

Forum:	Social Humanitarian and Cultural Committee
Issue:	Measures to combat child prostitution and pornography
Student Officer:	Maira Antonopoulou
Position:	Co- Chair

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear delegates,

My name is Maira Antonopoulou, I am 16 years old and I attend the 10th Grade in Costeas Geitonas School. This is my first-time chairing and it is my honor to serve as one of the Co -Chairs of the Social Humanitarian and Cultural Committee in the 8th session of the Platon School Model United Nations. Overall, I have participated in 8 MUN conferences and for my experience MUN is not just a stimulation, it is a whole society itself. MUN is a program with great magnitude and a lot of promises concerning each delegate MUN's career and therefore I am more than glad that I have the opportunity to be a part of this MUN.

This year's agenda of the Social Humanitarian and Cultural Committee, gives delegates the chance to research, learn and provide various measures for combating issues like the reunification of refugees families, education and women empowerment and last but not least child prostitution and pornography. As a co-chair, it is my duty and responsibility, to guide you and help you with everything you may need or come across during your research, or even consult you about something that has baffled you, in order to submit an effective resolution concerning the child prostitution and pornography. However, this study guide must not be the only source for your work. It is important to use a variety of different sources so as your resolutions to be as effective as they can, with no gaps concerning the information provided. Therefore, should you think of any questions relating the issue, I strongly urge you to contact me at my email address maiantonopoulou@gmail.com .

I am really looking forward to meeting you all in the 8th PSMUN.

Best regards,

Your co-chair,

Maira Antonopoulou

INTRODUCING THE TOPIC

Nowadays, the number of children who have been victims of pornography and prostitution, carried out in multiple countries around the globe, is constantly increasing, creating numerous problems relating to encroachment of human rights, violation of global security and even jeopardy of lives of thousands of children. More specifically, studies suggest that the amount of children who have been sexually assaulted during their early years in life, in Europe, are between 10-20%.

Child pornography is a phenomenon which is becoming a matter of growing concern. Unfortunately, it is very difficult to be tackled as the children choose not to speak or share with anyone what they had become victims of, because they are either ashamed or afraid.

In our days with the use of the Internet, it is very easy to solicit or harass kids or adolescents with the aim of accomplishing children's pornography. That can be easily justified as 90% of the cases, relating children's prostitution and pornography, were done through the Internet.

As time passes, children portrayed in pornography are getting younger and the images are becoming more violent. Most of the times, organized crime organizations tend to be behind such crimes. It is not impossible, mothers and fathers or school teachers, in whom kids have absolute trust, to take advantage and abuse them, for their personal profit which most of the times is money. Once the video or photographs have been uploaded to Internet it is almost impossible to withdraw it. Through the aforementioned abuse children's rights protected under the Convention on the Rights of the Child are severely violated.

It is not very rare after their exploitation, for children to be raped, have their organs removed or even be killed. Also, the children themselves prefer to commit suicide, as they can not continue living with this burden. Many children who experience sexual violence show physical, emotional, sexual, or verbal signs of abuse. These effects can lead to long-term stress and hardship for the child well into adulthood, and often cause concern for parents and teachers.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Pornography

The definition which the UN provides for pornography is any representation, by whatever means, of a child engaged in real or simulated explicit sexual activities or any representation of the sexual parts of a child for primarily sexual purposes.

Prostitution

UN's definition about prostitution is the use of a child in sexual activities for remuneration or any other form of consideration.

Sexual abuse

UNICEF defines it as an actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions.

Sexual exploitation

Human Rights Watch defines it as Any actual or attempted abuse of position of vulnerability, differential power or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another.

Convention on the Rights of the Child

"The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (commonly abbreviated as the CRC or UNCRC) is a human rights treaty which sets out the civil, political, economic, social, health and cultural rights of children. The Convention defines a child as any human being under the age of eighteen, unless the age of majority is attained earlier under national legislation".

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

OHCHR

The Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography is a protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and requires sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, to be prohibited by all countries which have signed it.

The Protocol was espoused by the United Nations General Assembly in 2000 and came into effect on 18 January 2002. By May 2016, 173 states had signed the protocol and another nine states had not ratified it.

In the preamble of the Protocol, it is stated clearly that actions which may violate the rights of children in any form, will be faced with "appropriate measures", from the parties, for the children to be fully protected. More specifically according to Article 1

of the protocol, the states which have signed it are required to stand up for the rights of children which were victims of trafficking, prostitution, pornography and all forms of child labor.

All of the remaining articles of the protocol emphasize in a variety of criteria for law enforcement internationally, due to cases such as issues of jurisdiction, reciprocal assistance in investigations, confiscations of assets etc.

Moreover, it forces the parties to pass laws against the practices mentioned above. In cases where these laws are intruded, there must be punishments by appropriate penalties that are considered to be of severe nature.

ICAC

Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) is a task-force established by the United States Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) in 1998. Its goal is to provide states and agencies responsible for law enforcement, the essential practices and tools to be able to control and prevent if necessary crimes against children via the Internet. Some of the measures which are presented in order to tackle cyber terrorism are the enforcement of laws concerning educational matters with the aid of agents, parents and teachers.

Furthermore, ICAC tries to locate and catch distributors of child pornography on the Internet, solicited on-line and delivered through other channels and also, catch criminals who solicit victims on the Internet with means such as chat rooms, forums and other methods.

Figure 1

The task force, collected data on criminal activity against children from 59 task forces located in every state of the United States.

	2006	2007	2008
ICAC Complaints: Child Pornography			
Total	12,120	12,030	22,001
Possession	5,578	6,398	9,087
Distribution	4,743	4,917	11,879
Manufacturing/Production	1,799	715	1,035

ICAC Complaints: Child Prostitution	119	257	300

Figure 2: UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

According to NCMEC (National Center for Missing and Exploited Children), the following table presents comparative figures on Cyber Tipline tips from 1998-2008:

	Child Pornography (possessions, manufacture, distribution)	Child Prostitution
2008	85,301	1,117
2007	83,959	1,821
2006	62,480	1,098
2005	64,250	553
2004	106,119	559
2003	76,2004	572
2002	37,647	587
2001	21,611	346
2000	16,724	287
1999	7,736	187
1998	3,267	142

Figure 3: UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

PROTECT ACT

In *Ashcroft Free Speech Coalition* (2002) the Supreme Court struck down the major provisions of the Child Pornography Prevention Act as overbroad. The main content of the speech was the provision of the law concerning virtual child pornography. However, the First Amendment was committed an offence, according to Justice Kennedy, by a law that "prohibits the visual depiction of an idea". Despite that the Court did not say that the Congress was not capable of confronting the issue of child pornography.

In the PROTECT Act (Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today), the Congress stressed that criminals who try to pander to children or soliciting them, will be faced with immediate criminal prosecution. This law applies regardless of the possibility that the images are computer-generated or cases where the material may be deceitful or may not exist at all.

Some of the measures of the PROTECT Act, were to encourage law enforcement with the aim that crimes against children would be faced with the aid of legal tools, state clearly that there would not have been any statute of limitation for crimes which involve abduction and physical abuse, make it more difficult for offenders to be released on bail, demanded that defendants accused for two grave offences against children would be dealt with life imprisonment, required tougher penalties, encourage volunteers to report any suspected cases of child prostitution and pornography on the Internet etc..

The We Protect Global Alliance to End Child Sexual Exploitation Online is the result of a merge between the Global Alliance Against Child Sexual Abuse Online and We Protect.

The Global Alliance Against Child Sexual Abuse Online was adopted in 2012 by the European Commission and the US and it aimed to make a unification of worldwide efforts, in order to have more effective and targeted efforts for combating cyber terrorism against children.

In total, it gathered 70 countries 30 NGOs and 20 leading technology companies, which supported actively the task of this alliance. More specifically their aim was to strengthen victims protection and offer any help they may need, recognize and criminally prosecute the offenders, raise public awareness with any possible means and lessen the possibility of re-verticalization and the availability of videos and images of sexual or physical abused children online.

TIMELINE EVENTS

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF EVENT
10 December 1948	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
20 November 1989	The Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC)
25 June 1993	Vienna Declaration and Program of Action
25 May 2000	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
10 May 2002	A World Fit for Children

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN THE ISSUE

Japan

Japan although it may be unexpected, has a vast amount of incidents concerning child pornography and prostitution, the most prolific example being the fact that in 2009 this phenomenon had been rising in such a degree, that Japan hit a record. More specifically, there had been almost 935 cases, a number which indicates the rapidly deterioration of this issue in relation with the previous year, as there had been up by approximately 40%. Most of these cases, were through done the Internet (90%), and that is why the government of Japan, decided to act immediately and directly to face this threat. So, the government established, "Comprehensive Measures to Eliminate Child Pornography".

USA

According with a study, conducted in San Francisco, by the American government, 78% of children that have been abused are involved in prostitution at public areas, like streets, reporting that the most of the times, the first time they started doing it was before they become adults. Indeed, 60%, started when they were at the age of sixteen or even before that. They also stated that all these began from such a young age, due to their families. It was revealed that 53% of the kids who had any connection with prostitution, was because someone from their close environment was engaging in it. That is why the US, has collaborated with a lot of different bodies and agencies like “NCMEC’s CyberTipline which is authorized by Congress and operated in partnership with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Homeland Security’s Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces, the U.S. Secret Service, the Department of Justice’s Child Exploitation and Obscenity” in order to gain more information about the crucial issue for the hope of facing it, as it happened. The US made a report of applicable laws, facts, observations and acts that the government have made or is to made in the near future, in the United Nations Committee on the rights of the Child, also reported in the ONCHR.

UNICEF

A study, conducted by UNICEF in 2014, revealed that approximately 120 million girls under the age of 20, had been forced to have sexual acts like pornography and prostitution, at some point in their lives. With that being said, UNICEF in the limits of its commitment to “the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and the Rio de Janeiro Declaration and Call for Action to Prevent and Stop Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents”, UNICEF has tried to motivate everyone to act and face this problem. Thus, it succeeded, involve different sectors of each government like the justice, social welfare, health etc. to help them as much as they can. Expect from these mentioned, UNICEF tried to occupy community leaders, religious groups, the media, along with the general public too. Furthermore, UNICEF collaborate with governments for enhancing systems for the protection of children, including legislation parts and policies. Additionally, UNICEF, with the aid of volunteers tries to raise public awareness and suggest measures to avoid these kinds of harmful attitudes towards children.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

In order to tackle this crucial issue, concerning child pornography and prostitution, which is not any easy one to face, we shall take into consideration all the possible solutions or acts that can be implemented for making the world better for not only the present generation but also for the generations which are to follow.

Thus, we should definitely mention the promotion of the People's movement for the elimination of child pornography. This is an initiative of the Cabinet Office, in order to face this issue with the aid of related ministries and agencies, educational, medical and business bodies, for discussing extensively solutions about it.

Some of the solutions may be soliciting slogans and symbol marks for the elimination of child pornography as a part of public relations and awareness-raising activities, and through holding symposiums, efforts shall be made to promote people's movement in an effective manner.

Also, several actions can be implemented during the "Child Abuse Prevention Month", which is dated each November. Public awareness via posters, campaigns by experts or advertisements, can be made in relation of the local government.

Moreover, further efforts can be made during the "National Month for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency and Juvenile Damage", every July and the "National Month for the Sound Development of Youths" every November.

This could be an appropriate time, when certified experts from UN bodies like the WHO (World Health Organization) to inform children at schools for the consequences of child pornography as well as ways to avoid it.

Furthermore, a 24-hour telephone line, with expert psychologists (defined by the UN), should be available in cases where victims want to share their experience or previous offenders would want to contact with them, as they might need psychological or any kind of medical help.

Additionally, it would be very useful if governments collaborated with NGOs, in order to create special institutes where the child could speak freely about his/her experience or any other problem might is called to face due to this crime.

Rights of the Child

- **Protection Against Apartheid and Discrimination**
- **Sexual Exploitation-protect children from sexual activities, child prostitution, child pornography;**
- **Drug Abuse-**prevent use, production & trafficking by children;
- **Sale, Trafficking and Abduction-** prevent abduction, sale, trafficking; use of children in all forms of begging.

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