

**Kennesaw State University 30th Annual High School Model United Nations
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
Kennesaw, Ga.
Email: ksuhsmun2016@gmail.com**

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to this year's iteration of High School Model United Nations (HSMUN) at Kennesaw State University! We are looking forward to an exciting year and a rewarding learning experience by simulating the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). These topics will consist of matters concerning; children's rights, survival, development and protection. UNICEF works toward addressing these matters with national, regional and international organizations in order to achieve the goal in providing a safer world for children. With this cause, we have created this background guide to help in your preparations to debate the following topics in our UNICEF simulation:

- I. Reducing children in poverty**
- II. Combatting Child Trafficking for Children Under 18**

The Dais for this committee consist of:

Vanessa Godínez will be serving as Director. She is a sophomore at Kennesaw State University. This is her second year participating in HSMUN and has participated in the model simulations of UN, NATO, and Arab League. She is majoring in International Affairs and plans to attend graduate school in New York with an aspiration to become an Ambassador in the United Nations.

Katy Sissine will be serving as chair. She is a senior at Kennesaw State University. Her major is International Affairs with a concentration in Spanish Language. Before attending KSU, she attended La Universidad de Murcia in Spain, where she studied abroad for the spring semester of 2015. She also interns at the KSU Owl Radio Station for the productions team and will be hosting her own radio show starting in January. She has been a member of Model United Nations since August and this is her first year in HSMUN.

Rachel Butler will be serving as Assistant Director. She is currently a senior at Kennesaw State University.. She is studying International Relations and French. She has spent a semester abroad in France studying French and Political Science. When she graduates she wants to work for an NGO or Non-profit organization abroad or serve in the Peace Corps in West Africa. This is her first year doing Model United Nations at Kennesaw State University and first time chairing at HSMUN.

Bradley Stallings will be serving as assistant director. He is currently a sophomore at Kennesaw State University and studying architecture and liberal arts. He is currently a member of the Model African Union (MAU) and Model European Union (MEU). He has been a proud member of MAU for 3 years and was previously a member of Model United Nations (MUN) for 2 years.

We are very excited to provide an educational and thrilling experience we hope you enjoy in this committee. It is our duty in the UNICEF committee to follow the mission statement, which is that “*UNICEF promotes the rights and wellbeing of every child, in everything we do. Together with our partners, we work in to translate that commitment into practical action, focusing special effort on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded children, to the benefit of all children*” We look forward in working with you in the 2016 meeting!

Committee History

“UNICEF is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and strives to establish children's rights as enduring ethical principles and international standards of behaviour towards children.”

Mission Statement of the United Nations Children’s Fund

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) was created in 1946 in order to provide humanitarian assistance in emergency responses. Its mandate was later changed to focus on special protection for the most disadvantaged children, such as, but not limited to being victims of war, extreme poverty, or any form of violence.[1] When the UN general assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, UNICEF became one the leading international agencies to combat children infringement. [2]

UNICEF has consistently provided aid in areas in which relatively small expenditures can have a significant impact on the lives of the most disadvantaged children, primarily focusing on limiting disease and providing treatment.[3] Since 1996, UNICEF programs have been structured to follow the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), which describes the right of all children to receive “the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health.”[4]

Transparency and accountability has been a top priority for UNICEF as it provides informative results on the development of human rights for children.[5] The report detailed that UNICEF ‘is one of the best performers and biggest improvers in the 2014 Aid Transparency Index (ATI), gaining over 20 points since 2013’. [6] By incorporating these efforts, it will make it easier to access information on aid spending and usage, while further supporting on-going efforts to make the agency more efficient and better able to deliver on its commitments to children.[7]

UNICEF’s plays a key role in the international community’s work to achieve the targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Though the Goals are for all humankind, they emphasize a focus on helping children around the world in building a better future.[8] Meeting the Goals is most critical for children, as they are most vulnerable when people lack essentials like food, water, sanitation and health care. Children are the future, and as UNICEF is the international spokesperson for children’s rights, it will continue to work hard to make sure each child receive their deserved rights.[9]

[1] "Learning Objectives." Overview of UNICEF History -. Accessed December 30, 2015. <http://www.unicef.org/nutrition/training/1.4/1.html>.

[2] Ibid

[3] Mingst, Karen. "UNICEF | International Organization." Encyclopedia Britannica Online. May 13, 2014. Accessed 2016. <http://www.britannica.com/topic/UNICEF>.

[4] ibid

[5] "Introduction to UNICEF's Work on Statistics and Monitoring." UNICEF. September 15, 2015. Accessed December 28, 2015. <http://www.unicef.org/statistics/>.

[6] ibid

[7] ibid

[8] "About the Goals." UNICEF -. Accessed December 30, 2015. http://www.unicef.org/mdg/28184_28230.htm.

[9] *ibid*

I. Reducing Children in Poverty

“Poverty is the worst kind of violence.”

-Mahatma Ghandi

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, a child in poverty is defined as having a household income lower than the global extreme poverty threshold, \$1.90. The threshold is defined in terms of Purchasing Power Parity (PPP), per person per day. To Americans and citizens of other developed states, this income seems insufficient; however, it is said to be adequate to minimally supply a person’s basics needs; nutrition, clothing and shelter. However, the global poverty line varies state to state, and the global extreme poverty threshold is thus only applicable in the most impoverished of states. For example, a middle income state’s national poverty line may be \$4, versus the global extreme poverty threshold, \$1.90.¹

Middle and high income states determine national poverty lines or thresholds to determine the minimum PPP necessary to supply one’s basic needs relative to their state’s respective economic status. It was estimated in 2015 that approximately 700 million people are living below these poverty lines and thresholds. It is important to take into consideration those in poverty by both national and global standards.²

The effects on children in poverty stretch further than the eye can see. Children from impoverished households are statistically more likely to develop physical and behavioral health issues due to the instabilities that oftentimes arise in an economically struggling family or impoverished environment. Further, impoverished families are more likely to live in areas with an inferior access to education and technological resources.³

UNICEF’s statistics reveal, that due to poverty: 16,000 children die every day; 230 million young children lack an official record of birth; 2.4 billion lack access to proper sanitation; and approximately half of the deaths of children under 5 years of age are due to malnutrition. To combat poverty, UNICEF collects data with Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS). MICS monitor the status of poverty and the most critical issues associated with it so that they can prioritize issues to tackle. MICS monitor several factors used to determine the progress of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), recently assessed by the United Nation’s Secretary General in September 2015.⁴

With extensive data analysis via MICS, UNICEF is able to: develop new methodologies to combat child poverty, assess progress of international programs and promote capacity building. UNICEF is the global leader in developing new indications and methods of the combat against child poverty by collecting the data of various indicators, such as; child labor, child mortality, water and sanitation, education, disease, malnutrition, etc. By observing the progress of programs such as: the MDGs, the World Fit for Children Declaration and Plan of Action, the General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS and the African Summit on Malaria; UNICEF facilitates collaboration among these programs and fosters progress. Further, UNICEF promotes capacity building programs which encourage local leadership and involvement in causes aiming to combat poverty.⁵

¹ Rank, New England. "Children in poverty." *development* 20 (2010): 21.

² *ibid*

³ "FAQs: Global Poverty Line Update." World Bank. September 30, 2015. Accessed December 20, 2015.

⁴ *ibid*

⁵ "Introduction to UNICEF’s Work on Statistics and Monitoring." UNICEF. September 15, 2015. Accessed December 20, 2015.

“More than 30 per cent of children in developing countries – about 600 million – live on less than US \$1 a day.”⁶ Approximately thirty million children are growing up in poverty in the world’s richest countries. UNICEF currently works specifically to eradicate poverty of children, as listed in the millennium development goals, by “getting girls to school, supporting good nutrition, assisting in water and sanitation improvement, creating a protective child environment, advocating, raising awareness and helping effect policies for children’s well-being”.⁷

By addressing these five key areas, progress is being made but there is still much more to do. In 2015 UNICEF, has been working hard to address the exclusion of girls from school because more often than not when poor families are forced to decide which child they send to school, boys are chosen over girls. Another result of extreme poverty is malnutrition and nutrient deficiencies. UNICEF addresses child hunger by “improving breastfeeding and complementary feeding, tackling micronutrient deficiencies, treating and preventing severe acute malnutrition, linking nutrition support with the treatment of HIV/AIDS, responding quickly to nutrient emergencies, improving adolescent and maternal nutrition and preventing obesity”.⁸

“Inadequate access to safe water and sanitation services, coupled with poor hygiene practices, kills and sickens thousands of children every day, and leads to impoverishment and diminished opportunities for thousands more”.⁹ By improving children’s water quality, sanitation and access to it as well as hygiene they are less likely to be plagued by disease, therefore they can be healthy enough to go to school. A lack of safety is another obstacle that currently prevents children from going to school and getting out of poverty.¹⁰

Children in poverty are at greater risk to danger and exploitation. Some of the poorest countries in the world are in conflict areas. The UN currently works to ensure safety to children in conflict areas so that they can have a better future and access to an education. One of the most effective ways to bring about change is through policy. By creating and enforcing policies that protect and better the lives of children, they are closer to getting out of poverty. Though there is still much more to be done, UNICEF works tirelessly to significantly increase the quality of life for poor children.¹¹

Committee directives

Trying to form a solution to a problem as complex as child poverty can be a daunting task but if you use good resources and address the many aspects of child poverty you are on the right track. It is important to keep in mind that eradicating poverty is one of the United Nations Millennium development goals and UNICEF has its own set list of ways it contributes to this goal.

Education is a very important factor when it comes to alleviating poverty and UNICEF works hard to secure access to education for every child. A great way to research for this topic and your state’s position on the topic is by looking up previous passed resolutions in UNICEF. By seeing previous resolutions, one can deduce and get an idea

⁶ <http://www.unicef.org/mdg/poverty.html>

⁷ United Nations Children’s Fund, ‘Measuring Child Poverty: New league tables of child poverty in the world’s rich countries’, Innocenti Report Card 10, UNICEF Office of Research, 2012.

⁸ <http://www.unicef.org/mdg/poverty.html>

⁹ http://www.unicef.org/nutrition/index_action.html

¹⁰ <http://www.unicef.org/wash/>

¹¹ *ibid*

of what your state's ideas and stance will be on future resolution. We have provided a list of informative resources at the end of this document to help you better research this topic further.

II. Combatting Child Trafficking for Children Under 18

“There can be no better measure of our governance than the way we treat our children, and no greater failing on our part than to allow them to be subjected to violence, abuse or exploitation. . . Parliamentarians have the power to alleviate the suffering of millions of children around the world, if only they would use it.”

Jessica Lang, UNICEF Ambassador

An issue that has been on the international agenda for the past couple of years is trafficking in human beings, but, more critically, trafficking children. Children trafficking should be considered as a serious human rights violation in any country. Children who have been trafficked have reported to be emotionally scarred, describing feeling ashamed, guilty, low self-esteem, and frequently stigmatized. They often feel betrayed, particularly if the perpetrator was someone they had trusted. Children trafficked into the sex industry are susceptible to contracting sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS.¹²

Unfortunately, children who are trafficked often suffer adverse effects to their social and educational development. Many have no family life and are forced to work at young ages. Without access to school or family support, they fail to develop their potential. Also, under constant surveillance and restriction, they have little to no contact with the outside world and often do not have the possibility to seek help. Children are often threaten by their capture, who keeps them isolated within destination countries and are built with the fear that restrict them of reporting the abusive work conditions to authorities.¹³

According to UNICEF (as stated in the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children) child trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of children for the purpose of exploitation. UNICEF finds the criminal act of child trafficking “A violation of the rights, the well-being of children and denies them the opportunity to reach their full potential.”¹⁴ Currently the trafficking of children has become a notorious benefactor in the criminal underworld, and is known as a benefactor of terrorism and multinational organized crime, generating an estimated \$10 billion every year.¹⁵

It is estimated that 1.2 million children are put into some form of slavery in the world. Children are often lured in by false promises of opportunity, such as education, life sustaining resources, monetary gain or citizenship. It is also extremely common in developing countries for children to be sold into slavery by their parents, due to lack of resources to provide a life sustaining environment for their children. It is also common practice for children to be forcibly kidnapped from their homes, most often by rebel groups and armed militias in times of war. Once captured, children are subjected to violent abuse, harsh labor conditions, forced marriages, prostitution, pornography, and/or becoming engaged in conflict as child soldiers. Children are more often than not the most vulnerable targets for

¹² "Understanding Child Trafficking." UNICEF. Accessed December 30, 2015.

http://www.unicef.org/protection/Textbook_1.pdf.

¹³ *ibid*

¹⁴ http://www.unicef.org/protection/57929_58005.html

¹⁵ <http://www.unicef.org/protection/files/ipuglobaltrafficking.pdf>

slavery, considering they are often still in the developing stages of life and are unable to distinguish good and bad intentions and therefore viewed as easily corruptible.¹⁶

The tedious work to end child trafficking by the UN has been primarily led by UNICEF, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Labor Organization (ILO).

UNICEF describes its role as focused on building a protective environment for children – a safety net of interconnected elements designed to safeguard children from violence, exploitation and abuse. Children can be shielded from trafficking when:

- Governments are truly committed to child protection.
- Attitudes and prejudices that facilitate or lead to abuses are challenged or changed.
- Media and civil society openly confront exploitation, abuse and violence.
- Children have the information to protect themselves from abuse and exploitation.
- Proper monitoring is in place to identify victims of exploitation and abuse.
- Services for victims of exploitation are available without discrimination.¹⁷

Protecting trafficked children requires timely victim identification, placing them in safe environment, providing them with social services, health care, psychosocial support, and reintegration with family and community, if it is proven to be in their best interest. UNICEF assists by supporting training of professionals working with children including social workers, health workers, and police/border officials to effectively deal with trafficking. Additionally, UNICEF supports governments in setting standards in dealing with child trafficking such as developing and training responsible personnel on child friendly interviewing techniques.¹⁸

Poverty is considered to be one of the leading factors for children's vulnerability to traffickers. Child labor is one of the obvious ways poverty leads to exploitation and abuse. Those who attempt to "sell children into slavery or sexual exploitation do not seek their prey in comfortable suburbs; they look in the poorest shanty towns or the most underprivileged rural areas, where grinding poverty can heighten children's vulnerability to protection abuses."¹⁹ During conflicts, children may be abducted by armed groups and forced to participate in warfare. They may also be victims of sexual abuse or rape. Conflicts contribute to poor border control, which provides a window for traffickers' to transport people.²⁰

Trafficking victims are often taken from impoverish homelands that force children into partaking in unethical practices. They come from poor families that lack economic opportunities in order to provide basic necessities. Many areas also have children who don't even receive minimal education, thus lacking vocational skills that leave them few prospects for job opportunities. These factors, when compounded by gender, racial or ethnic discrimination, or insecurity caused by armed conflict and civil strife, create the ideal environment for trafficking networks to thrive. Unless these underlying causes are addressed, the more direct measures to stop trafficking will have limited success.²¹

Committee Directive

¹⁶ *ibid*

¹⁷ *ibid*

¹⁸ http://www.unicef.org/protection/57929_58005.html

¹⁹ United Nations Children's Fund, *The State of the World's Children 2005*, UNICEF, New York, p. 17.

²⁰ "Combating Child Trafficking." UNICEF. March 1, 2005. Accessed December 30, 2015.

http://www.unicef.org/ceecis/IPU_combattingchildtrafficking_GB.pdf.

²¹*ibid*

Remember that the topic at hand is focused on ways to combat child trafficking. When writing your position papers, you may want to research at the achievements already accomplished by UNICEF to base your research off of. Questions to ask yourself may be: What projects have been attempted? How have countries improved while implementing policies recommended by UNICEF, and what has your significant country exceeded in? How can UNICEF work to ensure the same improvements are achieved in other countries? What has not worked for the UNICEF as far as implementing children protection laws and why? If various methods have not worked, could they be potentially replaced by a new initiative?

Research Appendix

These are listed resources to assist you in your research as you write your position papers and research for debate in committee. These include general resources for UNICEF and humanitarian issues, particularly to children. It also provides resources specific to each of the two Topics covered in this background guide. To keep yourself updated, it is also suggested that you follow international news on children's rights through viable news sources.

General Resources

- UNICEF official website: <http://www.unicef.org>
- UNICEF office of research: <http://www.unicef-irc.org>
- UNICEF data collection: <http://www.unicef.org/statistics/>

Topic 1 Resources

- Report to reduce children in poverty: http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/pub_poverty_reduction_en.pdf
- <http://www.cssp.org/policy/2014/Results-Based-Public-Policy-Strategies-for-Reducing-Child-Poverty.pdf>
- <http://www.childrensdefense.org/library/PovertyReport/EndingChildPovertyNow.html>
- <http://www.policyforresults.org/poverty-economic/reduce-child-poverty>
- <http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/download/514rzzx9c0zx.pdf?expires=1451796153&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=DE04C2F766B883EEAC7E8E8FED1B0BF7>
- https://www.princeton.edu/futureofchildren/publications/docs/07_02_04.pdf

Topic 2 Resources

- http://www.unicef.org/ceecis/IPU_combattingchildtrafficking_GB.pdf
- http://www.unicef.org/protection/Textbook_1.pdf
- http://www.unicef.org/protection/57929_58005.html
- <http://www.unicef.org/people/files/Trafficking.pdf>
- http://www.unicef.org/ceecis/UNICEF_Child_Trafficking14-43.pdf