



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

SOCOMUN XXXIII

NOT FRESHMAN F

**TOPIC: TERRORISM – COUNTERING
VIOLENT EXTREMISM**



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Hello delegates, my name is Lillian Schulze, and I am excited to be your Chair for SOCOMUN XXXIII. I am a senior at Santa Margarita and have been in MUN for four years. This is my fourth year participating in SOCOMUN. Throughout my years in MUN, I have developed so many imperative skills. MUN has improved my public speaking skills and has developed my interest in global politics immensely. I have made many friends through MUN and had amazing memories, such as travelling to London and Berkley. Outside of MUN, I enjoy playing volleyball, going to the beach, and hanging out with my friends. If you have any questions at all about the conference, do not hesitate to contact us at socomunnotf@gmail.com. Good luck, and I look forward to meeting you all in committee!

Hello delegates, my name is Carolyn Keyes, and I will be your Vice-Chair for SOCOMUN 2024. This will be the start of my third year of MUN, and throughout my experience I have gained so many admirable qualities; including my improvement in my public speaking and critical thinking skills. Outside of MUN, I play golf for the SM team, which has also been an amazing experience. I can't wait to see everyone at SOCOMUN, and I hope to share the great experience here at SMCHS with all of you. Good luck!

Hello delegates! My name is Ryan Pfeiffer, and I am very excited to be your rapporteur for this year's SOCOMUN. This will be my second year in doing MUN, and I participate in lots of school activities. I play goalie for the soccer team here at SM, and at Laguna United outside of school. MUN has been one of the best classes that I have ever taken, and it has helped me a lot with country knowledge, researching, and my public speaking. This class is an amazing experience, and I am very excited to see you all soon! Good luck out there!

It is our top priority to ensure that committee is both entertaining and educational for everyone involved. We will begin committee by opening a speaker's list for every delegate to present their solutions. Once the speech is finished, delegates can respond to speeches through comments. In addition to speeches, committee will include both formal and informal consultations.

Formal consultations are shorter speeches motioned on by a delegate. That delegate is responsible for choosing a duration, speaking time, and a sub-topic related to the main topic. For example, "a formal consultation for 5 minutes with a 30 second speaking time on the topic of education" is acceptable. Informal consultations can also be motioned on by a delegate. These allow for delegates to discuss their solutions directly with other nations and to move about the room freely. During informal consultation, resolution groups will be created, and each group will collaborate to create resolutions.

When creating resolution groups, keep in mind which nations your country would realistically work with. If you are in a group with opposing policies, you should most likely find another group. After the speaker's list is exhausted and resolutions have been finalized, we will move into resolution presentations where one third of the group (rounded up) presents their resolution and answers questions.

Finally, we will move into voting bloc to vote on each resolution. It is important to remember that we will be looking for quality ideas and collaboration during debate. Therefore, it is important you are both well-researched and respectful of other delegates before and during the conference.



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E4JMUN Resources from the UNODC:

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has compiled a list of sources that will be beneficial to you. If you are unfamiliar with this topic or do not know where to begin researching, we highly recommend looking into this website and pulling information. This link will take you to the MUN page for UNODC. This should prove helpful with your research, and it is a good idea to look at it. You should prepare for committee by exploring what actions the UN has taken, especially regarding forming solutions. <https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/mun/guide.html>

Under the terrorism section of the UNODC MUN resource website, there is the “Criminal Justice Response to Support Victims of Acts of Terrorism.” This document outlines the necessity of assisting victims of violent extremism. It is filled with many past solutions produced by the UNODC and may serve as foundations to your solutions. The document also contains background on helping victims, which you should consider when conducting your research. https://www.unodc.org/documents/terrorism/Publications/Support_to_victims_of_terrorism/revised_edition_21_May_2012_12-53652_Ebook.pdf

Also found in the terrorism section of the UNODC MUN resource website, there is “Preventing Terrorist Acts: A Criminal Justice Strategy Integrating Rule of Law Standards in Implementation of United Nations Anti-Terrorism Instruments.” This document urges the use of multi-faceted solutions based upon creating updated anti-terrorist legislation. It outlines the importance of government accountability and preventative measures against terrorism. It may be helpful to develop solutions that will tackle the root of the issue. <https://www.unodc.org/pdf/terrorism/TATs/en/3IRoLen.pdf>

Background

The issue of violent extremism is a complex issue that has been present for years and it affects numerous people across the globe. Despite the vastness of this issue, the United Nations has not even developed a formal, international definition of it. Without an established definition, it becomes increasingly hard for nations to create legislation against extremism and protect their citizens. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) defines violent extremism as “advocating, engaging in, preparing, or otherwise supporting ideologically motivated or justified violence to further social, economic, and political objectives” (*What is Violent Extremism?*). Violent extremism is present in a multitude of ways, like the internet. In fact, online extremism is increasingly prevalent with the recent digitalization of many nations.

There are several factors that cause violent extremism, and often it is instigated by terrorist organizations. In recent years, the most prevalent groups have been the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Boko Haram, and Al-Qaida (United Nations, www.un.org) Because of these and similar organizations, violent extremism has been rapidly increasing. The motivation behind many of these groups is increasing their political or economic standing and spreading their beliefs.

The United Nations has also been actively involved in countering violent extremism. One example of this is the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/60/288). This resolution broadly focuses on terrorism, rather than solely extremists. Though it has proven extremely beneficial. To keep this document relevant to current events, the United Nations has convened every two years since 2006 to update its policies and legislation. This resolution focuses on four specific pillars such as addressing the conditions that cause terrorism to spread, preventing terrorism, capacity building measures, and protecting human rights as a top priority (*United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy*, www.un.org). The nature of this resolution,



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being updated every two years, has made it efficient in creating strategies to diminish violent extremism.

In addition to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, subcommittees of the United Nations have developed strategies to fight against violent extremism. Specifically, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has released helpful information. In A/HRC/33/29, the OHCHR determined community engagement and youth empowerment significantly decreases the effects of violent extremism. They also highlighted the importance of nations taking preventative, rather than just reactive, measures.

Potential Solutions

When creating solutions to counter violent extremism, it is essential to look at the issue from a multitude of perspectives. There should be solutions to target the root of the issue, protect victims, and deal with the aftermath. Additionally, it would be beneficial to have short, medium, and long-term solutions. Be specific with information of how and why your solutions will be implemented. However, it is not necessary to include information regarding the funding of solutions as this is taken care of by the UN's 5th committee. Lastly, keep in mind your country's policy and actions previously taken to counter violent extremism. It is important to accurately reflect your country's actions and that will exemplify thoughtful research. The following solutions are ideas to help you get started in creating your own solutions. Keep in mind that these lack specifics and are only to serve as inspiration.

One solution to consider is creating legislation. As mentioned, there is no international definition on violent extremism, making it challenging for countries to create effective legislation. Increasing international collaboration can improve legislation and awareness. If delegates do choose to create a legislative solution, keep in mind the United Nation's policy on sovereignty. The United Nations cannot force or coerce any nations to implement legislation. Additionally, with the topic of violent extremism, it is necessary to consider religious and cultural boundaries. Another good topic to consider when creating solutions is protection of victims. Providing victim protection and reintegration into society is a great reactive measure.

Overall, when creating solutions ensure they are specific and well rounded. Furthermore, consider both reactionary and preventative solutions as useful. The Chair encourages well-researched solutions that are realistic and specific. It is imperative that solutions are detailed, especially on how they will be implemented. Delegates must follow country policy. Additionally, the Chair smiles upon solutions that are innovative, for example, creating a new solution rather than expanding an old UN resolution. I look forward to committee and hearing the solutions you create!



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Questions to Consider

Violent extremism is a broad issue and can be overwhelming, so it may help to consider specific components. Below is a list of possible questions to consider when creating solutions. It is not required to explicitly answer these questions in committee, but they will be helpful to delegates while beginning their research.

1. What actions, if any, has your country taken to counter violent extremism? What UN actions have they supported or ratified?
2. What is your country's policy on violent extremism and foreign involvement?
3. How can you target violent extremism at the root of the issue and prevent it from happening?
4. How can you protect past victims of violent extremism (i.e., re-integration into society)?
5. How can you assist developing nations in implementing solutions?
6. How can you address the uprise of technology and the effect it has had on increased violent extremism?
7. How can you assist people who are currently endangered by violent extremism (i.e., hostages or people in dangerous communities)?
8. Are there any organizations that can help to implement your solutions more effectively?
9. What other sectors are affected by violent extremism (i.e., health, education)?



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