



CCPCJ

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TOPIC A:

REDUCING STATE DEPENDENCE ON PRISONS

As of September 2021, there are more than 11.5 million incarcerated people worldwide. International dependence on the carceral system has drastically risen in the last two decades with a 25 percent increase in the overall amount of people detained in penal institutions. Some countries in Northern America, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Eastern Europe have seen their prison populations increasing up to 68 percent. This exponential rise in global incarceration rates highlights the international overdependence on the carceral system. Instead of protecting members of the society, this overreliance causes issues like overcrowding, the increased spread of diseases, inter-prison violence, high recidivism rates, and the economic burdens of maintaining and expanding prisons. Furthermore, prison overdependence perpetuates inequalities by disproportionately impacting marginalized communities. In this committee, I hope delegates can find alternatives to incarceration that prioritize rehabilitation, reintegration, and human rights.

Last semester, I was able to take an ethnic studies class that explored the inherent flaws and injustices that are prevalent in the carceral system. The articles I read and the conversations that I had during the class helped open my eyes to the importance of addressing this topic. Many people dismiss the idea of alternatives to prison because the carceral system has existed for centuries. It is hard for people to imagine and grasp the idea of a different system. However, when we examine the limited effectiveness of prisons and the human rights abuses it perpetuates, it is evident that we could do much better. But, how can we begin to find new solutions that rival our current system if we dismiss new ideas as radical or impossible? I chose this topic for this committee because I believe that initiating these types of conversations, especially among MUN students who will go on to change the world, is crucial in changing our current system. Additionally, I chose this topic because a majority of BMUN delegates are from the United States, where prison overdependence is a significant issue.

I wanted the delegates in this committee to be researching, learning, and beginning to solve an issue that is pressing in both their community and on the international stage.

As you begin to research this topic, I would like to emphasize the importance of building solutions based on your country's policy. Although it may be tempting to go off-country policy and create solutions that radically reduce international dependence on the carceral system, the challenge of Model UN lies in your ability to create solutions that your country would actually support. Find an issue within the carceral system that your country cares about and then build your solution around that. I am so excited to see what you guys come up with!



March 8-10, 2024

72nd Session

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TOPIC B:

COMBATING ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME IN THE AMAZON

The Amazon rainforest is the world's largest rainforest with almost 67 percent of the world's tropical forests. It stores 75 billion tonnes of carbon, is home to over 40 thousand different plant species, and plays a major role in dictating the amount of rainfall that countries around it receive. The Amazon is not only crucial to combating climate change, but is the home to hundreds of local indigenous groups as well. Despite its importance, the Amazon is plagued by a dense network of environmental crimes such as deforestation, wildlife trafficking, and illegal mining. These environmental crimes have major consequences for the world and the livelihoods of the people near and inside of the Amazon. Scientists estimate that if deforestation and illegal logging continue at their current rate, the rainforest will eventually transition into a savanna region. This would be catastrophic as it would result in the loss of hundreds of animal and plant species, a decrease in rainfall, and an increase in carbon dioxide. These environmental crimes rely on corruption, weak environmental laws, and other illegal activities such as money laundering, slavery, and smuggling. As you can see, this topic is incredibly complex and multifaceted. In this committee, I hope that delegates will find solutions that combat environmental crime and protect the Amazon from destruction.

I chose this topic because I wanted to make sure that the delegates in our committee have two very different topics to research and debate on. Environmental crime is not the first thing that comes to mind when people think of the CCPCJ, yet it is definitely one of the most pressing issues that falls in the scope of our committee. Climate change is the most pressing issue of our generation. When I first learned about the environmental crime occurring in the Amazon, I was shocked. The Amazon is easily one of the most important regions in the world. The UN and international organizations should be working around the clock to

prevent its destruction. I thought it was the least we could do. However, when I examined the issue closer, I realized that environmental crime in the Amazon is an extremely complex topic with major social and political implications. Outside of the environmental issues within the topic, there are issues surrounding corruption, geography, and poverty.

When I competed in Model UN, topics like these were my favorite to debate because there were so many issues to solve. I would work tirelessly to create massive solutions that encompassed everything. However, I wanted to remind you that you do not have to do that. It is important that you research your country's policy and solve issues that your country cares about. Then, during the conference you can work with countries to create a resolution that tackles multiple issues. Again, I can not wait to watch you debate! Happy researching.



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