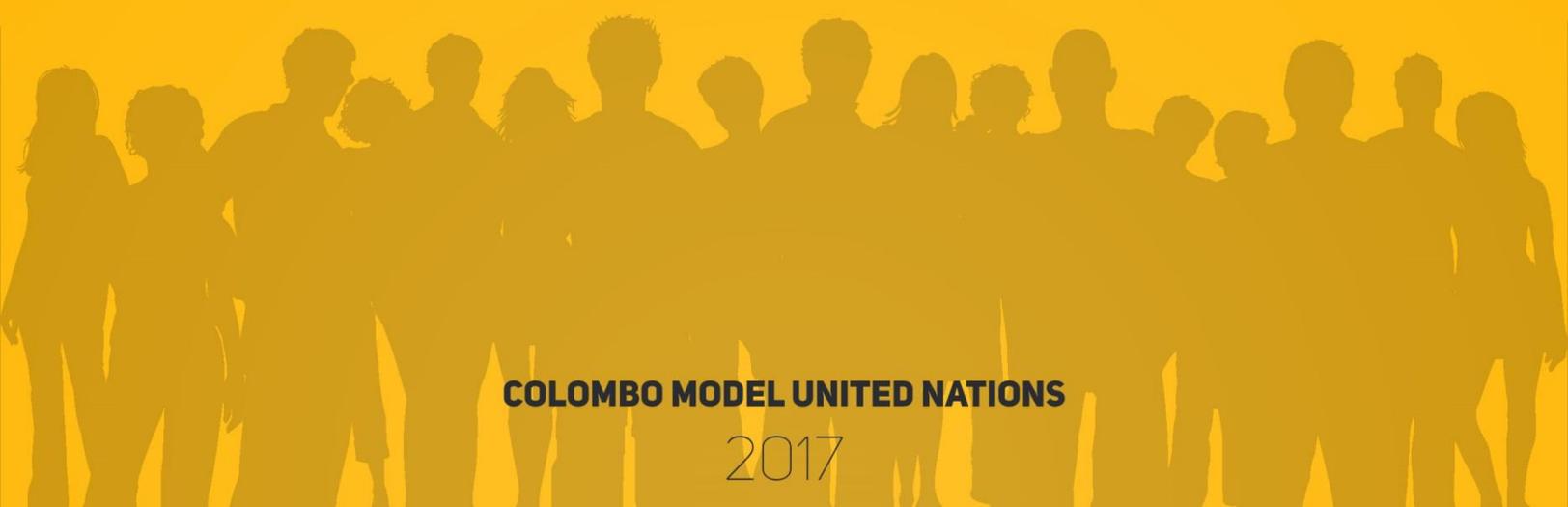




GA3

STUDY GUIDE

2017



COLOMBO MODEL UNITED NATIONS

2017

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 3

COMMITTEE BACKGROUND

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA, GA,) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations and the only one in which all member nations have equal representation. Its powers are to oversee the budget of the United Nations, appoint the non-permanent members to the Security Council, receive reports from other parts of the United Nations and make recommendations in the form of General Assembly Resolutions. It has also established a wide number of subsidiary organs.

The Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, or the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM), focuses on issues dealing with fundamental human rights in the international community. SOCHUM was founded in 1948 in reaction to the establishment of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. An important part of the Committee's work is focusing on the examination of human rights questions in order to venture for better compliance of them in every region of the world; In addition, it accepts reports from Special Representatives, Working Groups and other Special Procedures as well as from the Human Rights Council.

OBJECTIVES

Over the years, the Committee discusses questions relating to the advancement of women, the protection of children, indigenous issues, the treatment of refugees, the promotion of fundamental freedoms through the elimination of racism and racial discrimination and the right to self-determination. The Committee also discusses crucial social progress questions such as issues related to youth, family, ageing, and people with disabilities, crime avoidance, criminal justice and global drug control.

FUNCTIONS AND POWER

The GA has several roles and functions that are explicitly granted to it in the Charter as relate to its mandate. These include approving the UN budget (mainly via the GA Fifth Committee, dealing with Administrative and Budgetary matters), electing non-



permanent members to the SC and justices to the International Court of Justice, appointing the SG upon the recommendation of the SC, considering reports from other UN bodies, and considering and making recommendations on the general principles of the maintenance of international peace and security (such as disarmament, via the GA First Committee). Additionally, under Article 13, the GA initiates studies and makes non-binding recommendations to support international cooperation and development, codify international law, promote human rights and fundamental freedoms, and, in the Third Committee's case, encourage international collaboration in the social, humanitarian, and cultural fields.

All the work of the Third Committee is of a normative nature, as it does not actually carry out the operations of the tasks called for in its resolutions. The job of operationalizing the Third Committee's recommendations is mainly delegated to the various (usually human rights) agencies and offices of the Secretariat whose job it is to implement such norms and policies agreed upon by the body.

The committee's procedural and the functional powers are determined under multiple articles in Chapter IV of THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the UN charter; Therefore, the committee may discuss any questions or any matters within the scope of the said Charter or make recommendations to the Members of the UN or the Security Council on any such questions or matters.

The Third committee specifically would initiate studies and make recommendations to promote international political cooperation, the development and codification of international law, the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and international collaboration in the economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, educational and health fields. Finally on a general basis The General Assembly would receive and consider reports from the Security Council and other United Nations organs, consider and approve the United Nations budget and establish the financial assessments of Member States and elect the non-permanent members of the Security Council and the members of other United Nations councils and organs and, on the recommendation of the Security Council, appoint the Secretary-General.



VOTING

Decisions on important questions, such as those on peace and security, admission of new members and budgetary matters, require a two-thirds majority. Decisions on other questions are by simple majority

STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

GA3 has very rarely failed as a committee. They simply have failed to enforce and implement the resolutions they've put forth. The Third Committee often requests studies to be undertaken by relevant UN bodies such as OHCHR, the UNHCR, UN-Women, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). This allows the committee to address a vast scope of topics and create resolutions pertaining to these issues.

CONCLUSION

The Third Committee is the main facilitator of international human rights issues at the UN and provides a forum for Member States to discuss and cooperate through the creation of policy and norms. Delegates should seek to emulate this by studying the language of the documents that make up the International Bill of Human Rights, watching speeches made by Member States' permanent representatives to the Third Committee and the HRC, and educating themselves on the issues discussed by the committee, focusing on their peaceful resolution.

This year at Colombo Model United Nations 2017, we are seeking for delegates who will not only look at the status of their respective countries, but also other nations, in order to come up with practical resolutions. Delegates should be able to place themselves in the shoes of the victims, and analyse situations from grass root levels. Finally, we're looking for delegates that are able to understand conventional social problems through different perspectives, to formulate pragmatic solutions in this ever changing global village.



PD 1: REVIEWING THE ISSUES THAT WOMEN ENDURE IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT MECHANISMS TO EMPOWER THEM WORLDWIDE

INTRODUCTION:

Gender Equality along with the empowerment of women is one of the most important values of our century. As Mr. Ban-Ki-Moon, the secretary general of the United Nations, said the overall progress of the Millennium Development Goals was not satisfying. The three priority areas that the Secretary General underlined were food security, jobs and investment in women.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT:

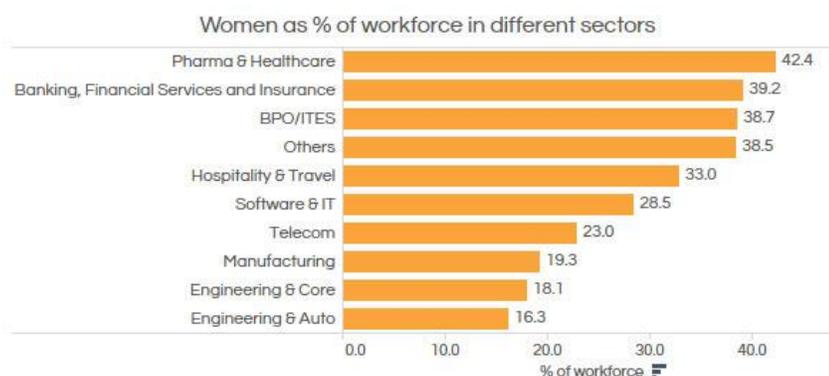
Women's empowerment has five components: women's sense of self-worth; their right to have and to determine choices; their right to have access to opportunities and resources; their right to have the power to control their own lives, both within and outside the home; and their ability to influence the direction of social change to create a more just social and economic order, nationally and internationally.

CASE STUDY 1: WOMEN IN INDIA

(Reference: <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/woman-empowerment-hurdles-indian-multi-cultural-vivekanand>)

Present Situation of Women

Being equal to their male counterparts is still a far cry for Indian women. Not only are they marginal as public figures, but an average Indian woman can hardly call the shots at home or outside. In 2012, women occupied only 8 out of 74 ministerial positions in the Union Council of Ministers. There were only 2 women judges out of 26 judges in the Supreme Court and there were only 54 women judges out of 634 judges in various high courts.



According to 2013, UNDP report on Human Development Indicators, all south Asian



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Countries except Afghanistan, were ranked better for women than India. It predicts: an Indian girl child aged 1-5 years is 75% more likely to die than the boy child. A woman is raped once in every 20 min and 10% of all crimes are reported.

POINTS A DELEGATE SHOULD ADDRESS:

1. What is the root cause for gender inequality in the millennium and why isn't the potential benefits of equality cause enough?
2. How can Gender Equality be secured in the 21st century and what is the role the United Nations should play in order to further this cause?
3. How can states promote gender equality? What are the impacts of regional differences on the empowerment of women?
4. Should International Laws change or new organisations be established in order to protect women from the violation of their rights?
5. What is the significance of the "He for She" Movement and how can men help promote gender equality?

PD2: DISCUSSING THE PROTECTION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF LABOUR RIGHTS FOR CITIZENS IN LEDC'S WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR STANDARDS

INTRODUCTION:

Since the start of the Industrial Revolution, workers' conditions have being one of the most profound issues underneath flourishing capitalist societies. Workers' rights, are a group of legal rights that regulate the relations between workers and their employers. These rights differ from state to state, but usually cover issues such as working hours, minimum wage, work safety and the right to unionise. However, as developing countries usually lack sufficient infrastructures, including these countries are often trapped in vicious cycles such as corruption, poverty, and brain-drain. Whilst the absence of a fair and unbiased legal system exists, the treatment of the workers cannot be guaranteed.

BACKGROUND:

Labour rights can be traced back to the 19th century, which saw the first rules linked with restrictions towards the employment of children in England and the creation of the first labour unions following the industrialisation process. Working



conditions were difficult since there was a substantive power difference between the employers and the workers (This however still exists). As a result of significant barriers the workers' solution was to join together to have more power and demand better working conditions over their employers. In 1919 the International Labour Organization (ILO) was established as part of the League of Nations in order to protect and promote workers' rights, and was later incorporated into the United Nations. Workers' rights were further incorporated into the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) under Article 23 and Article 24.

(Refer <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>)

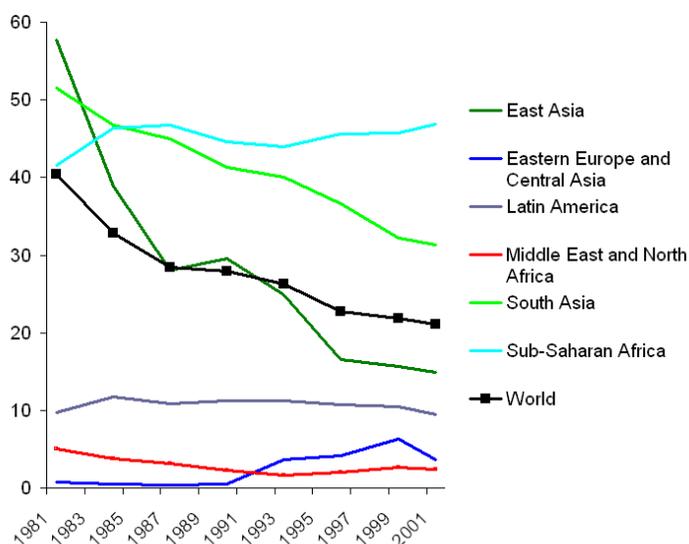
CASE STUDY 1: ELECTRONIC MANUFACTURERS

(Reference: <http://baptistworldaid.org.au/resources/ethical-electronics-guide/>)

Workers in developing countries produce many of the products used by people in developed countries, like the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

A recent report titled "The Truth behind the Barcode: Electronic Industry Trends" compiled by Not For Sale and Baptist World Aid looked at large tech companies, specifically at the working conditions of their suppliers and found that almost all of them couldn't provide proper acceptable working conditions for their employees. Around half of them were unable to identify all of their suppliers and almost none of them knew the exact source of their raw materials.

Percentage living on less than \$1 per day



Major electronic firms are trying to decrease operating expenses by outsourcing their manufacturing processes to third party companies and demand low prices. The suppliers, in turn, wanting to win the contracts, have to show operational superiority which is measured by the bottom line—the price they charge for the production of each device, and are therefore offering low salaries and long hours. Combined with high unemployment rates and no other alternatives, people living in less

economically developed nations are forced to agree to those conditions.



The production usually takes places in huge factories, employing thousands, working long shifts in poor conditions, and being paid very low salaries. There are several reports of people committing suicide in those factories, which have led to nets being tied around the buildings to prevent such attempts.

The movement calling for corporate social responsibility, as well as the general population in developed nations are all pushing for large electronic firms to hold responsibility for the production processes of their devices, ensure that employees tasked with creating electronic devices have better working conditions and are paid fair salaries for their work.

POINTS A DELEGATE SHOULD ADDRESS:

1. Workers' rights vs economic growth- for developing nations?
2. Are workers' rights universal, or can each nation define workers' rights according to their own views and needs?
3. Are the current conventions enough to protect workers' rights? How can we get more member states to sign and approve them?
4. What is the responsibility of developed nations in ensuring better working conditions for workers in developing nations creating consumer products?
What does the role of negligence take part here?



PD3: ESTABLISHING A STRATEGIC APPROACH TO COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING WITH A SPECIAL LOOK AT THE SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS BY REVIEWING THE TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS PROTOCOL

REFERENCES:

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/19223?download=true>

http://www.iom.md/attachments/110_CBSS_TF-

[THB Handbook for Diplomatic and Consular Personnel.pdf](#)

<https://polarisproject.org/more-drinks-sale-sex-trafficking-us-cantinas-and-bars>

INTRODUCTION:

Over the past century, a new and modern form of slavery, which is characterised as human trafficking- transportation, transferring and trade of people- to the extent of causing a threat to them with the aim of exploitation-has been created.

However, it is important to realise that the purposes and aims of human trafficking vary but the main purposes include sexual exploitation, forced labour, enslavement and removal of organs. Unfortunately, human trafficking concerns everyone as there are almost 20 million people who are victims, with 5.5 million of them being children according to a 2012 report. In fact, all countries are affected as they serve as, either solely or combined, countries of origin, transit or destination. What one can understand from this, is that both developing developed countries are affected by human trafficking since traffickers are able to find “vulnerable” people. The act is very profitable for traffickers in two dimensions; it is characterised by lucrative profit and almost no risk of arrest since it’s considered as an incognito industry (most traffickers and their activities are unknown to the authorities.)

BACKGROUND:

To understand the core of human trafficking it is essential to understand some core elements: the *Act* of human trafficking, the *Means* of human trafficking and the *Purpose* of human trafficking.

CASE STUDY 1: FRANCE

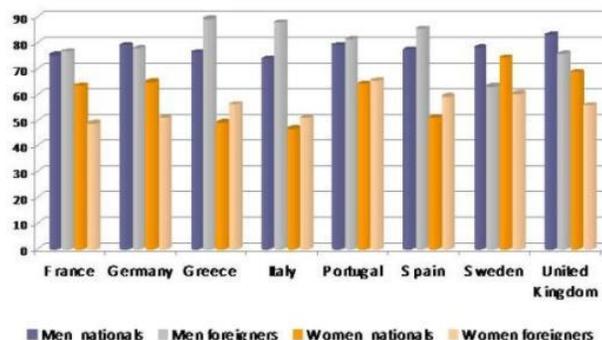
(Reference: <http://gvnet.com/humantrafficking/France.htm>)

France is subjected to trafficking in people, specifically for prostitution and forced



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labour. Women and children, many from Africa, continue to be subjected to forced domestic servitude. Often their “employers” are diplomats who enjoy diplomatic immunity from prosecution, including those from Saudi Arabia. Reportedly men from North Africa are subjected to forced labour in the agricultural and construction sectors in southern France. The Government of France estimates that the majority of the 18,000 women in France’s commercial sex trade are likely forced into prostitution. Romani and other unaccompanied minors in France continued to be vulnerable to forced begging.



POINTS A DELEGATE SHOULD ADDRESS:

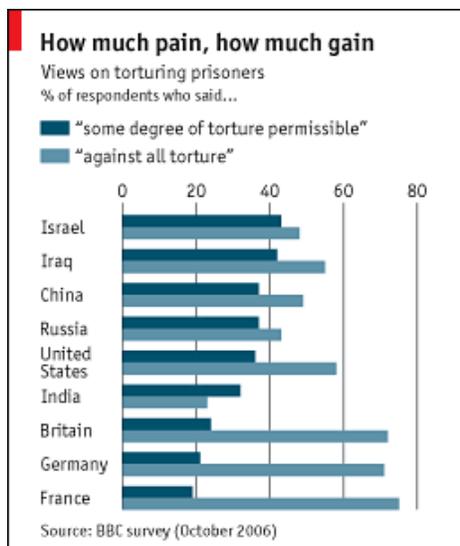
1. What are the intricacies of the concept of safe and orderly migration and the responsibilities of bodies such as the IOM?
2. What are the impacts of regional differences in terms of combatting human trafficking?
3. What is the significance of the hidden economy, with emphasis on this industry?
4. What are the responsibilities of the state when it comes to providing compensations to victims and their families?
5. How has human trafficking evolved through the growth of technology and does current regulation cover all bases?

CONFERENCE: THE EVOLUTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF PRISONERS BY INTERPRETING TORTURE IN THE LIGHT OF PRACTICE AND JURISPRUDENCE OF INTERNATIONAL BODIES AND THEIR SOCIAL PREDICAMENT

Reference:

http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Torture/UNVFVT/Interpretation_torture_2011_EN.pdf





Introduction: Under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, all human beings “are equal in dignity and rights.” However, there are groups of people worldwide whose human rights are ignored or diminished due to their individual status in society. Prisoners in particular are often overlooked in the discussion of human rights because they are considered unworthy of human rights and basic protections. Yet according to the UNHCR, all humans across the global community deserve equal treatment. Amnesty International reported torture

and other ill-treatment of prisoners in 141 countries from every world region over the past five years. This is despite the fact that 155 countries are parties to the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Clearly, this is a pressing human rights issue that must be addressed. Aside from acts of torture, prisoners have been subjected to other forms of ill-treatment such as inadequate attention considering their health and poor living conditions. There are also specific groups of prisoners that are extremely vulnerable in the current prison systems as they do not have the international protection they need, or many governments overlook these groups and do not abide by international standards: particularly foreign and women prisoners, and prisoners with mental illnesses. Due to this reason the Third General Assembly must take action in ensuring that all prisoners are treated according to international standards and that the international guidelines are in accordance with present situations.

BACKGROUND:

Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners: These are UN guidelines and rules specifically targeting the treatment and rights of prisoners.

Torture within the Prison System: General cause of torture is to maintain social control, to defend ruling regimes, and to suppress or punish political opponents and suspected criminals. Decades ago, torture was “considered necessary or good” as it was the means of achieving justice. Due to its extensive use throughout history, torture has, in a way, been ingrained in many countries’ legal systems. This can be seen in the country’s legislation or the beliefs of the society.



CASE STUDY 1: THE FORCE FEEDING OF PRISONERS IN ISRAEL

(Reference: <http://america.aljazeera.com/opinions/2016/1/israel-must-end-force-feeding-of-hunger-striking-palestinian-prisoners.html>)

On 24 April 2014, hundreds of Palestinian prisoners started a hunger strike to protest that many of them were imprisoned without charges or trials, as well as the inadequacy of treatment they had received while being in Israeli prisons. In response, the Israeli parliament, the Knesset, rejected the voting on a bill that would amend the Prisons Act to allow the force-feeding of prisoners. This has caused pronounced global outrage, and UN experts have expressed their objections. Juan E. Méndez stated, "It is not acceptable to force-feed or use threats of force-feeding or other physical psychological coercion against individuals who have opted for the extreme recourse of a hunger strike to protest against their detention without charge and conditions of detention and treatment." He added that as long as the actions are voluntary, prisoners' desires to not eat have to be respected. However the Israeli Court stated that "This law is legal under Israeli law and international law."

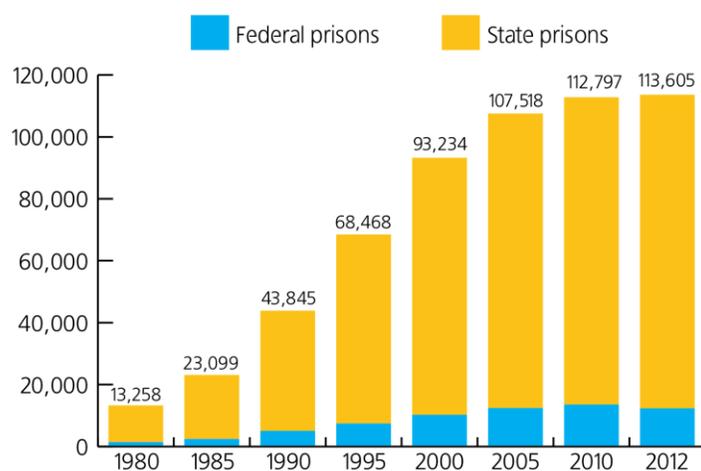
CASE STUDY 2: NEGLECTED NEEDS- GIRLS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE

SYSTEM

(Reference: <https://www.penalreform.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/girls-crim-just-v4.pdf>)

After the introduction of the Bangkok Rules in 2010, the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice (IPJJ) published a report in 2014 examining problems girls face with the criminal justice system. The report, titled *Neglected Needs: Girls in the Criminal Justice System*, also contains recommendations for improving the protection of the rights of girls. Some of the issues the report mentions that girls face are specific health, hygiene and sanitary needs, and the fact that they are at a higher risk of substance abuse, ill treatment, torture, self-harm, mental health

Number of Women in State and Federal Prisons, 1980-2012



Source: Carson, E.A., Golinelli, D. (2013). *Prisoners in 2012*. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics



issues, HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. The report mentions the critical issue of the lack of commitment from governments in following the Bangkok Rules, which is also an issue affecting the rights of all prisoners.

BLOC ANALYSIS:

The state of prisoners' rights in a country is strongly influenced by the political stability and the social history of the country. The following blocs are divided by geographically because countries within a region tend to have similar prison environments but there are exceptions in every bloc. Therefore, delegates must research the policies and beliefs of their own country. This can include the following: whether or not the country has adopted and followed international standards like SMRs and the Bangkok Rules, the situation within prisons in the country, and the emphasis of prisoners' rights by the government. Finally, keep in mind that while delegates should adhere to their own country's policy at all times, the solutions to this issue should be tailored to many or all member states rather than just one country specifically.

Regions to consider:

1. Sub-Saharan Africa
2. North and South America
3. Eastern and Western Europe
4. Central Asia
5. Asia-Pacific Region
6. Middle East and North Africa

COMMITTEE MISSION:

Delegates must consider what major aspects need to be revised or changes, and in what format would this change occur, and how the development of policies would encourage more Member State activity. In the section regarding the revision and updating on current policies, delegates will have to analyse how they can encourage changes to existing guidelines for prisoners' rights. It is also important to consider the crucial role NGOs play in the advocacy and protection of prisoners' rights. In the section regarding the application of guidelines, delegates must consider many viewpoints. Although we cannot force nations to follow international policies, the committee has the ability to foster situations in which countries will choose to implement and respect UN guidelines.



POINTS A DELEGATE SHOULD ADDRESS:

1. War prisoner vs State prisoner?
2. Which UN conventions and treaties that relate to prisoners' rights have your country signed? How has your country abided by these guidelines? If your country hasn't, why?
3. What is the current conditions the prisoners in your country face? Also what role does prisons play in your country?
4. Is "torture" defined based on regional differences?
5. What are the significant features in terms of the evolution of prisoner's rights? Retribution vs Deterrence, which takes precedence?
6. How are ways to encourage governments to follow UN guidelines regarding the treatment of prisoners?
7. What improvements does your country specifically need to better the state of prisoners' rights and are these change occurring? Could they be applicable to another nation?
8. How does your country reinstate prisoners back into society? What are the Recidivism rates in your country?

USEFUL LINKS:

- <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/BasicPrinciplesTreatmentOfPrisoners.aspx>.
- http://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/AGMs/Background_note.pdf
- <http://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b36e8.html>.
- <http://amnesty.org/en/stoptorture>.
- http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/HRC/22/53

