

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

Global Forum on Preventing Mass Media Violence

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HOPEMUN 2020

WELCOME LETTER:

Welcome honorable delegates to this HOPEMUN 2020. First, I would like to introduce myself as your chair for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations committee, my name is Luis Servin and it is truly an honor to guide you in this delightful experience. Most of you know what being a delegate is, you are all able to excel individually, however in this MUN you will also be put into situations where excelling individually will not be enough, therefore you will have to work collaboratively with other delegates, so be prepared.

This year we will be addressing issues of the modern digital era. As members of the UNAOC, this year you will direct your efforts into the prevention of mass media violence.

It is exercises of this type that serve to remind us not only the kind of world that we live in, but also that together we are able to make a difference, to be the change that this world needs. Because as citizens of tomorrow, we need to become conscious of the problems that harm our present world and act upon them to make this world a better one.

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INTRODUCTION:

During the day people spend most of their time on the internet, social media, playing video games, watching TV, among other things, so this tells us that media has a huge impact in our daily life. So we need to ask us this question, does media violence affects people's behavior?.

The average of young people is to watch from 3 to 5 hours of media each day. Researchers show that 85% of the content they watch just on the tv includes physical or psychological violence, so they spend more time watching a screen than doing other

activities. The International for Research and Aggression said:" Over the last 50 years a large number of studies have concluded that watching violent content or playing violent video games increases demand likelihood for aggressive behavior". This is one of the major issues in the modern era and should be eradicated as soon as possible.

#### GROUND RULES:

The majority might be familiarized with the protocols that are employed during the debate. However, I cannot stress with sufficiency how important it is to follow the rules, not only to guarantee that everything is done in an assertive way but to ensure that you have a pleasant experience.

During the debate, you must remember to be professional at all times, taking into consideration that you are representing a country and must act accordingly. Also, being respectful is key to achieving a proactive and fructiferous environment that makes the debate very special. You must keep in mind at all times that other delegates may present ideas that differ from your own, however, this must not be a motive to disrespect them or try to hamper the debate.

#### SETTING THE ISSUE:

Over the last few years, there has been an exponential increase in the use of social media, to the point where almost half of the entire global population has an active account on social media. Because of this exponential increase, a humongous amount of information is exchanged day by day.

Also, we have seen an increase in school shootings over the last decade. This year alone there have been 45 school shootings in 46 weeks only in the United States, this rate is very alarming and should concern all the countries in this committee.

Along with school shootings increasing there has also been an increase in suicides and deaths that derive from the use of social media; suicides caused by cyberbullying are referred to as cyberbullycides, these are the leading cause of death among young people.

#### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

The first recorded school shooting dates back to August 1, 1966, where a student sniper killed seventeen people from a clock tower at the University of Texas. ever since this event, there have been more than three hundred recorded school shootings. These school shootings have amassed around 1,200 deaths.

On the other hand, the amount of suicides related to social media is significantly higher than those related to mass shootings. Nowadays, social media has become a crucial part in the majority of young people's lives, it is because of this dependence that we as young citizens have created, that cyberbullying takes place. Studies show that five out of ten people, ages 12 to 21, are or have been cyberbullied. Due to the increasing amount of cyberbullying that we can observe in our present, many young people tend to become severely depressed and later on commit suicide. Ever since the release of social media, such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, suicide rates in young people have increased by 30%, mostly due to cyberbullying and depression deriving from it.

RELEVANCE IN TODAY'S WORLD:

Since social media has gained a protagonistic role in teenagers communication worldwide, this issue has turned into very concerning and relevant problems in our modern era. It is because of this protagonist role that as a committee you should direct your efforts into addressing and eradicating this problem.

Education is the main component in producing a generation that will make this world a better one. Recently, education has been hampered by mass shootings that not only inject fear into young citizens but hinder the progress towards achieving a satisfactory education.

IMPORTANT EVENTS:

- August 1, 1966: The first mass shooting takes place at the University of Texas where a student killed 17 persons including an 8-month-old baby.
- February 2, 1996: Two students and one teacher killed, one other wounded when 14-year-old Barry Loukaitis opened fire on his algebra class.
- April 16, 2007: A 23-year-old Virginia Tech student, Cho Seung-Hui, killed two in a dorm, then killed 30 more 2 hours later in a classroom building. His suicide brought the death toll to 33, making the shooting rampage the most deadly in U.S. history. Fifteen others were wounded.
- December 10, 2019: 6 killed and three injured in Fresno, California. This is the latest mass shooting as of December 12, 2019

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS AT SOLUTIONS:

In the last decade, UNICEF and the #ENDviolence project, invited the authorities to support the fight against this social conflict. These are some of the action points set by UNICEF to end cyberbullying.

- Implement policies against cyberbullying.
- Establish national telephone helplines for children and teenagers.
- Promote ethical standards and practices among social media providers.
- Collect data on the online behavior of children and teenagers, to inform and guide policies.
- Train teachers and parents to address cyberbullying and bullying, particularly for vulnerable groups.

It is important to mention that in the German government there are laws and legal and administrative regulations that have proven to be effective. It is well known that laws and regulations can only be a part of the protection of children and youth; In school, the kindergarten and, above all, parents should be educated and be responsible for creating media competencies in children and adolescents.

COMMITTEES MISSION:

As a committee you must focus specifically on finding or creating solutions that are viable and achieve a total consensus in the committee. You must keep in mind that when proposing solutions you must be respectful towards other delegates and accept the differences that might be presented by other delegates and work with these to achieve solutions that are satisfactory for the whole committee.

IMPORTANCE OF SOLVING THE ISSUE:

Solving this issue is imperative to make this world a better one, these solutions might have a moderate immediate impact on today's world, however the future outcome will prove to be rewarding, since we are solving problems that affect our and next generations, making this world a better one.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- It has been estimated that a young person by the age of 17 or 18 have viewed about 200, 000 acts of violence just on television.
- A 2002 report by the US department of education which examines school shootings and attacks from 1974 to 2000 in the country, found that almost half of these attackers demonstrated an interest in violence through media.
- Children's learn better by repeating the act you show them, so this tell us that all violent media can teach them violent behaviors.

LIST OF COUNTRIES:

1. Canada
2. United States of America
3. Mexico
4. Philippines
5. Colombia
6. Puerto Rico
7. Argentina
8. Brazil

9. Venezuela

10. Bolivia

11. Spain

12. France

13. China

14. South Korea

15. Australia

16. Russia

17. Paraguay

18. Germany

19. Belgium

20. Japan

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