

**SRI LANKA
MODEL UNITED NATIONS**



GA 3

STUDY GUIDE

Introduction

The mandate of the committee is as such; issues regarding fair treatment of minorities especially women and children, crime prevention and justice, protection of children, promotion of fundamental rights and acting against racism and discrimination are to name a few.

The Committee also addresses important social development questions such as issues related to youth, family, ageing, persons with disabilities and international drug control.

In order to obtain an understanding of the General Assembly powers, delegates are encouraged to read the chapters dedicated to it in the UN charter. Hence, the delegates of SLMUN 2019 are encouraged to formulate wholesome discussion topics that come under the scope of the UN charter itself.

The Agenda

Conference Topic: Examining child rights in conflict areas.

Practice Debate Topic: Inclusive development of persons with disabilities.

Background

Rights are fundamental, inalienable principles or norms to which a person is inherently entitled to, as he or she is a human being. A person referred to as a minor and that is younger than the age of majority which ranges between 18 and 21 is identified as a child. The Geneva Conventions (1949) along with their additional protocols, the UNCRC (The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child – 1989), the Rome Statute of 1998 of the International Criminal Court all highlight the principles and provisions with regards to protecting children in conflict.

With more than half the world's refugees being children, disruption of education, contraction of the HIV infection with rape being used as a weapon, recruitment of child soldiers and finally gruesome killings while going against child rights, is also a threat to achieving any of the MDG's (Millennium Development Goals) of eradicating poverty to achieving environmental sustainability.

Many of the impacts on children in conflict areas still have not been displayed in statistics. While around 115, 000 children have already been released, formidable challenges remain. Global talks and action will contribute towards preventing the violation of child rights and creating programs that will positively impact their futures.

While ending child recruitment is important, it isn't the only challenges children in war ridden areas face. Focus has to be centered on explosive weapons and remnants of war (including educating children on the dangers of possession, usage and their vulnerability with regards to weapons), health and education.

War also has rules and it is important to abide by them. In an increasingly conflict ridden world, the tendency to respect the rights of minority parties is depleting. Thereby, ending the infringement of child rights involves ending conflict to an extent. There is a need to respond to violent extremism often targeted at children with humanitarian law at its epicenter.

This guide will help understand two notable events with regards to infringement of child rights due to conflict, which delegates can use towards formulating points in order to contribute towards protecting and nurturing children.

Case Studies

Syria 2010

Terrorist groups ISIS and Al-Nusrah have violated child rights in the form of recruiting, torturing and killing between 2010 and 2015. The Wahhabi regime assisted with the massacre of children in areas such as Al-Zara. The suffering of children in refugee camps had also been brought to attention. Children in the occupied Syrian Golan are mistreated and harassed. Children in this nation have gone up to periods of six years void of schooling, along with thousands being killed in the process. Syrian children continue to be recruited by armed groups due to the extreme poverty that exists in the region. Most of the child soldiers happen to be those kidnapped by extremist groups such as ISIS. The country requires humanitarian aid in order to prevent the maiming and killing of children in conflict. Humanitarian requirements of the country continue to outweigh the International response. This calls for the dissolving of radical armed groups and the creation of an effective program that enables these children to receive essential aid and taking measures towards revitalizing education mechanisms to improve the future prospects of these children.

Palestine 2015

Palestine has been a war ridden country for a number of years. This affected the nation's children trapped in conflict zones. The creation and spreading of even more extremist groups increased child recruitment and the infringement of their rights. Groups such as Da'esh and Al-Qaida operate with the objective of carrying out missions of inflicting terror. This includes a widespread abduction of children being carried out in efforts to torment civilians and threaten the Iranian government. In Gaza, within the time span of a month, around 2995 Palestinian children had been injured with 540 murdered. Palestinian children are terrorized and injured by the occupants with impunity. Extra-judicial execution has taken the lives of more than 40 children since October 2015. Moreover, an increasing number of children continue to be arrested and detained by the occupying force. 136 of the 860 children arrested in East Jerusalem were aged between 7 and 11 years. The importance of holding violators of child rights accountable continues to be highlighted by Palestine and calls for International action to be taken.

Points to consider

As delegates observe and analyze similar case studies, they are advised to make note of the following.

1. The role of International crisis management in protecting children.
2. Disparity between ethical treatment and violation of rights.
3. Objectives and goals of children in conflict areas.
4. The role of the UN in safeguarding the rights of children during conflict.
5. The extent to which the rules of war are followed in conflict.
6. How can conflict free nations help countries engulfed in war protect their children?

Delegates are requested to further research into similar case studies, specifically those that highlight the abuse and horrific action being taken against minors in conflict filled zones.

They are also expected to be aware of the powers and limitations of the UN with regards to taking action to uphold the rights of children during conflict.

Questions such as whether UN action being taken in reference to peacekeeper efforts are violations of child rights within itself due to exploitation and misuse of conflict situations must be answered by the delegates.

The extent to which there is a need to formulate humane protocol to tackle the harmful effects of conflict on children is at question as well.

Further Reading

https://www.unicef.org/chinese/protection/files/Armed_Conflict.pdf

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sc12470.doc.htm>

<https://borgenproject.org/child-soldiers-in-syria/>

Practice Debate Topic: Inclusive development of persons with disabilities.

Background

Disabilities refer to impairments that restrict everyday activities. Disabled persons account to create one of the largest minority groups in the world, representing around 1.5 billion individuals. Inclusion and equality are of great importance with regards to achieving sustainable development goals with exclusion leading to backwards development. Policies such as the CRPD (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) have been adopted in an effort to move into a more human rights based model of society.

Marginalization of persons with disabilities can lead to harmful socio-economic impacts. Disregarding around 15 percent of the world's population can cost countries between 1-7 percent of GDP (Gross Domestic Product). While unemployment rates are significantly high for those with impairments, their peers' void of disabilities do not face similar discrimination which leads to unequal opportunity for career progression in the workplace. This is also noting that disabled individuals have significantly higher costs of living with regards to added medical and living expenses. This increases the risks of extreme poverty, especially in developing countries.

Moreover, the opportunities that disabled people have are limited in the case of education. Over half the students that are disabled do not attend school with some countries reaching as high as 90 percent. The same can be said with regards to inaccessible facilities, non-inclusive services and transportation systems that fail to incorporate ways to include disabled individuals.

It is also important to note that in the case of conflict or sudden evacuation, the disabled aren't given the necessary priority and tend to be left behind or abandoned. Hence it is necessary to formulate contingency plans that include the quick evacuation of persons with disabilities and not necessarily give priority to the non-disabled individuals.

Case Study

Albania 2016

Being the second poorest country in Europe, Albania struggles with development. The nation having previously suffered a communist dictatorship is now finding it increasingly difficult to account for the disabled minority of their population. There is still no inclusive statistic with regards to the number of disabled individuals in the country. Medical and education sectors haven't made progress in taking steps towards facilitating disabled people and engaging in rehabilitation. According to the 'National Strategy on People with Disabilities' those that are impaired face extremely high unemployment rates and only around 24 percent of people partially able to work have found employment. The Government of Albania has now approved an action plan which will take place over the course of four years between 2016 and 2020 and highlights ways to prevent discrimination, reduce barriers to services and fulfilling the rights of the disabled. The current plan was created in line with principles associated with laws set out on inclusion of and accessibility for the disabled along with outlining priority areas of the European Disability Strategy. A clear funding gap with regards to the implementation of planned measures has been identified and resolutions to increase inclusiveness of disabled individuals are being made.

Points to consider

1. Causes of disabilities and ways to avoid them.
2. How political, humanitarian and socio-economic factors of a country affect the disabled.
3. Concerns relating the infringement of rights of disabled individuals.
4. Addressing the outdated strategies concerning inclusive development of the disabled.
5. How the living conditions of the disabled can be improved.
6. Issues of discrimination faced by the impaired.
7. The role of NGO's in spreading awareness.
8. Renewed policies to facilitate the involvement of the disabled.
9. Direct correlation between disability and extreme poverty.
10. Concerns regarding equal opportunities for employees regardless of disabilities.

Further Reading

[https://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Democratic%20Governance/Human%20Rights/UNDP- Disability Inclusive Development_accessible.pdf](https://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Democratic%20Governance/Human%20Rights/UNDP-Disability%20Inclusive%20Development_accessible.pdf)

<https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/2030-agenda-for-sustainable-development/peace/governance/disability-inclusive-development.html>

<https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/857827>