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Dear Delegates,

Hello! My name is Mary Kang and I will be serving as the Head Chair for the United Nations Children’s Fund committee at AMUN XVIII. I am a senior in the Academy of Culinary Arts and Hospitality Administration and this is my first year of membership in Model UN. I am a passionate supporter of the United Nations Children’s Fund and am interested in government and politics in general. I have been Community Service Director of OXFAM and Assistant Fundraising Coordinator of SkillsUSA. I have competed in the Wedding Cake Decorating competition in SkillsUSA for two years and will compete in the Commercial Baking competition this April. I participated in the 2015 NAfME ANHE Mixed Choir and the 2015 & 2016 NJMEA All-State Mixed Choir as an Alto II. I am a member of the flute ensemble and concert choir at BCA and have played on the school soccer team for four years. At my church, I volunteer as a Korean School teaching assistant and am president of the Youth Group and praise team. During my free time, I enjoy playing the ukulele and creating T-shirt designs for clubs and events. As this will be my first experience as a Model UN member, I am very excited to meet all of you and to chair UNICEF! If you have any questions, I hope to hear from you by email.

Sincerely,

Mary Kang, Chair, UNICEF
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**Introduction:**

Until only the mid to late 1800’s did child maltreatment receive serious attention as a social problem. Today, many parents and caregivers beat, neglect, sexually abuse, and murder their children. In 2014, there were 702,000 victims of child abuse and neglect reported to the child protective services (CPS). In the same year, about 1,580 children died from abuse or neglect. Since the 1960’s, much progress has been made in hopes of recovering the damage covered in this field. The media as well as mental health professionals, university researchers, lawmakers and criminal justice workers have been trying to understand the problem of child maltreatment. Although it is growing in awareness, there is much that is left unknown about child maltreatment. A common goal of those researching the topic of child malnutrition is to bring this issue into the mainstream of public knowledge, as the significance of the matter is highly unrecognized. Child maltreatment is a global problem that affects families and communities to a great extent. A goal of UNICEF is to communicate to the general public the importance of taking a stand against child maltreatment now through spreading awareness and advocating prevention.

**Topic History:**

Children have been abused, neglected, and murdered throughout the world for many years. Child maltreatment includes the physical beating and torturing, complete neglect, sexual abuse, and murder of a person of age 18 or younger. The treatment of child abuse in our law originates from AngloAmerican common law. In common law tradition, the male was the head of the household and thus, was allowed to take disciplinary and protective action on those dependent on him, which would include the male's wife and children. Child maltreatment had largely been seen as a public health problem rather than as a violation of children's human rights. Although today child maltreatment is largely viewed as a concerning issue, it was not until just the end of the 19th century that any significant action was taken. In developing countries, the issue of child maltreatment was not more
prevalent according to reports, but just as prevalent as in high income countries. Historically, it had been found that child maltreatment was most likely to be found in a setting where other forms of domestic abuse occurred. Gradually, many people began to realize that the level of cruelty imposed on children was wrong and simply inhumane even if they did not physically witness it. Sample stories of about child maltreatment appeared in newspaper articles across the United States during the summer of 2011. During this time, the only newspaper articles that featured this topic had had to be sensationalistic or newsworthy, which were two things that barely described any event of child maltreatment. Authoritative figures were notified of the serious impact child maltreatment had had on the fostering of healthy families and the mental state of the child victims and soon after, many took part in making a change. Within the decade, grassroots organizations, mental health professionals, university researchers, lawmakers, medical personnel, social service professionals, criminal justice workers, and the media had mobilized their efforts to understand the problem of child maltreatment. Through the combined efforts of these groups, organizations such as the Center for Disease Control (CDC) are able to take an active role in bettering the circumstances for victims of child maltreatment and preventing maltreatment in the first place.

**Past UN Action:**

There is very little evidence of the United Nations taking action in the past regarding child maltreatment as a whole.

Possible solutions include providing funds for the following: parent education to prevent abuse, resources for abused children, shelter and food for neglected children, and overall health care. The topic of child malnutrition and other ideas alike, there is a variance in opinions among different nations. There yet remains nations that do not recognize child maltreatment as the largely prevalent issue that it is. However, many countries including including the Republic of South Korea, United Kingdom, and the United States of America currently support child maltreatment prevention, and have made progressive actions in the past decade towards aiding victims and simply keeping child maltreatment from occurring.
According to data from the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), a median of 83, 64 and 43% of children experienced psychological, and moderate and severe physical abuse, respectively in the African region. These results reflect that a considerably large percentage of children in the African region face psychological or physical abuse as the results for transitional countries were much lower by percentage. The overall attitudes of the parents are found to be the strongest variable in correlation with all forms of child maltreatment. In addition, young boys, those living with many household members, or those with lower household income are proven to risk all forms of maltreatment more than others. As a form of child maltreatment is murder by the parent or guardian, many countries face extreme child mortality rates. Some of the countries with the highest mortality rates include Egypt, Rwanda, and Chad, where there are over three hundred children dying annually due to varying reasons including lack of medication and, which is less common, murder. However, the lack of medical support for children is what causes the high rates of illness. There is no evidence that shows a relationship between the severity of a child’s illness to his/her exposure to maltreatment, however, many of the countries where there are the highest mortality rates are common with those countries which show considerably higher rates of child illness.

Syria, Palestine, Sudan, Yemen, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Djibouti, Iraq, Libya, and Oman are the nations that cover the Middle East and North Africa region with the common the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child with no reservations on two articles which cover the right of children not to be exploited for sexual purposes, despite their vast difference in terms of political structures, social development, and
economic welfare. All of the above listed countries have adopted the ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention 182. Thus, they are required to eliminate the exploitation of children in prostitution and pornography, and the trafficking of children into hazardous labor. In addition, most of these countries also adopted the 1996 Stockholm Declaration and Agenda for Action, which calls for national plans of action against commercial sexual exploitation (CSEC). Inevitably, the statistics on CSEC understate the extent of the problem of child maltreatment. In the year of 1999, the following statistics were recorded in relation to the designated country: Algeria recorded 1,180 cases of sexual mistreatment; Jordan recorded 17 cases of rape, 3 of attempted rape and 202 indecent assaults; Lebanon recorded 40 cases of sexual abuse, 65 of homosexuality (illegal in Lebanese law); 56 cases of rape and prostitution; Morocco recorded 17 cases of rape, 63 indecent assaults, 19 cases of prostitution, and 3 unspecified related crimes. The way that these nations are going forward with the issue of child maltreatment is through adopting clear and agreed working definitions on issues relating to the CSEC, strictly implementing the laws, conventions, and agreements declared, promoting the participation of children in areas of concern, creating efforts in mobilizing the private sector, and creating a national training system for professionals working with children, encompassing both governmental and non-governmental sectors.

UNITED STATES AND CHINA

As the United States stands among the nations of highest income, expectations of child maltreatment are relatively low. However, because there are regions where there are higher gaps in income inequality, higher income inequality across US counties is significantly associated with higher county level rates of child maltreatment. Although China is not geographically close to the United States, child maltreatment is common in the same cases. In both nations, the most common form of child maltreatment was mental. The abuse that many victims received were through verbal abuse and intimidation. As a result, many children developed mental health disorders, depression, anxiety, smoking, drinking, and illicit drug use, and self-harmed. Against this common form of child maltreatment, China
is making significant progress in comparison to the progress in preventing other forms of maltreatment: sexual abuse, beating, murder. However, the United States is currently a strong advocate of decreasing child maltreatment, particularly verbal/mental abuse.

Questions to Consider:

1. Statistics prove that in high-income nations like the United States and China have low rates of physical maltreatment against children, but recognize that many children are treated poorly, which affects their mental and, sometimes, physical health. Unfortunately, the effects of mental illness due to child maltreatment is highly underestimated. Despite the seemingly less significant effects of mental illness in comparison to physical or sexual abuse, how would you spread awareness of mental illness, depression, selfharm, etc. in high-income countries?

2. With the best efforts of the United Nations, medical aid is provided for victims of multiple forms of child maltreatment. Will your state take into account the seriousness of “hidden” abuse including emotional and mental abuse?

3. Although many children across the globe suffer from mental illnesses due to maltreatment, the most damaging form of maltreatment cannot be measured. Victims of rape and physical abuse is proven to likely lead into what is called mental illness. What measures can be taken to prevent victims of rape and physical abuse from becoming mentally or emotionally ill?

4. A solution to reducing or ridding of child maltreatment may be to remove children from their abusive parents or guardians. How would your state specifically go about truly helping prevent child maltreatment from occurring?

5. Children lack resources to reach out for help. How will you provide for necessary resources for these badly
treated children to speak out?

6. What specific procedures will be taken when abuse is spotted within a household?

7. It is difficult for many to speak about traumatic experiences and are likely not to share this information. How do you plan to make this confession easier for children?

8. Many children fear to speak about their abuse because of the consequences they may face afterward. How will you ensure that children will need not to fear of their futures even if temporary aid is brought to them?

9. Being aware of child murders by parents, how do you plan to deal with the parents? Do you feel that they deserve to be taken care of or to serve punishment?

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Introduction:

Although there has been progress in recent years, girls are still at a disadvantage in education systems. For instance, about 31 million girls of primary school age and 32 million girls in lower secondary school age were out of school in 2013. However, girl’s education is not only a right but also an important step to achieving other objectives. Once girls are provided with an education, the cycle of poverty will break and more likely to live healthy lifestyles. Women will be less likely to die during childbirth and more likely to have healthy babies. Educated women will also be more likely to send their children to school. This creates a new cycle of a lifestyle that is effective in many aspects such as health, knowledge, and tolerance of gender equality. Having access to a quality education for all genders is vital for influencing the generations to come.

Topic History:

Throughout the years, minimal action has been conducted to achieve guaranteed education for girls. Even with the effort put in by many organizations and countries around the world, their efforts have been put to vain. A big reason as to why their efforts are not reaping in fruitful results is because of the stereotypical point of view the society that the girls live in have. Even in a well developed and well tolerating country like the United States of America, gender inequality can be seen not in education only but in the real world where jobs are provided. The same job and the same effort that a man puts into his work is equal to the amount of effort the woman puts in. However, their pays are widely contrasting. If this is the case in a well developed, accepting country that has broken barriers, then it is obviously difficult, nearly impossible to change this matter with just a few ideas and actions.

In addition to the gender parity, the other significant problems and reasons why girls are denied access to education are school fees, strong culture to send males to school when a family cannot provide for both, and lack of resources in the school for both genders (lavatories and female teachers). Even without these problems, parents are hesitant to
send their daughters to school because the primary purpose of a girl is to get married and have children. By delaying the time to get married and spending that time on education can be seen as a shame to the family name. However, no matter how difficult this situation proves to be, it is essential to rapidly solve this problem. In fact, because this problem has spread to this point, it is absolutely necessary to eradicate the root of this problem. By doing so, although it may not be apparent in the beginning, there will be positive changes. Studies show that helping girls receive education brought a 25% increase in wages for girls later in life. This brought them more power and more self-worth. This was from education.

**Past UN Action:**

UNICEF has previously and to this day, advocated their four pronged plan. It includes policy advocacy, programming and monitoring, community engagement, and knowledge, management, and control. In policy advocacy, it allows girls to reenter school after childbirth. This was the most effective way to combat the problem of childbirth and marriage. However, the problem is that many girls feel the responsibility to take care of their children and husband. They can be even more restricted by their husband. This part of the plan has also created an organization called A Promise Renewed. This is to counterattack the negative effects after childbirth by trying to lower the rate of childbirth and marriage. This is to make sure that the problem can be solved more easier by handling it at an early time. In programming and monitoring, they created an organization called Child Friendly Schools where they provided hygienic areas for girls so that they would feel more comfortable in that area. This did raise the rate of girls coming to school. In community engagement, the plan does not target the girls but rather their mothers. They educate their mothers in literacy so that they can teach their daughter as well. These mothers also include the girls who are already married and about to have a child. This knowledge would then be passed on to their child. In the last part of the plan, they collect evidence and data to show to people the reason why education is important and the positive effects they bring. By doing so, it has caused an influx in the number of girls coming to school.
However, even with this detailed plan, efforts have gone to waste as many girls have left again. This is in part due to the fact that they are victims of violence from the boys who attend that school. The boys have been raised with the idea that they are higher in social status than the girls and to be going to school with the girls is a big insult to them. As a result, the girls cannot feel emotionally stable and comfortable there and ultimately leave the school. This goes to show that among all the problems and reasons, getting rid of the idea that boys are higher than girls is the most important. A possible solution to this problem is targeting the community instead of just the girls and the schools. Right now, we need to find the root of the problem and we have. It is the thoughts and ideas that emerge from their community. Then in order to make sure that we can completely eradicate this problem, we must go to the beginning of the problem. We could start programs and organizations that notify the community of the benefits to the community as a whole if girls were to go to school.

**Bloc Positions:**

**AFRICA**

Africa has been known to have low education rates not just for girls but for boys as well. As a result, the scarce resources for education are devoured by the boys first. In order for education to be received by all, it must be widely spread. Girls spend their times helping their mother with the household chores which include tasks that are difficult. However, it might be easier to allow girls to be educated in some parts of Africa because education is so limited that boys will not find a need to question or pick at the fact that girls are studying with them.

**UNITED STATES AND EAST ASIA:**
The United States is a prosperous, well developed country that provides high quality education for all genders. Although there may be some gender inequality in jobs and their pay, the ability for girls to go to school and be educated is not a problem. America makes sure that no child is left behind in their academics. In eastern asian countries, education is not as widely spread and available as America’s but it is still there. Girls are not denied education as much as other underdeveloped countries. Although there is gender parity in other areas of society, there is not so much in education.

THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA:

The Middle eastern countries do provide education for both genders however it is not so widely accepted. Although it may be available in these countries, many families hesitate to send their daughters to school. They willingly send their sons to school but they cling onto the cultural barriers. As a result, even though there are an adequate number of resources and supplies, the girls are unable to attend. However, gender parity is still present in these areas.

Although education can be readily supplied with effort, many girls will choose on their own not to go because of their thoughts that they must uphold tradition and family honor.

**Questions to Consider:**

1. What are some different ideas that can be presented to solve the problem at hand?
2. Does your country have enough resources and financial sources and find the need to help with this issue?
3. Does your country have the problem specified and what is your country’s view on it?
4. How can funding be provided for this problem? Through NGOs, government, etc.?
Introduction:

Sexual violence against children is a global reality across all countries. Sexual abuse, rape, sexual exploitation in prostitution or pornography are some forms of sexual violence that can happen in any community, whether it is homes, institutions, or workplaces. Globally, exposure to violence during childhood causes mental and physical health problems, ranging from depression and sexually transmitted diseases. Especially in today’s world with developed technology such as mobile phones and the Internet, children are vulnerable to sexual violence more than ever. Actions are needed to stimulate prevention and response efforts to prevent sexual violence against children in order to help children live healthy and productive lives.

Current Situation and Possible Solutions:

It is estimated that around 1 in 10 girls under the age of 20 have been forced into sexual intercourse or other sexual acts at some point. Boys experience sexual violence to a lesser extent than girls. However, the problem is that cases of sexual violence are often hidden because of its sensitive and illegal nature. Because of stigma, fear, and lack of trust in authorities, many children and their families do not report cases of abuse. Another important factor to choosing not to report cases is lack of awareness. Studies show that sexual violence has physical, psychological, and social consequences for all children. In addition, there are serious short and longterm effects on the victims’ families and communities. Evidence shows that people who have experienced sexual abuse as children are at higher risk for adverse health conditions. Mental consequences include depression, anxiety, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and lack of trust in others, especially authority. Children experience discrimination and difficulties at school. In addition, physical health conditions such as HIV or other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), alcohol or other drug abuse, and obesity are reported with greater
frequency among people who have experienced child sexual abuse. Even though these conditions are serious, there are not many available services including healthcare, legal/security aid, or counseling support for victims. These services are especially crucial for children because the effects can last until adulthood or even later. For instance, countries such as Kenya or Tanzania have very low percentage of victims who were able to receive help from services. In Kenya, 6.8% of females and 2.1% or males were able to receive help.

Children with disabilities are especially vulnerable to sexual abuse. In fact, they are three times more likely to be victims of sexual abuse. They are also less likely to receive victim services and supports that are more available to other victims because of a lack of responses tailored to meet their unique needs. Because of this, these children suffer more serious long-term effects that can lead to victimization during adulthood.

Past UN Action:

There have been various initiatives taken to combat child sexual abuse. For instance, UNICEF is committed to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In addition, UNICEF partnered with Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children and Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. In November of 2008, UNICEF was a part of the World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents. The Congress was organized by the Brazilian Government, UNICEF, ECPAT International, and the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It was able to renew global commitments and gather support to prevent and respond to sexual abuse of children and adolescents.

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