



Social, Cultural and Humanitarian
Committee

SOCHUM

*Topic B: The Protection of
Children with Focus on Child
Prostitution and Sex Tourism*

ALEXMUN 2017



Dear delegates,

The Social Cultural and Humanitarian Committee is pleased to introduce you to our 2017 committee, we hope you are as excited as we are to work together.

My name is Isabella Vera Stephens and I'll be your president during the model. I'm studying third semester in the Bachillerato Alexander Bain. I'll be using my leadership skills and abilities to guide you through this committee. Any questions you can e-mail me: isabella.vera@bab.edu.mx .

My name is Clara Sofia Avila Islas and I will be your conference officer. All the members of the committee, including myself, believe that our team is strong, and what we need is people that want to participate, learn and have fun, as well as have a good attitude and be committed with the work and the model. I hope you have fun; if you have any doubt or comment please contact me at this email address clara.availa@bab.edu.mx

Hello, my name is Jeannette Harfush Kuri and I will be your moderator in this year's SOCHUM committee! throughout the model I will moderate your debate in order to have a fruitful and fluid discussion.

I have been part of three UN models, and my experiences have all been great, so I expect yours will to be the same as well. Please let me know if you have any comment or doubts about SOCHUM at this email address: jeannette.harfush@bab.edu.mx

Hello, my name is Nicolas Anaya Altamirano and I will be serving as the political advisor of the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee (**SOCHUM**) for Alexmun 2017. United Nations Models help people developed their communication, leadership and persuasion skills, and that is the main reason of why I have decided to join this committee. Feel free to reach me anytime you wish for any doubts at nicolas.anaya@bab.edu.mx .

Sincerely yours,

The SOCHUM's Chair

About SOCHUM

The Social, Humanitarian & Cultural committee (SOCHUM) is the third committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations. It was created in 1945 and Maria Emma Mejia of Colombia chairs it today.

The objective of this committee is to attend social, humanitarian and human rights issues that affect people all around the world. It is in charge of protecting, watching and identify countries where these human rights have been violated for some reason.

Another of the SOCHUM committee`s objective is to work with nations through reasonable solutions to help countries that are facing internal problematics or difficulties, for example, lack of resources for their population or crisis caused by some natural phenomenon.

This committee is important due to the connections it has with the government of the UN`s country members. SOCHUM has support from many city centers around the world, making its influence in international politics a reality.

SOCHUM considers that education is one of the most important subjects that countries should improve on, as it is the base of the development of an educated society that respects human rights. SOCHUM also takes into account the difficulties countries face when trying to overcome challenges, and acts accordingly in order to solve these problems. SOCHUM has become a watchman of international peace and stability, stepping in whenever, and wherever, help is needed.

Introduction of the issue:

The subject to be discussed is the industry of prostitution, focusing in child prostitution and sex tourism. This activity has existed for thousands of years; it is inherent to all societies and has always been tried to be hidden, segregated, and eliminated.

Today, the laws of some of the countries contemplate prostitution as a crime; such are countries like China, Jamaica and Russia. Other countries, however, have laws to regulate this industry; such is the case of Uruguay and Portugal. In some countries prostitution is illegal in public, like Argentina, Brazil and Ecuador.

Societies have always categorized, pointed out and observed this activity, but no actions have been taken to find what was the origin. Without being able to be considered an object of commerce, it is a common activity, especially in underdeveloped countries like Mexico. Prostitution is usually used as a mean of support.

In short, prostitution is an activity that has coexisted in all our societies since ancient times and which has continued to exist; nevertheless, it should not be allowed that criminal networks kidnap individuals or capture people to force them into the industry.

The problem now

In Latin America prostitution is somewhere legal: some countries have law to limit and restrict this system. In some others you need a special permit like the case of Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile.

The controversial part of this issue, however, is that illegal or not, there is a large number of minors used in this industry, and women being forced into as well. This goes beyond the issue of prostitution and into the issue of kidnapping and abuse. Sex tourism has become a big issue because it is now a industry in which people work in finding and kidnapping women to traffic and sell assex objects. Because of the third world position of most Latin American countries, women are sold outside their native countries to more developed countries like the United States and Spain. Research done by the CIA shows that by 2010 there were 50 thousand persons used in sex tourism in the USA, of which 12 thousand were Latin-American. In countries like Thailand where sex tourism is also an issue, the authorities put into place more restrictions like the police arresting sex workers, and also have a

women empowerment tourism month. Because of this, Latin America has become the new destiny for sex tourism.

In Argentina, most of the victims are transported to more urbanized areas of the country; they are also taken to Chile, Brazil, Mexico, Spain and Europe. Brazilian women are the principal victims of human trafficking according to the United Nations. Most of these women are between ages of 18 to 30. In the matter of child prostitution, there are around 2 million kids ages 10 to 15 being forced into the industry, said the ONG Jubilee Action. Statistics made by different ONGs said that there are around 75 thousand women and girls that are victims of sex tourism in other Latin American countries, the United States, Japan, Europe and the Middle East. Most of the women that end up in Europe arriving through Portugal.

Colombia also has two prostitution systems: the one that operates nationally and the international one. This second one sends women to Venezuela, Ecuador, Panama, Spain, England, Germany, Belgium and the United States. They estimate that around 500 thousand women and children that are taken out of the country are forced to prostitute or work as slaves. Colombia prohibits any type of human trafficking but has a low rate of investigation regarding this topic, in contrast they are working with governments in other countries with the same issue like Costa Rica, Panama, Hong Kong, Japan, China and Thailand.

In Paraguay, most of the women and minors are transported out of the country to Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Spain, and Italy. There has also been an increase in minor prostitution in which minors are forced to prostitute as transgender. Since 1997 international sex trafficking has been illegal for minors, later it was updated to make sex tourism in general illegal.

In Chile prostitution isn't illegal, but whoever abuses or promotes prostitution is punished. An investigation by the OIM states that sexual slavery affects around 2.4 millions of people in Latin America, mainly women and girls. Chile as a country is more used as a transit place for victims going to the United States, Spain, Japan, Mexico and El Salvador.

Tenancingo, Mexico is considered the trafficking capital of the world, being the largest source sex slaves sent to the US, according to the US State Department. A

large majority of this kids, that are as young as 14 years old, are tricked or threatened in order to become a sex slave. There are around 4,000 pimps in this city. In Mexico, prostitution is legal but with certain restrictions, laws, and obligations for people that work in this industry. Prostitution with minors is illegal, yet still in 2016 the CNDH reported that 93% of victims of sex tourism are women and 26% are minors. Sadly the least cases reported to authorities come from women.

As we saw, in some countries prostitution, as a work is actually legal, this brings up to the next topic. Prostitution is in fact a job for many women, and is a large industry as well. But is legal prostitution leading to human trafficking and slavery? Here are some pros and cons of this situation. The NY Times writer Rachel Lloyds said ""The presence of an adult sex industry increases both the rates of child sexual exploitation and trafficking. It may be true that some women in commercial sex exercised some level of informed choice, had other options to entering and have no histories of familial trauma, neglect or sexual abuse. But, these women are the minority and don't represent the overwhelming majority of women, girls, boys and transgender youth, for whom the sex industry isn't about choice but lack of choice.

The argument that legalizing prostitution makes it safer for women just hasn't been borne out in countries implementing full legalization. In fact, legalization has spurred traffickers to recruit children and marginalized women to meet demand. Amsterdam, long touted as the model, recently started recognizing rates of trafficking into the country have increased and is beginning to address the enormous hub of trafficking and exploitation that it's created."

In the other hand criminalizing the sex industry will only bring more exploitation and abuse. Legalizing it also helps give right and more help to independent prostitutes, also helping to tackle problems like sex tourism and minor prostitution.

Topics to be addressed:

1. What type of restrictions should exist regarding prostitution? Should every country be able to decide on the matter?
2. How are third world countries involved in the issue?
3. How are first world countries involved in the issue?
4. Why is this issue hard to solve and what can the UN do to solve this issue?

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