



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

SOCOMUN XXXIII

UNICEF

TOPIC: PREVENTING CHILDREN
FROM USING E-CIGARETTES



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UNICEF Preventing Children from Using E-Cigarettes

Hello delegates! My name is Dalya Kanaan, and I will be your chair for this year's UNICEF committee. I am a senior at Santa Margarita Catholic High School and have been a part of the MUN program for all 4 of my years here. My experiences with MUN have been more than rewarding, as I went to Cal Berkeley and London with a select handful of my class over the last two years and was invited to travel again to Prague and Vienna in January. Not only have my experiences in class shaped who I am, but the opportunities have as well. I have been able to meet people from around the world as well as, of course, work and build on my public speaking skills. I play club volleyball, I'm involved with a number of clubs on campus, and I'm an inductee of NHS. I was head chair for this UNICEF committee last year in 2023, so I am so excited to be chairing again. I hope you have a great time in committee, I look forward to hearing all of your amazing solutions and ideas!

My name is Douglas Nilsen, I am a Vice Chair for SOCOMUN. I have been doing MUN for 3 years now and plan to continue doing it. MUN has gotten me to put myself out there and improve upon my public speaking skills. It really is an eye-opening experience and a great program to be a part of. I have been to Cal Berkeley and have had many experiences because of MUN. This has shaped the person I am today. Outside of school, I love to surf, play basketball for SM, and hang out with friends. MUN is a program that separates you as a person from the rest of the school, because of this it can help form into a well-rounded person. I am looking forward to meeting you all!

Hey! I'm Liv Donaldson and I am a sophomore at Santa Margarita Catholic High School, and will be your co-rapporteur for this conference. This is going to be my second year as a part of my school's MUN program. SOCOMUN was my first MUN conference, so I understand any delegates whose first conference this is that are nervous. Just remember it is okay to make mistakes, and don't forget to have fun!

Hi delegates! My name is Natalia Yum. I am a sophomore at Santa Margarita, and this is my second year in MUN. I will be your co-rapporteur for this conference. I play softball at and outside of school and I enjoy volunteering for organizations like Child Creativity Lab and The Jesse Reese Foundation (NEGU). I enjoy MUN because I get to meet and work with people from different schools as well as learn about different conflicts in the world. MUN has helped me gain confidence when speaking in public and with my research skills. I can't wait to meet all of you in committee and hear your unique solutions.

Please reach out to socomunicef@gmail.com with any and all questions!



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Background

E-cigarettes, or vapes, are a popular substitute for tobacco among the world's younger generations. With 2.1 million students using them today, millions have experienced serious health problems as a result. Some detrimental health effects include shortness of breath, cancer, asthma, and chronic bronchitis. These highly addictive nicotine sources have an impact on not just the user, but also everyone in close proximity to them. According to Dr. Stanton Glantz, a director at the University of California, San Francisco, "if you are around somebody who is using e-cigarettes, you are breathing an aerosol of exhaled nicotine, ultra-fine particles, volatile organic compounds, and other toxins." Once an individual decides to vape, both themselves and the bystanders around them are vulnerable to brain risk and respiratory illness. Proven statistics have come to show how detrimental the effects of smoking and secondhand smoke truly are.

The origins of the e-cigarette epidemic came from the United States in the year 2007. Since 2014, e-cigarettes have been the most common form of tobacco used by the public. Recently, on February 14, 2024, the World Health Organization (WHO) called on governments worldwide to take instant action against e-cigarettes. The World Health Organization has expressed its support for the monitoring and regulating of e-cigarettes as well as bans on marketing and advertising. Vapes and e-cigarettes are banned in 34 countries and unregulated in 74 countries worldwide, according to the World Health Organization. In a number of the remaining nations, which includes the United States and China, vapes are legal but regulated by the government.

Although e-cigarettes are less harmful than regular cigarettes, that doesn't mean that they aren't damaging physically and mentally. Mental illnesses, like depression and anxiety, are linked to e-cigarettes, nicotine, and vaping. Vaping can worsen an individual's depression, as proven by a study in 2017 of 2,500 ninth-grade students. These students proved the fact that e-cigarettes used at a higher rate and frequency can cause more severe symptoms of a variety of mental illnesses, most notably depression. Children, teenagers, and young adults are the easiest targets when it comes to advertising e-cigarettes and vapes. Their brains aren't fully developed and therefore they don't think through the possible long-term effects of their actions. It is up to governments worldwide to spread awareness among the younger generation to stop the spread of e-cigarettes and the increase in their popularity.

The FDA, the Food and Drug Administration, have authorized 23 e-cigarette products in the United States, meaning that only those 23 products can be legally sold and distributed in the country. Although 23 products appear like a lot, there are so many more devices that are being illegally sold, imported, and distributed by American citizens. Though the FDA has repeatedly warned retailers to stop selling illegal e-cigarettes, many completely disregard their requests. All forms of vapes are banned in some countries, this includes England, Scotland, and Wales. Disposable vapes were recently banned in January of this year in all three of these countries. Nearby countries, like Northern Ireland, are thinking of implementing similar measures on e-cigarettes and vapes.



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The United Nations health agency has stressed the need for regulation on e-cigarettes, laid out the health risks for the public to view, and explained how the toxins enter and contaminate your body. Nine out of ten smokers start vaping before turning 18 (some start as early as 11). This surprising statistic causes dependence on nicotine at a very young age and this dependence continues to develop into adulthood.

The companies that sell vapes make the product look appealing, advertising them with colorful and visually alluring covers. Many companies sponsor influencers and celebrities, paying them in order to promote their products online and on social media. This causes an even wider audience for vaping products, affecting more children at younger ages. Because of this, the health effects of even more individuals worldwide will decrease and cause severe illnesses or early and tragic death. Because of this, the United Nations needs to work together to find solutions to this pressing and life-altering issue.

Possible Solutions

Both short-term and long-term solutions are crucial when identifying how to solve the issue of e-cigarettes among today's youth and young adults. When forming any solution, United Nations committees and non-governmental organizations can immensely help your efforts. In particular, there are organizations like the World Health Organization (WHO), Parents Against Vaping, the Truth Initiative, and the American Vaping Association (AVA). All of these different organizations focus on particulars concerning e-cigarettes and all have methods of moving past this issue in the future.

Some short-term solutions would include implementing stricter age verification for e-cigarette purchases, and placing prominent labels and health warnings on e-cigarette packaging so the public knows how detrimental their effects truly are. As well as providing support and resources to those trying to quit. Through the use of these short-term solutions, the United Nations will be able to start their effort to stop the use of e-cigarettes as soon as they can. Although short-term solutions are effective, they aren't long-lasting; therefore, long-term solutions need to be put into place. Some examples of long-term solutions would be enforcing progressive taxation on e-cigarette and vaping goods, investing in research on e-cigarette use to provide evidence-based policies in the future, devoting time and resources to education campaigns in order to raise awareness on the issue, and promoting alternative aids that are safer than the nicotine in e-cigarettes.

Funding is never an issue when it comes to questions or details on money. The United Nations 5th budgetary committee as well as various NGOs and their support will provide any nation with the proper amount of money needed for whatever solution you propose. This idea further stresses the need for collaboration, as the number of connections one has can make or break their solutions and ideas for the future of our world. By opening up one's reach and connecting with not only organizations but countries globally, the world will be one step closer to solving the issue of the use of e-cigarettes.



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Through the use of these solutions, the NGOs, and the organizations mentioned, brainstorming on what step to take next to solve this global issue should be completely plausible, easy, and supported.

Questions to Consider

In order to help you all to the best of my ability, here are some questions about the prevention of e-cigarettes for you to consider. Although these questions are a great tool in researching and eventually forming your solutions, there is no need for you to answer them as they are only being provided for guidance. Those who desire to answer these questions may do so, as they are meant to guide you all when looking over your country's policy, research on the issue, and your eventual process of developing solutions.

1. Why are e-cigarettes so popular among the youth of today's world? What can we do as a society to prevent the younger demographic's use of vapes?
2. What is your country's stance on the issue and how have they contributed to the goal of eliminating e-cigarettes and the community's usage?
3. What global frameworks are really making a difference and how can you integrate them into your solutions?
4. How can we prevent the usage of e-cigarettes and vaping in a legal sense? What measures or enforcements could you put into place?



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