

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

STUDY GUIDE



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*Combating Human Trafficking: Addressing the
illicit trade of individuals for forced labor, sexual
exploitation, or organ harvesting.*

Greetings Delegates,

We are pleased to welcome you to the United Nations Human Rights Council. As we all know, our agenda this year is combating human trafficking with an emphasis on addressing the illicit trade of individuals for forced labor, sexual exploitation, or organ harvesting. The dais panel is eager to see how you will contribute to the discussions and debates shaping our resolution and policies.

It is not a doubt that MUNs are challenging. There are heated debates and scenarios that sometimes make you question everything you know about the world. Throughout the conference, you will be challenged to step into the shoes of world leaders and policymakers, think on your feet, and collaborate to find solutions to some of the most pressing issues facing our world today. But, whether you are an experienced delegate or a first-timer, we assure you that as your chairs, we will put our best foot forward to make your experience worth the time and effort.

Whatever the topic of discussion, we encourage you to always speak up and be the voice of the country you are representing during the conference. Your active participation, research, and preparation will be key to the success of our sessions.

If you require any assistance, do not hesitate to talk to us! We are here to help you.

Once again, welcome to our committee. We look forward to witnessing your contributions and the meaningful discussions that will undoubtedly arise. Let's make this conference an inspiring and memorable one for all involved.

Warm regards,
Prasun Kunwar and Surabhi Khatiwada,
Co-chairs,
The United Nations Human Rights Council.

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Introduction to UNHRC

The Human Rights Council is an intergovernmental body within the United Nations system responsible for reinforcing the promotion and protection of human rights worldwide, addressing human rights violations, and making recommendations on them. The Council can discuss theses related to human rights issues and situations that need supervision throughout the year.

The Human Rights Council is the leading intergovernmental body within the United Nations responsible for human rights. Established in 2006 by the General Assembly, it strengthens worldwide human rights promotion and protection.

The Council, composed of 47 Member States, provides a multilateral forum to address human rights violations and country situations. It responds to human rights emergencies and recommends better implementing human rights on the ground.

What the Council does:

- Serves as an international forum for dialogue on human rights issues with UN officials and mandated experts, states, civil society, and other participants;
- Adopts resolutions or decisions during regular sessions that express the international community's will on human rights issues or situations. Adopting a resolution sends a strong political signal which can prompt governments to take action to remedy those situations;
- Holds crisis meetings known as special sessions to respond to urgent human rights situations;
- Reviews the human rights records of all United Nations Member States via the Universal Periodic Review;
- Appoints the Special Procedures, independent human rights experts who serve as the eyes and ears of the Council by monitoring situations in specific countries or by looking at particular themes;
- Authorizes commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions, which produce hard-hitting evidence on war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Introduction to Agenda

The history of human trafficking is a complex and evolving issue that spans centuries and continents. It is the story of human rights violations that have evolved and adapted to changes over time on an economic, technological, and global scale. In this agenda, we dive into the international situations and problems regarding human rights. We also look at the intricate topics in this realm, such as human trafficking, which includes such issues as forced labor, sexual exploitation, and organ harvesting.

a. Historical background

Slavery, which is a form of human trafficking, dates back to the late 12th or 13th century. Around the 16th century, Portugal began to travel overseas to Africa to purchase or capture people to enslave them. This was the start of the Transatlantic Slave Trade. This form of slavery mainly increased labor productivity and supported industrialization in Europe.

Around the 19th century, we witnessed the human trafficking of Chinese immigrants in the United States of America. This was when the new form of modern slavery was enforced on Chinese immigrants by violence, coercion, and deceit. Many Chinese men were trafficked for labor, enduring harsh conditions and severe exploitation in various industries. Simultaneously, Chinese women were often forced into prostitution. This era marked a significant phase of both labor and sexual exploitation within the Chinese immigrant community.

This marked the beginning of human trafficking in the new era, where there were changes in the political, economic, social, and technological sectors worldwide.

b. Status quo

The picture of slavery and human trafficking has undergone a significant transformation since the end of the Transatlantic Slave Trade. Today, modern-day slavery manifests itself in various forms, including bonded labor, the exploitation of child labor in global supply chains, and prostitution.

Additionally, human trafficking continues to plague global societies, with individuals being trafficked for labor in sectors such as agriculture and manufacturing, as well as for sexual exploitation.

Despite establishing international laws to combat these issues, challenges remain prevalent, exacerbated by factors like poverty, corruption, and ineffective law enforcement. This complex scenario underscores the urgent need for enhanced global cooperation and a steadfast commitment to upholding human rights as the fight against these modern forms of slavery and human trafficking continues in earnest.

Moderated Caucus Topics

Here are some moderated caucus topics that can be used during discussions:

- Importance of cross-border laws in eradicating human trafficking,
- Considering the role of mental health services and reintegration programs for victims,
- Discussing problems that are occurring in the present day despite having laws against human trafficking,
- Analyzing socio-economic factors that contribute to vulnerability to trafficking,
- Discussing the challenges and opportunities presented by digital platforms in both aiding and preventing sexual exploitation,
- Examining the increased risk of human trafficking in conflict and post-conflict regions,
- Sharing successful regional strategies and policies for combating organ trafficking.

Position Paper

A formal document of a MUN conference with your country's stance stated based on the respective agenda. The Position Paper is the culmination of your knowledge of the agenda, research into the problem, and ability to think critically, summed up in a 1 or 2-page document that entails (keeping respective national foreign policies in mind) your nation's stances on the agenda, the problems your nation identifies, and the solutions your nation can provide to help mitigate the problems. The position paper is your first impression on the dais as a delegate and lays the foundation for building your case throughout the committee.

Sample:



Committee: Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC)

Country: France

Name of Delegate: [REDACTED]

Agenda: Accelerating the Implementation of Nuclear Disarmament Commitments

Nuclear disarmament directly translates into the act of lowering or eliminating the use and existence of nuclear weapons, which is advantageous to the entire world and has a positive influence, encouraging peace, integrity, and justice, which are urgently required in the world today. This issue should be a priority for all nations since, in addition to radioactive fallout and environmental damage, it has an impact on the lives of billions of people. Given the geopolitical context, France, one of the five nuclear-weapon states recognized under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), has the lowest nuclear arsenal practicable. It presently has the fourth-largest nuclear arsenal in the world, which can be delivered via cruise missiles launched from submarines and aircraft. There are numerous opportunities for the country to improve and accelerate nuclear disarmament.

In addition to strongly committing to implementing nuclear disarmament, France passionately believes in doing so. Approximately 300 nuclear warheads are present in France; 290 of them are strategically positioned, while the other 10 are held in reserve. The Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) was ratified by France in 1992, and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) was ratified by France in 1996 and 1998, which were significant advances toward disarmament. The number of warheads France has deployed has been cut in half since the Cold War's peak, nuclear weapons are no longer stationed on the Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier, and nuclear weapons launch times have been extended to several days. These are all significant steps toward disarmament taken by France.

Possible solutions that can be explored by all nations are:

1. No First Use policy: States could pledge that they will never be the first to use a nuclear weapon, regardless of the circumstances. Doing so would reduce the risk of miscalculation during a crisis and limit the possibility of a smaller, non-nuclear conflict escalating into a nuclear one.
2. De-alerting: With some 2,000 US and Russian weapons remaining on a dangerously high state of alert – ready to be launched within minutes of receiving information (or misinformation) about an opponent's attack - the risk remains very high of nuclear war being triggered by accidental or unauthorized launches. The prospect of human or system error is an omnipresent reality, with the risk compounded by the prospect of cyber sabotage of communications systems. The highest priority must, therefore, be given to taking as many weapons as possible off their high-alert status.

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