

Committee: OHCHR

Topic: The sale and sexual exploitation of children.

Chair: Fernanda Ochoa Riestra

Moderator: Jimena Garcia de Leon Castello

Being the principal human rights committee in the United Nations, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is in charge of promoting and protecting the human rights of people worldwide. The OHCHR's goal is to ensure a future in which the rights and freedoms given to humans are enjoyed and respected, as well as to safe keep the three base pillars of the United Nations, these being peace and security, human rights, and development.

It is also the committee's work to help countries to execute their obligations as countries to protect their citizens' rights, as well as stand objectively when reporting a violation to human rights.

The first topic to be talked about is the sale and sexual exploitation of children, which are defined as the transfer of a child in exchange of monetary value and as "acts committed through non-consensual abuse or exploitation of another person's sexuality for the purpose of sexual gratification, financial gain, personal benefit or advantage, or any other non-legitimate purpose", according to the Swarthmore College.

Human trafficking, nowadays, is a business that makes around 150 billion dollars, estimates the International Labor Organization. From which 99 million come from sex trade, and the other 51 million from forced labor. There are different reports that estimate 300 000 children are victims of sex trade.

In a 2014 study conducted by UNICEF, around 120 million girls under the age of 20 have been victims of forced sexual intercourse or acts, and while boys have reported experiences of sexual abuse, their numbers are lower than the girls. The estimates in violence against boys globally are unavailable due to "the lack of comparable data in most countries," says UNICEF, but girls do report their abuses three times more than boys in high-income countries.

According to the CDC, children living in poverty have 5 times higher chances of being abused compared with children from higher socioeconomic status.

In 2012, a study conducted in the United States gathered that 678,810 children were victims of abuse or neglect, from which 51.1% were girls and 46.8 were boys; 44% were white children, 21% were African-American and 22% were Hispanic; and out of that number, 1,593 children died as a result of their abuse.

In the same study, 94% of the victims knew their perpetrators or abusers, which tells us that this problem is not always caused by gangs or organized groups, though they are not an exception. 27% were abused by their mother, 17.1% by their father, 21% by both parents, and 14.3% by a non-parental person.

Children can develop different behavioral signals when they have been abused, the most common being anxiety, depression, self-harm, and withdrawal, among others. How a child responds to trauma has different influential factors, which are age, developmental status, type of abuse, duration of the abuse, its severity and the relationship between the child and the perpetrator.

The CDC also concludes that children that have suffered from abuse and neglect are more likely to increase their risk of injury, as well as suffering reproductive health problems,

involvement in sex trafficking, among other consequences in their futures.

Usually, people who have been abused during their childhood are more likely to be abused in their adulthood. According to the Crime Survey for England and Wales, 51% of adults that were abused during their childhood suffer from domestic abuse in their adult life, and for March 2016, 6.2 million people between the ages of 16 and 59 were abused as children and have also been abused in their adulthood.

According to the Insitute of Human Rights, in the University of Alabama in Birmingham, and considering that abused children might demonstrate violent behaviors going into adulthood, 14% of all men and 36% of all women in prison in the United States have experienced child abuse, and children who were abused are nine times more likely to become involved in criminal activities.

Save the children in India has gathered certain behaviors in adults that might be indicators of sexual abuse during their childhood, as are insisting on time alone with children without interruptions, have little interest in spending time with people their age and instead choosing to spend time around children, give gifts or money to children for no apparent reason, among others. All of them, once again, indicate that without proper treatment, an abused adult will develop abuser tendencies.

To prevent child abuse some viable solutions are the following, offered by the CDC:

- Provide public psychological help
- Create programs to help victims
- Create social awareness

Some helpful sources are the following:

Thorn Organization (Ed.). (2019). Child Pornography and Sexual Abuse Statistics. Retrieved October 6, 2019, from <https://www.thorn.org/child-pornography-and-abuse-statistics/>.

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Joyful Heart Foundation. (n.d.). Effects of Child Abuse and Neglect. Retrieved October 6,

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Committee: OHCHR

Topic: Guaranteeing the protection of rights of those facing death penalty.

Chair: Fernanda Ochoa Riestra

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Being the principal human rights committee in the United Nations, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is in charge of promoting and protecting the human rights of people worldwide. The OHCHR's goal is to ensure a future in which the rights and freedoms given to human beings are enjoyed and respected, as well as to safe keep the three base pillars of the United Nations, these being peace and security, human rights, and development. It is also the committee's work to help governments to execute their obligations as countries to protect their citizens' rights and supports those who are claiming their rights, as well as stand objectively when reporting a violation to human rights.

The second topic to be talked about is guaranteeing the protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty. According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, death penalty, or capital punishment, is defined as "death as a punishment given by a court of law for very serious crimes". Depending on the country and the state, in some cases, death penalty is approved or not.

It is important to identify those countries that allow death penalty to be applied in their courts: Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, United States, Iran, Japan, Taiwan, Kuwait, Zimbabwe, Libya, Thailand, Guyana, Uganda, Bangladesh, Iraq, Indonesia, Botswana, United Arab Emirates, Bahamas, Cuba, Belarus, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, Syria, Egypt, South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, China, Sudan, Comoros, Somalia, Barbados, Malaysia, Chad, Pakistan, Oman, Singapore, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Bahrain, North Korea, Equatorial Guinea, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Palestinian territories, Trinidad and Tobago, Lesotho, Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Jamaica and Jordan.

According to Cornell Law School, globally and nowadays, there are nine common execution methods, which are hanging, shooting by firing squad, shooting, beheading, lethal injection, stoning, gas chamber, electrocution, and falling from an unknown height. Sixty countries authorize hanging, which makes it the most common authorized method. The United States authorizes electrocution and gas chamber methods, and Iran is the only country that authorizes pushing those condemned from an unknown height. The same article states that twenty-eight countries authorize shooting by firing squad and twenty-two more authorize shooting. "Many countries do not clarify the distinction between shooting by firing squad and shooting", they explain, "but some countries indicate that shooting by firing squad includes multiple shots fired by multiple people while shooting includes a single shot to the back of the head."

The Death Penalty Information Center in the United States informs that, in the country, 33 states authorize lethal injection, 9 states authorize electrocution, 6 states authorize lethal gas, 3 states authorize hanging, and other 3 states authorize shooting by firing squad, all states having lethal injection as a primary option. We can conclude that in the United States the most common method is lethal injection.

While death penalty is to be applied only to adults, Amnesty International has recollected data

that indicates that, since 1990, there have been 145 executions of child offenders in the following countries: China, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iran, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan, Sudan, the USA and Yemen.

Amnesty International has also reported that, in 2018, most executions took place in China, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam and Iraq, China being the top executioner, though with unknown exact data, since their numbers are classified as a state secret. Globally, around 690 executions took place, excluding the unknown number of Chinese executions.

In the International Standards of Death Penalty, compiled by Amnesty International, the right of life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment are emphasized. In 1990 the Hungarian Constitutional Court declared that death penalty violates the "inherent right to life and human dignity". The South African Constitutional Court declared death penalty to be incompatible with the prohibition of "cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment" under the country's interim constitution."

According to the articles two and three of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, proclaimed by the General Assembly in Paris on December the 10th of 1948, "everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind" and "everyone has the right to life" and some documents that have been adopted to ban death penalty are The Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Protocol No. 6 to the European Convention on Human Rights, Protocol No. 13 to the European Convention on Human Rights and The Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights to Abolish the Death Penalty among others.

Quoting a Medium article, "The purpose of punishment is to change the perpetrators but death punishment teaches them nothing; [...] it does not teach the criminals or change them because their lives are put to an end." According to Amnesty International, there is no evidence that the death penalty is any more effective in reducing crime than life imprisonment.

As members of this committee, you are responsible for assuring international measures for people on death row. Some viable solutions we can offer are the following:

- "We should launch a campaign of death row family members and members of groups like Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation to challenge the US at the United Nations", as suggested by Martina Correia, sister of a death row convicted.
- "Showing the human side of those incarcerated [to] develop a culture that is intolerant of the use of the death penalty", proposed by Marlene Martin, executive director of Campaign to End Death Penalty.

Resources:

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The Nation. (2011). Ten Things to Abolish the Death Penalty. [online] Available at: <https://www.thenation.com/article/ten-reasons-why-death-penalty-should-be-abolished/>.