

The logo for GatorMUN IX features the text "GatorMUN IX" in a serif font. "Gator" is in blue, "MUN" is in orange, and "IX" is in blue. Above the "G" in "Gator" is a stylized orange graphic of a gator's head and neck.**COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

Distinguished Delegates,

Let me be the first to welcome you to GatorMUN IX! My name is Samantha Moltke, and I'm excited to direct the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ). I'm currently in my final year of studies at the University of Florida, where I am majoring in Political Science and minoring in International Development and Humanitarian Assistance, European Union Studies, and Russian Language and Culture. My participation in UF's Model United Nations club has easily been the highlight of my college experience - it has allowed me to explore my interests in international affairs, compete across the country, and meet some of the most incredible people I've ever known. In addition, it has provided me with the opportunity to get involved with GatorMUN. This will be my fourth year on the GatorMUN staff - prior to this, I have served as the Assistant Director for General Assembly Third Committee, as well as the Director for the United Nations Environmental Programme and United Nations Development Programme.

I hope all of you are as excited for this committee as I am - international crime is a particular interest of mine, and I can't wait to see what innovative ideas you bring to the floor as you debate the topics at hand. This committee will operate under the rules of standard parliamentary procedure, which you can find on the GatorMUN website. Familiarize yourself with these before committee begins, and don't hesitate to ask if you are uncertain of anything. Clear knowledge of the rules and procedures of debate will ensure that our committee flows as smoothly as possible. In the same vein, please conduct thorough research on your country, the CCPCJ, and the specific topics at hand. Knowing your country's policy and relations with other Member States will help you develop your country's position and remain on-policy throughout debate.

Once again, if you have any questions about parliamentary procedure, what is expected of you in committee, or any of the topics to be debated, feel free to contact me at [gatormun@gmail.com](mailto:gatormun@gmail.com).

Best,  
Sam Moltke  
Director of CCPCJ



## **Committee Description**

The United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) is the primary body through which the United Nations tackles the challenges presented by international crime. In order to effectively address these problems, the CCPCJ will utilize traditional parliamentary procedure to facilitate the flow of debate. Delegates are expected to remain actively involved in all aspects of debate for the duration of committee, and they should be prepared to propose innovative solutions to the topics at hand. In order to successfully do this, delegates are strongly encouraged to conduct independent research pertaining to the CCPCJ, the topics to be debated, and their country.

## **Committee Background**

In 1992, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was formed as a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council.<sup>1</sup> Prior to its establishment, the United Nations (UN) relied on the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control to address international illicit activities. This committee, however, was deemed too technical, and the CCPCJ was established to take a more interdisciplinary approach when examining topics pertaining to international crime. The CCPCJ relies heavily on other organizations in order to fulfill its mandate – it collaborates with entities such as the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to increase the effectiveness of its programs.<sup>2</sup>

As the major functional body for addressing international crime, the CCPCJ is faced with a wide range of topics. The CCPCJ combats everything from organized crime and money laundering to political corruption and piracy. It strives to ensure that criminal justice systems around the world are in compliance with internationally recognized human rights, and it works to facilitate cooperation in counter-terrorism operations and anti-trafficking efforts. Additionally, the CCPCJ prides itself on its ability to remain current and places an emphasis on addressing new and emerging forms of international crime. In order to fund these efforts, the CCPCJ seeks financial assistance through various means, such as its partnerships with the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank, as well as donations from Member States.<sup>3</sup>

## **Topic 1: Combating Human Trafficking**

### **Introduction**

In recent years, human trafficking has emerged as one of the most lucrative and widespread sectors of the illicit economy. Often referred to as contemporary slavery, the UN defines human trafficking as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion... for the purpose of

<sup>1</sup> “Mandate and Functions” < <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/ccpcj-mandate-functions.html>>

<sup>2</sup> ECOSOC Resolution 1992/22

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.


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exploitation.<sup>4</sup> In many cases, people become victims of human trafficking through the promise of employment overseas – a position as a housekeeper, for example, or a job at a nightclub. Once they arrive in their destination country, they are robbed of their fundamental human rights and exploited, forced to work in degrading conditions for little to no compensation.

The statistics surrounding this form of contemporary slavery are shocking. According to a 2007 study conducted by the International Labour Organization, approximately 2.5 million people are currently forced into labor as a result of human trafficking.<sup>5</sup> These victims come from, and are trafficked to, 161 countries around the world.<sup>6</sup> While women and children are particularly vulnerable, people of all ages, genders, and races have found themselves victims of trafficking. Annually, the profits generated by trafficked persons are estimated at approximately \$31.6 billion – an astonishing figure.<sup>7</sup>

In order to effectively combat human trafficking, the CCPCJ must work to address numerous facets of this issue. By disseminating information on human trafficking in communities around the world, especially to those who are particularly vulnerable, the CCPCJ helps people familiarize themselves with the crime and actively avoid recruitment into trafficking. By establishing shelters for victims, ensuring their safety and assisting them with reintegration into society, rescued victims of human trafficking can avoid falling back into exploitation. Additionally, the CCPCJ places special emphasis on the need for criminal justice in cases of human trafficking. With only one person convicted for every eight hundred people trafficked, the CCPCJ recognizes a tremendous deficit in the abilities of countries around the world to identify, detain and prosecute traffickers.<sup>8</sup> Countries around the world must collaborate and share information in order to successfully combat human trafficking.

## History

Human trafficking, often referred to as “modern day slavery,” is a crime of indeterminate origins. Even today, it is difficult to determine precisely how many men, women and children are currently victims of this crime. Without the technology and resources available today, it is even more difficult to identify early cases of human trafficking. Since the early twentieth century, the international community has acknowledged that trafficking in persons is different than the slave trade.<sup>9</sup> Despite this knowledge, human trafficking was not aggressively addressed until the latter portion of the twentieth century.

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<sup>4</sup> “UIHCR Human Rights Index” <<http://international.uiowa.edu/centers/human-rights/projects/human-rights-index/15-2006.asp>>

<sup>5</sup> “Human Trafficking: The Facts” <[http://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/issues\\_doc/labour/Forced\\_labour/HUMAN\\_TRAFFICKING\\_-\\_THE\\_FACTS\\_-\\_final.pdf](http://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/issues_doc/labour/Forced_labour/HUMAN_TRAFFICKING_-_THE_FACTS_-_final.pdf)>

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> “History of Human Trafficking” <<http://juliewedam.blogspot.com/2010/02/history-of-human-trafficking.html>>


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## *United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others*

One of the first large-scale international agreements on human trafficking was the United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others. Agreed upon in 1949 and enacted in 1951, the resolution was a groundbreaking step in the right direction for Member States in their quest to prevent trafficking.<sup>10</sup> Addressing a crime that received little attention at the time, this document implored Member States to ban the exploitation of persons for the purpose of prostitution and to punish those involved or connected with human trafficking. Although the resolution primarily focused on exploitation through prostitution and neglected to mention the numerous other forms of trafficking, it represented an active effort by Member States to combat the newly-acknowledged crime.

## *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children*

In 2003, the Member States of the UN adopted the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons. This Protocol to the Convention on Transnational Organized Crime provided a fairly comprehensive overview of modern human trafficking and the activities it entails. The Protocol is a particularly important document, as it provides the first legally binding definition of human trafficking:

the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.<sup>11</sup>

Aside from providing a common definition on which countries can agree upon, the Protocol addresses many important facets of human trafficking. It discusses the need for capacity building so that countries can properly address trafficking problems within their own borders, as well as the need for strong international cooperation, particularly in the area of legal prosecution. It also emphasizes the victims and their rights, encouraging countries to provide food, shelter, and security once they are removed from trafficking.

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<sup>10</sup> “Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others” <<http://polis.osce.org/library/f/3655/2833/UN-USA-RPT-3655-EN-Text%20of%20the%20Convention.pdf>>

<sup>11</sup> “United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto” <<http://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNTOC/Publications/TOC%20Convention/TOCebook-e.pdf>>



*United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT)*

UN.GIFT was established in March 2007 and is responsible for promoting the international fight against human trafficking, particularly through the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. The organization strives to bring together countries, NGOs, international organizations, and other predominant global entities to act as a united front in the fight to combat human trafficking. It strives to reduce vulnerability, preserve human rights, raise awareness, and build the capacity for countries to act against trafficking.<sup>12</sup>

The organization has contributed a significant amount to the fight against human trafficking through a variety of methods. It provides the international community with up-to-date information on various countries' efforts to combat trafficking – the legislation they have implemented, the preventative measures they have taken, and their effectiveness at legally prosecuting traffickers.<sup>13</sup> It also sheds light on the problems that still remain. In order to resolve these existing issues, UN.GIFT provides grants for civil service organizations that aim to tackle aspects of trafficking within their own communities and around the world. By partnering with businesses, celebrities, media organizations and governments, UN.GIFT has contributed to the fight against human trafficking in a multitude of ways.<sup>14</sup>

### **Prevalence of the Issue**

As was mentioned before, human trafficking is truly a global crime. Nearly every country in the world has been identified as a source, transit, or destination country for trafficked persons. They come from wealthy countries and failing states, crowded cities and rural villages. Men, women and children of all races, backgrounds, and socioeconomic statuses have become victims of trafficking. While sex trafficking, which most often takes the form of forced prostitution, is the most common form of human trafficking worldwide, victims are exploited through various other means. Men are often forced to do manual labor, and many trafficked children roam the streets of large cities, begging for money.

For many years, human trafficking went largely ignored by the international community. For much of the developed world – and, in many cases, developing countries – slavery had been abolished years ago, and the notion of a new form of slavery was something that few were receptive of. However, human trafficking has gained significant international attention in recent years. Many countries have acknowledged the crime's existence and are now employing a variety of techniques to curb trafficking within their own borders. However, as an international crime, human trafficking warrants an international response. Countries must come together and collaborate in order to effectively eliminate trafficking in persons.

The CCPCJ has made significant efforts to combat human trafficking. Working through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), tremendous strides have been made in

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<sup>12</sup> “About UN.GIFT” < <http://www.ungift.org/knowledgehub/en/about/index.html>>

<sup>13</sup> Ibid

<sup>14</sup> Ibid


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the fight against trafficking. Many of these efforts have focused on empowering countries and enabling them with the tools they need to effectively combat trafficking on their own. The UNODC has released numerous publications that focus on various aspects of trafficking. It has published the Toolkit to Combat Smuggling of Migrants, which aims “to provide guidance, showcase promising practices and recommend resources” for those attempting to prevent trafficking, protect victims and prosecute criminals.<sup>15</sup> It advises countries on how best to comply with the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, and it even offers sample legislation for countries to incorporate into their legal systems to criminalize human trafficking and activities associated with the crime.

## *Thailand*

The human trafficking situation in Thailand is complex. A variety of factors have led to this situation – women and girls are often less educated than men, particularly those in rural areas, and a lack of job opportunities leaves many seeking employment at any cost.<sup>16</sup> Some women and children have inadvertently become victims of trafficking in their attempts to secure a job, and others are captured by international criminal groups and forced into sexual slavery abroad. Due to its proximity to Myanmar, Cambodia, and Vietnam, Thailand has also served as a transit country for victims destined for other countries<sup>17</sup>. Additionally, Thailand is a destination country for trafficked victims – men, women and children are brought into the country from China, Russia and numerous other countries. While many are forced into prostitution, a significant number find themselves working as laborers.<sup>18</sup>

The Thai government has made some efforts in combating human trafficking. The government does attempt to prosecute human traffickers, and it offers protection to victims. The country also attempts to prevent trafficking through various avenues, such as by distributing information to educate vulnerable persons on the dangers of trafficking and through funding vocational schools for high school students.<sup>19</sup> Despite these efforts, Thailand was recently identified by the U.S. Department of State as a Tier 2 country in its Trafficking in Persons Report, which signified that the country has yet to fully comply with the minimum standards agreed upon to eliminate trafficking.<sup>20</sup>

## *France*

France has been identified as a destination country for victims of human trafficking. These victims, predominantly women and young girls, are trafficked from numerous source countries – Nigeria, Malaysia, Bulgaria and Romania, to name a few. The vast majority of these

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<sup>15</sup> “UNODC – Tools and Publications” < <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/publications.html#Tools>>

<sup>16</sup> “Thailand Journal of Law and Policy” < <http://www.thailawforum.com/articles/Trafficking-in-Thailand%20.html>>

<sup>17</sup> “Thailand” <<http://www.humantrafficking.org/countries/thailand>>

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

victims are forced into the commercial sex trade. One study reported that of the approximately 15,000 sex trade workers in France, up to 12,000 are victims of trafficking. It is exceptionally difficult to distinguish these victims from voluntary sex workers.<sup>21</sup> Alone in a foreign country, unfamiliar with the local language, and living in fear of their captors, victims are often too scared to approach the authorities about their situation. The French government works closely with NGOs in its efforts to prevent human trafficking and to protect victims. However, the country has been criticized for its inability to identify victims of human trafficking and prosecute those responsible for the crime.<sup>22</sup>

### Research Questions

1. How prevalent is human trafficking in your country? Is your country a source, transit, or destination country? What factors – political, social, or economic – contribute to this?
2. What has your country done to prevent trafficking? How does it protect victims of trafficking, and does it prosecute those who contribute to this criminal activity?
3. Has your country agreed to any international agreements, treaties, etc. pertaining to human trafficking? Have they fully complied? If not, why?
4. Which countries, international organizations and non-governmental organizations does your country collaborate with in its efforts to combat human trafficking? What programs have been particularly effective?

### Helpful Websites

- United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking: <http://www.ungift.org/knowledgehub/>
- Human Trafficking FAQ's: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/faqs.html>
- Human Trafficking: <http://www.humantrafficking.org/>
- Polaris Project: For A World Without Slavery: <http://www.polarisproject.org/>

## Topic II: International Prison Reform

### Introduction

The prison system is a relatively common institution. Found in many countries around the world, prisons are often used to detain and punish those who are found guilty – or, in some cases, are simply accused – of violating criminal law. In an ideal world, these prisons serve several purposes. They protect law-abiding citizens from harm by keeping dangerous criminals off of the streets. Criminals are punished for their wrongdoings by spending time in isolation, away from society, as they serve their sentence. Once released, memories of their time in prison

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<sup>21</sup> “U.S. State Dept Trafficking in Persons Report, June 2009” < <http://gvnet.com/humantrafficking/France-2.htm> >

<sup>22</sup> Ibid

deters former convicts from committing additional crimes.

In the real world, however, this is rarely how such events unfold. When not correctly operated, prisons can create more problems than they resolve. Many issues stem from a lack of funding, which can lead to overcrowding, poor infrastructure, inadequate staffing, and an inability to provide crucial services to inmates.<sup>23</sup> Some prisons struggle to meet the basic health care needs of prisoners – particularly, those with disabilities. Others fail to offer services, such as social reintegration programs and educational opportunities, that are thought to assist prisoners as they complete their sentence and transition back into society. Numerous prison systems fail to meet the benchmarks established by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in 1955, the “Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.”<sup>24</sup>

The CCPCJ is convinced that these problems can be addressed through aggressive prison reform. Through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the CCPCJ has made great strides in assisting the international community in overcoming challenges to these reforms. Through the publication of various tools and manuals, the CCPCJ outlines the acceptable standards for prison conditions and offers numerous methods to achieve them. Partnerships between the CCPCJ, UNODC, NGOs and individual countries allow for the creation of programs, specifically tailored to a country’s particular needs, to improve prison conditions. Additionally, the CCPCJ expresses great concern regarding the overuse of prisons in many countries.<sup>25</sup> Imprisonment can have many negative effects on human rights, public health, the strength of a society, and a country’s national economy. By providing alternatives to imprisonment when possible and improving conditions in prisons for those who must serve a sentence, the condition of prisons can be significantly improved.

## History

### *Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners*

One of the first major pieces of international legislation concerning the conditions of prisons and those within them was the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. Adopted in 1955, this document outlined the essential conditions that must be maintained in prisons.<sup>26</sup> It illustrated the importance establishing separate facilities for men and women, set minimum standards for accommodation and clothing, and emphasized the need for adequate medical services. It outlined appropriate disciplinary procedures and designated appropriate uses of measures of restraint on prisoners. Additionally, the document emphasized the importance of offering educational opportunities and visitation rights to those serving time in prison.<sup>27</sup> While not legally binding, the specifications outlined in the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners have generally been accepted by the international arena as strong, principled

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<sup>23</sup> “Technical Assistance” <<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/justice-and-prison-reform/technical-assistance.html>>

<sup>24</sup> “Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners” <<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/treatmentprisoners.htm>>

<sup>25</sup> “Technical Assistance” <<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/justice-and-prison-reform/technical-assistance.html>>

<sup>26</sup> “Standard Minimum Rules” <<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/treatmentprisoners.htm>>

<sup>27</sup> Ibid



guidelines for conditions in prisons.

*Compendium of United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*

First published in 1992, the Compendium serves as a comprehensive compilation of international norms and standards regarding various facets of crime prevention and criminal justice.<sup>28</sup> The Compendium outlines the norms and standards that have been established during the last half century. Particularly important to those seeking prison reform are the first four sections, which address the treatment of prisoners, juvenile justice, alternatives to imprisonment, and punishment, respectively. Spanning well over one hundred pages, the documents contained within include the Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners, United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-Custodial Measures, and the Guidelines for Action on Children in the Criminal Justice System.<sup>29</sup>

*United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*

The United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is considered the oldest recurring UN conference to focus on a specific topic.<sup>30</sup> Since its inception in 1955, this congress has convened once every five years to “[explore] ways in which criminal justice systems can operate both more effectively and more humanely.”<sup>31</sup> Member States, policy-makers, non-governmental organizations, and members of academia attend workshops on emerging trends and unresolved issues in international crime, debate potential solutions for existing problems, and explore ways to further improve the criminal justice systems within each country. These congresses are highly regarded as a symbol of the United Nations’ success in combating crime and ensuring justice at an international level.<sup>32</sup>

The Tenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Vienna, has contributed most significantly to international prison reform. This session produced the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice, which contained an extremely detailed action plan. The plan outlined actions to be taken to reduce overcrowding in prisons, including alternatives to imprisonment, on both the national and international levels.<sup>33</sup> It emphasized the importance of tailoring specific procedures for juveniles, and it encouraged countries to share whatever information they had on gender bias in the criminal justice system to ensure fair treatment of women in prisons. This action plan provided countries with a more guided approach to improving conditions within their own prison systems and encouraged international cooperation, when appropriate.

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<sup>28</sup> “Compendium” < <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/justice-and-prison-reform/compendium.html>>

<sup>29</sup> Ibid

<sup>30</sup> “The Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice” < <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crime-congress/12th-crime-congress.html>>

<sup>31</sup> “Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice” < <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/justice-and-prison-reform/index.html>>

<sup>32</sup> “The Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice” < <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crime-congress/12th-crime-congress.html>>

<sup>33</sup> “Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Vienna Declaration” <[http://www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/10\\_commission/resumed\\_session/14e.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/10_commission/resumed_session/14e.pdf)>

## Prevalence of the Issue

Nearly every country – developed or developing – can stand to improve its prison system. Human rights violations, both minor and severe, have been identified in prisons around the world. Adequate health care, proper living conditions, educational opportunities, mental health facilities, and reintegration programs are often denied to prisoners. Many lack the personnel necessary to properly operate a successful prison. Most struggle to find the funding to implement these measures.

In 2010, at the 12th United Nations Conference on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture revealed the results of a study of the world’s prison systems. He noted that, in many countries, persons who were often marginalized in society – women, the elderly, and those infected with HIV, among others – suffered even more in oppressive prison systems.<sup>34</sup> In others, prisoners were confined to inhumane spaces – in one Uruguay prison, some prisoners were housed in “tiny metal boxes.”<sup>35</sup>

The obvious solution to many of these problems is prison reform. The need for reform is no new phenomenon. For decades, organizations and individuals have advocated for prison reforms in countries around the world. As the Special Rapporteur witnessed, these reforms can make a tremendous difference. In Denmark and Germany, for example, prisoners were housed in livable conditions and granted many liberties within these confines. As a result, criminals were rarely repeat offenders, and were easily reintegrated into society once they served their sentence.<sup>36</sup> Unfortunately, these conditions are rare. Those pursuing these reforms in many countries are met with significant challenges. In the current global economy, many developed and developing countries are plagued by budgetary concerns. Governments are hesitant to spend valuable funds on prison reform when also faced with the need to bolster infrastructure, expand educational opportunities, and improve healthcare systems.

### *Sudan*

A developing country that has been ravaged by civil war, Sudan has witnessed the dissolution of much of its infrastructure over the last twenty years. As the conflict begins to diminish, the government of Southern Sudan has sought the assistance of others in its quest to recreate what has been lost and reestablish the rule of law. The UNODC has collaborated with several other international organizations to institute prison reforms throughout the country in an effort to aid the Sudanese government in rebuilding its capacity to maintain an effective prison system.<sup>37</sup>

Beginning in 2007, the UNODC has worked to implement sweeping reforms. The first phase of these reforms was largely focused on training personnel to staff these prisons. Prison workers

<sup>34</sup> “Meetings Coverage SOC/CP/351” < <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2010/soccp351.doc.htm> >

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

<sup>36</sup> “Meetings Coverage SOC/CP/351” < <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2010/soccp351.doc.htm> >

<sup>37</sup> “Assisting the Process of Prison Reform in Sudan” < [http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/justice-and-prison-reform/projects\\_Sudan.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/justice-and-prison-reform/projects_Sudan.html) >



were instructed on how to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS amongst prisoners, provide appropriate care for those with special needs, and keep accurate records, and various assessments revealed further areas for improvement.<sup>38</sup> The second phase, which will be implemented shortly, will revolve around improving conditions for prisoners, with an emphasis on vulnerable groups, as well as developing leadership and legal precedents to ensure the success of these reforms.<sup>39</sup>

### *The United States of America*

The United States is regarded as one of the most developed nations in the world. However, with one in every one hundred adults behind bars, it also boasts the highest rate of incarceration in the world.<sup>40</sup> Overcrowding poses a significant problem to the American penal system – with populations and incarceration rates growing and state budgets struggling, the problem has only grown more serious.<sup>41</sup> Those serving time behind bars are sometimes subject to inhumane living conditions. Rape and sexual assault pose significant threats in many prisons, and those in immigration detention are often subject to poor healthcare and substandard living conditions.<sup>42</sup>

Legislators and government officials have begun to investigate ways in which overcrowding can be reduced and standards of living for those in prisons can be increased. In California, which has received significant attention for its troubled system, measures are already in effect to improve prison conditions. To resolve part of the overcrowding dilemma, some prisoners with lesser infractions have been reassigned to local jails, reducing the burden on the prisons themselves. Plans are also in place to expand existing infrastructure to accommodate additional prisoners, build additional health care facilities, and to assign some prisoners to serve their sentences on house arrest, an alternative to imprisonment.<sup>43</sup> Despite these plans, much remains to be done before the condition of prisons in California, and across the United States, can be improved.

### **Research Questions**

1. What is the current status of your country's prison system? How does it compare to others? Are there any human rights violations, or other areas that could be improved?
2. What problems has your country faced in establishing or maintaining a successful prison system? Has your country overcome these shortcomings? If not, has the situation gotten worse?

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<sup>38</sup> "UNODC's Programme in Southern Sudan –Activities" < [http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/justice-and-prison-reform/projects\\_Sudan\\_Activities.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/justice-and-prison-reform/projects_Sudan_Activities.html)>

<sup>39</sup> "Assisting the Process of Prison Reform in Sudan" < [http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/justice-and-prison-reform/projects\\_Sudan.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/justice-and-prison-reform/projects_Sudan.html)>

<sup>40</sup> "One in One Hundred: Behind Bars in America" < <http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/One%20in%20100.pdf>>

<sup>41</sup> Ibid.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> "California Prison Overcrowding" < [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/06/07/california-prison-overcrowding\\_n\\_872785.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/06/07/california-prison-overcrowding_n_872785.html)>



3. Does your country support or utilize alternatives to imprisonment?
4. How could your country better prepare inmates to return to society after serving their sentence?

### Helpful Websites

- Penal Reform International: <http://www.penalreform.org>
- Prison Reform: <http://www.prisonreform.org/links2.htm>
- Inside Out Trust: Restorative Justice At Work In Prisons: <http://www.inside-out.org.uk>
- UNODC: Why Promote Prison Reform?: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/justice-and-prison-reform/prison-reform-and-alternatives-to-imprisonment.html>

## Topic III. Alternative Development – Reducing Illicit Crop Cultivation

### Introduction

The global drug crisis has posed a significant challenge for countries around the world. Governments, together with international institutions, have developed a number of ways to address the problems posed by illicit drugs. Some of these efforts target those who purchase drugs for personal use, while others aim to capture and imprison those responsible for the sale and distribution of illegal substances. Still others pursue those who transport drugs across borders, or those who are involved with drug-related gang activities. While the CCPCJ acknowledges the need to maintain a multifaceted approach in combating illicit drugs, it places special importance on the need to reduce the production of illicit crops.

While some drugs, like methamphetamine, are entirely man-made, others are derived through more natural means. Heroin, marijuana, and cocaine are products of the opium poppy, the cannabis plant, and the coca bush, respectively. The specific laws regarding these plants differ by country, but generally, their cultivation for the purpose of illicit drug production is outlawed. As a result, the 4.5 million people involved in the production of such crops lead a precarious existence, living in constant fear of discovery and, subsequently, punishment by the government.<sup>44</sup> Many live well below the poverty level and struggle to adequately provide for their families.<sup>45</sup> In many cases, illicit crop growth occurs in countries that have struggling economies. As a result, the majority of rural farmers who produce illicit crops do so out of necessity, not volition.<sup>46</sup>

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is convinced that alternative development strategies may be used to effectively combat illicit crop growth. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, alternative development is commonly identified as:

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44 “UNODC – Making a Difference Through Alternative Development”

<<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/alternative-development/making-a-difference-through-alternative-development.html>>

45 Ibid.

46 Ibid.



*A process to prevent and eliminate the illicit cultivation of plants containing narcotics and psychotropic substances through specifically designed rural development measures in the context of sustained national growth and sustainable development efforts in countries taking action against drugs, recognizing the particular socio-economic characteristics of the target communities and groups, within the framework of a comprehensive and permanent solution to the problem of illicit drugs.<sup>47</sup>*

Alternative development aims to reduce the number of individuals involved in the cultivation of illicit crops by addressing the underlying causes – namely, poverty. In order to achieve sustainable alternative development, the CCPCJ believes in adopting a multifaceted approach, which encompasses everything from gender equality to income diversification.<sup>48</sup>

## History

The cultivation and subsequent consumption of mind-altering substances is no new phenomenon. The ancient Chinese utilized the cannabis plant for medicinal purposes in records dating from 2737 B.C., and the opium plant was praised by the Sumerians as far back as 3400 B.C.<sup>49 50</sup> Although drugs derived from plants like the coca bush and the opium poppy have been consumed for thousands of years, recent history has witnessed dramatic changes in the nature of these drugs. Numerous scientific advances have transformed these substances from medicinal plants to chemically-altered, highly addictive drugs which, when left unregulated, can wreak havoc upon societies. As drugs became more and more dangerous for consumers, countries exerted more and more efforts to attempt to curb their production, transportation, and consumption.

The implementation of alternative development techniques to combat illicit crop production began around thirty years ago.<sup>51</sup> Early efforts were strictly focused on the replacement of drug crops, such as the coca bush, with crops that could generate an income without exacerbating the drug problem, such as coffee. However, mere crop replacement proved to be ineffective, as farmers often lacked the resources and infrastructure necessary to turn a profit.<sup>52</sup> Over time, the international community began to adopt a more holistic approach, incorporating education, gender equality, capacity-building, infrastructure and development into the equation.

### *Early Efforts of the United Nations*

47 “UNODC and Alternative Development” <<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/alternative-development/index.html>>

48 “UNODC – Making a Difference Through Alternative Development” <<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/alternative-development/making-a-difference-through-alternative-development.html>>

49 “History of Marijuana” <<http://www.narconon.org/drug-information/marijuana-history.html>>

50 “Opium Throughout History” <<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/heroin/etc/history.html>>

51 “The Role of Alternative Development in Drug Control and Development Cooperation”

<[http://www.unodc.org/pdf/Alternative%20Development/RoleAD\\_DrugControl\\_Development.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/Alternative%20Development/RoleAD_DrugControl_Development.pdf)>

52 Ibid.



The United Nations has maintained a focus on addressing the problems associated with illicit substances since its inception. Resolutions pertaining to illegal drugs have been consistently published since 1946.<sup>53</sup> While not specifically addressed as alternative development, the concept of utilizing developmental techniques to replace illicit crops with other profitable plants has been present for several decades. The one of the first major pieces of international legislation to incorporate the elimination of illicit crops was the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, which attempted to control the cultivation of plants that could be used to produce narcotic drugs, such as the opium poppy.<sup>54</sup> Additionally, in 1988, the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances stressed the importance of eradicating narcotic plants.<sup>55</sup> The Convention urged countries to cooperate in their attempts to eliminate the cultivation of illicit crops and suggested utilizing rural development strategies in turning farmers away from illicit crop growth.<sup>56</sup>

*Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development*

In 1998, the United Nations General Assembly convened for a special session to further expand upon and stress the importance of alternative development. The product of their efforts was a ten-year action plan which focused on elaborating upon strategies that could potentially further the efforts of alternative development. The document identified challenges associated with existing practices and recommended specific actions, both proven techniques and innovative methods, to address deficits from past endeavors.<sup>57</sup> It urged countries to focus on cooperation and share information pertaining to illicit crop growth in order to better combat the problem, and it stressed the need for regional and local involvement and input.<sup>58</sup>

In 2008, the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs convened to determine the success of the ten-year action plan. The assessment provided an in-depth examination of illicit crop production and analyzed the impact of the decade's efforts in alternative development.<sup>59</sup> Results were mixed – while some areas experienced significant cutbacks in the production of opium poppies and coca bushes, other countries saw a surge in illicit crop growth.<sup>60</sup> The report generated a number of conclusions – namely, that alternative development was only a viable strategy if countries could make it a “long-term political commitment.”<sup>61</sup> Additionally, the

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53 “Drug-Related Resolutions and Decisions” <<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/09-resolutions.html>>

54 “Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961” <[http://www.incb.org/incb/convention\\_1961.html](http://www.incb.org/incb/convention_1961.html)>

55 “United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances” <[http://www.unodc.org/pdf/convention\\_1988\\_en.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/convention_1988_en.pdf)>

56 Ibid.

57 “Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development” <<http://www.unodc.org/documents/alternative-development/UNGASSActionPlanAD.pdf>>

58 Ibid.

59 “Addendum: Action Plan” <<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/V07/892/21/PDF/V0789221.pdf?OpenElement>>

60 Ibid.

61 Ibid.



assessment offered further suggestions on best practices and lessons learned in alternative development and offered further opportunities for progress.

### **Prevalence of the Issue**

While improvements in technology and farming techniques have led to the expansion of illicit crops to all geographic areas around the world, there are some countries in which their cultivation does not pose a significant threat.<sup>62</sup> Nevertheless, nearly every country in the world is impacted by the illegal drug trade, which spans the globe and generates hundreds of billions of dollars.<sup>63</sup> By working together and utilizing alternative development strategies to reduce illicit crop growth in select countries, the world may benefit. The CCPCJ believes that alternative development is a viable strategy for reducing illicit crop growth while simultaneously increasing the quality of life for those in developing countries. Addressing the underlying factors that initially led rural farmers to participate in illicit crop cultivation is critical in successful implementation of alternative development plans.

#### *Afghanistan*

Afghanistan has long been identified as a global leader in illicit crop growth. Constant warfare has left the country in shambles which has led the government to be reliant upon foreign aid and humanitarian assistance to support its population. Widespread poverty has led many farmers to abandon traditional crops in favor of opium poppies, and for many years, corrupt officials turned a blind eye as criminal groups and political insurgents turned a significant profit through the drug trade.<sup>64</sup> While the cultivation of illicit crops has taken a detrimental toll on Afghanistan, the impact of drug growth there is far-reaching. Afghanistan is considered the primary provider of heroin, a highly destructive drug, to countries throughout Europe and Asia.<sup>65</sup>

In an attempt to curb the growth of opium poppies, the UNODC collaborated with the Afghan government and several international organizations to implement alternative development practices within its borders. Their efforts have been largely successful – in 2010, 20 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces were reported to have zero opium poppy production.<sup>66</sup> In order to achieve such significant results, government officials devised an implemented a counter-narcotic strategy, which consisted of measures to strengthen Afghanistan's ability to uncover opium poppy farms, among other things.<sup>67</sup> The government also placed significant importance on the necessity of offering opium poppy farmers alternative employment opportunities.

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62 “Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development” <<http://www.unodc.org/documents/alternative-development/UNGASSActionPlanAD.pdf>>

63 “The Global Drugs Trade” <[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/static/in\\_depth/world/2000/drugs\\_trade/default.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/static/in_depth/world/2000/drugs_trade/default.stm)>

64 “Opium Survey: Summary Findings” <[http://www.unodc.org/documents/crop-monitoring/Afghanistan/Afghanistan\\_opium\\_survey\\_2009\\_summary.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/crop-monitoring/Afghanistan/Afghanistan_opium_survey_2009_summary.pdf)>

65 “Afghanistan: Heroin Producer of the World” <<http://www.cbc.ca/news/background/drugs/heroin-afghanistan.html>>

66 “UNODC – Afghanistan” <<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/alternative-development/Afghanistanprogramme.html>>

67 Ibid.



Through providing “leadership, incentives, and security,” to those involved in the cultivation of illegal crops, the Afghan government has made considerable progress in its fight against illicit drugs.<sup>68</sup>

### *Colombia*

Colombia is currently the largest global producer of the coca bush, which is processed and converted to cocaine. The production, distribution, and consumption of cocaine has resulted in numerous problems in society, as well as in the environment. Aside from the detrimental impact that cocaine has upon the population of Colombia, it also results in the destruction of natural rainforests.<sup>69</sup> The government of Colombia has acknowledged the problems that coca bush cultivation presents and, with the assistance of the United Nations and private entities, has made great strides in its attempts to reduce the prevalence of the coca bush.

Local and international partnerships have focused on assisting farmers in their efforts to move away from growing illicit crops. Farmers are encouraged to produce other products, such as honey or cacao, which are often produced organically.<sup>70</sup> International partnerships allow these products to appear on the shelves of supermarkets around the world and are sold competitively in order to generate a profit for the farmers.<sup>71</sup> Additionally, the government sponsors a program to encourage farmers of illicit crops to become forest wardens instead.<sup>72</sup> In doing so, they may assist the recovery of damaged rainforests while generating an income to support their families. Thus far, these efforts have been successful. From 2007 to 2008, coca bush cultivation declined by 18%, and the amount of cocaine produced within its borders decreased by 28%.<sup>73</sup> However, the country has a long way to go before total eradication of illicit crops is achieved.

### **Research Questions**

1. Do illicit crops pose a significant problem in your country? Has your government employed any alternative development strategies to combat the cultivation of illicit crops within your own your own country or elsewhere?
2. Which alternative development strategies seem to have the biggest impact? Which aspects of alternative development could use further emphasis or expansion? Alternatively, which seem less important?
3. How can alternative development strategies work in conjunction with other measures aimed at preventing illicit crop growth?

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68 “Afghanistan – Opium Poppy Free Road Map and Provincial Profiles”

<[http://www.unodc.org/documents/regional/central-asia/Blue\\_Opium%20Poppy%20Roadmap-Work%20in%20Progress\\_June08.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/regional/central-asia/Blue_Opium%20Poppy%20Roadmap-Work%20in%20Progress_June08.pdf)>

69 “Cocaine Production Spells Doom for Colombia’s Rainforests”

<<http://www.earthtimes.org/conservation/cocaine-production-spells-doom-colombia/283/>>

70 “Colombia” <<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/alternative-development/Colombiaprogramme.html>>

71 Ibid.

72 Ibid.

73 “Steep Decline in Coca Bush Cultivation in Colombia as Peru and Bolivia See Increase”

<<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2009/June/coca-survey-report-for-colombia-peru-and-bolivia.html>>

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4. Which international institutions, non-governmental organizations, and private companies or individuals have the potential to form successful partnerships to achieve the goals of alternative development?

## Helpful Websites

- Drug-Related Resolutions and Decisions:  
<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/09-resolutions.html>
- The Role of Alternative Development in Drug Control and Development Cooperation:  
[http://www.unodc.org/pdf/Alternative\\_Development/RoleAD\\_DrugControl\\_Development.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/Alternative_Development/RoleAD_DrugControl_Development.pdf)
- Alternative Development: A Global Thematic Evaluation:  
[http://www.unodc.org/pdf/Alternative\\_Development\\_Evaluation\\_Dec-05.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/Alternative_Development_Evaluation_Dec-05.pdf)
- Sustainable Livelihoods: A Broader Vision:  
[http://www.unodc.org/pdf/Alternative\\_Development\\_Evaluation\\_Dec-05.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/Alternative_Development_Evaluation_Dec-05.pdf)
- Sustainable Alternative Development: Image: [http://www.unodc.org/images/alternative-development/AD\\_components.jpg](http://www.unodc.org/images/alternative-development/AD_components.jpg)
- Transnational Institute: Alternative Development:  
<http://www.tni.org/category/issues/drugs-policies/alternative-development>
- Assessing Supply-Side Policy and Practice: Eradication and Alternative Development:  
[http://www.globalcommissionondrugs.org/Arquivos/Global\\_Com\\_David\\_Mansfield.pdf](http://www.globalcommissionondrugs.org/Arquivos/Global_Com_David_Mansfield.pdf)