



Sample General Assembly Position Paper

This is a position paper that was written by a member of the Middlebury Model United Nations Team for EuroMUN 2019. This position paper was written for the United Nations Human Rights Council with the two sub-topics of Protecting and Promoting Freedom of Expression in the Cyberspace and Human Trafficking with a focus on Child Prostitution and Sex Tourism. This sample should be used as a guide for how to write a position paper and how to make it reflect your country's stances. As MiddMUNC is a high school conference and lasts only one day, your chairs will not expect this level of detail and your position paper should be about half the length as you only have one topic to prepare for.

Committee: UNHRC

Country: Egypt

Delegate: Suria Vanrajah, Middlebury College

Topic: Protecting and Promoting the Freedom of Expression in the Cyberspace; Human Trafficking with a focus on Child Prostitution and Sex Tourism

Much like the waters of the Nile River our society derived its roots from, the Arab Republic of Egypt (hereafter referred to as Egypt) remains a strong, reliable force within Africa and the larger global community. In the past, Egypt has received harsh criticism for alleged human rights abuses and hopes to use this convening of the United Nations Human Rights Council (hereafter referred to as UNHRC) to cement our commitment to the livelihoods of our citizens and the security of our nation. The issues at hand are of great importance to Egypt and we look forward to working with our global partners of varying backgrounds to draft resolutions that move towards genuine global and national action.

Topic A: Protecting and Promoting the Freedom of Expression in the Cyberspace

With the cyber boom of the last few decades, the world has borne witness to an unprecedented growth in global interconnectedness and self-betterment due to growing access to the Internet. However, increased access to the Internet presents the world with a multitude of issues from the spread of fake news to determining what speech is appropriate to be shared on the cyber stage.

Egypt's utmost concern in all political actions is the preservation and safety of the Egyptian state, including our citizens. Thus, Egypt has committed itself to preventing speech on online platforms that represent a clear danger to our nation and citizens. Our national laws, which have received uncalled for criticism by outside parties¹, abide by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We call on the UNHRC to acknowledge and allow the implementation of Article 19, paragraph 3 within national laws to allow for the preservation of safety and stability within nations.

While the UNHRC is an intergovernmental body, we are currently faced with the issue of regulating independent cyber companies (namely social media conglomerates) and the content that appears on their platforms, particularly concerning the rise of disinformation (better known as "fake news"). Cyber disinformation has become a major global threat and must be handled in a manner that prevents its spread. Egypt proposes that in any resolution concerning cyberfreedom the UNHRC include a media campaign encouraging internet users to take personal accountability in

1. "Egypt: Proposed laws an assault on online freedom. Amnesty International, July 2, 2008, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/07/egypt-proposed-laws-an-assault-on-online-freedoms/>.



regulating disinformation on social media sites, tailoring advice to take into account how websites' algorithms spread fake news², and calling for individual companies to implement "ethical algorithms" that would further the same goal³.

Egypt is eager to work with other nations, particularly Western countries with diverging opinions, to draft a resolution that allows the world to take advantage of the many opportunities the internet presents, while finding a way to mitigate the dangers in a way that can be applied to nations with differing ideologies and priorities.

Topic B: Human Trafficking with a focus on Child Prostitution and Sex Tourism

The global sale and purchase of human beings, particularly women and children, is one of the most abhorrent issues that the world is faced with and it should be of the utmost priority to this body. Egypt is a proud leader in the fight against global trafficking, making strides to comply with international standards to prevent human trafficking and to prosecute cases against traffickers⁴. We are committed to not only continuing to make progress in the fight against trafficking within our own nation, but to create larger global initiatives to further fight human trafficking.

Building upon the current United Nations protocol to fight human trafficking, Egypt believes that the most effective plan to combat human trafficking can be broken into four categories: economic development, border control, regulation of child welfare, and prosecution of trafficking related crimes.

Just like any other sale, human trafficking can be broken down into an issue of supply and demand. Economic development within countries where trafficking is prevalent is the best way to prevent the supply side of that equation. By investing in schools, small female-owned businesses, and more programs that promote the financial independence of groups that are at risk for being trafficked, fewer people, women in particular, are at risk of being trafficked due to economic necessity.

As for border control, by calling on nations to take on stricter border control methods, the United Nations can work to prevent the traffic of humans across national borders. By training border control agents in recognizing signs of human trafficking, creating questioning protocols for women and children travelling with non-relatives, and more reforms, nations can help to prevent trafficked people from leaving and/or entering their countries. A low-cost solution, new border control methods would effectively decrease the trafficking of people across borders.

In dealing with the sub-topic of child prostitution, the UNHRC should call upon the global community to adopt standards that promote the welfare of children within their countries. Such measures could include mandatory (and free) public education for children below a certain age and making public school teachers mandatory reporters of alleged abuse. Countries should take on measures that would allow for the location and safety of children to be accessible information to the national government.

2. Meserole, Chris. "How misinformation spreads on social media- And what to do about it." Brookings, May 9, 2018, <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2018/05/09/how-misinformation-spreads-on-social-media-and-what-to-do-about-it/>.

3. White, Aidan. "Facebook and Matters of Fact in the Post-Truth Era." Ethical Journalism Network, <https://ethicaljournalismnetwork.org/resources/publications/ethics-in-the-news/fake-news>.

4. "Trafficking in Persons 2018 Report: Country Narratives." Central Intelligence Agency, 2018,



Lastly, as a body, the UNHRC must create more effective prosecution standards for crimes related to human trafficking cases. This includes calling for the creation of prosecutor task-forces dealing with trafficking, immunity of trafficked people for crimes associated with their trafficking, creating task forces to identify and prosecute instances of money laundering, and other steps to ensure that guilty parties are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law and victims are treated with the utmost respect.