



CVHS MUN XVI



UNICEF

All position papers should be sent to our committee's email address:

cvhsmununicef2023@gmail.com.

Position paper due January 7th by 11:59 p.m. If you have any queries or problems, please contact us via email!

Introductions

What's up delegates? I'm Ashley Dixon and I will be your head chair for this year's UNICEF committee! I'm currently a senior, going into my third year of MUN. I'm also the USG of Hospitality for this year's conference, so look forward to some great food this year! Outside of MUN, I'm extremely involved at our school as a member of NHS, CSF, Key Club, the tennis team, track and field, and the AP/Honors/ATMS/IB programs. On the side, I play the piano and compete internationally! I also work at a boba shop, so if you ever see me, feel free to say 'hi' and stay for a chat! Aside from all of my hobbies and extracurriculars, I love watching Netflix, dramas in particular. Some that I would totally recommend checking out include: *Love Alarm*, *Extracurricular*, *Business Proposal*, *Forecasting Love and Weather*, *Hotel del Luna*, *It's Okay to Not Be Okay*, and *Vincenzo*. We've been preparing for this conference since last year, so I am incredibly ready and excited to meet you all! Research well, have fun, and good luck! I'll see you at the conference!

Hello everyone! My name is Zachary Borazjani and I'll be your co-chair for UNICEF at CVHS MUN XVI. I am a senior here and have been involved in MUN since my junior year. I am an active member of the CVHS student community. I am the President of CVHS Spanish Club, CVHS For Fair Labor, Music Appreciation Club, and Global Discussions in addition to being in



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the school's top orchestra (I play the viola) and on the varsity tennis team. I love listening to music as well; Radiohead, Jimi Hendrix, Bauhaus, Nirvana, The Velvet Underground, and The Smiths are some of my favorite artists whose music just makes my day. The Smiths in particular are just incredible! I am so excited to meet all of you delegates at our conference. See you soon!

Topic #1: War Crimes in Syria

Background:

Since the initial Syrian uprising in March of 2011, there have been a large number of horrific war crimes and other crimes against humanity. Most of these have been found to have been committed by government forces. Pro-government as well as anti-governmental parties have killed, tortured, and abused innocent citizens. Opposition groups within Syria have committed an ever-growing number of abuses and potential offenses. These groups include those fighting with the Free Syrian Army (FSA), and even those without any sort of connection to them. There are a plethora of firsthand accounts recalling the deaths from governments' indiscriminate bombing of civilian areas. Children were executed whilst queuing for bread, or even as they slept. Families were torn apart and destroyed. Some of the most well-known crimes, however, have been in cases where the mass killings of captives have occurred, as well as in the instances of the torture of government soldiers. As governmental military positions were overrun and overtaken, weaponry in large quantities was seized, which only further endangered Syrian citizens.

Perpetrators of genocide, violators of international humanitarian law, criminals against humanity, and more have all gone unpunished since the initial protests for freedom and



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democracy. Destruction has characterized Syria for the past 11 years, but war only creates more corruption. Even though many countries have begun to impose sanctions on elite Syrians and members of the regime, international parties continuously support opposing parties with soldiers, weapons, money, and other resources. This has fed into food insecurity and the displacement of millions of people. The assault on these civilians has been an attack on human rights in itself.

UN Involvement:

The Security Council took a lead on political action in 2021. The Council discussed the Syrian situation over ten times throughout informal consultations. This resulted in 27 adopted resolutions relating to or for Syria. Resolution 2585 was adopted unanimously in 2021 which extended the cross-border mechanism for humanitarian aid. UNICEF is also involved in the conflict, and requires \$334.4 million (USD) for the children within the Syrian Arab Republic throughout 2022. The funds are set for water, hygiene and sanitation (commonly known as WASH), education and health, and much more. The UN's Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) calls for \$5.8 billion (USD) in order to support the nearly six million refugees within the neighboring countries of Syria. The UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) continues to investigate all accounts of the violation of international law within the warring country. The UNHRC has done so since the initial riots in 2011 through the Independent International Commission of Inquiry.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) has also begun to take part in debates over the war crimes within Syria. Requests have included evidence of Syrian victims being forced to flee towards Jordan due to Syrian government and Iranian-backed militia groups' violence and intimidation. This will mark the first time that Iranian officials will be targeted for their activities



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within Syria, which is all part of the growing effort to hold them legally accountable for their crimes and abuses. Although Syria is not a party to the ICC's Rome Statute, there are arguments that the ICC does in fact have jurisdiction over the case because of the Syrian victims flocking to Jordan, due to its recognition of being a state party. The ICC is set to make a preliminary decision prior to launching a full-scale investigation with the assistance of anonymously-provided evidence, but they are facing no deadline for their choice.

Possible Solutions:

There are a variety of stances available on this issue. However, most are in agreement that all military action within Syria must end, with the UN enforcing the termination of all violence within the country. Lifting economic sanctions against Syria would also be viable, given the recent re-emergence of COVID-19. Those who have faced difficulty in meeting their basic needs are further harmed and targeted with the sanctions and the added crisis of a global pandemic. The conflict's internationalization should end as well. The involvement of outside countries has only allowed for the crimes to further intensify. A viable step on the part of Syria itself would be to rejoin the Arab League. After the suspension from the League, it is extremely important that the League restore its monitoring mission to aid the creation of a new democracy where free and fair elections can take place, allowing the country to reach a democratic resolution.

Questions to Consider:

1. What is your country's stance on military intervention? If in support, does your country have the resources/means to do so? If against, what gains can be made by remaining peaceful?



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2. What is your country's response to human rights violations in general? Within your own country? How might this affect your country's position on Syria?
3. What was your country's response towards the initial 2011 protests and uprisings?
4. Is your country more in support of the rebel coalition? Or is it more in favor of the Syrian government? Why is this so?
5. What is your country's stance on the usage of chemical weaponry?



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Topic #2: Access to Proper Sanitation in India

Background:

India has had an ongoing problem with access to proper sanitation. In 2015, India was home to 60% of the world's population of open defecators and in 2014, under four in ten of the nation's rural households owned a toilet. Additionally, close to 57% of children under 15 years of age in rural areas practice open defecation as of 2016. In these rural areas, the vast majority of toilets (90%) were built as specified by the twin leach pit system which essentially deals with waste on its own without maintenance. India's schools also do not have ample access to proper sanitation with 22% not having toilets for girls and 58% of preschools having no toilets whatsoever.

The issue of poor sanitation and open defecation directly correlates to a variety of problems in children. One such problem is the undernutrition of children. The issue can be explained through poor sanitation and open defecation. The problem has also resulted in Indian children having stunted growth (some identify genetics as the culprit in the short stature of Indian children, but the vast majority of researchers point to the correlation between childhood growth and open defecation). Poor sanitation has also been linked to infant mortality as seen in a 2018 paper on neighborhood sanitation and infant mortality. The paper found that Indian Muslim children are much more likely to make it to their first birthday than their Hindu counterparts due to Muslim households generally living in cleaner, Muslim neighborhoods. All of this has led to many premature deaths in India. The daily exposure of children to fecal matter led to almost 100,000 deaths in children under 5 years of age. The problem also contributes to India's high neonatal mortality rate, which as of 2014 was 24 per 1000 live births, with 15% of the mortality rate due to sepsis.



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UN Involvement:

In 2014, the government of Narendra Modi announced the Swachh Bharat Mission which aimed to eliminate open defecation by 2019 through behavioral changes, constructing toilets, and establishing mechanisms for monitoring the use and construction of toilets. During Phase I of the initiative, over 100 million toilets were constructed in the rural areas of India and on October 2, 2019, the Indian government declared that 100% of Indian households owned a toilet. However, that figure has been disputed by the National Statistical Office, saying that only 71% of rural households owned a toilet, with that figure being as low as 58% in certain states such as Rajasthan. Additionally, the Indian government has been criticized by groups such as Human Rights Watch for its methods of creating social disapproval, especially after two children were killed in September of 2019 for allegedly defecating in the open. The Swachh Bharat Mission is still ongoing with Phase II (which focuses on maintaining open defecation-free behaviors) well underway.

Generally speaking, UNICEF supports the Swachh Bharat Mission. In 2010, the UN General Assembly recognized the human right to water and sanitation in UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/64/292. After the passage of UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/64/292, UNICEF supported the then Indian Ministry of Human Resource Development (now the Ministry of Education) to expand access to proper sanitation and hygiene spaces for children in close to 150,000 schools. It also has done work in urban areas that have poor sanitation problems and aren't focused on nearly as much as the rural areas of India. UNICEF additionally has conducted third-party verification and spot checks to authenticate data given by the Indian government. All of this is in line with UNICEF's goal of universal access to sanitation by 2030



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Possible Solutions:

It is clear that many areas in India are in dire need of access to proper sanitation with 42% of rural households in certain states such as Jharkhand having no access to a toilet in 2019. A solution to this could be to fuel more funding into the Swachh Bharat Mission which has made great strides in expanding access to proper sanitation across rural India. Maintenance of preexisting toilets is bound to be an issue with the vast majority of toilets needing maintenance. The delegate's solution should address this in some shape or form. Additionally, a small minority of rural households with toilet access have never used their toilets. This problem should be addressed and could be solved through coercive measures. Fines or other negative incentives could be used to persuade those households to use their toilets. Positive incentives on the individual level such as pay per use of the toilet could also be considered.

Questions to Consider:

1. Did your country vote to adopt UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/64/292?
2. How has your country addressed sanitation in the past?
3. Does your country agree with the approach the Indian government has taken to solve its issues regarding sanitation?
4. How does your country believe the international community could further increase its involvement to solve the problem at hand?
5. How much does your country believe in the role of societal pressure in reducing the number of open defecators?



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