



Olinca Model United Nations 2019

Sample Position Paper

COMMITTEE: UNHRC

COUNTRY: USA

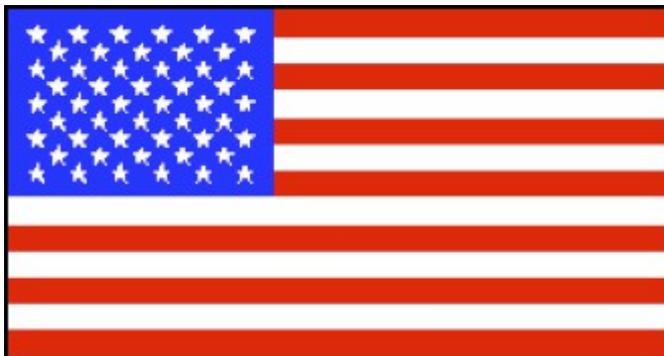
TOPIC A: CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT

Official name: United States of America Capital: Washington D.C.

Population: 294 million

Currency: US dollar

Official Language: English



(HISTORICAL BACKGROUND)

Throughout history and in many cultures, children have been extensively involved in armed conflicts. Children can take direct part in hostilities, used as porters, spies, messengers and sexual slaves. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 38 proclaimed: "State parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure that persons who have not attained the age of 15 years do not take a direct part in hostilities." However, minors who are over the age of 15 but still remain under the age of 18 are still voluntarily able to take part in combat as soldiers. Nevertheless, the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers reports that the use of children in military forces, and the active participation of children in armed conflicts is widespread.

(POSITION PAPER)

In the United States 17-year-olds may join the armed forces, but may not be stationed outside the continental US or deployed in combat situations. The United States military is based on voluntary recruitment, though minors also must have parental permission to enlist. The US has founded organizations like the War Child that promotes not using children in armed conflicts according to The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Also, the US has offered military assistance to countries using child soldiers.

(PROPOSAL)

In order to stop using children in armed conflicts or in any other military force, the US proposes all the countries to sign and ratify the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. The protocol requires of ratifying governments to ensure that while their armed forces can accept volunteers under the age of 18, they cannot be conscripted and States Parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure that members of their armed forces who have not attained the age of 18 do not take a direct part in hostilities.