



CVHS MUN XVI



UNODC

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

cvhsmununodc2@gmail.com

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

Introduction:

My name is Chloe DaSilva, and I'll be your head chair for this conference! As a senior, this is my second year in MUN and I've loved every minute of it. I'm super involved in our school community and I'm also the Editor in Chief for our school's newspaper, the CVHS Times; I enjoy writing and reporting on current events. I'm a member of a few clubs such as CSF, Hospitality Chair for NHS, and President of Operation Raise Up, where we educate teens about child abuse. Outside of school, I immerse myself as much as possible in community service through the Mission Viejo Activities Committee and National Charity League. I thoroughly enjoy procrastinating as long as possible by online shopping and rewatching Gilmore Girls for the fourth time. In my free time, I love to go on drives with my friends and take long naps. Reach out to us through our committee email with any questions. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you in committee, good luck!

My name is Vivian Ikeda, and I will be your co-chair today! Aside from being an active member in MUN for two years now, I have also been on the varsity golf team since freshman year. I dedicate much of my time to volunteering, whether it is at Capo in CSF and NHS, or outside of school at the Tzu Shao Youth Charity Organization. As a junior, although my schedule is very busy, I try to find time to do everything I love by squeezing it in or just procrastinating.



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Out of everything I do, my favorite thing is to eat delicious food. I feel most at home whenever I am with family and friends and like to go on trips to the beach or go shopping. Good luck delegates, you are all going to do great!

Topic 1: Prevention of Migrant Smuggling

Background:

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime contributes to global peace and security, human rights, and development by making the world safer from drugs, crime, corruption, and terrorism. Migrant smuggling refers to the transportation of an individual across borders illegally. Also known as human smuggling, this is done in violation of at least one country's laws. This is a vital issue due to the mistreatment that smuggled migrants face at the hands of smugglers. There are reports of harsh conditions and abuse including but not limited to extortion, torture, abductions, sexual violence, and even death. This does not even account for the countless number of abductees that go unreported. These crimes are often not reported as these migrants are in constant fear of deportation and lack vital legal status. United States government as well as United Nations sources describe smugglers as “motivated largely by profit and the low risk of prosecution,” (CRS Reports).

Migrant smuggling totals more than seven to ten billion dollars a year globally. Migrants who resort to using smuggler services are often left with limited other choices. They often do not have the required documentation such as passports needed to legally cross borders. If they are experiencing violent situations, food insecurity, or any sort of poverty due to natural disasters or conflicts, they may be motivated to depart from their country in this way if other options are not readily available to them. Smuggled migrants are often young men, but gender composition can



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be heavily influenced by the circumstance. Unaccompanied and separated children are especially vulnerable to the abuse of this crime.

In 2018, the UNODC Global Study on Smuggling of Migrants identified “30 primary smuggling routes and found that at least 2.5 million migrants had been smuggled along those paths in 2016.” Clandestine or black market activity is often heightened by the fact that there is no comprehensive data on the global prevalence of human smuggling. Humanitarian experts debate whether these migrants require evaluation of assistance and more opportunities for safety mechanisms or that since these migrants have willingly aided in international crime they should not be aided. Main smuggling routes are found towards North and Southern Africa, Asian routes towards Europe and the Middle East, as well as to wealthier countries in the South-East. Policymakers' attention has been heightened to this issue due to increases in attempted migrant smuggling in areas such as the Mediterranean and along the United States' southern border.

Possible Solutions:

The organized networks that are behind these crimes take advantage of vulnerable people who are in search of a better life, and one of the only ways to eradicate it is to dismantle the criminal enterprises behind it. UNODC is in support of transnational investigations into these smuggling rings and tracing the origins of this crime. Globally, the governments in nations where migrant smuggling is most prevalent must become more involved in the issue as it is causing immense amounts of poverty, struggle, and even death. Enforcing humane laws that are aimed toward creating safer legal passageways as well as aiming to resolve the issues that force these migrants to leave their home countries is vital to solving this issue. These laws must be enforced in rural and urban areas and better control should be implemented.



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Training and mentoring have a strong correlation with the treatment and well-being of these migrants across the world. Promoting education campaigns to order to inform those who might use migrant services of the dangers of using these smugglers would be greatly beneficial. Campaigns should be aimed at preventing the victimization of migrants.

Bloc Positions:

Asia-Pacific: The smuggling of migrants poses a significant threat to Asia, generating an annual value of USD \$2 billion for criminal groups and leading to deaths and human rights abuses.

Children and women remain highly vulnerable to trafficking in Asia and the Middle East.

African: The smuggling of migrants represents great challenges for West and Central African countries.

East European: The Southeast European Law Enforcement Center supports its member states to combat transborder crime.

Latin American and Caribbean: Migrant smuggling, trafficking in persons, and the role of organized crime have been serious problems for Mexico and Central America. This is due to difficult socioeconomic and security conditions worsened by natural disasters and poor governance.

Western European and Others: Western Balkans have progressively become a hub for migrants trying to reach western Europe.

Questions to Consider:

1. What measures can be taken to ensure safety of migrants and refugees?



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2. What physical and economic areas of society would require the most attention in regard to the prevention of migrant smuggling?

Helpful Resources:

European Commission - Mission Statement - Migrant Smuggling

ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/policies/migration-and-asylum/irregular-migration-and-return/migrant-smuggling_en

Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women - Document - Facilitating Migration and Fulfilling Rights

refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/ts5_gaatw.pdf

UNODC - Article - Smuggling of migrants: the harsh search for a better life

www.unodc.org/toc/en/crimes/migrant-smuggling.html

UNODC - Document - Protocol Against The Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea, and Air

www.unodc.org/documents/middleeastandnorthafrica/smuggling-migrants/SOM_Protocol_English.pdf

UNODC - Document - Toolkit to Combat Smuggling of Migrants

www.un.org/ruleoflaw/files/SOM_Toolkit_E-book_english_Combined.pdf

Works Cited

Congress - CRS Reports. <https://crsreports.congress.gov/>.

Explanation of Position at the Third Committee Adoption of the Violence ...

<https://usun.usmission.gov/explanation-of-position-at-the-third-committee-adoption-of-the-violence-against-women-migrant-workers-resolution/>.



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Kevin.town. "Transnational Organized Crime: Let's Put Them out of Business." Smuggling of

Migrants: the Harsh Search for a Better Life,

<https://www.unodc.org/toc/en/crimes/migrant-smuggling.html>.

"Migrant Smuggling Faqs." United Nations: Office on Drugs and Crime,

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/migrant-smuggling/faqs.html#m11>.

Topic 2: Assessing Decriminalization for Personal Drug Use and Its Implications

Background:

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime contributes to global peace and security, human rights, and development by making the world safer from drugs, crime, corruption, and



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terrorism. Before decriminalization, anyone caught selling, receiving, or in possession of drugs faced severe punishment. Most punishments included facing jail time or monetary fines. In the US, federal narcotics legislation mandates that anyone caught and penalized will receive a mandatory prison sentence of 5-20 years with or without a fine. The criminalization of drugs leads to a vicious cycle of imprisonment and possessing drugs. After being released from jail, many individuals will relapse or continue selling drugs. In addition, they face more discrimination and difficulty finding the right opportunities in terms of career, family, housing, and other life aspects. It particularly affects those of low income, with mental disorders, or people of color.

Decriminalization is the action or process of ceasing to treat something as illegal or as a criminal offense. Instead, possession or personal use of drugs would be considered more as a health issue that looks at the root problem for fixing drug abuse. It reduces the number of people ending up in the criminal justice system for possession of drugs and gives people a chance to turn their lives around. Portugal was the first to implement decriminalization and paved the way for about 30 other countries today to adopt some form of decriminalization. Since the year it was implemented, drug-related deaths have remained below the EU average, and “rates of drug use have remained consistently below the EU average” (Transform). According to UNAids, “In countries where drug use is decriminalized and comprehensive harm reduction is available, HIV prevalence and transmission tend to drop sharply among people who use drugs.” The rates of overdose and addiction have sharply dropped as well because more people entered drug treatment programs and were able to get the help they needed. While an overwhelming majority of people were astounded by just the thought of decriminalization before it was implemented, its countless positive effects have definitely changed many minds. The fact that most people



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actually favor decriminalization and realize how boundless its effects could have, goes to show how decriminalization also changed stigmas and discrimination against it.

Possible Solutions:

Solutions should focus on lowering the rates of patients that suffer from addiction or dependence and reducing infections and diseases caused by substance abuse. The ultimate goal is to create a solution encompassing short-term and long-term goals, that will aid in reducing the demand for illegal substances. Also, since decriminalization was mainly about reducing the number of people swept into the criminal justice system, finding a solution that can do that is important as well. Although the country's drug policies on criminalization may be different, finding a unifying front and presenting strong points for how the solution will affect all areas will create a well-developed solution. The level of severity and strictness of rules when creating a plan should be appropriate to your country's goals and doability to carry it out.

Creating a public facility where individuals could get help through emotional and social support, as well as receiving clean needles and controlled doses as a part of decriminalization could be taken into consideration. Education of adolescents from a young age about the risks and harmful effects of substance abuse could prevent them from using substances. The knowledge that they gain can help them to understand the problem and help out in their own communities, and not fall into the trap of stigmas against drug addicts.

Questions to Consider:

1. What are some potential disadvantages of decriminalization?
2. How does decriminalizing drugs help public health?



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3. What measures can be taken to ensure that the correct or needed resources for recovering users have been put into place?
4. In cases of countries with decriminalization policies in place, how much has the criminal arrest rate gone down after it was put in place?

Helpful Sites and Resources:

UNODC- Approaches to decriminalizing Drug Use and Possession

https://www.unodc.org/documents/ungass2016/Contributions/Civil/DrugPolicyAlliance/DPA_Fact_Sheet_Approaches_to_Decriminalization_Feb2015_1.pdf

UNODC- World Drug Report 2021

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/wdr2021.html>

Drug Decriminalization

<https://drugpolicy.org/issues/drug-decriminalization>

Drug Use and HIV

https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/hiv-aids/new/drug-use_and_HIV.html

Harms Associated with Drug Laws

<https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/9888-Harms-Associated-with-Drug-Laws.pdf>

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Overdose Crisis.” *The Conversation*, 16 May 2022,

<https://theconversation.com/decriminalizing-drug-use-is-a-necessary-step-but-it-wont-end-the-opioid-overdose-crisis-162497>.

“Drug Decriminalization in Portugal: Setting the Record Straight.” *Transform*,

<https://transformdrugs.org/blog/drug-decriminalisation-in-portugal-setting-the-record-straight>.

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Unaid.org. “Decriminalization Works, but Too Few Countries Are Taking the Bold Step.”

UNAIDS, 3 Mar. 2020,

https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2020/march/20200303_drugs