



37th Annual MVHSMUN Conference

“opus justitiae pax”

The Work of Justice Shall be Peace

Committee: CCPCJ

Topic: Death Penalty & Illicit Drug Trading

Hello delegates! My name is Kamille Kibria and I will be your head chair at the MVHSMUN 2020 Conference. I am a senior at Mission and this is my fourth year of MUN. At Mission, I am involved in many programs and activities: including varsity volleyball, CSF, and The Save the Ocean Club. In my free time I love to surf, draw, and spend time with friends. I am so excited to spend the weekend with you all and cannot wait to hear the debate you have prepared!

Hello! My name is Shubhang Rajpara and I will be your vice chair for the 2020 Mission MUN Conference! I am currently a senior at El Toro and have been a part of MUN for all four years. I'm also on the El Toro Varsity Team as the 2020 Captain, and I love being outdoors. My favorite candy is snickers and I can't wait to see you at the conference!

Position papers due on:

January 3rd, 2020

Email to:

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Death Penalty

Background:

As many know it, the death penalty has been a highly controversial topic that continues to rage on till date. It first began as a form of punishment to the twenty five different crimes listed on the Code of King Hammurabi of Babylon within the 18th century BC. Now, it's used to punish those who commit heinous crimes that have no other form of equal punishment. The act of taking someone's life has been considered inhumane, and in some cases “unjust,” to a multitude of individuals. Recently US senators, congressmen and women have made it public that they don't stand for the death penalty, and claim that “it fails to reduce violence.” At the same time, however, some argue that the death penalty should be allowed as it acts as a deterrant for others who may committ the same crime. It serves as an incapacitant for the criminal, since it takes away the possibility of them committing the same crime over again. The death penalty also serves as retribution, as those who support give the argument of “an eye for an eye” if the criminal had committed murder or another act that took away someone else's life. Some methods of the death penalty, that some countries take on are hangings, the electric chair, and lethal injections. Many don't realize, but the mental, and perhaps even physical, state of the families who had a member executed are detrimentally affected. It's been claimed that these executions can divide up many families, as some will agree on giving the death penalty to their relative while others will protest in favor against it. Not to mention, but the act of carrying out the death penalty, if sentenced, is very time consuming and expensive. Despite this, the sentencing of the death penalty has been reduced significantly from its early ages, as the United Nations has condemned it, with many countries following them and abolishing it within their borders.



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UN Involvement:

As mentioned earlier, the United Nations has condemned many countries that take on, and continue, to sentence the death penalty. They have been heavily involved on this topic of debate, with the previous Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon, stating that “the death penalty has no place in the 21 century. Leaders across the globe must boldly step forward in favour of abolition.”

Specifically, the UN has created and passed resolution A/RES/62/149, which proclaims that all countries around the world must put a halt towards giving the death penalty for a period of time, also known as a moratorium. This resolution was passed multiple times, when the previous one became “inactive,” so that they may focus on creating a more well suited resolution that would appeal to all countries regarding this matter. They have focused on getting all countries to respect the right to live, convincing 106 of the 198 nations to abolish the death penalty. The UN Human Rights Office has urged many countries that haven’t abolished the death penalty to refrain from executing certain individuals, such as children and pregnant women. Additionally, many NGOs are fighting against the death penalty as well, with the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty being the biggest non-profit in the world. They plan on achieving their goal of attaining “universal abolition of the death penalty” by encouraging countries around the globe to partake in events, such as World Day Against the Death Penalty, to slowly eradicate this form of practice.

Case Study:

In 2000, an innocent man was executed in Texas. This man, Claude Jones, was sentenced a wrongful execution, as he was convicted of committing murder. In this scenario, witnesses claimed that they had seen Jones go into a liquor store and shoot the owner, and drive away with another man. What they did not know was that Jones was in fact the driver and not the murderer. In court, the murderer, Kerry Dixon, testified and lied about how Jones was the shooter, resulting in the sentencing of the death penalty for him. The only piece of evidence that supported this claim was a strand of hair that seemed to be Jones’s, but in fact was the owner’s. Since DNA testing wasn’t technologically advanced back then, it couldn’t be confirmed that the hair strand was in fact



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Jones's. So in 2000, Jones was finally executed. Seven years later, the case was reopened to prove that the state of Texas had executed an innocent man, in which they were finally able to accurately analyze the hair strands and found that it matched with the liquor store owner's DNA than Claude Jones's.

This case raises questions about the sentencing of the death penalty. It makes many wonder whether or not countries should continue to allow this practice within their borders, and if this is a fair form of punishment. Had the state of Texas had not executed Jones, he would still be alive today. Knowing this, it shows how detrimental and unfair the death penalty can be, as well as the lasting effects it can have.

Questions to Consider:

1. What other forms other than the death penalty are more feasible, and “just” as a form of punishment for the criminal(s)?
2. In the case that a prisoner serving a life sentence, assuming that death penalty is banned whatever contry/state they are in, and kills an inmate or guard then what form of punishment should the prisoner now face?
3. Why is life without parole a better option that the death penalty?
4. Who should have the power to determine whether or not a death penalty is appropriate or not? The victim and/or his/her family, or court official?
5. Is there a direct solution to this issue? If so, how effectively can it be implemented within countries that already practice the death penalty? If not, what measures should be taken to tackle this problem?

Recommended Reading:

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The Work of Justice Shall be Peace Illicit Drug Trade

Background:

Illicit drug trading, also known as drug trafficking, has been a major problem that has been presented to the world since as early as the 1700s. The cultivation, distribution, and sale of drugs bring in about \$322 billion annually. Many Southern American countries are heavily affected by this as illicit drug trading takes place in these areas the most. This has become a bigger problem in the nineteenth century when drugs like cocaine, heroin, and morphine were discovered by the public, and many people started getting addicted. On December 2, 1993 Pablo Escobar, one of the most infamous drug lords of the time, was killed, ending his regime. However, this only led to a new era of other drug lords and organizations who took up his mantle, and the cycle of drug lords has continued ever since. Not much progress has been made against drug trafficking as the drug community has only grown larger with the increased demand throughout its network. This issue needs to be addressed immediately as an alarming amount of individuals die from laced drugs, or which can alter their thinking permanently.

UN Involvement:

The UN's approach to the illicit drug trade is multifaceted and orchestrates comprehensive actions in an attempt to address the social, economic, public safety, health, and educational aspects of the issue. In countering the world drug problem, the UN's endeavors revolve heavily around three major international drug control treaties: the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. On the side of prevention, UNODC promotes the construction of strategies directed towards information and knowledge, such as propaganda campaigns advising against the use of drugs. UNODC also offers legal assistance to countries for the implementation of UN's conventions and treaties for drug control, with necessary adaptations to national legislations. Through the UN System Task Force on Transnational Organized Crime and Drug Trafficking, aims to shape international policy and increase the focus of the drug trade on



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enforcement of laws. With strengthened ties between the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the UNODC, and the scientific community, scientific research in drug demand and supply reduction policies is being promoted. On the side of treatment, seeks to improve the quality of response to abuse and dependence on drugs through international cooperation and information interchange between different countries through their global initiative, Treatnet. On the side of monitoring, UNODC undertakes the promotion of studies and analyses on drug production, traffic, consumption in order to offer viable and innovative solutions at the international level. There is constant monitoring and researching going on in order to understand the dynamics of the illicit drug trade as published in the annual World Drug Report.

Possible Solutions:

The issue of illicit drug trade has many avenues that can be tackled. While education and awareness of the issue is important, should not be the main focus of your argument in regards to eradicating the issue. Legal issues should be addressed, including the update of definitions in the law, as well as improved enforcement and punishment protocol. A large issue with the drug trade includes the use as well as abuse of medical drugs. Improved border security of affluent nations is also a viable option as a way to stifle the influx of drugs across borders. Prevention methodologies may also come about through alternative development, so that impoverished countries are not reliant on the income brought in by the drug trade. Youth targeted programs could also be widely used. If the drug trade is not as large of an issue in your country, focus on the indirect externalities of drug use, such as HIV, that is adaptable to other nations as well. Keep in mind the economic, political, and social effects of the implementation of your solutions as well.

Questions to Consider:

1. How has your country been affected? What has your country done in response?
2. How can regulating drug trafficking be incentivized?
3. What can be done to increase regulation for overseas transit to prevent exploitation?
4. Are there any safer practices that could be encouraged within the Golden Crescent Region?
5. Would your country support the introduction of low cost care for addicts within the region?



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