



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

# SOCOMUN XXXIII

NOT FRESHMAN C

TOPIC: TRAFFICKING OF CHILD  
SOLDIERS



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## Not Freshman C Trafficking of Child Soldiers

Hello Delegates! My name is Abanoub Abdelmalek and I am very excited to be your Chair and hear your solutions. I am a senior at SM and this is my final year with MUN. It's been such a fun journey and really opened up my perspective on the world. Aside from MUN, I am also a swimmer and avid gym-goer. I love the beach and listening to music. I can't wait to meet you all and see your creativity!

Hi delegates! My name is Kiera Kao and I cannot wait to be your vice chair in the upcoming SOCOMUN conference! I am currently a junior here attending SMCHS and this is my 3rd year participating in MUN. I'm involved in cross country and long-distance track and play club volleyball outside of school. I'm so excited in getting to know you all soon!

Hello, my name is Catherine Miller-Jones, and this will be my second year in MUN. I have won awards at more than half of the conferences I attended my first year and plan on continuing in MUN through senior year. I am excited to be the rapporteur for this committee. In addition to MUN, I am on the SMCHS song team, a member of the dance program, and dance competitively for my dance studio outside of school.

For those who have any questions about MUN procedures or questions for the chair, feel free to reach out at [socomunnotc@gmail.com](mailto:socomunnotc@gmail.com)

### **Background**

The trafficking of child soldiers is a horrible practice that exploits the vulnerability of children for military purposes. It involves the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of children under the age of 18 to be used for armed conflict. This practice flourishes in areas that are war and conflict ridden. This where guerilla-groups or terrorist organizations look to strengthen their war ranks through recruiting impressionable children. Conflicts in a region creates mass instability leading many children to being orphaned, displaced, or separated from their families. This makes them easy targets for traffickers, using the children's lack of security or circumstances as a way to manipulate them into joining their ranks.

The child soldier would join because of the promise of protection, food and shelter, or a sense of belonging. Another reason they could join is that their family would send them to join so that they could survive; they may be compensated but it is not always a guarantee. These child soldiers are all missing something crucial in their lives because of that instability, and these armed groups give them an illusion and manipulate them into thinking they have the answer to their problems.

Whether those problems may be that their family needs food, shelter, or money. Those problems can also encompass the child soldier being an orphan and wanting a place to call home or to find their home rather than being displaced. They would end up joining and committing crimes and witnessing atrocities that no child should ever be exposed to.

This horrible practice thrives on a trafficking network that help move child soldiers to different regions, even across borders. These trafficking networks work covertly and through the corruption of nations. These child soldiers also go through an extreme amount of trauma both during their time as a soldier and after if they can even escape. These children go through intimidation, indoctrination, and violence to break their wills. Groups threaten these children and their families to instill obedience and fear in their soldiers. The consequences of this trafficking are devastating and make it extremely difficult for child soldiers to be reintegrated in society.



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## Potential Solutions

Solutions to help remedy the problem is to think of the problem in three different categories or sectors. The first sector is cracking down on armed conflicts within a region. This can help integrate a standard within the UN and the Global community to stop armed conflicts to take out the root cause of the problem. Examples can be to create or refine UN procedures to open peace talks or negotiations. It would also be smart to have a contingency just in case negotiations fail.

The second sector would be to expand and improve on ways to find and justly prosecute recruiters who lead these kids down the path of child soldiers. Think about the resources and intelligence agencies that each country and the UN have at their disposal. Think of a practical and effective way to find and prosecute the recruiters while, at the same time, respecting the sovereignty of other nations. This is to ensure that all nations can participate in resolution-making.

A third and final sector of the problem is how to reintegrate the former child soldiers as they are freed from their former captors. This is an extremely difficult part of making solutions as it is a complex and layered issue. This is where the most resources and time will be used, and this is where country policy is crucial to know. Not just your policy but the policy of other countries around yours. This will help create an understanding between countries and make your solutions more compatible with other nations, allowing more people to help.

The idea with solution making is to keep an open mind, involve as many people to create a consistent and effective effort, and to have detailed and realistic solutions.

## Questions To Consider

1. Where is this issue most prevalent? Is it near your country's region?
2. What are the current procedures for reintegration in your country? If there are none, why?
3. Which countries contribute the most to this issue? Is it in a positive or negative manner?
4. Is there new technology or methods that can help make the rehabilitation processes easier on children?
5. How does the UN currently handle child soldier traffickers?
6. Do any NGOs or private sector organizations help with this issue?
7. Who are key figures in this issue that contribute to this issue both positively and negatively?



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