

UNICEF
Child Cyber Protection



JACKRABBIT MUN VII

L.B. POLY - MAY 24th, 2025

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CO-HEAD CHAIR LETTERS

Hi! My name is Madeline Cahill and I am so excited to be one of your co-chairs for Jackrabbit MUN VII! I am a sophomore in the Pace program and this is my second year in Model United Nations here at Poly. In addition to Model UN I am currently involved in the school musical (The Little Mermaid), improv team, dance program, various book clubs, and the EIC (Equity, Inclusion, and Change Club). In my free time I enjoy reading, writing, traveling, and all kinds of music.

This is my first time being a chair and while I am a little nervous, I am beyond happy to be doing it with this room! If all goes right, we should have some incredible and meaningful debate about very current and real issues. Model United Nations is a wonderful way to interact with your peers and learn about the world around you but in the end, and arguably most importantly, MUN should be fun. I have definitely made some wonderful friends and memories through the activity, and while I encourage you to push yourselves don't forget to enjoy this really cool and unique activity. My hope is that by the end of this conference you will not only walk away with some new friends, but with greater confidence in your ability to collaborate and speak in front of others as well as a more global and well-rounded perspective on life and current events.

If you have any questions at all please reach out and I cannot wait to meet you all on May 24!

Sincerely,

Madeline Cahill

UNICEF| Co-Head Chair

cahillmadeline6@gmail.com

VICE CHAIR LETTER

Hello Delegates! My name is Giselle Millsap and I am thrilled to be your Vice Chair for Jackrabbit MUN VII! I am a Freshman in the PACE program and although I have attended multiple MUN conferences, this is my first time being a chair. As Vice chair I'm looking forward to helping and supporting you through this conference. Outside of MUN, I played on the JV indoor volleyball team in the fall and currently play on the Varsity beach team this spring. I am part of the poly pickleball club and play the guitar for the Poly Jazz program. Although these may be unrelated to MUN and diplomacy, the leadership and problem solving skills these have brought me help endlessly in each committee.

I am honored to be chairing this room and can't wait for the incredible conversation and debate. As MUN allows you to hear many different perspectives I challenge you to not only defend your countries positions but be open to hearing multiple ideas. My MUN experience has been nothing but positive and I am hoping it will be the same for you. Model United Nations is a special place to be in the shoes of world leaders, build diplomatic skills, and challenge your views on many global issues. As Jackrabbit MUN approaches I encourage you to step out of your comfort zone and collaborate with your peers and fellow delegates. I am so excited to hear the conversations that will be held this year and I will see you very soon! Good luck as you prepare and If you have any questions please feel free to reach out!

Sincerely, Giselle Millsap

UNICEF | Vice Chair

giselle.millsap@gmail.com

POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES

- Position Papers are due at 11:59 PM on **Sunday, May 18th**.
- Delegates **must** submit position papers to be eligible for **research AND committee awards**.
- Position Papers will be submitted through a Google form:
 - <https://forms.gle/jkenWafGEAL6hJay9>
- At the top of each paper, include your character/country name, first and last name, school name, and appropriate committee.

Singapore
First Last
School Name
AOSIS
- Papers should be submitted as a PDF file
 - Please name the file [Committee_Country]
 - Ex. **UNICEF_Singapore**
- Papers should be minimum of 1-2 pages in length with an additional Works Cited page in MLA format
- Papers should be single-spaced in Times New Roman 12 pt. font and include no pictures or graphics
- Please include the following sections for each committee topic:
 - Background & UN Involvement
 - Position of your Country
 - Possible Solutions

If you have any questions or concerns, please email one of your chairs.

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION

UNICEF is the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, and provides care and resources to children around the world. Originally created to address the need for humanitarian aid for countries after World War 2 in 1946, it's since been adopted in 192 countries and territories. Presently, much of UNICEF's work is focused on improving the health and wellbeing of children, including giving vaccinations, providing education in countries lacking a well-established system, and providing food to malnourished children. UNICEF also contributes to establishing guidelines in regards to children's safety to endure the decline of child exploitation, abuse, and endangerment around the world.



TOPIC SYNOPSIS

The vast majority of children spend large amounts of time on the internet, averaging as much as 5 hours a day. The internet's prominence in their lives makes it even more important to prevent threats to these vulnerable and impressionable



children. Many hazards lurk online, including scams, phishing, and explicit content. The unrestricted nature of the internet makes it difficult to prevent children without proper digital literacy from coming into contact with these hazards. As well, the ability to

communicate with anyone over the internet can bring children into contact with nefarious characters, whether that be cyberbullies, scammers, or predators, and can lead to immense personal damage.

These hazards of the internet must be confronted by delegates in order to ensure future generations can enjoy the benefits of the internet without the avoidable danger.



BACKGROUND

ONLINE PROTECTION

While third party online protection systems are available online, there are few widespread government systems in place to protect children. Internet censorship programs such as Securly, are most commonly seen in school or workplace devices, but 2 out of 3 households lack any protection. Some governments also implement IP blocking (site blocking) for their citizens, and the implementation of firewalls on many internet services and devices make it harder for hackers and malware to target browsers. Another method of online protection from governments and independent websites is age verification, which ensures that children do not wander onto websites that could be potentially dangerous or accidentally share sensitive information. These programs could be a key factor in protecting children from the dangers online, if given the proper funding and guidelines.

CYBER BULLYING

As technology becomes more and more accessible to children at increasingly young ages, this dreaded form of physical and in person intimidation can now follow kids around everyone through social media and instant messaging. Cyberbullying is a rapidly growing epidemic with “more than a third of young people in 30 countries” affected and “1 in 5 skipping school because of it,” according to UNICEF.

Cyberbullying is defined as the use of electronic communication to bully (to habitually harm someone seen as vulnerable and/or socially inferior) a person, typically by sending messages of an intimidating, threatening nature. This phenomenon is often exacerbated by the anonymity of the internet, something that can keep children safe but can also encourage misconduct as regulations are difficult

to enforce and consequences are rare. This issue can and has unfortunately resulted in elevated rates of suicide along with additional mental health issues for victims. Studies show that most children using social media have either experienced or witnessed some form of cyberbullying and many report negative effects on their mental health, with girls being most affected.

RED FLAG WEBSITES

Red flag websites are websites that contain content that is potentially unsafe, particularly for children. This sort of inappropriate and unsafe content is prevalent online and easily accessible. Without proper restrictions and programs, children are at high risk to be exposed to red flag websites containing such content. Cyber risks, such as cyberbullying, reputational risks, violent and/or sexual content, or cyber threats run rampant, with approximately 60% of children exposed to one or more cyber-risks. Exposure to this kind of content has also engendered the development of mental health issues in children. Even sites that are typically considered appropriate or safe can still contain inappropriate content through pop-up ads, independently posted content (a user's post on social media) or content shared via online instant messaging. 1 in 8 children in 2024 have been exposed to inappropriate content in the United States alone, which is indicative of the wide-ranging effects of the issue. Without proper monitoring or websites identifying themselves as potentially inappropriate, children often wander somewhere online they may not even know is harmful.

SCAMS AND PHISHING

Scams and phishing often target young children and the elderly, as they more often have low internet literacy and are thus more appealing targets. Those conducting phishing attacks typically ask the victims for money, financial details or critical personal information which they later use to obtain money or personal network

information. Young children are quite vulnerable as many do not yet understand the risks of engaging with unfamiliar people on the internet, or understand the situations, especially financial ones, presented by these scams. Scams of all sorts additionally deceive and manipulate victims into believing they too will benefit from the deal. In 2023 over 4.75 million people in the United States were victims of phishing.

GROOMING

Often, the internet is an ideal place to connect with those who have similar interests and hobbies. However, too often it can become a harmful and exploitative place. Due to the anonymous nature of the internet, people are generally able to project whatever persona they would like out into the world. Bad actors often use this to take advantage of younger populations by falsifying personal details to appear more appealing to a younger demographic. If the child and adult continue to communicate, a process called “grooming” can occur, where the adult manipulates the child into trusting them. This trust can lead to the child being exploited and manipulated and is often leveraged as a means of facilitating sexual abuse. According to a study done by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC), the frequency of grooming has only risen in years past, with the frequency increasing by 80% between 2017/2018 and 2021/2022.

BENEFITS OF THE INTERNET

Despite the negative risks of the internet, the world wide web does allow for many positive opportunities. While the internet can be dangerous if children are not given proper guidance, the amount of information it holds and allows free access to can have massive educational benefits. Children can find videos and articles related to something they are learning about and play games related to lessons in school, making it easier to find and engage with the educational material around them. Not only is the

internet full of resources, much of its content is designed to be entertaining, making it appealing to younger audiences. The easy and approachable nature of search engines allows for children to be more self-sufficient and engaged when doing research. Moreover, technology such as phones allow for long distance texting and video calling connecting kids with friends and family across the world, which can enrich their relationships and social lives. With careful monitoring and regulation the internet can be a useful tool to engage with the world around them, whether that be scientific facts or texting grandma on the weekend.

UN INVOLVEMENT

Much of UNICEF's involvement in child cybersecurity issues comes from government-funded programs designed to reduce negative internet usage such as cyberbullying, interaction with adult content, and online child predation. On February 9, 2024, UNICEF announced work with the Ministry of High-Tech Industry of Armenia to develop harsher cybersecurity policies and safeguards for Armenian children. Meanwhile, on November 10, 2022, UNICEF partnered with the National Cybersecurity Authority (NCA) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, signing a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate on issues of child cybersecurity. UNICEF is in the process of developing and implementing Kindly, a machine learning program proposed by Gitanjali Rao to reduce cyberbullying through the analyzing of messages as a Digital Public Good. Additionally, the UNICEF Office of Research-Innocenti, the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), and the EU Kids Online network partnered to create Global Kids Online in 2015, an international research project designed to survey and understand children's internet usage around the world, as well as to aid in research for policy on the matter.

BLOC POSITIONS

African Bloc

The African Union has implemented many of their own online protection systems to provide a safe learning experience online for children under the age 18. In 2019, the African Union met with a committee of experts to begin discussing the ways to prevent and end online child exploitation. They were able to develop a declaration that contained all treaties and protocols surrounding children's welfare including online protection. In 2021, an organization called Child Online Africa launched an Africa Week of Action for Child Online Protection to raise awareness and begin creating infrastructure and legislation to help their children. Specifically in Ghana and Senegal, there was an organization called Safer Children Online that combats online sexual exploitation and abuse online.

Asia-Pacific Bloc

In 2019 the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) created the ASEAN-EU statement of cyber security with a goal to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. The statement acknowledges the advantages posed by the internet but understands that it must be facilitated. Child Online Protection (COP) , an international collaborative network, protects children around the world and specifically in Asia and the Pacific from any cyber threats. Many legal organizations have also begun helping create safer environments and opportunities for children online. In 2019, the Philippines, who at the time had one of the highest rates of cyber attacks in the world, started spreading public awareness of the dangers online for children through programs and firewalls. In light of this many Asian countries,

specifically in the South China Sea, understand the importance of cyber security and in recent years have begun to advocate for more visibility and action on cyber attacks.

Western European Bloc

The European Union (EU) created a child protection act containing a Digital Service Act, with the specific focus of preventing online platforms from getting specific information from minors and ensuring their online anonymity. This act recommended that companies had to receive parental consent before viewing any personal data of children under 16, ensuring younger childrens data, including address, name and search history, could not be reached by companies while not completely shutting down current business practices regarding data. In 2016, the EU created a new data protection regulation that built more infrastructure for children online. To spread awareness, European countries have implemented many safe internet centers that can inform children, parents, and teachers about the dangers of online child abuse and ways to fight against it. The EU and many other organizations in Europe have been focusing on parental regulation and education rather than any strict or reforming policy.

Eastern European Bloc

Over reliance on technology in recent years has led to problems regarding cyber attacks. In light of this the Easter Partnership has been working with the EU to create new plans to implement cyber security technology, as well as the formation of police and courts specifically for cyber crime. They also plan to implement the Budapest Crime Convention, hoping to improve policy around cyber security. In regards to children specifically, the European Cyber Security Organization (ECSO) is another partnership that formed with the specific goal of improving online safety and education on online safety in schools around Europe. They plan to increase the

monitoring of child activity online in schools and use online games to educate on safe online practices. While Eastern Europe has faced frequent breaching of cyber security, many countries in this bloc have stressed collaboration and responsive policy as ways to improve cyber security, overall and regarding children.

Latin American and Caribbean Bloc

In Brazil, Argentina, Columbia, and Mexico, when cyber incidents occur, companies are required to report it. This allows for more people to be aware of it so they can protect themselves. UNICEF has also begun implementing frameworks for the creation of online firewalls to protect children online. This theoretically makes it harder for hackers and other malware from targeting children, decreasing the amount of cyber attacks and data breaching of younger demographics and allowing them to still use the internet normally but with additional protection. In hopes of achieving that goal many Latin American countries have partnered with the American organization COPPA which operates on websites to allow parents to control what information is given from their children. Brazil's government has given many rights to children including protection against content, exploitation, violence, and abuse online. Rather than personal implementation of protection software like VPN's, many Latin American and Caribbean countries have focused more on large scale software upgrades and holding those responsible for the breach of a child's online data responsible.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. How does your solution address the many countries who don't have accessible internet yet?
2. How can cyber-protection solutions adapt to the ever-growing presence of AI?
3. How can countries who do not have widespread internet access still aid in this global fight?
4. How can we ensure internet access is still equitable and peaceful despite potentially increased regulations?
5. How can the internet become more internationally secure for children and adults alike?
6. What international policies can be put in place to prevent dangerous internet usage/content especially for children?
7. How would policies concerning specifically children vary from ones considering everyone? Which is more urgent?

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