

# Middle School Committees



## Child Labour in the Americas

## **Background of Committee:**

Playing the role as a United Nations representative, delegates from all over Southern California will have the chance to interact and cooperate amongst each other to get to a final decision. Nations will have the opportunity to give an opening statement, known as the General Debate, followed by the Substantive Debate. As each delegate wishing to speak is selected in the speaking list, delegates will be permitted to express country policy, as well as solutions during this 1:30 speaking time (subject to change). Throughout committee, there will be Unmoderated Caucuses after a certain round of speeches given. With these Unmoderated Caucuses, delegates will be able to go into more depth about their own ideas, thus, collaboratively ending with a resolution. With an open mind coming into committee, there may be Moderated Caucus as well. Since this is a teaching conference, we will guide you towards the right direction if you need any help.

Note: In keeping to the standards of the UN we are using their spelling for “labor.”

## **Goals of the Committee:**

The objective of this committee is to work together with other delegates to resolve this issue of human trafficking in a certain amount of time. By raising awareness, the goal is to collaborate into making a resolution paper which has fully planned out potential into stopping this issue as a whole. Child labour is a solemn issue which is exponentially permeating throughout the Americas, and without certain actions taken, our society will be results in harsh, malignant consequences. With finding solutions towards child labour as a priority, our committee will strive to allow nations to discuss possible solutions to this conflict. Through unmoderated caucuses, delegates representing nations around the international community will be given the opportunity to create potential resolutions groups, which will give delegates a chance to write resolutions to combat this issue once and for all.

## **Background of the Topic**

Child labour in the Americas is an ongoing issue, still left unresolved to this day. This force of labor not only affects a selected few, but the entire international community. Child labour means to have a child illegally work as a source of labor or business and so forth, however there is no literal and universal definition for child labour. Roughly, 215 million children in the world today are being deprived themselves due to the issue of child labour. Starting in 1850, child labour exponentially increased immediately. In the 1900s, about 18% of the workers were under the age of 16. Today, according to the United Nations International Emergency Fund, approximately 248 million children are trapped in labor, which is about 14% of the overall child population worldwide. There are many sectors in child labour. For instance, some being child soldiers, child factory workers, child farmers, which vaguely falls into the category of agriculture. Nonetheless, agriculture the is the most vital sectors where the most notable form of child labour lies in. The sector of agriculture covers about 60% of child labour.

Child labour consists of many factors including child slavery, child abuse, child trafficking, as the children are being manipulated mentally, physically, and emotional. Majority of the children

are boys that are being forced into child labour as the ratio is 68.5% boys, and 31.5% girls. Children are the main concern of this issue as they are the ones who are obviously directed in this problematic situation. In addition, many families are also involved in this issue, as many families often need children to support their family, as furthermore they have to be used as a source of labor. Males often are tasked farming, machinery, spraying chemicals, mining, different types of construction, and even foraging on the streets. Many tasks expose the child to various cuts, wounds, and diseases that are often from the chemicals going into the wounds. On the other hand, females often are assigned household chores such as cooking, cleaning dusting, sowing, harvesting, and much more. A major cause of child labour is because parents are unable to support their families, thus the children must support their family by working. Child labour is typically also caused by poverty due to unemployment or even the fact that education is limited for many children. Every individual deserves to live under human rights that protects them from the fear of being exploited every second. Child labour should not be an issue for any longer, as it is vital to remove it once and for all, giving children their freedom.

### **United Nations Involvement**

Many different UN organs have taken action into stopping this ongoing crisis. The International Labour Organization has contributed heavily into making a reduction of child labourers in the Americas. Recently the ILO has fostered the promotion of education, as well as joint legislation into combating the worst forms of this issue. In addition to the ILO, the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) also has a strong regional supplement. IPEC has attempted to bring about policies and government programs into making a safer children community in Latin America. With poverty being a impacting norm in many developing countries, this association has decided to strengthen their policies and conventions about certain requirements of child labour. After doing this, approximately 160 different countries also implemented a more strict legislation to stop this dangerous problem. Furthermore, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) helps support strategies which provide quality education, protective services, and feasible incomes. By protecting children's rights, some of the many areas UNICEF had a huge impact on Bolivia, treating thousands and thousands of victims.

In addition to the UN, many different non-governmental organizations have provided materials and supplies for those who are currently facing this deep issue. Some of these NGOs include the International Program to Eliminate Child labour, The Child labour Coalition, and the Human Rights Watch. Since it may be difficult to help stop child labour, with these organizations, these programs allow many impoverished individuals to become educated and have a better life overall. In addition, these associations raise awareness of this serious issue, and by doing this, they raise money to give to solving child labour. With this guidance, these children get supported with food and water facilities, shelter protection, and lastly, their everyday rights. By eliminating child labour slowly but gradually, the issue would no longer take place and with this action taken, the future would be considerably safer.

### **Possible Solutions**

The government should provide free education at all levels since the importance of education cannot be over-emphasized. Therefore, it is extremely important that the government do this especially at the primary and secondary school levels. Poverty is a major cause of child labourers, parents who can't afford to send their children to school send them to work instead since it is benefiting the family anyways. Hence, if the government can provide free education to all levels, there will be an end to child labour. They will be in the classroom, rather than at work. Awareness can also be raised to stop child labour; awareness should be raised by the government at all levels, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and concerned individuals to stop child labour. This can be achieved through campaigns, seminars, or just by simply emphasizing the need to stop child labour in different nations.

To start off with, awareness is the first step of Plan ACE. Without raising awareness in different nations, many people would not be familiar with the current problem we are facing. By raising awareness, many individuals would take action immediately. This awareness allows students to attend school as funding is provided. By raising awareness of the negative effects, it lays stress about the importance of education and the necessity of finding stable alternatives to child labour, thus contributing to putting an end to the vicious circle of poverty.

In addition, child protection is another major aspect of eliminating child labour. These children need a safe community because these laborers easily take the adolescents and take advantage of them. Without protection, these children would be doing harmful work which affects them mentally and physically, and no one would be able to save that child as no protection is provided. Strengthening the Law Enforcement System in countries would also be a way to protect children. With this protection, children would understand how to be in a safe and protective environment. The law prohibits forced labour, trafficking in slaves, pornography, drug trafficking, and other violations regarding children. The International Labour Organization Committee notes that the Labour Act allows for the employment of children under the age of 12 years in agriculture and domestic work. They are often engaged in hazardous work, such as exposure to pesticides on cocoa plantations.

### **Questions to Consider**

- How will your nation maintain international peace and security throughout this process of child labour?
- Considering that the UN is in debt, how will you propose a cost-effective yet supplemental solution?
- To what extent is your country's policy going to change solution-wise during resolution groups to promote leniency?
- Is child labour prominent in your respective nation? If so, explain what your nation has done to eradicate this issue.
- Why does child labour have more priority than most of the other issues in the world?