first ever conference to attend! Through AMUN and other conferences, I found what I love for the first time, but also I was able to grow my leadership skills as I go up to talk during moderated caucuses as well as work together with my fellow debaters during unmoderated caucuses. Along the way, I have not only won awards but made new friends throughout these conferences from all over the nation and even different countries! Besides Model UN, I am also involved in Environmental Science Club, cell biology research, and competition cheerleading. Outside of school, I personally enjoy listening music, going shopping, and hanging out with my friends. I sincerely hope that you will enjoy AMUN XVIII and I will work hard to make sure of that. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to email me. Prepare to have a great time!

Sincerely,
Jessie Ko, Vice Chair, SOCHUM
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Introduction:

Juvenile delinquency is defined as “a violation of the law committed by a juvenile and not punishable by death or life imprisonment” (Webster). There are various social and cultural problems that arise with this topic. For example, there are still countries that believe that juvenile delinquents should be punished with death penalty, In other member nations, death penalty is clearly banned. Not only is there court system difference, but the juvenile delinquents are also dealt with challenges in the society when they have served their term. Being held captive in jail can possibly affect their mental state and health, and they will hard time getting back and accepted into the society. A major goal of this committee is to make sure the juvenile delinquents are ensured to make healthier lifestyle choices. All these concerns are exactly the reasons as to why SOCHUM must debate about this topic in order to come up with collaborative solutions.

Topic History:

Juvenile crime cases are different from the adult crime cases as the judges take into consideration that the criminals are still young and immature. Most of the United States, for instance, consider anyone under 18 to be a juvenile delinquent; however, these privileges did not always favor the juvenile's before 1899. The juvenile delinquents were treated like adults, so they were allowed to receive death penalty, which is a severe form of punishment for adults. Due to many debates that followed this topic, the first juvenile court was implemented in Chicago, Illinois in 1899. This became a stimulus for other countries to initiate juvenile courts.

The death penalty is one of the controversial debates concerning juvenile delinquents. By 2008, it was reported that about seventy countries internationally permitted judges to impose death Penalty for juvenile criminals. Most of these incidents are located in Africa and the Middle East. On the other hand, a handful number of European member nations abolished the death penalty. Interestingly, since 1990, there were eight nations, such as Iran,



Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Pakistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, China, and Sudan, that have permitted to give death penalty to young criminals below eighteen years old. Specifically, the most recent executions of juvenile offenders include Mosleh Zamani and Ali Jafari, who were both 17 years old from Iran. Iran has the highest amount of juvenile executions out of the eight countries to do allow death penalty for children younger than 18 years of age. While death penalty is one of the issues that still exist, there are other social problems that these delinquents are challenged with. For example, the juvenile delinquents will have a hard time getting accepted into the society before they were convicted. Society will be biased when the “criminals” apply for jobs, for instance. Therefore, they will feel this urge to discriminate the delinquents from other people. This topic is well related to the goal of SOCHUM to make sure everyone is treated equally with fair laws. In order to have a successful committee session, it will be important to get define the borderline of youth and adulthood as well as the different

cultures and beliefs that will challenge the delegates to come up with an unifying solution. In order to come up with solutions in efforts to resolve these solutions, the aspects of humanities and cultures must be taken into considerations.

Past UN Action:

1985 UNITED NATIONS STANDARD MINIMUM RULES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

This is one of the important set of rules that was accepted by United Nations. The UN Standard Minimum Rules for Administration of Juvenile Justice includes that the state of the juvenile’s mind should be stable and be proportional to the offender and offense. It also encourages programs that take juveniles away from the criminal justice process and implement supportive or community services. Furthermore, UN Minimum Rule makes sure that the right to privacy is being kept, so the juveniles do not feel trapped. These are all specific parts of the UN Standard Minimum Rules and it takes into



consideration of juvenile's well being and discusses the basic rights that should be kept even if they are convicted.

1990 GUIDELINES FOR THE PROTECTION OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

The present Guidelines was passed by UN to interpret and implement within the the International Covenant on Economic, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Declaration of the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Topic A: The Treatment of Juvenile Delinquents Juvenile Justice. This guideline generally includes all aspects from legislature processes to the socialization processes, including family and education.

WORLD PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR YOUTH (WPAY)

WPAY outlines the basis for national and international support

and action in efforts to enhance the quality and situations of young adults living in the world. WPAY contains proposals for people to take actions in attempts to promote the lives of of young people. To be more specific, it targets to increase the number opportunities for young people. In order to increase the opportunities, WPAY needs to make sure that they are completely absorbed in the society. Originally, WPAY had 10 priority areas addressed, but by the time it was the tenyear review of the implementation of WPAY, nations conceded to the addition of other problematic areas. More priorities have been added and was adopted in 2007. Currently, there are 15 issue areas that are addressed in WPAY, which provides various policies and actions in the area of young adult development.

Current Situation and Possible Solutions:

According to the Current Population Reports in 2006, the



statistics presented that about a quarter of the people living in United States only are children younger than 18 years of age. This number will significantly rise by the year 2020. In 2014, it has been reported that there are about 1.9 billion children in the entire world. What is alarming to the nations is that the children are becoming more involved in risky activities such as drinking and having unprotected sexual relationships. In 2002, The Federal Bureau of Investigation claimed that in United States only, there are about 1.5 million children arrested yearly for crimes varying from loitering to murder. Moreover, there are approximately 700,000 youths who are involved in gang activities on the streets. With increasing number of youth population as well as the increase in harmful activities will cause the higher number of juvenile delinquents. It is important to realize this issue quickly and address the possible solutions to decrease the delinquents. Not only is it important to prevent teens from committing harmful acts, but they should also be accepted in society after their term in jail. These juvenile delinquents may

suffer emotional instability when they are put into the society again.

One of the potential solutions can include a better educational system. Education is an important factor when it comes down to preventing inappropriate as well as aggressive behaviors of the youths around the world. Some countries may lack resources to educate the children, so it is important to take into consideration of economic problems of each country. Also, a possible solution can include training both adults and children. Children are essentially products of parents' education; therefore, it is important to warn and educate adults as well as children. While prevention is important, this does not stop all of the teenagers from committing crimes, so solutions should also involve joining the society after youths have served their term and make sure they are emotionally and financially secure enough to be comfortable.

Case Study:

INDIA



Crime rates in India has been going up since 2012. In 2012 alone, there have been 100 crimes and 64 of them were rape cases. Especially, there was a brutal case when Class XII student was killed by four minor peers. This case has been a gateway to new emerging thoughts that kids are just as capable as adults. Just because they are minors didn't mean that they couldn't commit brutal crimes that adults would be normally capable of. The psychologist Dileep Majumder proposed to come up with new definitions of adulthood and youth eras. The cases involving adulthood? Are children younger than 18 mentally capable to be treated the same way as adult kidnapping and murdering has shown people worldwide what the kids are capable of doing if they wanted to. Should they be imposed with death penalty? What is the right definition of punishments? These are some of the questions that might arise from cases such as this which occurred in India.

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Introduction:

Spain's Secretary of State for Equality and Social Services, Susano Camarero Benitez, said, "When there is armed conflict, it is often more dangerous to be a woman than a soldier." The world is currently facing its largest refugee crisis since World War II, with approximately 60 million people displaced from their homes. It is estimated that 50% of these refugees are comprised of women and girls. However, millions of women and girls still in their homes are also in need of humanitarian aid. Women are often sexually exploited, sold into slavery, or forced into marriage, their rights violated and stripped away in these areas of conflict. Their dignity, health, security, and rights are all undermined. As more crises and conflicts emerge, these issues will only be exacerbated. It is the job and obligation of the international community, specifically of SOCHUM, to bring about justice, safety, and human rights for these women.

Topic History:

According to the UNFPA, gender-based violence is one of the most prevalent human rights violations, and worldwide, it is estimated that one in three women will experience either physical or sexual abuse in her lifetime. Rape is often used as a weapon of war. Victims often suffer from both physical and emotional consequences, such as sexually transmitted diseases, unsafe abortions, trauma, etc.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, approximately 48 women are sexually abused every hour in some regions during the height of the conflict. ISIS, which has taken regions of Iraq and Syria, women and girls face enslavement, torture, and rape. According to the Global Fund for Women, these issues are not limited to these specific areas; in unstable regions and conflict zones, systemic rape is used to humiliate, intimidate, and control women and girls. In addition to sexual abuse, women and girls are often forced into marriage or restricted from receiving an education. Women and girls



continue to be discriminated against, often lacking access to health services and restricted from participating in economic and political agendas.

Extremist groups dedicate efforts to suppress women's autonomy and emphasize outdated and stereotypical gender roles, placing restrictions on women's rights. Violence against women is a sign of an extreme form of fundamental conservatism, and these groups focus on subordination of women and girls. They fail to recognize the importance of women in today's society, and the prevalent role they play socially, economically, and politically. The international community must dedicate more time and effort into helping these women and recognizing their importance in building and maintaining a stable community.

Past UN Action:

The Platform for Action was adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, in Beijing, China. The Platform

emphasized the effects of armed conflict on women as one of the main 12 areas of concern. It stressed that the international community must come together to address this issue, and the importance of promoting equal female participation in making decisions regarding resolving conflict. The Platform recognizes the role women play in society, and emphasizes the empowerment of women and preventing against violence.

Furthermore, in 1998, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) discussed the problem of women in conflict zones, and agreed upon action to be taken by the international community. Among these conclusions were measures to ensure gender sensitive justice, assist the needs of women refugees, and increase the role of women in peace-building, peacekeeping, conflict prevention, and conflict decision-making.

The international community continues to meet to discuss the status of women, and what else can be done. The Security Council has released numerous resolutions regarding women in conflict zones,



and violence against women. Women from different UN Member States now participate in peacekeeping. Countries and regional bodies have created legislature to better address violations against women and some have initiated criminal proceedings against perpetrators. Furthermore, countries are striving to increase access to healthcare, by providing specialized sexual and reproductive health services, and care for victims. Nations are also establishing programs within their borders regarding healthcare, education, and social justice. NGOs and governments are working on raising awareness and eliminating stereotypical attitudes and norms and violence against women. Others are working to reduce the spread of HIV infections in young girls and women and providing more access to health services. Countries are also trying to provide women with more entrepreneurship and education opportunities, and encouraging women to participate in decision-making on conflict, security, and peace.

The UN has made considerable progress in

concentrating its effort on the concern of women and armed conflict, but there is still work to be done.

Current Situation and Possible Solutions:

Gender inequality remains a large issue in society today, as gender stereotyping often results in violence and discrimination against women. The security of women and girls remain a prevalent issue as conflict zones result in human rights violations and the mistreatment of women in particular. Women's identities as "wife," "mother," "daughter," etc., are rooted in patriarchal societies and as a result, are defined in terms of their reproductive and sexual roles. Their rights, integrity, and dignity are often ignored, and they are not viewed as individuals. These gender roles make these women vulnerable targets, and crimes or attacks against women are often times marginalized or ignored. War crimes include rape, enforced



prostitution, enforced sterilization, forced pregnancy, and other signs of sexual violence, which are all violations of the Geneva Convention.

There are also concerns regarding vulnerable, displaced women and girls in occupied areas. Currently, around 20% of Georgia is being occupied, which worsens the situation for women and girls. In Eritrea, women face huge challenges that are compounded by occupied territory and unjust sanctions. In early June of 2016, an attack in the southern region of Niger by militants of Boko Haram displaced tens of thousands of people, in which 3,000 of those are pregnant girls or women. Humanitarian operations have been working to deliver sexual and reproductive supplies and care products, including HIV treatment, kits for victims of sexual abuse, and blood transfusion kits. The current conflict in Central Africa has resulted in rampant killings and sexual violence. Around 2.3 million people are in need of humanitarian aid, and health facilities and entire communities have been destroyed. Pregnant women often find themselves in the middle of

displacement camps, often without partners or parents. They are in need of reproductive and humanitarian aid, and healthcare is often stripped away in these conflict zones.

The participation of women in political, economic, and decision-making processes has often been opposed through methods such as harassment, violence, home responsibilities, illiteracy, and limited access to education, information and training. Women are also often time financially dependent and fall subject to customs and traditions. Women's roles in decision-making processes are limited due gender stereotypes and inequality.

There is still a need for strengthened and coordinated efforts at local, national and international levels. A serious problem includes impunity for the violent crimes committed against women and girls, and failure to take these crimes seriously leads to minimal prosecution and consequences, increasing the probability that the crimes will repeat themselves. The failure of the police and judiciary bodies to legitimize these issues and cohere



to both national and international law must be addressed by the international community.

Furthermore, another issue is the lack of enforcement of laws and regulations due to inadequately trained or the low capacities of military, police, and law officials to respond to these crimes and acts of violence. Victims of sexual or gender-based violence often do not have protection or support, and many suffer from health risks, psychological trauma, and mental and physical injuries. These issues do not better the negative stigma towards victims and women in general.

Additionally, in some countries, laws and regulation on violence against women do not exist. Perpetrators often find loopholes in existing legislature, which allows them to act with impunity and they are not punished by judicial bodies. There is also a lack of available information and data to help guide policymaking and inform the public. Without more data, it is extremely difficult to analyze violations of women's rights, which in turn prevents adequate help and solutions from being given. Women's security and

participation will therefore continue to be unstable.

While progress has been made, there is still progress to be made in the situation of women and armed conflict. Eradication of limits on a woman's access to education and health services is an important order, since women should have equal access to these opportunities and the right to pursue their own goals and aspirations. There also needs to be a measure to encourage the participation of women in a nation's economic and political agenda, and in conflict decision-making.

Women's and girl's education must remain a priority, because the stability and peace of a community begins with empowering women. By investing in education, security, and opportunities for women, countries are giving women the chance to open more doors and pursue what men can pursue. It is vital that governments and organizations address the perception of the subservient status of women in different cultures and regions, and emphasize the role and potential of females in society. Attention must also be given to the lack of legal means within a



country. Judiciary officials and bodies should be expanded and educated, and legislation created to protect women and punish the perpetrators. These violations against women must be acknowledged as legitimate crimes and perpetrators must stop acting with impunity. These crimes are serious matters, and must begin to be recognized as such. Legal protection, acknowledgement, and the right to testify will have resounding effects within the country and with the women as well.

Delegates should also focus on the elimination of discriminatory legislation and enactment of various empowering and specific reforms. Countries should further be addressing the crimes against women, and providing health, education, and social services. Pregnant women or girls should have adequate health treatment and access to hospitals and appropriate facilities. Women should have protection against violence, harassment, sexual assault, and all other crimes. The international community is vital in helping achieve women's peace and security around the

world. Resolutions and initiatives must be adhered to, and countries must come together in assisting women facing some of the most dangerous conditions and environments in the world. The collective efforts of the United Nations Member States have helped to empower women, bring them justice, and help them find security. Further resources and efforts must be dedicated to implement programs and policies. The United Nations must remain committed to bringing peace, security, and empowerment to women around the world. Countries must recognize the importance of the role of women and the stability they bring to communities. The potential of women must be acknowledged and their rights must be protected.

Questions to Consider:

1. What are other ways that UN Member States/bodies can prevent or eliminate violence against women and girls?



2. How should judicial means be used to help protect women?
3. How could more data be gathered in other to help policymakers analyze violence against women?
4. How should nations help women who are victims of sexual assault of violence, and how can they protect their rights?
5. What measures can be proposed at both local and national levels to ensure the education, security and empowerment of women?
6. Which types of aid, supplies, and other supporting materials do women in conflict zones need, and how can these supplies be distributed to them? How can women in conflict zones be further helped, and how can they possibly leave or find asylum?
7. How should the international community help women refugees displaced by conflict?

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Introduction:

In 1981, Mauritania became the last nation to abolish slavery, ostensibly freeing the world from the clutches of an inhumane institution. However, world leaders face a disturbing issue today: the emergence of modern slavery. This takes the form of migrant workers and their systematic oppression, marginalization, and abuse. Although migrant workers, by definition, are compensated for their labor and therefore cannot be considered slaves, they are often not paid enough, lack the ability to exercise their natural human rights, and are held against their will. These problems arise mainly due to the fact that no sovereign state feels responsible for these migrant workers. While they are citizens of their sending countries, they are still in the immediate jurisdiction of their host nation. This background guide will serve to provide important information on the topic of migrant workers, as well as guide delegates in the formation of solutions that are appropriate to the role of the Third Committee.

Topic History:

According to the International Convention on Migrant Workers and its Committee in 2005, the Office of the United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) defines a migrant worker as “a person is to be engaged, is engaged, or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which he or she is not a national.” Migrant workers often leave their native countries in search of better opportunities, usually seeking employment in a developed nation. However, there is an asymmetry of information between the worker and the third parties who organize these labor arrangements. Migrant workers are not protected by the same laws as native workers, and are consequently treated differently by corporations and governments alike.

In order to fully comprehend the scale of this issue, it is important to note how many migrant workers currently exist. A 2013 report by the United Nations revealed that the number of



international migrants had reached an alltime high of 232 million. This was a 50.6% increase in the last twenty years alone. Europe was found to be hosting 72 million migrants, followed by Asia at 71 million, North America at 53 million, Africa at 19 million, Latin America and the Caribbean at 9 million, and Oceania at 8 million. Nearly one half of all migrants were residing in only ten, unsurprisingly developed, countries: the United States, Russia, Germany, Saudi Arabia, UAE, United Kingdom, France, Canada, Australia, and Spain. Recently, the issue of refugees as sources of nonnative labor has become prevalent. However, they have been found to be a relatively small portion of the international migrant worker population.

Past UN Action:

The main body that oversees international labor issues is the International Labor Organization (ILO). The ILO has established various standards and regulations to help sending and receiving

countries to better protect the rights of migrant workers, the most notable being the Migration for Employment Convention No. 97 and the Migrant Workers Convention No. 143. The former was created to offer more comprehensive social protections for migrant workers, such as free assistance, medical care, and money transfer information. Its second purpose was to also better educate migrant workers and make them less vulnerable to exploitation due to asymmetry of information. The latter of the two was created to combat illegal migration when the issue of smuggling and trafficking undocumented illegal workers attracted international attention. Established in 1975, the convention stated that migrant workers must have the same employment guidelines and social protections as native workers, the right to unions, and other individual liberties within a ratifying nation.

On July 1, 2003, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families entered into effect to ensure that migrant workers whose rights had been violated could



receive appropriate remuneration. As of today, thirty three states have ratified or acceded to the convention. Obviously, this legislation has several flaws, the foremost one being that since its creation in 1990, only 46 states have ratified it. Some nations are concerned that the ICMW allows for the limitation of certain protections to temporary migrant workers, while others view its protection of undocumented workers to be violations of national sovereignty. In addition, there are economic concerns such as how large corporations would react, the potentially deleterious effect of migrant workers on domestic labor markets, and the administrative difficulties concerning the ICMW's enforcement. When representing their respective nations, delegates must demonstrate thorough research of their countries' positions. This entails whether the nation ratified or acceded to the treaty, as well as any reservations they may have expressed.

Current Situation and Possible Solutions:

The main sectors and industries that employ migrant workers are agriculture, construction, manufacturing, domestic work, and even the sex industry. Globalization and increasing competition in the international economy have led to the mass movement of workers, having positive and negative effects. From an economic standpoint, this enables businesses to lower the costs of production, but it occurs at the expense of countless workers being exploited. In addition, migrant work is linked with the expansion of the informal sector, or undocumented economies and black markets. This poses challenges for host countries, who cannot take this economic activity into account, lowering their GDP's. Migrant workers who send their wages back to their native countries also lower the Gross National Incomes of host nations. This phenomenon creates complex



relationships between host and sending nations.

Again, because migrant workers are under the jurisdiction of more than one nation, their positions are extremely volatile and are vulnerable to exploitation. They often lack access to stable housing and fair labor contracts, subjecting them to the whims of their employers. Companies primarily employ migrant workers because they are more economically advantageous and do not possess the same social protections as native workers. There is no extra expense of health benefits, paid maternity leave, and severance payments. Many migrant workers are seasonal workers who do not have certainty regarding their jobs.

There are several especially vulnerable groups within the total migrant worker population. The first is illegal migrant workers, who can be trapped by the system and forced into labor arrangements that do not abide by domestic labor laws. These types of workers are frequently paid less than minimum wage and do not have access to proper health care, adequate housing, or even food. Female migrant workers also face distinct

challenges that males do not. Employment is usually more irregular and unregulated for women, and a large portion of them work in the sex industry, leaving them vulnerable to trafficking by criminal organizations. The last group is temporary migrant workers, who receive the least legal and social protections. They are often lured into unfair labor arrangements where full information regarding working conditions is not disclosed and physical intimidation is utilized to achieve the corporation's means. Host nations also contribute to the problem when they do not develop legislation that protects migrant workers, whether it is due to corruption or unfamiliarity with the phenomenon.

The first area of debate that delegates should focus on is legislation. The ICMW has not been ratified by developed and developing countries alike, so delegates must determine whether to form completely new guidelines or make improvements to those already existing. It is also important to take into account how to enhance measures to enforce and implement the ICMW. The second



area is the migrant workers themselves and how to assist them directly. The International Labor Rights Forum (ILRF) has introduced initiatives to educate migrant workers on their rights and how to protect them. The ILRF has recommended that the recruitment parties that obtain these migrant workers must be more heavily regulated, and that recruitment fees should be forbidden. The Third Committee can explore specific ways to achieve this, as well as formulate their own suggestions.

In addition to legislation and other physical forms of aid, SOCHUM must address the issue of informal economies. As stated before, an influx of migrant workers is usually linked to an increase in informal economic activity. Delegates must determine methods to track such activity, ascertain its exact effect on the nation's formal economy, and regulate it. One of the primary causes of the lack of awareness surrounding migrant workers is that it is difficult to monitor black markets. Many nations use household labor surveys, but they rarely deliver accurate findings and those without existing information

gathering infrastructure may find this method to have too many administrative disadvantages and costs.

Bloc Positions:

SENDING COUNTRIES

Sending countries are defined as countries that outsource their workers to other countries. This originates partly from the nation's excess of labor and partly from their lack of favorable economic conditions. Most sending countries tend to be developing nations such as Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines, Mexico, Vietnam, and Bangladesh. Because the supply of labor does not meet its demand in these countries, laborers migrate to more developed nations in search of better wages, access to food and water, and opportunities for their families. Often, portions of families will migrate to other nations in search of work, and send money back to their native countries. However, with the departure of skilled and unskilled workers, sending countries consequently



lack the laborers to enhance their own economies, reinforcing the vicious cycle of economic weakness and stagnancy. As a result, these countries tend to support policies that protect migrant workers, as they do not have the resources to do so, and favor growth and development solutions. However, delegates representing sending countries must consider ways to further ensure the safety and fair treatment of their workers themselves, as well as regulate abuses.

RECEIVING COUNTRIES

Receiving countries, also referred to as destination countries, are defined as countries who obtain foreign laborers to expand their own economies. Some examples are Singapore, Taiwan, the Republic of Korea, and Qatar, and others tend to be rapidly developing nations with a shortage of unskilled labor. They obtain workers by forming contracts with thirdparty recruitment agencies, but it is often the negligence of receiving countries that causes the exploitation of migrant workers. The specific labor contracts are

rarely negotiated by the employers themselves, and as a result migrant workers lack crucial social protections. It is important to note, however, that the abuse of migrant workers can be either intentional or unintentional. Receiving nations may have intentions to provide safe working conditions and equal wages, but this rarely occurs in real life. Migrant workers often enter into labor contracts because they are promised more than what they will actually receive by recruitment agencies. When formulated solutions, nations in this bloc should examine their immigration policies and determine whether they contribute to the problem or not. Delegates should also be aware of the political, economic, and social reasons behind their countries' use of migrant workers, as well as the specific causes of abuses in their specific cases. Then, they must work towards measures to ensure legal working conditions, equal pay, the elimination of discrimination, and social protections according to country policy.



Questions to Consider:

1. What are some ways to convince nations with differing goals to ratify legislation regarding migrant workers?
2. What is the extent to which the United Nations can regulate the issue of migrant workers without violating national sovereignty.
3. Should illegal migrant workers be treated the same as legal workers? If so, why and how?
4. How do the migration policies of individual countries contribute to their role as a sender, receiver, or both of labor?
5. How should the roots of migration, such as the lack of economic opportunities in sending countries, be addressed?
6. What are the best ways to enforce legislation regarding migrant

workers, and how can countries regulate offending parties?

7. How should vulnerable groups like women, children, and sex workers be addressed? Should they be addressed separately?

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