

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

Dear Delegates,

As important members of the 8th edition of TJMUN, it is our pleasure to welcome you to the Inter American Commission on Human Rights committee for this year.

It is our mission, from us and from all the delegates that are part of this committee, to transform and lead this debate into a successful, meaningful debate, act with full diplomacy, and craft creative solutions in order to achieve an excellent TJMUN.

We look forward to satisfy all the members of this committee, making the topics both interesting and critical. It's our objective to encourage you to give 100 percent on the research. And work really hard for us to have it easier while looking for the resolutions.

Your constant and objective participation during debates is very important to achieve all our goals established for our committee. This project is based in hard word and also a way to grow as a person full of values and diplomacy.

Challenge yourself and be open to receive and to give suggestions from other delegates to increase your own skills. Most importantly make sure you learn and take home something from this MUN. We will work together to achieve a satisfactory TJMUN this year.

Sincerely,
Inter-American Commission Human Rights Co-Chairs

Andrea Mena,
Mariana Franch

Topic A: Reform of Current Drug Policies

Introduction

Have punitive laws lowered rates of drug production, possession, trafficking and use? Every day not only the availability has increased in different social strata, but also the age consumption has decreased. The fear to try different drugs has decreased and society is not having enough respect towards these substances. Drug use, triggers collateral damage such as, drug related violence, health epidemics, prison population has quadrupled over the last 30 years in the U.S. and waste of resources trying to enforce the law. Drug Policies are proposed changes for government actions towards the drug influences on society. Open Society Foundations have supported reformation on drug policies. These policies, produce reports that show the impact and positive results of the current drug policies results. Always promoting public health, human rights and security.

Topic Outline

The UN valued that drug trade is the third largest market in the world, valued around 300-400\$ billion dollars. This money is used in attempts to reduce different triggers. For example, money is invested in security because illegal trafficking is the biggest threat to security, stability and civil cohesion in many countries. Also there has been big investments in air spray because of the environmental damaged, but this has only caused destruction to forest, fertile land, crops and indigenous livelihoods. The drug market is linked to high levels of violence and corruption; this has caused that they undermine the state. The war against drugs needs developed countries to offer resources for policies of wars outside their countries. Money that could be used to implement education. There is also a big influence in the impact on fundamental human rights. Failure to take action, protect and fulfil the Human Rights of individuals who use drugs should not be underestimated. Human rights take for granted that violating their rights is a consequence or result of enduring the drug law.

Essence of the Debate

Some alternatives can be the lessening of criminal punishments for minor drug offenses. Take into consideration other types of sanctions that does not include jail time, based on individual and community needs. There is a wide range of examples in which human rights have been violated because of state activities pursuing drug control. It is rarely mentioned and not enough consideration to people whose human rights have been abused because of drug use. Also UN policies rarely mention Human Rights transgression. It has been reported that important programs such as OHCHR and UNODC have not made any big strategic changes or efforts. The health, security, lifestyle and human rights of millions of people depend on the achievement of a healthy balance between the need to control and

eliminate the drug markets and the obligation to protect everybody's human Rights.

Questions to consider:

- What actions have failed to combat current drug trafficking and addiction?
- What can we do in order to improve the current "laws" so that they are more efficient?
- What is the role every government should take regarding the current drug crisis there is in Latin America?
- What actions must be taken to eradicate or reduce the drug problem without starting a physical "war"
- How can we avoid involving innocent civilians in this combat against drugs?

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Topic B: Discrimination against Indigenous communities in Mexico and Central America

Introduction:

Indigenous people generally represent a minor part of the population that exists within the boundaries of individual sovereign nations. It seems that the current international community should only intervene when there are serious human rights abuses such as genocide. However, the situation becomes somewhat unique when these are indigenous populations. Indigenous populations have suffered from nearly unimaginable discrimination and affronts to their ways of life.

The primary goal of this committee is to outline an effective plan to protect the right of indigenous people. The ILO, the Indigenous People working group, and even the general assembly have done their part to support the indigenous population, but that is not enough, indigenous populations are still suffering discrimination and their rights are not being fulfilled as it should. In this committee, delegates will have to come together to find solutions to grant these indigenous peoples their respective rights.

Topic outline:

The issue of indigenous rights began more than 500 years ago when colonial nations started to be called “the new world”. When Christopher Columbus was the first explorer to discover the New World and its various inhabitants. His arrival sparked a tremendous wave of colonization that ultimately disrupted and led to the eradication of many indigenous peoples and cultures. The colonial legacy continues to affect indigenous peoples to this day despite widespread political decolonization efforts. Indigenous people remain deprived of their rights to self-determination, confined to indigenous reservations, and removed from their ancestral territories. One of the largest barriers to indigenous rights being respected was the unfair law practices that caused a denial to indigenous people to use their full land and territory.

Another major challenge initially facing the international community was how exactly to define indigenous peoples as distinct from other cultural groups of societies. For example, the first major piece of international legislation on this issue, ILO Convention 107 (1957) defines an indigenous people as: Members of tribal or semi-tribal populations in independent countries whose social and economic conditions are at a less advanced stage than the stage reached by other sections of the national community, and whose status is regulated wholly or partially by their own customs or traditions or by special laws and regulations.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, like Mexico, Peru, Guatemala, Bolivia and Ecuador, 40,000,000 people are from almost 600 indigenous groups. According to the World Bank 12.76% of the whole continent’s population are indigenous people and 40% are indigenous people in the rural areas.

Essence of the debate:

We will guide you with five main points that we encourage that you discuss during the debate:

- Political representation and ethno populism; delegates will have to take into account that in some countries, there are political representatives and may have different laws that apply in their lands.
- Cultural survival; delegates will have to discuss ways to be able to preserve culture and language to avoid the extinction of these.
- Current land rights threats; in many situations, miners have “accidentally” trespassed into indigenous people’s lands and destroyed them. We encourage you to discuss about possible methods and solutions to avoid this happening in the future.
- Indigenous women in some tribes don’t have their rights granted and are not always respected. They are looked down by the higher members of the tribe. We invite you to look for possible solutions to this problem so that they can be respected within their tribe.
- Legal constructs; regarding the point of current land rights threats, constructors enter the indigenous people’s lands and without their permission build on their land and don’t get any further sanctions because of that.

Questions to consider:

- What concessions do indigenous peoples deserve for past wrongs?
- What elements of indigenous legal system should be used as an example for society?
- How can countries support indigenous cultural survival?
- What does indigenous people represent for our society?

References:

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