

Human Rights Counsel: **Human Trafficking**



Chairs: Julia Maloney, Lexie Yoel, Amanda Collins

General Parliamentary Procedure

Point of Order - A Point of Order may interrupt a speech and be used when a delegate feels that the Chair or another delegate is not correctly following the rules of procedure.

Point of Inquiry - A Point of Inquiry may not interrupt a speaker and may be used to direct a question to the chair to clarify parliamentary procedure or to ask a question. Substantive analyses or speeches may not be made using a point of inquiry.

Point of Information - A Point of Information may not interrupt a speech and may be used either to clarify a point or motion, or to bring substantive information to the notice of the Dais. No analyses or speeches may be made using a point of information.

Point of Personal Privilege - A Point of Personal Privilege may be raised when a delegate's ability to participate in debate is immediately impaired for any physical or logistical reason (for instance, if the speaker is not audible). In addition, this point may be used to bring up any issues with the conditions of the room, such as lighting or temperature. This point may interrupt a speech, and the Dais will immediately try to resolve the difficulty.

Right of Reply - The Right of Reply may be invoked in the rare case that a delegate feels his or her personal dignity or integrity has been deliberately offended. The delegate may raise his placard and ask the Chair for a Right of Reply which will be judged at the Chair's discretion.

Motion for a Moderated Caucus - A motion to enter into a moderated caucus must specify the topic of debate, the length of the caucus, and the speaker's time. Much of committee debate is expected to take place in moderated caucus.

Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus - A motion for an unmoderated caucus is up to the Chair's discretion and must specify a topic of debate for the caucus. If this motion passes, the rules of debate will be suspended for the given amount of time, and delegates will be permitted to leave their seats to discuss and write documents for submission.

Motion to Introduce Documents - A motion to introduce documents must be recognized by the chair for any of the documents to be presented or discussed. The document will be read out loud by the Chair or by the presenting delegate and be submitted for committee discussion if it has at least four signatures from delegates. If the document is a directive it will abide by the rules set forth below.

Motion for a Q&A Session - At the Chair's discretion, after a document has been submitted for debate, a delegate may motion for a question and answer session to ask questions of the document's author(s). If the Chair approves this motion, the rules of debate will be suspended for a session whose length is subject to the Chair's discretion.

Motion to Enter Voting Procedure - If a delegate deems that a document has been sufficiently discussed, he or she may motion to enter voting procedure. If this motion passes, debate will be suspended on that document, and the committee will enter voting procedure.

Motion to Suspend Debate - At the end of a committee session, a delegate may motion to suspend debate. If this motion passes, debate will be suspended and resume at the next committee session. This motion may be ruled out of order at the Chair's discretion.

Motion to Adjourn Debate - At the end of the final committee session, a delegate may motion to adjourn debate. If this motion passes, debate at this committee for this conference will be adjourned, and committee business will be concluded. This motion may be ruled out of order at the Chair's discretion.

Between Delegates - Delegates are encouraged to exchange ideas amongst one another during unmoderated caucus and through the passing of notes during normal flow of debate. Out of respect for other members of the Ministry, however, talking during another member's speech will not be tolerated. The chair may take disciplinary action against delegates who do not adhere to this policy.

Background:

Over the last year, the COVID-19 pandemic has fueled many social, economic, and political changes across the globe. Some of these changes have been for the better. For instance, the pandemic has heightened public appreciation for essential workers like healthcare providers, teachers, and others. It has also invited creative solutions to the challenges of working and learning from home or maintaining operations with heightened public health precautions. Many of the changes that the pandemic has brought to bear, however, have been for the worse. Businesses faltered during state-wide lockdowns, and unemployment rates soared. Many individuals in extended lockdowns have experienced deteriorating mental health, and several people were found on the brink of eviction. As in many of the previous examples, the area of human trafficking has experienced a combination of good and bad changes over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Understanding this conversation about human trafficking depends first on the precept that each person is deserving of basic human rights. Ideas about human rights have been around for centuries, but the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)—proclaimed on 10 December 1948 by the United Nations General Assembly—defines these rights more clearly.¹ This is the first document that has widely and explicitly recognized certain fundamental rights and has offered a way for more human rights interventions to be taken by the global community. Yet, even with many heads of government supporting the UDHR, there have been violations within their borders, that as human trafficking.

Human trafficking refers to the “recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of people through force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them for profit,” according to the United Nations.² It thrives in places with rampant human rights violations, but the act of trafficking leads to even more violations—thus creating a sort of vicious cycle. Human traffickers target those who are in desperate search of a different life for a variety of reasons. Then, these traffickers move their victims from one place to a completely new, unfamiliar one where they are forced to become entirely dependent on their traffickers. The traffickers gain full power over their victims because they have control of some aspects of a victim’s hierarchy of needs.

On the other hand, victims of human trafficking often find themselves sacrificing power to traffickers because of desperate measures, like poverty, hunger, and inequality. Orlando Patterson, a historical and cultural sociologist who has completed a lot of work related to slavery and human trafficking, has followed a model where human trafficking leads to multiple different forms of forced labor or into modern-day slavery.⁴ More specifically, the forms of forced labor that Patterson emphasizes include sexual servitude, marital servitude, infant trafficking, organ trafficking, bonded labor, international migrant forced labor, domestic servitude, child servitude, and public servitude. Each of these results in various human rights violations outlined by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Although steps have been taken over the last decade to reduce the number of trafficked victims, the pandemic has pushed much of that progress off course.

Since there are various forms of human trafficking, not each aspect has been equally impacted in recent years. For example, there may have been a decrease in international migrant forced labor due to travel restrictions between countries. However, domestic servitude has likely increased because of the lack of response from responders. Certain groups of people may also be more affected than others. Females and younger children have felt a reduction in their physical and mental health throughout 2020, and since these individuals are also at higher risk of trafficking, the effects are amplified.

By participating in this committee, delegates should gain a well-rounded understanding of the challenges of reducing human trafficking in all its forms. It is not simply enough to indicate which human rights are being violated. The international community knows it must do more to prevent human trafficking and help its victims, but there are many different obstacles to overcome first. Financial support has been beneficial in the past, but now, the task of addressing human trafficking has become much bigger: the infrastructural system central to stopping trafficking are collapsing due to the pandemic. Delegates will brainstorm innovative ideas for the future and hopefully learn more about the process of collaborating and compromising with one another along the way.

Possible Sources:

https://www.unodc.org/documents/Advocacy-Section/HTMSS_Thematic_Brief_on_COVID-19.pdf

<https://www.amnestyusa.org>

<https://www.state.gov/2020-report-on-u-s-government-efforts-to-combat-trafficking-in-persons/>

<https://kathmandupost.com/national/2021/02/21/nepal-needs-to-amend-human-trafficking-laws-to-fully-enforce-palermo-protocol-experts-say>

<https://ciedp.gov.np/en/home/>

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/what-human-trafficking/human-trafficking/victims#:~:text=The%20International%20Labor%20Organization%20estimates,foreign%20nationals%20and%20U.S.%20citizens.>

Topics of Debate:

- A. What are some political and/or social changes that could be implemented to improve this issue?
- B. Should the UN intervene in order to put these changes and solutions into effect?
- C. Who is being targeted and how do we protect them? (countries, minorities, age groups, etc)
- D. As opposed to pre covid, how has covid-19 made it more difficult to solve this pressing issue and how do we overcome the barriers created?

Position Papers

Position papers are *not* required to be eligible for awards. However, they are highly recommended as they aid delegates in achieving a better understanding of their objectives and the objectives of their fellow delegates. In addition to writing a position paper, delegates are encouraged to bring any resources or notes they require, so long as they are printed prior to the conference or written. This does not include documents or resolutions, which will not be accepted if written prior to the opening of committee. These resources do not need to be shared with the dais. Position papers should be written using standard MLA format, double-spaced, size 12 Times New Roman font. Please email a PDF file of your position paper to julia.maloney@northsalemschools.org. Please include the committee and delegation you represent in the subject line of the email.

Delegations Represented

- Russian Federation
- United States
- Nepal
- India
- China
- Japan
- Ecuador
- Mexico
- Islamic Republic of Iran
- Sudan
- Indonesia
- Vietnam
- Ukraine
- Myanmar
- Venezuela
- Norway
- Israel
- Switzerland
- Canada
- Cuba
- Brazil
- Spain
- Afghanistan
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Egypt
- France
- Greece
- Italy
- Netherlands
- North Korea