



# 37<sup>th</sup> Annual MVHSMUN Conference

*“Opus Justitiae Pax”*

The Work of Justice Shall be Peace

Committee: Novice CCPCJ

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Hello Delegates, my name is Emily Abarca and I will be your head chair for the 2019 MVHS CCPCJ committee. I am a Junior in high school and am a part of the MVHS Marching Band, as well as the MVHS Lacrosse Program. My favorite thing to do when I'm not practicing 5 hours a day for Marching Band is doing homework, watching Netflix, and making Tik Toks (occasionally lol). I am looking forward to seeing you all at the MVHS conference and hope you all have a blast! See you soon!

Hi delegates! My name is Emma Haririan and I will be your vice-chair for the 2019 MVHS MUN conference. I am a sophomore at Mission Viejo High School and this is my second year in MUN. I play club soccer for Pateadores, and I play for the high school team at MVHS. During my free time, I enjoy hanging out with my friends, working out, and staying active. I'm looking forward to a fun and eventful committee with you all!

## Novice CCPCJ: Death Penalty

### I. Background

Throughout history, punishments were given to those who committed a crime. In the early eighteenth century B.C., the first death penalty took place, influencing others to take the same route of punishment. The Death Penalty, also known as Capital Punishment, is when a person is sentenced to death for a crime they committed. Death sentences were carried out by crucifixion, impalement, burning alive, beating, boiling, beheading, hanging, drowning, and many more. Capital punishment first came about as far back as the Ancient Laws of China and was later followed by the Code of King Hammurabi of Babylon. Unlike the Ancient Laws of China and the Code of King Hammurabi of Babylon, Britain had the biggest influence on the death penalty spreading all around the world. With the punishment extending all over the regions, more than 4% of innocent people have been executed due to the innocent being accused of crimes they did not commit. The death penalty can be seen as a problem in the eyes of many countries because of the violation of the most absolute law, the right to life. Capital



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Punishment has been seen as inhumane and discriminatory by countries that do not support it and by the United Nations as well.

## II. UN Involvement

The United Nations (UN) is an intergovernmental organization that maintains international peace and security. The UN passed a resolution on December 18, 2007, that proclaimed a global moratorium on the death penalty for the time being to respect the rights of those on death row. World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Amicus, and Amnesty International are some of many organizations that specialize in fighting against the death penalty. The United Nations is open to new resolutions for the death penalty as they believe that there should be another way to punish those who have committed a crime.

## III. Possible Solutions

Some of the possible solutions that one should take into consideration are to take a look at other aspects in the inmate's life, a new execution method, be more certain that a person commit the crime, or demolish the death penalty all together.

## IV. Bloc Positions

**Asian Bloc** - Would like to demolish the death penalty but struggles due to 9 countries still participating in execution (Japan, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates).

**Latin Bloc** - Most countries have abolished the death penalty except for two countries (Brazil and Guatemala).

**European Bloc** - Most countries have abolished the death penalty except for two countries (Belarus and Russia).



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**African Bloc** - Would like to demolish the death penalty but struggles due to 8 countries still participating in execution (Botswana, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Libya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Nigeria).

## V. Guiding Questions

1. What is your country's position towards the death penalty?
2. Why is your country for or against the death penalty?
3. How will you convince others on your government's decision?

Links to aid your research:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/death-penalty/>

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/history-of-the-death-penalty/>

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## Conditions For Prisoners

### I. Background

Considering the conditions for prisoners has been an ongoing issue for years and years on end. Depending on the seriousness of a crime, the culprit may get served time in prison. The issue that arises from this is the treatment of those prisoners once they are there. Some may say that prisoners are deprived of their human rights, and this should no longer continue. Statistics have proven that those who have received respectful and humane treatment in prison have been more responsive to rehabilitative help, whereas those who were treated poorly and without respect left prison with poor mental health and did not care to seek for additional help. In order to maintain a stable and fair criminal justice system, it is crucial that prisoners are only given the punishment which they were sentenced and no more than that. The conditions in prison should not serve as an additional punishment, and prisoners should still be ensured basic



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human rights. Some are deprived of safety, sanitation, and clean food and water. Along with this, discrimination is highly likely to take place, based on race, religion, sex, language, or political opinions. The UN must take action on this issue to ensure human rights for all people. Both mental and physical health can be negatively affected by poor treatment in prison. In order to ensure world peace and fair treatment amongst citizens within societies, a solution must be proposed.

## **II. UN Involvement**

On May 13, 1977, the United Nations came together to form rules for the treatment of prisoners. These rules ensure the prisoners to uphold their basic human rights, for example, sleeping accommodations, exercise, fresh air, sanitary installations, and equal treatment amongst all people. Many human rights organizations have taken account of this issue and urged for solutions, such as the Criminal Justice Policy Foundation, National Prison Project, and Human Rights Watch. All three of these organizations, along with many others, strive to alleviate the cruel treatment towards people in prison and urge to ensure their human rights. Acting upon this issue was called for by the United Nations due to the fact that prisoners around the world have continuously been treated poorly and stripped of their human rights. Although conditions for prisoners may not be a problem that can be easily seen for civilians living their everyday life, there are people who are facing a larger punishment than they should be. The UN has addressed this problem by forming a resolution tackling the lack of sanitation,



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accommodating food, sleep, and fresh air for prisoners. These aspects of life are crucial in order to maintain both physical and mental health.

### **III. Possible Solutions**

Tackling this issue will take require a global effort coming from both countries and its citizens. It's important that those who are serving their time in prison are not facing an absurd amount of complications in their living conditions. Possible solutions may be to pair with NGOs, increase funding for prisons in order to increase living conditions, or increase security in prisons to ensure no violence takes place. Each prison is different and many may not treat their inmates poorly, whoever it is evident that prisoners who are able to obtain their human rights do leave prison more willing to get back on their feet. Whereas those who are treated poorly do not have as much motivation or will to grow off of themselves. Considering providing therapeutic help for prisoners once they are done serving their time is a possible solution as well. All in all, more awareness must be brought to this issue in order for prisons to change and improve their living conditions.

### **IV. Bloc Positions**

**Asian Bloc:** Known for their high security and large amounts of labor. Prisoners do not get rewarded a sufficient amount for the work that they do, which can lead to further issues coming back to their human rights.



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**Latin American Bloc:** Prison conditions are continuing to stagnate. Massacres, riots, and other violent actions have been occurring in this region. Blocs in this region may focus more on minimizing the amount of violence taking place and increase security within prisons.

**European Bloc:** Tend to experience overcrowding, so the European bloc would take the position of ensuring adequate housing for each inmate so they can each live comfortably. Prisons in Africa also experience similar problems when it comes to overcrowding, however a lack of medical services is also a widespread problem.

**Middle Eastern Bloc:** Many prisons refuse to allow human rights groups into their facilities. These actions should not be tolerated by governments and must be tackled in order to ensure human rights for prisons.

Although prisons in different regions all require their own improvements in specific areas, all countries as a part of the UN must come together and improve the conditions for prisoners all around the world.

## V. Guided Questions

1. What are the conditions like for prisons in your country?
2. What resolutions have been passed in order to improve the conditions for prisoners?



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3. What NGOs can you be a part of to help?
4. Why is this a leading issue in the world?

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