

*19th - 21st of October 2018*

*Social, Cultural and Humanitarian (SOCHUM)*

*Chairpersons*

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*1.Welcoming Message*

                                              Honourable delegates,

 As your chairpersons, we are delighted to introduce you to the distinguished  Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee, as well as to congratulate you all for being accepted to participate in this year’s conference.

 Chairing the third committee of the GA, we pride ourselves with delegates who,  through countless hours of debate, working on resolutions and research, have the capacity to solve some of the world’s greatest issues regarding the humanitarian side. Some would say that the topics of SOCHUM are current minor problems of the world, however we, as advocates of human rights, strongly disagree. We think of the lack of peace between races, the lack of education, privacy, the lack of equal possibilities for everybody is just a start of wars, revolution, anarchy. Through the work done in this committee of ours, we are one step closer to actually solving disputes from their root : hatred, jealousy. We are the people who reach to reunite humanity.

  Be prepared to defend your country’s perspective, while also commit to a solution which will benefit the entire world. The topics we have prepared are issues everybody has struggled with. Having said that, we hope to see a fruitful debate, delegates speaking from the bottom of their heart. Think of the future, learn from the past and live the present!

                                                                                            Good luck,

                                                 Chairpersons Ilinca Roşu and Voichița Slevoacă

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*2. Introduction to the Committee*

The SOCHUM is the third committee of the General Assembly, agenda items relating to a range of social, humanitarian affairs and human rights issues that affect people all over the world.

The resolutions passed are not binding, therefore they are a set of recommendations for the member states to adjust. As such, the Social, Cultural and Humanitarian committee works with both UN and non- UN bodies, whether governmental or not. Additionally, the SOCHUM may request topic specific reports from other UN agencies, such as the Human Rights Council.

*TOPIC A: Sexual Education- Taboo or Mandatory?*

*A1) Topic Overview*

Sexual education has been a highly debated subject for years, with people arguing over the importance of religion over information, or the importance of information over religion. Since most people find out about intercourse from parents, and sometimes even as late as their wedding night, many argue that literacy regarding this matter should be acquired in schools.

In addition, tragedies such as HIV breakouts, higher numbers of teen pregnancies and a general misinformation of the global population, demonstrate the fact stated beforehand . For instance, in Malaysia,  an estimated 18000 underage girls become pregnant each year, with 35% of them being unaware of the effects of sexual intercourse.

Is banning a lesson that could possibly save lives in favour of a less sexualised world worth it? Is implementing this new curriculum a small step towards a better lifestyle for millions of people?

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*A2) Definition of Key Terms*

**Sexual Education** = high quality teaching and learning about a broad variety of topics related to sex and sexuality, exploring values and beliefs about those topics and gaining the skills that are needed to navigate relationships and manage one’s own sexual health.

**Comprehensive Curriculum**( for Sex Ed)**=** lessons which contain a broad range of topics, such as, but not limited to:

-Human Development (including reproduction, puberty, sexual orientation, and gender identity)  
  
-Relationships (including families, friendships, romantic relationships and dating)  
  
-Personal Skills (including communication, negotiation, and decision-making)  
  
-Sexual Behavior (including abstinence and sexuality throughout life)  
  
-Sexual Health (including sexually transmitted diseases, contraception, and pregnancy)  
  
-Society and Culture (including gender roles, diversity, and sexuality in the media)

**Sexually Transmitted Disease**= infections that are passed from one person to another through sexual contact. The causes of STDs are bacteria, parasites, yeast, and viruses.

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*A3) History and Description of Topic*

The notion of Sex Ed technically started in the 19th century, in England, however it was highly based on hygiene, rather than information regarding intercourse. There are references from the 1920s to senior girls being provided with instruction on such topics as ‘self-reverence, self control and true modesty’, and to boys, on leaving schools, being given talks on the ‘temptation of factory and workshop life’, with special reference to sex. Later on, the Second World War had a major effect on how people perceived Sexual Education, due to the spread of various sexually transmitted diseases. This being said, some states adopted the lessons mentioned, however others still deem Sexual Education as being private matters that should be discussed with family members, rather than a public institution.

*A4) Current Situation*

Western European countries, such as Germany, the Netherlands and France have implemented such lessons as early as the 1970s. The curriculum is wide enough to comprehend all information needed. So, many studies show that in the countries mentioned the rates of underage pregnancies and people infected by STDs are decreasing. However, not all western countries have a conventional grasp on what pupils should be taught. Recently, in Belgium, there has been a site describing explicit sexual intercourse used for information purpose, which confirmed the fact that this type of scholar activity should be highly controlled.

Eastern European countries mostly describe the curriculum of Sexual Education classes as inappropriate for the audience it is directed to, despite high rates of unplanned pregnancies, abortions made due to misinformation, STD infected people.

When it comes to the United States of America, many states have implemented this type of information during classes that are mainly about health care.

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*A5) Actions Taken by the International Community*

In the U.S. the Sexual Education classes have been founded since the 1980s, however there are also a number of sites that offer additional information, such as, but not limited to:

-<http://www.advocatesforyouth.org>

-<https://www.plannedparenthoodaction.org>

In Canada, the situation is similar. However, the classes for Sexual Education were implemented  among the first in the world./

There has also been a number of European Projects regarding intercourse, such as: “The Safe Project” or “Boys and Girls”.

In addition to Sex Ed classes, there is also the option of Abstinence Programs, that preach the lack of sexual intercourse until marriage.

*A6) Conclusion*

The lack of information is, in the end, the main problem that causes major issues in today’s world. The injustice that is to be discussed is the discrepancy between people from different backgrounds. Knowledge about intercourse can change a person’s attitude, or even life for the better. The SOCHUM is striving to make each individual have the same chance, regardless of their origin.

*A7) Points Addressed*

Questions to be considered by the committee:

1) **How could equal possibilities for everybody be achievable, education wise?**

2) **What is the best solution to reduce the rates of unplanned pregnancies, people infected by STDs?**

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3) **Is religion and culture of more importance than the well-being of the population?**

4) **How much is too much, regarding the said curriculum?**

*A8) Further Research*

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/note/join/2013/462515/IPOL-FEMM_NT(2013)462515_EN.pdf>

[www.advocatesforyouth.org](http://www.advocatesforyouth.org)

[www.plannedparenthoodaction.org](http://www.plannedparenthoodaction.org)

[www.un.org](http://www.un.org)

Topic B: Internet privacy

B1. Topic overview:

Internet privacy is becoming a growing concern in our technology-dependent era, due to numerous companies or governmental structures taking advantage on the lack of knowledge the average person has regarding internet data protection. Although the internet facilitates communication, information accessibility and makes daily life much more comfortable, it also puts the user at great risk of data or identity theft.

A particular event that has put the internet privacy and data protection issue in the limelight is the Facebook- Cambridge Analytica data scandal, which involved the collection of personally identifiable information (PII) of 87 million Facebook users, that the aforementioned company began collecting in 2014. This data was allegedly used in order to influence public opinion in electoral campaigns, and therefore to try to manipulate the voters. The scandal was significant for inciting public discussion on ethical standards for social media companies, political consulting companies and advertising companies; thus, consumer advocates called for better better protection in the online space and right to privacy. As a consequence of these events, the “cookie policy” or “Cookie law” (under the **General Data Protection Regulation**) was established; this law requires websites to get consent from visitors, in order to store or retrieve on the device they are using. Despite its introduction, this law does not protect users against data theft, but has a rather informative purpose.

The SOCHUM Committee finds itself in a difficult, but powerful position- caught between democracy and control. Will there be a possibility of finding a middle way?

B2. Definition of key terms

**Internet privacy** involves the right or mandate of personal [privacy](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Privacy) concerning the storing, repurposing, provision to third parties, and displaying of information pertaining to oneself via of the internet

 Internet privacy is a subset of data privacy and is regarded as a fundamental human right. Privacy concerns have been articulated from the beginnings of large scale computer sharing.

**Personal information**, described in United States legal fields as either **personally identifiable information** (**PII**), or **sensitive personal information** (**SPI**), as used in information security and privacy laws, is information that can be used on its own or with other information to identify, contact, or locate a single person, or to identify an individual in context.

**Non-PII information** is information regarding a visitor's behavior on a website. This data can not be used to distinguish or trace an individual’s identity such as their name, social security number, date and place of birth or bio-metric records.

**Web tracking** is the activity (and ability) of a website (using special software tools) to keep tabs on website visitors, in order to improve the visitor’s experience on the site.

HTTP cookie (also called web cookie, Internet cookie, browser cookie, or simply cookie) is a small piece of data sent from a website and stored on the user's computer by the user's web browser while the user is browsing. Cookies were designed to be a reliable mechanism for websites to remember stateful information (such as items added in the shopping cart in an online store) or to record the user's browsing activity (including clicking particular buttons, logging in, or recording which pages were visited in the past).

B3. History and description of topic.

In the US, as early as 1994, the Electronic Privacy Information Center, or OPIC, paved the way by establishing itself and its famous newsletter covering online privacy and civil liberties issues. The ACLU also took a stand, siding with small pockets of conspiracy theorists that assumed the US government and particularly the NSA was able to penetrate all communications on the Internet.

In the mid to late 1990s, most online privacy protections were centered around the prevention of child pornography and its proliferation and also prohibiting the online exploitation of citizens under the age of consent. The Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act, or COPPA, was enacted on October 21, 1998 and set into motion several distinct tenets of child safety and anonymization on the Internet, primarily enforced by the US Federal Trade Commission:

• In the spring of 2000 the Act required commercial websites to obtain parental consent before collecting, using, or disclosing personal information from children under 13.  
• COPPA set into stone what a website operator must include in a privacy policy, when and how to seek verifiable consent from a parent or guardian when providing services or interacting with children, and what responsibilities an operator has to protect children’s privacy and safety online, specifically including restrictions on the marketing to those under 13.

Along with technology development in the early 2000s social media networks have appeared, thus making users more likely to expose personal data. It was only after the launch and heyday of MySpace in 2003 that most social data privacy protections have come about. The Online Privacy Protection Act (OPPA) of 2003 took effect as law on July 1, 2004. This law largely centers around disclosure and user education: according to the act, the operators of commercial websites that collect personally identifiable information must post a distinctive and easily found link to the website’s privacy policy.

In late 2007 Facebook launched the Beacon program where user rental records were released on the public for friends to see. Many people were enraged by this breach in privacy and actions were taken.

In later years, when disclosures about government monitoring made the news and as the capability of organizations to retain vast quantities of personal data and run analytics on it becomes clearer to users, the emphasis from an online privacy standpoint shifted to control.

In the European Union, the European Court of Justice rulled against Google in May 2014 as Google itself was littered with 12,000 requests in just the first day to have personally identifiable information removed from its archives and search results display.

B4. Current situation

Although there are laws like COPPA, the Cookie law or the GDPR (**General Data Protection Regulation)** which limit sites data collecting companies’ access to PII and non-PII, data theft, illegal data collection and uninformed users are still a major problem for the modern world. Big companies like Facebook or Google sharing users’ data with third-party entities has really diminished their credibility, but in spite of this, people still use these online services without taking into account the risks they come with. The fact that governmental institutions collect personal data, for various purposes, is deeply alarming and should not be neglected.

B5. Actions taken by international community

In March 2015, the United Nations Human Rights Council unanimously agreed to appoint a UN special rapporteur, or expert, on the right to privacy, after online privacy concerns were risen.

In 2016 the EU adopted the **General Data Protection Regulation**  ("GDPR") which is a regulation in [EU law](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/EU_law) on [data protection](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Data_protection) and privacy for all individuals within the [European Union](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Union) (EU) and the [European Economic Area](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Economic_Area) (EEA). It also addresses the export of personal data outside the EU and EEA areas. The GDPR aims primarily to give control to individuals over their personal data and to simplify the regulatory environment for [international business](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_business) by unifying the regulation within the EU.

B6. Conclusion

Despite progress being made in later years (laws and regulations being implemented in order to protect online users) the internet privacy issue still stands between intimacy, personal data exposure and state control. It is certain that the lack of informative campaigns and users not realizing the risks they put themselves in when disclosing personal data is a crucial factor in this matter. It is up to the SOCHUM Committee to make the online space safer for everybody and to bring awareness on this topic.

B7. Points addressed

Questions to be considered by the committee

1. Is the current state of internet privacy violating a fundamental human right?
2. Should companies that track online data or disclose users’ personal information be sanctioned more drastically?
3. How can the Committee establish the border between control and personal intimacy?
4. Is there a way to regulate something so complex and constantly changing like the internet is?

B8. Further research

<https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/consumers/internet-telecoms/data-protection-online-privacy/index_en.htm>

<https://www.cookielaw.org/the-cookie-law/>

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/law-topic/data-protection/data-protection-eu_en>

<https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2018/3/23/17151916/facebook-cambridge-analytica-trump-diagram>