

UCMUN 2019 Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Hello, Delegates!

My name is Erin Dennehy and I am the Director for the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for the 2019 UCMUN Conference. I am so excited to be directing this committee for the conference this year. Our topics will be the opioid crisis and migrant smuggling. These topics are prevalent issues in society today. By addressing them in committee, delegates will work together to find a solution to these issues that will help prevent criminal activity across the world.

I am a junior at UConn, majoring in Political Science and minoring in Crime and Justice. I helped found a Model UN Club at my high school, and stayed involved with Model UN by joining UCMUN. I have served as a director for the International Law Commission and as an assistant director for the United Nations Environment Programme in previous conferences. In addition to UCMUN, I am a member of the Special Program in Law at UConn, have interned on Capitol Hill as well as at a law firm, and have been involved in undergraduate research on judicial ethics/judicial elections.

I look forward to meeting all of the delegates in November, and can't wait to start debating these topics. I'm excited to see what kind of solutions will be proposed in working papers and passed in resolutions! The following background guide provides a good starting point for your research, however if you have additional questions feel free to email me.

Thanks so much,

Erin Dennehy

UCMUN 2019 CCPCJ Director

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Committee History

The Committee on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is the main governing body of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The CCPCJ was created upon request from the General Assembly in 1992 by the Economic and Social Council (Mabubeke). The Economic and Social Council also commissions the Commission for Africa, Commission on the Status of Women, and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (Mabubeke). The mandates and priorities of the CCPCJ include taking international action to combat and prevent transnational crimes and making improvements in efficacy and fairness of criminal justice administration systems. The CCPCJ also guides and reviews the United Nation's actions regarding crime prevention and criminal justice. The CCPCJ is a place for countries to come together to share strategies to combat crimes and make the world a safer place.

The CCPCJ passed its first resolutions in 1994. These resolutions involved violence against women and children, trafficking of minors, and combating various manifestations of international crimes (Mabubeke). The CCPCJ has recently worked on resolutions that cover a variety of criminal issues that plague society worldwide. Such issues in the past few years include trafficking of human organs, cyber-crimes, and maritime piracy.

The CCPCJ works closely with other UN bodies such as the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in regards to getting its resolutions adopted, however still acts as an independent body. The overall goal of the CCPCJ remains the same, which is to prevent crime and maintain a fair justice system.

Works Cited

Mabubeke. "United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime." *CCPCJ Mandate and Functions*, www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Mandate-Functions.html.

This source from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime outlines the mandates and functions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. It explains what the CCPCJ is and what it does. It is a good introduction to the CCPCJ and its functions, which will be beneficial when delegates are debating as a part of the committee.

Topic A: The Opioid Crisis

Part One

Introduction

Opioid drugs are derived from the opium poppy plant that, when prescribed by physicians, are used to treat chronic or severe pain. Drugs categorized as opioids produce feelings of pleasure and pain relief in the nervous system (“Opioid Addiction - Genetics Home Reference - NIH.”). Such drugs can range from prescribed opioids, such as oxycodone, to illegal opioids, such as heroin.

Over the past 150 years, there has been a drastic increase in the non-medical use of opioid drugs. In other words, people have begun to misuse opioid drugs. This can range from taking illegal opioid drugs, taking opioids that are not prescribed by a physician, or continuing to take opioid drugs longer than is necessary (National Institute on Drug Abuse). As a result, a worldwide opioid crisis has emerged.

This crisis is characterized by increases in instances of opioid drug trafficking, addiction, and overdose. For example many opioid users, even those who were initially prescribed the drug by a physician, become dependent and ultimately addicted to the drug (National Institute on Drug Abuse). As a result, many users have to turn to the black market to fuel their addiction. The sale of opioid drugs not prescribed by a physician is illegal and often associated with other crimes. Therefore, this practice can be very dangerous and can lead to opioid overdose and ultimately, death.

This crisis has already resulted in significant loss of life. For example, in 2017 47,000 Americans died from opioid overdose (National Institute on Drug Abuse).

Therefore, action needs to be taken to combat this crisis. Many countries are affected by this crisis and need to work together to develop solutions that will enforce drug policies and reduce the non-medical use of opioid drugs worldwide. This crisis is not only one of criminal activities but also one of public health and safety; therefore, it needs to be addressed on an international scale.

History and Description of Issue

Opioid drug use has not always been an international crisis. In the 1990s however, physicians began prescribing opioids at a greater rate as a result of clinical and policy efforts to address the inadequate treatment of pain (National Institute on Drug Abuse). The opioid crisis was further facilitated by the fact that many opioid drugs were heavily marketed by pharmaceutical companies toward primary care doctors and the addictive potential of opioids as a treatment for pain was downplayed. As a result, instances of opioid misuse increased, which has escalated into the current opioid crisis the world is facing today.

When used for medical purposes, such as after surgery, opioids are effective at reducing pain, which is their main purpose. However, when used incorrectly, such as recreationally or when there is no longer a medical need to be taking them, using opioids can become dangerous and lead to dependence or addiction (National Institute on Drug Abuse).

When these instances occur in opioid users, their brain chemistry is altered so that there is a constant desire to take opioids although they are not needed and users lose

control of the ability to function without the drug in their system (“Opioid Addiction - Genetics Home Reference - NIH.”). The more often a person uses an opioid drug, the higher their tolerance of the drug is, resulting in the dose of the drug needing to be increased to produce the same effect. Opioid abusers often need an almost constant supply of drugs in order to maintain the desired effects. As prescription opioids such as hydrocodone (Vicodin), oxycodone (OxyContin/Percocet), and morphine can be difficult to obtain on a regular basis, many opioid users turn to illicit opioid drugs in the black market to fuel their addiction (National Institute on Drug Abuse). Opioid drugs are cheaper than other narcotic drugs in drug markets around the world, so many drug abusers follow this route.



Figure 1.1: Morphine, a commonly abused opioid in liquid form

Source: <https://drugfree.org/drug/morphine/>



Figure 1.2: Oxycodone, an opioid commonly prescribed

Source:

<https://www.webmd.com/drugs/2/drug-1025-5278/oxycodone-oral/oxycodone-oral/details>



Figure 1.3: Vicodin, another commonly prescribed opioid drug

Source: <https://www.webmd.com/drugs/2/drug-3459/vicodin-oral/details>

An increased number of opioid users do this and have had to turn to the drug market to buy their supply from drug dealers. However, the act of doing so is illegal. Buying, selling, and possessing these drugs can be a crime in many places throughout the world and can also lead to other serious crimes, such as assault. This can be very dangerous, as these crimes (due to the nature of how they were committed) often go unreported and unpunished. This phenomenon is known as “narcoterrorism,” or acts of terrorism associated with the illicit drug trade. So, as a result of opioid use, overall criminal activity increases. Therefore, from a criminal justice perspective, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice needs to take action to remedy this issue. In addition, many lives have already been lost as a result of opioid overdose so there needs to be international action to stop the opioid crisis.

There has already been action to help minimize the effects of this crisis. For example, because there has been an increase in opioid addiction, there has also been an increase in opioid overdose. This has caused many deaths, so an FDA-approved emergency treatment for a known or suspected opioid overdose was developed. This treatment is known as Narcan, which is a nasal spray that is intended to reverse the effects of an overdose (“What Is NARCAN® (Naloxone) Nasal Spray.”). It was designed to be easy to use and available without a prescription. In addition, its accessibility and ability to be used



without medical training has helped save the lives of those who have been affected by the opioid crisis.

Figure 1.4: Narcan, an emergency treatment for opioid overdose

Source:

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/narcan-available-at-all-walgreens-locations-nationwide/>

Other strategies to combat the public health dimension of this crisis include the introduction of safe injection sites. Safe injection sites, also known as supervised consumption services, are legally sanctioned facilities that allow opioid users to consume pre-obtained drugs under the supervision of staff who can provide sterile injection supplies, answer questions, administer first aid and monitor for overdose (“Supervised Consumption Services.”). These services are meant to reduce health and public order issues that are often associated with illegal drug use. There are safe injection sites globally, in countries such as Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Spain, and Switzerland (“Supervised Consumption Services.”).

These methods help reduce the public health risks of the opioid crisis. However, the criminal aspect of the opioid crisis has been widely unaddressed. There have been some international efforts to regulate and reduce the presence and importation of opioids to stop illegal sales. These include efforts by the food and drug agency in Ghana to regulate imports (Kazeem) and by US President Donald Trump who plans to build a physical barrier to prevent drugs imported from Latin American countries from entering the United States. However, these efforts have had minimal success in preventing the illegal sale of opioids. Therefore further action is needed to end the crisis indefinitely from a criminal justice standpoint.

Works Cited

Kazeem, Yomi. "The Drug Abuse Problem across Africa." *Quartz Africa*, Quartz, 22 Dec.

2018,

[qz.com/africa/1504145/drug-abuse-opioid-crisis-in-africa-youth-is-alarming-says-un/](https://www.quartz.com/africa/1504145/drug-abuse-opioid-crisis-in-africa-youth-is-alarming-says-un/).

The source outlines the issue of drug use in Africa. This source is useful because it describes the ways in which the opioid crisis has affected Africa. When researching, this is a good source for delegates to use to get an idea of the impact of the opioid crisis in the African region (in comparison to the impact in other regions of the world).

National Institute on Drug Abuse. "Opioid Overdose Crisis." *NIDA*, 22 Jan. 2019,

www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/opioids/opioid-overdose-crisis.

This source provides a lot of information regarding the impact of the opioid crisis in the United States. It describes how the opioid crisis emerged in the US as well as provides data on rates of opioid use. This is a good source to use when trying to get an idea of the impact of the opioid crisis in the North American region (in comparison to other regions of the world).

"Opioid Addiction - Genetics Home Reference - NIH." *U.S. National Library of Medicine*,

National Institutes of Health, ghr.nlm.nih.gov/condition/opioid-addiction.

This source provides a lot of good basic information about opioid addiction. It describes what it is, the frequency, the causes, and much more. This source is helpful in understanding the dangers of opioids and how opioids affect drug users. "Supervised Consumption Services." *Drug Policy Alliance*, Drug Policy Alliance, www.drugpolicy.org/issues/supervised-consumption-services.

This source discusses supervised consumption services. This source is important because it explores one way that countries have been trying to combat non-medical opioid use. This is an example of one solution countries have come up with for this issue and can be a good starting point for research on what policies countries have in place to combat the opioid crisis.

"What Is NARCAN® (Naloxone) Nasal Spray." *What Is NARCAN® (Naloxone) Nasal Spray*, Adapt Pharma, www.narcan.com/.

This source provides information on Narcan, a drug that can be administered to help reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. This is another example of more of a short term solution to the opioid crisis - it will be helpful for delegates during research to understand what has already been done and what still needs to be done to combat this issue.

Topic A: The Opioid Crisis

Part Two

Current Status

As a result of the increasing presence of opioid drugs, misuse has led to skyrocketing rates of opioid drug addiction and overdose across the world. Opioid drug addiction is a chronic, relapsing disorder characterized by compulsive drug seeking, continued use of opioids despite risks, and long-lasting changes in the brain (“The Science of Drug Use and Addiction: The Basics.”). As opioid drug addiction progresses, users become more susceptible to overdose. An opioid drug overdose can occur accidentally or intentionally and can happen when a drug user either takes more than the medically recommended dose or when a drug user’s metabolism cannot detoxify the drug fast enough to avoid unintended side effects (“Drug Overdose”).

Current rates of addiction and overdose around the world are alarming. 29.5 million people or around 0.6 percent of the world population globally suffer from drug use disorders, such as addiction and overdose (*World Drug Report 2017*). Opioids are one of the most harmful drugs and are responsible for approximately 76% of drug-related deaths worldwide (*World Drug Report 2018*). Among those who use drugs on a regular basis, opioid overdose is the second most common cause of death after HIV/AIDS. In the United

States, there are 130 deaths from opioid overdose per day ("Opioid Overdose Crisis."). In Scotland, the number of drug-related deaths in 2011 was the highest on record at 584, nearly double the number recorded in 2000 ("Naloxone: A Take-Home Antidote to Drug Overdose That Saves Lives."). Additionally, in China there were 49,000 drug-related deaths recorded in 2014 ("Facts & Stats.").

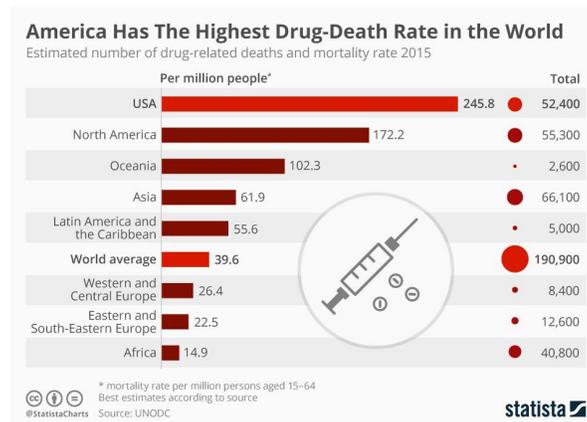


Figure 1.5: A graphic depicting the rates of drug-related death across the world

Source:

<https://www.abc15.com/conquering-addiction/america-has-the-highest-drug-death-rate-in-north-america-and-the-world>

Clearly, rates of drug addiction and overdose worldwide are startling and the opioid crisis should be considered a public health crisis in addition to a criminal justice one. This makes it all the more necessary for the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to take action.

There are many different types of opioid drugs, however some are abused more often than others. Commonly abused opioid drugs in North America include fentanyl, heroin, morphine, codeine, and oxycodone. In Africa and the Middle East, the most commonly abused opioid is Tramadol.

Anyone can fall victim to an opioid addiction; however, there are some demographics that are more susceptible to drug-use disorders than others. Population surveys show that the extent of drug use in younger people is higher than that of older people (“World Drug Report.”). Drug use peaks in young people from ages 18-25 (“World Drug Report.”). Young people are also more likely to be involved in the cultivation, production, trafficking, and dealing of opioids (“World Drug Report.”). Additionally, drug use is increasing at a faster rate among the older generation than among those who are younger; people over the age of 50 accounted for 39% of the deaths related to drug-use disorders in 2015 (“World Drug Report.”).

Drug use disorders like addiction and overdose can develop in a variety of ways. In the case of many young people, drug-users begin with more mild drugs and then develop addiction and dependence. From there, users move to more hardcore drugs such as opioids that make overdose more likely. Often times these drug users will take any drug available to them, including prescription medication that is not prescribed to them. Doing this can be dangerous and has a number of health risks. These risks include brain damage as a result of extended respiratory depression, a common side effect of opioid use, as well as liver damage due to opioids being taken in conjunction with other more common drugs, like acetaminophen. In the case of older drug users, addiction and dependence can develop as a result of medication being over-prescribed and being taken after it is no longer needed.

Additionally, because current rates of opioid addiction and overdose are high, the drug trade has been very active. So many more people worldwide are using opioids, and therefore need a constant supply. As a result, drug markets have spread across the world

with various hubs in different regions of the world. These drug markets have various impacts on the societies around them; for example, drug users often commit crimes to get drug money or are unstable while on the opioids leading to a violent outburst. Gun violence increases as well, upsetting otherwise peaceful societies. Additionally, communities that are popular destinations in the drug trade face extreme economic burdens, such as healthcare costs and the costs of drug related crime, as well as environmental burdens, such as the time and money invested into cleaning up the remnants left behind by drug abusers, such as needles (“How Illicit Drugs Affect Society.”).

A majority of the opium that is a main ingredient in many opioid drugs currently comes from Burma, Afghanistan, and Colombia (“Cannabis, Coca, & Poppy: Nature's Addictive Plants.”). This supply allows the opioids to be illegally trafficked and reach all parts of the globe, such as the United States where it is in high demand. These drugs are trafficked by various cartel-like groups from hubs in Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America (“Cannabis, Coca, & Poppy: Nature's Addictive Plants.”).

Opioids are trafficked or smuggled across borders to be sold frequently as a result of the opioid crisis. This is the big criminal element of the opioid crisis, as this act is very much illegal. Smuggling techniques and the chemical composition of the drugs are changed frequently as well so as to not attract attention from law enforcement officials. Some new techniques that have been created for drug smuggling include drug-distributing drones, encrypted cellular networks/internet trafficking, and unmanned vehicles, such as driverless cars and submarines. Because of the constantly evolving methods to traffick

opioids, it can be hard to find solutions to this issue that will work long term; that is the goal of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

Bloc Positions

The opioid crisis has affected countries around the world in different ways. As such, countries may have different approaches on how to solve the opioid crisis and may form blocs accordingly.

For example, some countries are heavily involved in this crisis in that they are major producers of opioids. These countries, like Burma, Afghanistan, and Colombia may have different ideas regarding this crisis than countries that are less directly involved in it. The major drug trafficking organizations that are responsible for illegal drug production in these countries oppose the efforts to combat the flow of drugs across the world. For example, a lot of heroin that is produced from poppy farms in Mexico ends up being trafficked throughout the United States (“Drug Trafficking: Where Are the Illegal Opioids Coming From?”). Therefore, the drug cartel in Mexico does not want stricter regulations at its borders, as it would disrupt their entire operation. The Mexican drug cartel has a lot of influence within the Mexican government in the form of corruption, and as a result the government may not be as willing to work with other countries to find meaningful solutions to this issue. Previous efforts made by the Mexican government to combat this issue has lead to retaliation from the drug cartels and overall political unrest. These kinds of issues are common in opioid-producing countries, therefore they may form a bloc in debate.

On the other hand, there are the countries that consume a lot of opioid drugs; the United States, China and Canada for example. These countries face rates of opioid overdose that are much higher than others. Countries in these regions, mainly North America, where the opioid crisis is a very big problem may feel more urgency when it comes to solving this issue than countries where rates of addiction and overdose are lower. These countries have already launched initiatives to combat this crisis, such as border enforcement and disrupting drug trafficking organizations to prevent opioids from being smuggled and trafficked across the world. However, with rates of opioid addiction and overdose still increasing, there is a need for more consequential solutions. Countries that have been hit hard by this crisis may form a bloc to work together to establish these sorts of solutions worldwide.

The opioid crisis also brings up the idea of access to healthcare. There are countries that have very easy access to health care, like the United States or France. These countries are exposed to a lot of prescription opioid drugs, like oxycodone. In these countries drug use, as prescribed by a physician, is quite normalized. This is one of the main contributors to the opioid crisis; countries without such easy access to healthcare, such as Nigeria or Sierra Leone, have developed opioid use issues in a completely different way, namely through illegal drug trafficking. Therefore, the approaches to the idea of preventing the opioid crisis may be different between these countries; for example countries like the United States may push for legislation preventing the over-prescription of opioids after they are no longer medically necessary while countries like Nigeria may push for solutions tackling drug trafficking organizations. Blocs could be formed in this regard during debate.

Committee Mission

The goal of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is to establish long term solutions to prevent and combat transnational crimes that are associated with the opioid crisis. Countries in committee can do this by establishing ways to disrupt drug trafficking and abolish the drug trade, such as by outlining specific ways that drug traffickers will be punished and by launching worldwide counter-narcotic initiatives. Raising public awareness of the issue can also help bring an end to the opioid crisis by exposing the risks involved thereby deterring drug use.

Other goals of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice include addressing the negative impacts of the opioid crisis, such as the health risks. Drug use can be safe and legal, which is what the countries in committee should be trying to promote. Because this is not the case however, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice seeks to establish ways to stop over prescription of opioids and help those already affected by the crisis, such as through drug prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation programs.

So many people throughout the world have been affected by the opioid crisis. Definitive action needs to be taken to prevent the opioid crisis from growing. The opioid crisis has already put far too many lives at risk and it is time for countries in the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to come together to solve this issue.

Questions to Consider

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1. Does your country have adequate access to healthcare?
2. Are there currently any laws or regulations in place in your country concerning the illegal drug trade?
3. How has the presence of opioid drugs impacted the lives of the citizens in your country?
4. Is the drug market active in your country?
5. Has your country taken any action to combat the adverse effects of the opioid crisis?

Works Cited

“Cannabis, Coca, & Poppy: Nature's Addictive Plants.” *DEA Museum*,

www.deamuseum.org/ccp/opium/production-distribution.html.

This source provides information on the opioid poppy plant, a main ingredient in opioid drugs. This is a starting point for delegates wanting to learn about how opioid drugs are made; from harvesting opium, to production, to distribution.

“Drug Overdose.” *WebMD*, WebMD,

www.webmd.com/mental-health/addiction/drug-overdose#1.

This source describes what an overdose from opioid drugs would look like. It has information on the causes of drug addiction, its symptoms, and other relevant information. Understanding what a drug overdose is will help delegates get a better understanding of the impact of the opioid crisis.

“Drug Trafficking: Where Are the Illegal Opioids Coming From?” *Briarwood Detox*, 9 May

2019, www.briarwooddetox.com/blog/drug-trafficking-sources/.

This source provides information on where many of the illegally trafficked opioid drugs are coming from. This is a key aspect of the opioid crisis and is useful information for delegates to have while in debate.

“Facts & Stats.” *International Overdose Awareness Day*, www.overdoseday.com/facts-stats/.

This source has various statistics about opioid drugs, and more notably, statistics on the number of deaths in various parts of the world as a result of opioid drugs. There are statistics about opioid and other drug overdoses from places like the United States, Europe, and Asia. This would be a good source for delegates to look at to discover how much of an impact opioid drugs are having on people in their country.

“How Illicit Drugs Affect Society.” *Detox.net*, 30 Mar. 2019,

www.detox.net/other-drugs/illicit-drugs-and-society/.

This source discusses the impact opioid drug use has on society. The article mentions many different ways that drugs impact society; for example, not only does it affect the people who use drugs as well as their families, but it has an impact on the rate of violence as well as the economy.

“Naloxone: A Take-Home Antidote to Drug Overdose That Saves Lives.” *World Health Organization*, World Health Organization, 4 Nov. 2014,

www.who.int/features/2014/naloxone/en/.

This is another article that explores an antidote to an opioid drug overdose. It provides statistics on how this antidote, Naloxone, has helped reduce the number of opioid related deaths. It is another example of what is already being done to help combat the opioid crisis.

National Institute on Drug Abuse. “Opioid Overdose Crisis.” *NIDA*, 22 Jan. 2019,

www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/opioids/opioid-overdose-crisis.

This article discusses the origins of the opioid crisis in the United States. This information is helpful in understanding why the opioid crisis has become exactly that - a crisis. Delegates using this source will see how the crisis has escalated over time into what it is today, which will be helpful to know in debate.

National Institute on Drug Abuse. "The Science of Drug Use and Addiction: The Basics."

NIDA,

www.drugabuse.gov/publications/media-guide/science-drug-use-addiction-basics.

This source outlines the distinction between drug use, drug misuse, and drug addiction. Although similar, these terms are subtly different and it is important to have an understanding of those differences when debating the opioid crisis.

"Opiate Effects | Short Term, Long Term & Side Effects." *DrugAbuse.com*, 25 Nov. 2018, drugabuse.com/opiates/effects-of-use/.

This source discusses both the short and long term effects of opioid drug use. For example, in the short term opioid drug use may result in pain relief or a "high", whereas in the long term there can be major health effects including liver/brain damage and even death. It is important for delegates to use sources such as this one to really understand the devastation that opioid drugs can cause.

"United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime." *World Drug Report 2017: 29.5 Million People Globally Suffer from Drug Use Disorders, Opioids the Most Harmful*, www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2017/June/world-drug-report-2017_-29-5-million-people-globally-suffer-from-drug-use-disorders--opioids-the-most-harmful.html.

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This source is a summary of the 2017 World Drug Report released by the UN Office of Drugs and Crime. The report has a lot of relevant information on the opioid crisis, such as trafficking trends and how the drug trade goes hand in hand with terrorism. It is a good starting point for research on this issue.

“United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.” *World Drug Report 2018: Opioid Crisis, Prescription Drug Abuse Expands; Cocaine and Opium Hit Record Highs*, www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2018/June/world-drug-report-2018_-opioid-crisis--prescription-drug-abuse-expands-cocaine-and-opium-hit-record-highs.html.

This source is a summary of the 2018 World Drug Report released by the UN Office of Drugs and Crime. This source has information on new trends in opioid use, such as the use of fentanyl. It also has information on age trends in drug use. This is a good starting point for delegate research as well.

“World Drug Report.” *World Drug Report 2018*, UNODC, 2018, www.unodc.org/wdr2018/index.html.

This source is the entire 2018 World Drug Report released by the UN Office of Drugs and Crime. This report has the most updated information on the opioid crisis. This includes data, information on the drug market, the drug demand and supply, and the correlations between women and drugs and drugs and age. This is a good source for delegates to use for more in-depth research.

Topic B: Migrant Smuggling

Part One

Introduction

Migrant smuggling occurs when migrants enlist criminals to help them illegally enter into another country where they are not a national or permanent resident (Margesin). This can be done in a variety of ways, such as transportation to other countries in crowded boats and shipping containers or document fraud in the form of falsified or stolen passports (Margesin). In return for smuggling migrants over international borders, criminals receive financial or other material benefits (Margesin).

Migrant smuggling can occur for many reasons. Often, migrants feel they have no other choice but to leave their homes because of a variety of poor circumstances; these include escaping poverty, natural disasters, persecution, and violent conflicts (“Smuggling of Migrants — The Harsh Search for a Better Life.”). Strict immigration policies can make it more difficult for large numbers of migrants to legally move from one country to another. So, desperate for a better life, many migrants choose to pay criminals to help smuggle them into other countries.

The practice of migrant smuggling is not legal in any country, yet is still occurring on a very frequent basis. Migrant smuggling allows criminals to benefit from knowingly

breaking the law while putting the migrants' lives at risk. For example, many of the methods used to smuggle migrants are not safe. Many migrants find themselves mistreated during their journey into a new country; examples range from being confined to close quarters in the back of trucks, to being beaten en route, to drowning after a boat over-filled with migrants capsizes (Margesin).

Migrant smuggling is risky and dangerous; there have already been a number of human rights abuses and a significant loss of life as a result of this illegal act (Margesin). Therefore, something needs to be done to address migrant smuggling. Safe and legal solutions for migrants are necessary for establishing ways to prevent migrant smuggling across the world.



Figure 2.1: A common method of migrant smuggling

Source:

<https://www.breitbart.com/border/2018/03/27/border-patrol-agents-find-38-migrants-smuggled-trucks/>

History and Description of Issue

Although there have been more instances in recent years, migrants have been smuggled across international borders since the 1800's. A notable example of the early stages of migrant smuggling is after the United States passed the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which restricted Chinese immigration to the US (Langrognet). Due to this legislation, many Chinese nationals that wanted to enter the U.S. had no choice but to do so illegally, and turned to the smuggling market. A common method was entering the United States at the US-Mexico border (Langrognet).

Since the 19th century, a variety of events such as armed conflicts and natural disasters have triggered mass migrant smuggling. Such events have caused many people to want to flee their home country in search of a better life. For example, in Latin American countries such as Mexico, Peru, and Colombia “narcoterrorism” is rampant (Barnard). Narcoterrorism is terrorism associated with the drug trade; examples of narcoterrorism include car bombings and assassinations (Barnard).



Figure 2.2: Police presence nearby opium plants

Source:

<https://www.tabletmag.com/scroll/186110/isis-and-the-new-face-of-narcoterrorism>

As a result many people that live in these countries are exposed to this drug cartel violence and have to live in fear and panic; so, many choose to attempt to be smuggled in to safer countries.

Other examples of events that triggered mass migrant smuggling include the violent conflicts in the Middle East region as well as natural disasters such as earthquakes and hurricanes. In the Middle East, civil wars in Iraq, Syria, and Yemen as well as the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict make daily life in these countries difficult (Chamie). Violence and political tension make many feel unsafe, causing the decision to enlist criminals to smuggle them out of the region. The 2010 earthquake in Haiti and the hurricanes Maria and Irma left many in the Caribbean region displaced (Hepburn). Often without electricity or running water, and the hope that they would return bleak, many people chose to leave the various islands by means of migrant smuggling.



Figure 2.3: The aftermath of the 2010 Haiti Earthquake

Source:

https://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2012/01/haiti_slow_to_recover_from_201.html

Migrant smuggling often gets mistaken for human trafficking, and vice versa.

However, these two concepts are different in key ways. For example, migrant smuggling is the concept that migrants are enlisting the help of criminals (often paying them) to smuggle them into another country (Margesin). This assumes that the migrants want to leave the country they are currently in to go to a different one. In other words, at least initially, the migrants give the criminals consent to move them into a different country. In human trafficking however, there is no such consent. Those being trafficked are not doing so willingly, and are often being trafficked for forced labor or sexual exploitation by force (McLaughlin). In both scenarios the criminals have the power and are illegally moving people to different countries, however in migrant smuggling it is in theory mutually benefitting the criminal and the migrants, or consensual, whereas with human trafficking it is not consensual and only the criminals are benefitting from the situation.

The act of migrant smuggling is illegal. Criminals and migrants alike are breaking the laws of multiple countries intentionally when they enter into a smuggling agreement. When migrants enter into a country without permission, it turns said country into a victim of the crime. Not only are criminals benefitting from this act by making absurd amounts of money, but migrants are fueling corruption and encouraging organized crime throughout the world by enlisting their help. Both the migrants and the criminals are breaking the law and forcing entire countries to pay the price. This criminal aspect of migrant smuggling that

affects countries throughout the world is why it needs to be addressed by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

Works Cited

Chamie, Joseph. "Desperate Migration in the Middle East." *Desperate Migration in the Middle East | YaleGlobal Online*, 9 July 2015, yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/desperate-migration-middle-east.

This source is an article from Yale Global Online that discusses how many of the people in countries like Lebanon and Jordan are refugees from countries like Syria, Iraq, and Yemen. This source has a lot of information on why migrants are leaving countries in the Middle East, or the reasons why many migrants seek to be smuggled out of Middle Eastern countries. This is a good source for delegates to gain a basic understanding of some of the motivation behind migrant smuggling.

Hepburn, Stephanie. "Harvey, Irma, and Maria." *HuffPost*, HuffPost, 5 Oct. 2017, www.huffpost.com/entry/harvey-irma-and-maria-natural-disasters-and-human_b_59d55cDbe4b085c51090ad63.

This article by the Huffington Post is about migrants that are forced to leave their home countries due to the aftermath of natural disasters. Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria had devastating effects on various countries and has been a recent cause of migrant smuggling.

Langrognnet. "A Brief History of Smuggling." *Oxford Law Faculty*, 30 Nov. 2015,

www.law.ox.ac.uk/research-subject-groups/centre-criminology/centreborder-criminologies/blog/2015/11/brief-history.

This source provides a brief background on the history of migrant smuggling. It is useful for delegates to use to understand what migrant smuggling has looked like in the past, for comparison (to what it looks like now).

Margesin, Martin. "United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime." *UNODC Smuggling of Migrants*,

www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/smuggling-of-migrants.html.

This source, provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, is a good place for delegates to start their research. It provides a lot of basic information regarding migrant smuggling, and features an FAQ section that is helpful for understanding the issue.

McLaughlin, Liam. "United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime." *What Is Human Trafficking?*,

www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html.

This source provides information on human trafficking. This is important so delegates can understand the difference between migrant smuggling and human trafficking, as they are similar. There are key differences however, and they are important for delegates to understand as they research this topic.

Barnard. "The Mexican Drug War: Is It 'Narcoterrorism?'" *OpenDemocracy*, 2010,

www.opendemocracy.net/en/mexican-drug-war-is-it-narcoterrorism/.

This source discusses narcoterrorism, or the idea that there are terroristic acts that are associated with the narcotic drug trade. Narcoterrorism has been known to be a reason that many migrants seek to be smuggled out of countries, so understanding the concept and the reasons why it may cause a migrant to want to flee a country is important for the discussions that will be going on in committee sessions.

“Smuggling of Migrants — The Harsh Search for a Better Life.” *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*, UNODC, Smuggling of migrants — The harsh search for a better life. <https://www.unodc.org/toc/en/crimes/migrant-smuggling.html>

This source has a lot of information on why migrant smuggling is an issue. It has information on the human rights abuses, smuggling routes, the criminal network of smugglers, what can be done to combat the issue, and more. There are also links to other related publications, which will be very helpful for delegate research, as well as maps and graphs that provide helpful visuals.

Topic B: Migrant Smuggling

Part Two

Current Status

Migrant smuggling calls for immediate action. Some countries have already started to introduce methods to prevent migrant smuggling. For example destination countries, or countries many migrants want to be smuggled into, such as the United States and France, have increased police presence at its borders. This is to ensure all immigration laws are properly enforced and to prevent migrants from being smuggled into these countries.

Other prevention methods include a wall between the United States and Mexico proposed by US President Donald Trump and increased patrolling of the English channel by both the UK and France (Stewart). However, these methods have proven to be inadequate. This is evidenced by the almost 3 million illegal entries into the United States each year and almost 55,000 migrants that are smuggled into Europe from Africa (Town).

The two most common routes for migrant smugglers are in between countries in North and South America and into Europe from Africa (Town). It is estimated that criminals use these routes to generate USD\$6.75 billion a year for smuggling migrants into different countries -- this figure is likely much higher as it can be difficult to get an accurate number given the covert nature of migrant smuggling. Depending on point of origin,

smugglers can charge fees anywhere from USD\$2,000 to USD\$10,000 (Town). The criminals that smuggle migrants see them not as people, but as goods. Because of this and the fact that there is such a great deal of money involved in these migrant smuggling transactions, migrants are very vulnerable and are at risk for abuse and exploitation.

Often, criminals put migrants' safety and lives at risk while smuggling them to another country. The ways criminals smuggle migrants range from simple to complicated, inexpensive to expensive and safe to dangerous. The amount of money paid usually determines the risk and safety level of the smuggling trip. For example, poorer migrants tend to get a "pay as you go" package in which they pay different groups who may not be linked to each other to smuggle them for different parts of the trip (Town). On the other hand, migrants with more financial means can choose to pay criminals for a smuggling package, which is quicker and more safe, with a higher chance of success. (Town)

Common methods of smuggling migrants include hiding migrants in shipping containers and trucks or by crowding large volumes of migrants on small boats (Town). These methods have proven to be unsafe, as criminals trying to maximize their "cargo" squeeze as many migrants as they can into small shipping containers and boats for prolonged periods of time, where they may suffocate in containers or drown at sea. Between 1996 and 2011, at least 1,691 migrants died while in the process of being smuggled using such methods; in 2008 alone approximately 1,000 migrants died by trying to be smuggled by sea (Town).



Figure 2.4: An example of a ship carrying smuggled migrants

Source: <https://time.com/3857121/isis-smuggling/>

Other risks include rape and abandonment as some criminals will take advantage of migrants seeking a better life in any way possible. This may be through abuse or by threatening to leave migrants stranded and alone to die. Some migrants realize how they are being mistreated; however, they have no choice but to continue their journey. Migrants that opt for a “pay as you go” package run into this issue frequently (Town). Those that survive being smuggled face additional risks as well; for example, migrants that reach their destination may find themselves being blackmailed by those that smuggled them. Criminals do this by demanding more money and if migrants do not oblige, they threaten to report them to immigration officials and get them deported (Town). Smuggled migrants may also fall victim to debt bondage, in which criminals will insist migrants owe them more money for bringing them into a new country, forcing them to try to settle near-impossible debts (Town).

Currently, there is a lack of tangible legislation in countries across the world addressing the issue of migrant smuggling. As a result, migrant smugglers have little fear of ever being caught and prosecuted for their crimes. This and the fact that smuggling

techniques and routes are constantly changing makes it very difficult to stop migrant smuggling from happening as much as it does. Criminals that smuggle migrants make last-minute changes to their routes frequently to avoid certain border policies and take advantage of weaknesses in others (Town). Migrant smugglers have a very wide criminal network working together to successfully smuggle migrants so that they can continue to be profitable; this makes it difficult to be able to trace and punish these criminals. Therefore, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice needs to take action to stop and prevent migrant smuggling worldwide.

Bloc Positions

In one way or another, migrant smuggling affects almost every country in the world. However, it affects countries in different ways. Therefore, countries may have different views on the issue and form blocs according to such views. For example, origin, transit, and destination countries may have different ideas on how to combat migrant smuggling.

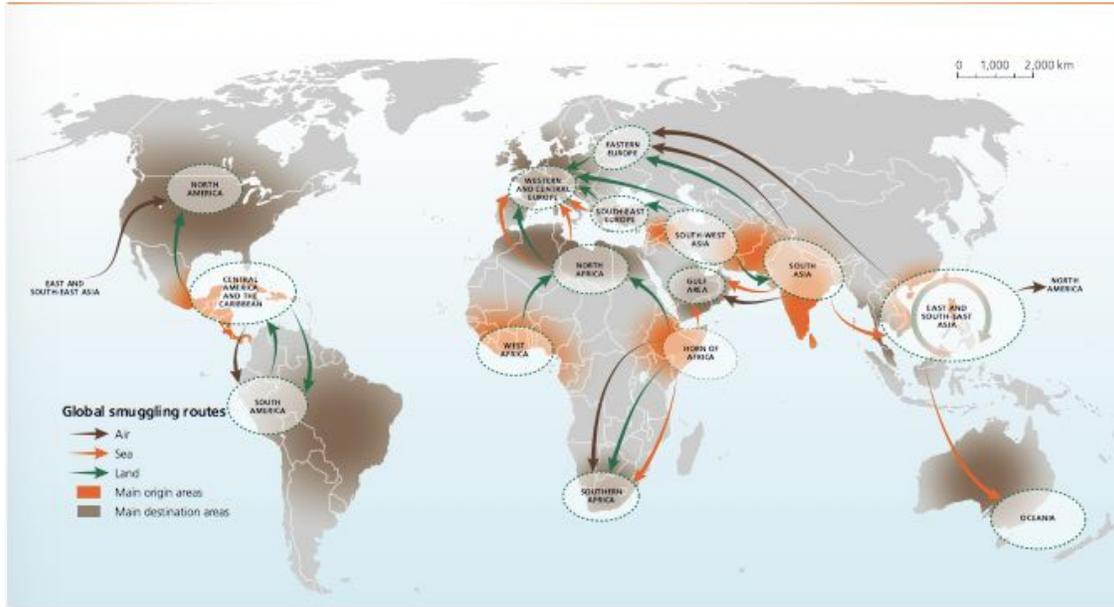


Figure 2.5: A map of common migrant smuggling routes

Source:

www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glosom/GLOSOM_2018_web_small.pdf

Central American, West African and South Asian countries are areas where there are commonly used points of origin for migrant smugglers (“Global Study on Smuggling of Migrants.”). Migrants from these areas are leaving for a reason, so origin countries may want to focus on those reasons rather than ways to combat migrant smuggling while in debate. Additionally, many families go into debt while trying to pay to smuggle members of their family to other countries for a chance at a better life. Because of this, there can be poverty in these areas that wouldn’t be otherwise, so countries may want to focus on this aspect of the issue while debating how to address migrant smuggling (Town).

Transit countries on the other hand face different issues as a result of migrant smuggling. Transit countries (such as those in West Africa and Eastern Europe) are countries that are along the way to the destination countries (“Global Study on Smuggling

of Migrants.”). These countries face an increase in illicit activity as criminals are passing through; this can have a negative impact on the surrounding areas and could be a point of concern during debate (Town). It is also in these transit countries that migrants often die while attempting to be smuggled, which is another main aspect of migrant smuggling that these countries may want to discuss.

Destination countries, as the countries that migrants want to be smuggled into, are the countries that actually are “taking in” the migrants. Common destination countries are the United States, France and the United Kingdom (“Global Study on Smuggling of Migrants.”). Some seek asylum while others (illegally) work their way into daily life in whatever destination country they end up in. This puts a huge responsibility on the destination countries; they can either choose to do something about the migrants’ illegal activity and work to combat the crime, or, as often happens if the countries don’t have the means to act, ignore the crime altogether and let organized crime and corruption run rampant (Town). Destination countries face completely different issues regarding migrant smuggling than origin or transit countries do, and may want to address how to combat migrant smuggling or determine what their best course of action is. This is why destination countries could be their own bloc; and, subblocs could form depending on how certain destination countries think they should be handling the smuggled migrants.

Other blocs that could form are countries that have very strict and clear immigration rules, compared with countries that have more relaxed policies. Some countries may enforce these policies differently than others, and those countries that act

similarly on the issue of immigration may choose to work together during debate in the Commission for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

Committee Mission

The goal of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is to work towards establishing global policies that will combat and properly punish the act of migrant smuggling. This committee will focus on creating legislation that addresses this issue as well as finding an appropriate criminal justice response to migrant smuggling. The lack of legislation and response by countries addressing migrant smuggling has allowed it to go on for so long. Migrant smuggling affects almost every country in the world and as such should needs to be addressed by this committee. It is imperative that countries in this committee collaborate to stop the widespread crimes happening across the world and prevent more migrant lives from being lost. So, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice needs to work together to address the causes of migrant smuggling, develop new approaches such as in the form of legislation to combat migrant smuggling, and bring awareness to this issue.

Questions to Consider

1. What is the immigration policy in your country?
2. Is your country a transit, origin, or destination country?
3. Does your country currently have any policies in place that address migrant smuggling?

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4. Does your country have legislation that allows it to prosecute the criminals that do the smuggling? Does your country view smuggled migrants as criminals as well?
5. What has your country typically done in response to discovering smuggled migrants?

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“Global Study on Smuggling of Migrants.” *United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime*, UNODC, 2018, www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glosom/GLOSOM_2018_web_small.pdf.

This source is the Global Study on Smuggling of Migrants produced by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. It is a very detailed document that would

be useful for in-depth research on smuggling routes, the smuggled migrants, and the migrant smugglers.

Stewart, Heather. "UK and France to Step up Patrols as Boat with 12 Iranians Lands in Kent."

The Guardian, Guardian News and Media, 31 Dec. 2018,

www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/dec/30/uk-and-france-pledge-drive-to-tackle-people-smuggling-in-channel.

This article by The Guardian provides information on France and the UK's response to migrant smuggling. As a result of many migrants being smuggled into those countries, their governments decided to take action to prevent it. This is a good example of what countries have been doing to combat migrant smuggling and may be useful for delegates when thinking about what their country might do in response to migrant smuggling.

Town, Kevin. "Transnational Organized Crime: Let's Put Them out of Business." *Smuggling of Migrants: the Harsh Search for a Better Life*, www.unodc.org/toc/en/crimes/migrant-smuggling.html.

This source has a lot of information on why migrant smuggling is an issue. It has information on the human rights abuses, smuggling routes, the criminal network of smugglers, what can be done to combat the issue, and more. There are also links to other related publications, which will be very helpful for delegate research, as well as maps and graphs that provide helpful visuals.

