

**CERRITOS CONFERENCE 2021**

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**UNICEF**

**TOPIC:**  
CONTEMPORARY CHILD SLAVERY  
BACKGROUND

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**DIRECTOR: HANNA YANG**

October 9th, 2021

To Delegates of CHSMUN Novice 2021

Dear Delegates,  
Welcome to CHSMUN Novice 2021!

It is our highest honor and pleasure to welcome you all to our 2021 novice conference here at Cerritos High School. On behalf of the Cerritos High School Model United Nations program, we are proud to host this conference, where you will become more knowledgeable on international issues, participate in intellectually stimulating discussions, and create new and everlasting friendships.

The CHSMUN program continues to compete around the world as a nationally ranked MUN program. Our delegates utilize diplomacy in order to create complex solutions towards multilateral issues in the global community. Our head chairs are selected from only the best seniors of our program, undergoing a rigorous training process to ensure the highest quality of moderating and grading of debate. Furthermore, all the topic synopses have been reviewed and edited numerous times. We strongly believe that by providing each and every delegate with the necessary tools and understanding, he or she will have everything they need to thrive in all aspects of the committee. We thoroughly encourage each delegate to engage in all of the facets of their topic, in order to grow in their skills as a delegate and develop a greater knowledge of the world around them.

Although there will be a few changes to our conference due to Covid-19, our advisors and staff have put in countless hours to ensure delegates have an amazing experience. Our greatest hope is that from attending CHSMUN 2021, students are encouraged to continue on in Model United Nations and nevertheless, inspired to spark change in their surrounding communities. With this strong circuit consisting of over 500 delegates, CHSMUN Novice 2021 will provide a quality experience for beginner delegates to enhance their speaking and delegating skills.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact us! We look forward to seeing you at CHSMUN Novice 2021!

Sincerely,

Anushka Panjwani & Naima Dellawar

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Secretary-Generals

## **A Note From Director:**

Dear Delegates,

My name is Hanna Yang, and I am honored to be chairing the UNICEF committee. As a senior, this is my final year of MUN, and I am super excited to chair for CHSMUN 2021. I can proudly say that this program has taught me so many skills that I can apply in the future. Through this program, I was able to travel and meet international delegates all over the world. Outside of MUN, I love to spend time with my friends and family, listen to k-pop, watch korean dramas, stay active, and travel, maybe going to national parks! Fun fact about me is... I don't like dogs... Anyways, that is a whole different topic.

Within the past years of MUN, I have obtained many skills through attending local conferences, chairing, and interacting with other delegates. At the end of the day, through this conference, I hope to see delegates in smiles and create new diplomatic relations with other delegates. The secretariat and chairs have been working tirelessly to provide the best experiences for all delegates, therefore, I hope that CHSMUN 2021 provides you all with practice, growth, improvement, knowledge, and hope to see you apply them into your lives to make a change in the community! I am looking forward to meeting everyone. Overall, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,  
Hanna Yang  
Director, UNICEF  
Committee Email: [Unicef.CHSMUN@gmail.com](mailto:Unicef.CHSMUN@gmail.com)

## **Committee Introduction:**

Children are an important part of society, as the future depends on their healthy development. As rising problems in the world always leave children vulnerable but not limited to, attacks, scarcity of water, lack of housing, poor health conditions, poverty, discrimination, malnutrition, inadequate education, armed conflict, violence, trafficking, and sexual exploitation, it is important to bring the international community's focus onto issues affecting children. In 1946, UNICEF was established after World War II, when young children were exposed to risks of malnutrition, separation from families, gases, and many more. UNICEF, altering its original name of United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund to United Nations Children's Fund in 1953 has been aiming towards assisting a broader variety of children all over the world.

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) elects 36 member states to represent the UNICEF, each elected representative to serve in three year terms. While other committees such as Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) are committed to improving human rights for children and incorporating children's rights into United Nations policies, the UNICEF works in person with children and women, working on a global scale through cooperation with the governments, nonprofits, civil societies, and other un-bodies. Working in over 190 countries, UNICEF develops resolutions focused on children welfare.

Executing quarterly meetings, Joint meeting, First regular session, Annual session, and Second regular session, the UNICEF and Executive board utilizes these meeting to discuss Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) following the global pandemic, running

reports on HIV/AIDS programs, support implementation towards Sustainable Development Goals, run work summaries, financial reports, adopt draft resolutions, collaborate with countries and Executive Boards of committees such as United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) or UN-WOMEN. Furthermore, UNICEF collaborates with member states, non-governmental organizations, experts, and UN agencies to develop agendas pushing towards Sustainable Development Goals. The most recent session is a joint meeting between the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women, and WFP, which was held on May 27th via a virtual meeting room due to the current pandemic. This meeting was focused on discussing strategic approach from each UN principal organ, the General Assembly (GA), the Security Council (UNSC), the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), and the Secretariat, on a unified UN delivering as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Topic: Contemporary Child Slavery

### Background:

A long history of slavery was taught at school, from punishments and labor to the Civil War, to the abolition of slavery. Developed by OHCHR and signed in September 1926 through the Slavery Convention, the definition of slavery was established as, “the status or condition of a person over whom any or all of the powers attaching to the right of ownership are exercised.” Although slavery has been abolished in many nations, modern forms of slavery are increasing and have evolved over time, especially being found prevalent in children. Although there are many forms of child slavery, such as sexual exploitation, this debate will be focused on forced/bonded labor, child trafficking, and child soldiers.

Forced labor and debt bondage are some of the most common forms of contemporary child slavery. With 25 million people victims of forced labor, of those, 4 million of them are children. Some children, needing to provide for their families or pay for food, will first borrow money from traffickers, and in return work in servitude domestically or overseas. Traffickers imprison them until they have paid off all of their debt. Many times, these children are taken advantage of, as the ability to escape or transport is deprived, for example stealing passports. 50% of forced laborers are affected by debt bondage, with 8 million people proven to be tied to bonded labor. As children are working in factories, construction, mines, and other hazardous workplaces, and since children’s bodies and minds are in the process of developing, they are more vulnerable to mental disorders, illness, trafficking, having limbs torn off, unable to obtain proper education, or even death.

Child trafficking is the most popular form of contemporary child slavery, which involves the exploitation of children, violence, and neglect. As there are many different forms of child trafficking, including prostitution, labor, and forced marriage, one child can be trafficked multiple times in various forms. Of the 40 million humans trafficked, 25% of them are children, and these have major effects on developing children, such as depression, hopelessness, PTSD,

low self-esteem, anxiety attacks, and suicide. Traffickers may use different forms of control, such as violence, or sexual and emotional abuse. Additionally, traffickers may be a single entity, a medium-sized group, or be a part of larger networks involving money laundering and affect large amounts of child victims. This form of slavery is extremely dangerous, as trafficking can lead to other forms of slavery, such as forced labor.

There are currently over 250,000 children fighting in dangerous armed conflicts. Child soldiers have recruited minors that may or may not participate in the fighting. Child soldiers may come in form of a military man, cook, spies, messenger, sex slave, etc. As the recruitment of children starts as early as age 10, some common reasons why children are recruited is because they are easier to manipulate, cheaper, obedient, and easier to brainwash, as some children may not know their identity, ideology, or morals. For example, young children might not be able to distinguish that death is bad. Many times, recruitment is voluntary. Since children are suffering from poverty, inadequate education, or discrimination, they find child slavery as an escape or solution from their current situations. However, recruiters often specifically target vulnerable children, and in the process, will rape, torture, or kill family members to recruit child soldiers.

As modern forms of child slavery are prevalent all over the globe, it hinders the growth and progress that organizations, governmental organizations, and the United Nations, are making towards children's human rights. It is important for delegates to consider feasible solutions that will prevent modern forms of child slavery and solutions to aid the aftermath of children affected by contemporary forms of slavery.

## United Nations Involvement:

The United Nations has made the initial response to modern slavery by marking December 2nd as the official date for the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery. This day was established to gather society's attention to eradicating contemporary forms of slavery. This day was also symbolic for the General Assembly's adoption of the Resolutions 317 (IV), United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons, and of the Exploitations of the Prostitution of Others. Furthermore, the United Nations began to focus on eradicating modern slavery within the youth, by establishing the Convention on the Rights of Youth. This convention aimed towards promoting economic exploitation and promoting the rights of children to secure hazardous working conditions, as well as any conditions that prevent education, harmful to a child's health, or overall development. This convention was proven successful, as 196 countries have signed this document that contains 54 articles of basic child's rights that the government should take responsibility for. Despite active cooperation and resolutions proposed by UNICEF, UNICEF has been collaborating with OHCHR and ILO to establish the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children in 2000. Through this protocol, an official definition of trafficking was established, as "recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion for the purpose of exploitation." To further supplement this protocol that calls for a stop to child labor, ILO established the 50 for Freedom campaign. This campaign works with a goal to persuade 50 countries to ratify the Protocol, currently 27 countries being successfully convinced.

# Case Study: Cocoa Production in West Africa

Cocoa production has been evidently profitable in West Africa since the 1800s, as the countries of Ghana and Ivory Coast are responsible for producing two-thirds of the cocoa supply in the whole world. With a profit of more than \$100 billion in just sales, demands for more products have been rapidly increasing. However, in 2013, research done by Tulane University estimates that 2.12 million child laborers are involved in cocoa production, and 96% of those laborers experience hazardous working conditions. As cocoa production is labor-intensive for young children, child laborers were involved in clearing lands, lifting overweight loads, use of machetes, and working over hours with exposure to agrochemicals or toxic pesticides, which is detrimental to children's developing brain. Agrochemicals also have a link with birth defects, abnormal weight, poisoning, lower IQs, and experience higher risks of autism, ADHD, or cancer. Treatment is worse, as education is cut from working long hours and abuse is involved when a child fails to meet a certain expectation. The main reason why West Africa and other countries face modern forms of slavery is because of the cultural views. Many people in West Africa view child labor acceptable, a way to learn new skills, maintain a farming culture, or a method to help families economically.

In order to alleviate this issue, the International Cocoa Initiative (ICI) has established a strategic plan for the Cocoa Protocol, which aimed to alleviate child slavery through collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO). In 2005, Although ICI planned to create the Verification Working Group, which focused on making sure cocoa was grown without forced labor, ICI was not able to follow through with this system until 2008.

## Bloc Positions:

**Western Bloc:** As of 2016, there were 403,000 cases of modern slavery alone in the United States. The Western Bloc is utilizing its leading technology advancements and cooperation with governmental agencies to create national hotline services dedicated to combating modern slavery. Additionally, although most Western Blocs collect data on modern slavery, countries are not transparent about their data. As modern slavery continues to expand, the Western Bloc should still tackle modern slavery through but are not limited to stronger legislation, improving transparency, and assisting victims.

**Latin American and Caribbean Bloc:** Gangs and violence have become mainstream in many parts of the Latin American and Caribbean Blocs, therefore, making these regions a key destination for child trafficking. Along with corrupt governments and underdeveloped counties, it is harder to track the amount of modern slavery happening in these regions. As many of these countries deal with different major issues such as drug crises, the issue of contemporary forms of slavery for children has been deprioritized.

**African Bloc:** This bloc has is known to have the highest prevalence of modern slavery. 9% of children are involved in hazardous work. Slavery has never ceased to exist in African Blocs, especially for children migrants and refugees that are constantly taken advantage of. With a

combination of discrimination, the Slave trade is seen to be prevalent in this area with European and neighboring Regions. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) suggested that almost half a million migrants from the African Bloc are currently exploited in Libya alone. Furthermore, with weak governments, child slavery continues to expand.

**Asian-Pacific Bloc:** The Asian-Pacific Bloc is greatly known to be by far the largest source of goods, importing billions of dollars worth of goods globally. However, without transparency within companies and factories, child labor is very common in the Asian Pacific Bloc. For example, North Korea is known to have the highest number of modern slavery, with 10% of their whole population, or 2.6 million individuals affected by modern slavery.

## Basic Solutions:

In order to first identify and track children that are affected by this issue, it is important to obtain sufficient data. Proper data collection on child slavery could monitor children's location, humanitarian needs, and promote safety. Identifying a child's location is essential since bondage, trafficking, and child soldiers are often separated from their home, and are smuggled overseas for servitude. Not only improving data collection through tracking or biometrics, but analysis of these data is crucial for these solutions to be impactful.

With many solutions that may be suggested, proper funding is key to carry out solutions and make a lasting impact. Therefore, coalitions such as Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST), have been tirelessly working to fund projects, programs, and solutions that combat modern-day slavery. Focusing on the United States, this coalition works to provide members of the Congress and Federal Agencies with accurate data, further assisting in drafting legislation aiming to combat modern slavery. This coalition contains Member organizations under its umbrella, such as Humanity United Action, Oak Foundation, and NEO Philanthropy, that assist solutions financially with grants, making it possible for ATEST and other organizations to physically carry out their mission.

These solutions are additional ideas that delegates may use, however, should not be limited to these solutions. It is important to bring out creative, feasible, and impactful solutions that will alleviate this issue globally.

## Questions to Consider:

1. How can the international community work together to prevent contemporary forms of slavery while maintaining national security?
2. What are some obstacles hindering the effectiveness of current solutions used by the United Nations and other NGOs?
3. How are these issues mentioned above linked to a greater problem on an international scale?
4. What steps can countries or communities take to support governmental legislations alleviating contemporary forms of slavery?
5. Are children that are voluntarily becoming child soldiers, victims or volunteers? Should Volunteers be assisted the same as victims?

6. How can we continue to protect children from voluntarily becoming child soldiers?
7. To what extent should the punishment be placed for traffickers, groups, etc. who are responsible for contemporary forms of child slavery?
8. How can the international community collaborate to increase the representation of children in various aspects of rights, including education, healthcare, politics, etc.?
9. How can financial institutions be more involved and active in assisting solutions that alleviate contemporary forms of slavery?
10. What solutions will work towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and make progress to distribute assistance equitably to children globally?

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