



Surf City XVIII

Huntington Beach High School



NATO

Topic A: Combating Conflict-Related Sexual Violence
&

Topic B: Arms Control and Non-Proliferation

Cristina Stewart

Sofia Bammer

Mia Seleno



Welcome Letter

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of the Huntington Beach High School Model United Nations Program, we would like to welcome you to our virtual Surf City XVIII advanced conference!

Our annual Surf City conference upholds the principles and intended purpose of the United Nations. Delegates can expect to partake in a professional, well-run debate that simulates the very issues that those at the United Nations discuss every day. Both novel and traditional ideas will be shared, challenged, and improved.

It is our hope that all delegates will receive the opportunity to enhance their research, public speaking, and communication skills as they explore the intricacies of global concerns through various perspectives, some of which may be very different from their own. We hope their experiences here give them new insight and values that they can apply outside of the realm of Model UN for the betterment of the world community.

Although we will be entertaining a new style of a virtual conference, we hope all delegates will experience a fruitful and enhancing debate. Please do not hesitate to approach our Secretariat or Staff Members with any questions or concerns that you may have throughout the day. We wish the best to all our participants and hope that they may share a fulfilling experience with us! Enjoy the conference.

Sincerely,

Summer Balentine
Secretary-General

Jenna Ali
Secretary-General

Kayla Hayashi
Secretary-General

Hailey Holcomb
Secretary-General

Meet the Dias



Cristina Stewart

Hi! My name is Cristina Stewart, and I am so excited to be your senior chair for Surf City this year! At HBHS, I am a member of the varsity girl's soccer team, President of the California Scholarship Federation, and Vice President of the National Honors Society. I also currently serve as a Senior Teacher for one of our freshman MUN classes and have loved every second of it. Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with my friends and traveling the world with my family. Although I wish we could meet all of you in person, I am looking forward to seeing you virtually and hearing what you have to bring to debate. Best of luck!

Sofia Bammer

Hey! My name is Sofia Bammer and I am so honored to be one of your chairs this year! This will be my third year in the HBHSMUN program, and I've loved every second of it. Along with being involved in the MUN program here at HBHS, I am also a dancer in Academy for the Performing Arts, a department representative for APA student council, as well as a member in National Honors Society. Being in the MUN program has introduced me to numerous world issues that are prevalent in society today, and I think that's one of the most beneficial things about MUN. Again I am so excited and am looking forward to seeing you guys in committee! Good luck Delegates!

Mia Seleno

Hello everyone!! My name is Mia Seleno. I have been in HBHSMUN for three years now and this will be my first time chairing a conference! MUN has pushed me to become a more confident, knowledgeable, and responsible person. I have also been a dancer for 11 years and it is my favorite part of my day. I am also involved in three clubs at school to promote awareness on pressing subjects and to inform people of what they can do to help. Helping the environment has always been one of my passions as well, and I have worked towards being a more sustainable person. MUN has also helped me become so much more knowledgeable about topics like these. Though this conference will be online, I can't wait to see you all in committee!

**All Papers are due on January 2, 2020 by 11:59pm to
surfcity.nato@gmail.com**



TOPIC 1: Combating Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

BACKGROUND

The term “conflict-related sexual violence” (CRSV) refers to rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, mandatory abortions/pregnancies, involuntary marriages, and any other sexual-based violence towards a man or woman directly linked to an ongoing conflict. International Humanitarian Law, or the Law of Armed Conflict, defines CRSV as a war crime and a crime against humanity. Nonetheless, perpetrators of these horrific acts of violence are hard to trace, as these atrocities are often enacted by those involved in terrorist organizations such as ISIS, Al-Qaeda, and smaller terrorist groups.¹ Terrorist organizations aren’t the only participants in CRSV, for military forces around the world contribute to it as well, as developing nations are easy targets. In an armed conflict, or a confrontation between two or more groups for a certain amount of time which requires military assistance, sexual violence can occur; acts of CRSV are seen as a war tactic, where abusers justify the sexual actions they make towards women and men through a strategic aim related to the conflict. Their justifications may be used to deliberately target citizens, systematically attack civilian populations, or advance political and military objectives through sexual acts.² Thousands of individuals have become subject to acts of conflict-related sexual violence all over the world, with the highest concentration of cases occurring within Afghanistan, Iraq, Mali, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Syria, and South Sudan.³ Although CRSV is often considered a phenomenon that plagues the Middle East, Europe also experienced several acts of sexual violence during WWII. CRSV is caused by gender norms and the impunity surrounding the topic, which is what makes it a very effective strategy in war. Women, often the most susceptible to sexual violence, are hit the hardest due to their ‘inferior’ status to men. Rape is both inexpensive and powerful for states’ militaries and armed groups to use to further wreak havoc on local communities. When CRSV is brought about on a large-scale in countries, their unity, peace, and security are threatened.⁴

Conflict-based violence brings many negative, long term effects on societies, often requiring several years for victims and countries to fully recover. After an act of CRSV occurs, the victim’s needs must be met almost immediately in order to mitigate the mental and physical effects that the victim will likely suffer from. Lots of shame is brought about when an individual is sexually abused. In many countries, sexual violence, specifically rape, leads a society to ostracize and exclude the victim of the act.⁵ Women, specifically, have lost their jobs and income after being raped and have also faced lots of shame within their families, causing them to be kicked out and left without a place to go; men who have been raped by men often face prosecution and sometimes even execution, as this act is considered a homosexual interaction, deemed highly illegal in some parts of the world. Women who have been assaulted may also end up pregnant. When their child is born, it is often difficult for countries to integrate the child into their societies and economies because of the stigma they might face. If these children are not successfully integrated, they are highly susceptible to recruitment and exploitation from terrorist organizations. In fact, as of 2009, over 8,000 children have been recruited by Boko Haram alone, with children facing social neglect accounting for a large fraction of those recruited.⁶



Recognizing the lasting impacts of CRSV, many women and men who are victims of such atrocities stay silent in fear that if they speak up they will lose everything they have.

Conflict-related sexual violence also severely harms countries' economies and overall strength. Many years of war, along with acts of sexual violence, weakens countries' institutions, justice systems, governments, and social fabric for generations to come.⁷ This makes it much more difficult for governments to enact laws, protect their citizens, and - potentially the most difficult - rebuild a country post-war. It's especially difficult for developing countries to rebuild their infrastructure and civilians after a war, seeing as they lack many of the resources that could aid in this process. Just in 2019 alone, the National Victims Unit recorded 107,445 victims of an armed conflict, with 365 of being victims of conflict-related sexual violence. Women and girls made up 89% of that number, 35 of the individuals were men, and three individuals who identified as queer, transgender, bisexual, lesbian, or gay were affected. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is known as "the rape capital of the world," for rape and other acts of sexual violence are particularly prevalent within this nation during a conflict.⁸ In the DRC, between 2008 and 2009, more than 15,000 rape victims were reported to the United Nations each year. As seen in these numbers, conflict-related sexual violence is present - to this day - in countries which are still developing. However, despite such a large number of reported cases, the exact number of victims who were sexually abused is still unclear due to the fact that many victims never report the experience. It's very difficult for countries to report the correct amount of victims there are in that current country just because of the men and women who stay silent in fear of prosecution.⁹ If a situation in a country is overdramatized, then future scenarios may seem less severe. On the other hand, if the seriousness of a situation is undermined, it is much more difficult for the international community to adequately intervene.

Another important item to note is the fact that males can be manipulated into raping women by using the individual's past behavior, their relationships, or the country's economic situation. Additional factors that may lead one to participate in CRSV are alcohol and drug use, empathetic deficits, suicidal behavior, hyper-masculinity, and hostility towards women. A couple examples of relationship factors could be poor parent-sibling relationships, involvement in an abusive relationship in the past, childhood history of physical or sexual abuse, as well as an unsupportive family environment. Finally, there are community risks, which are factors like poverty, lack of employment opportunities, weak community sanctions against violent perpetrators, and a general tolerance of sexual violence in the community. All of these circumstances can cause someone to sexually assault another individual, with conflict-based violence being an easier target.¹⁰ It is much easier to rape a woman in a conflict-ridden environment, for attention is focused on the conflict as opposed to on the well-being of the individuals in the community. It is important to consider how this affects the international community as a whole, along with how it affects each country politically, socially, and economically.

UNITED NATIONS INVOLVEMENT

Recognizing the seriousness of this situation, the United Nations has taken significant steps towards addressing CRSV. In Brussels in 2006, the UN organized the International Symposium on Sexual Violence in Conflict and Beyond, focusing on increasing nation's response to CRSV. Here, leaders discussed the physical well-being, mental health, economic status, ability to participate in politics, and social inclusion of those who had been victims of



sexual violence.¹¹ This conference resulted in the creation of UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict (UN Action), comprised of 15 UN entities that advocate for the coordination of national responses to sexual violence in conflict zones. One of the primary goals of UN Action is to strengthen data collection and assist cultures in prioritizing justice and accountability in both times of peace and war.

On June 19, 2008, Security Council Resolution 1820 (S/RES/1820) was adopted by the United Nations.¹² This resolution highlights the importance of enforced military discipline and responsible commands for government military units and non-State actors. The document urges nations to take immediate action to protect civilians, with a special focus on efforts to fortify measures for the protection of women and children. The following year, Security Council Resolution 1888 established the United Nations Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict (TOE), utilizing a trained pannel in order to secure justice for victims of sexual violence. Legislative reform has become a priority for the TOE in considering crimes under military units.¹³ They have partnered with several regional groups, including the African Union and the League of Arab States, as well as with international bodies, such as the International Criminal Court (ICC). So far, the TOE has worked within the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Iraq, South Sudan, and Colombia. In Colombia specifially, the TOE was successful in providing technical advice for Law 1719, enuring access to justice for victims of sexual violence as of 2014.¹⁴ Security Council Resolution 1888 also endorsed the creation of Women's Protection Advisors (WPA) in order to facilitate the implementation of the resolution.¹⁵ As a peacekeeping unit, WPA analyzes reports in order to coordinate an appropriate response to special political missions related to conflict zones. Combined, these two resolutions work to ensure that the UN is well trained, equipped, and staffed in order to combat sexual violence.¹⁶

Moreover, A/RES/69/293 has raised awareness concerning the issue and honored the victims of CRSV by designating June 19th as the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict.¹⁷ These efforts align with the intentions of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, as Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being), Goal 5 (Gender Equality), and Goal 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) may all be applied to address the needs of those affected by sexual violence in conflict zones.¹⁸ Nonetheless, a Sustainable Development Progress Report published in 2019 states that the most vulnerable communities throughout the world, often conflict-ridden, are far from satisfying the United Nations' goals by the year 2030.¹⁹ It is evident that despite the UN's efforts, there is still much that needs to be done in order to ensure that members of nations at war are protected, and that those who have fallen victim to acts of sexual violence recieve the attention they need and justice they deserve.

CASE STUDY: South Sudan

It is estimated that one of three women globally face abuse or sexual violence from a partner or non-partner in their lifetime. In a humanitarian crisis, the possibilities seem to be much higher. Areas experiencing violent crises expose vulnerable women and girls to the possibility of sexual violence of every kind. Violence against women and girls (VAWG) has been researched and studied in conflicted nations, and as long as humanitarian issues remain, VAWG continues to be an increased threat within the region. Several studies have been conducted regarding VAWG, but a study on South Sudan from 2016 highlights the humanitarian crises and conflict that has led to inexcusable amounts of sexual violence.²⁰ VAWG exists in several forms,



including rape/sexual assault, domestic violence, child marriage, and physical violence. Particularly with conflict-related sexual violence, women and girls are hesitant to speak up about their experiences, for they know that the corrupt South Sudanese government is unable to support them against sexual violence. There have been interventions from UN organizations and other nations, but civil unrest in the country is the primary driving factor of VAWG and cannot be stopped unless addressed at the root of the issue. Solving the civil ethnic conflicts is the key factor to protecting women and girls.

For several years, South Sudan has endured conflict and instability within their nation, causing crime and violence to become a more common occurrence. Coming out of a 25 year long Civil War in 2011, South Sudan's ethnic and political conflicts remained. Small violent outbreaks occurred in the nation for years after gaining independence, yet the nation also experienced calmer periods with minimal violence as well. However, in July, 2016, ethnic civil conflict rose up again, ultimately leading to extreme VAWG, specifically rape and torture. This brutality has been directed towards certain ethnic and political groups, and sexual violence has been used as a means to express hatred towards these groups.²¹ The Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities between the Government of the Republic of South Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (in Opposition), as well as the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan, explicitly prohibited sexual violence as a means of revenge towards any group of people. Nonetheless, this tactic of war still continues in South Sudan as well as many other African countries.

Immense amounts of conflict in South Sudan has pushed the UN to form the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). Taking place between 2014 and 2018, the UNMISS documented 224 cases of conflict-related sexual violence which effected men, women, boys, and girls. These reports are verified under review as a result of the stigmas and inaccessible humanitarian support associated with sexual violence, especially as a war tactic. These people are raped, forced to work as sex slaves, and tortured as an ethnic based strategy to intimidate and punish people. A large percentage of conflict-related sexual violence cases can be attributed to the South Sudan Peoples Defense Forces, police and national security services, as well as in liberation armies. Experts on South Sudan came together in the Security Council to form resolution 2206 on the topic of the use of sexual violence by state security forces against alleged supporters of National Salvation Front (NAS) and civilians.²² Humanitarian assistants in South Sudan currently experience attacks by armed groups and have informed UNMISS, which has taught police forces in South Sudan the necessary information on frameworks detailing prohibition of the use of sexual violence and the principle of command responsibility, as well as launching action plans to be followed by the police forces as well as similar orders proposed by the NAS. Despite these efforts and the contributions that have been made by the UNMISS, several ethnic and political groups consisting of men, women, boys, and girls continue to face the trauma of conflict-related sexual violence on a daily basis by abusers in South Sudan.

The conflict in South Sudan is a perfect representation of Gender Based Violence (GBV) which occurs in several countries, developed or not. Seeing that there is little to nothing being done by the government to protect the dignity of these women and girls, the corruption and insecurity within South Sudan is even more visible. The failure to save these women and girls from sexual violence completely contradicts the Constitution in South Sudan, which specifically highlights gender equality as a necessary factor in reconstruction of the country after conflict.²³ Since most cases of VAWG occur from South Sudanese authority figures, there is little to



nothing being done by the government to set things straight. UN intervention is not able to do all the work in a situation where many women and girls cannot go a day without being raped and treated violently. Sexual violence is not always by non-partners, however. Domestic violence seems to be a common, culturally-rooted violation of women's rights. Oftentimes when women are not submissive enough to their husbands, they are treated with violence - beaten for slight inconveniences. This is seen in several households in South Sudan and is viewed as completely normal. So-called bad behavior from women is said to make them deserving of sexual violence, which can be seen as another representation of GBV. In fact, one of the main reasons that women are sexually undermined and beaten in their marriage is because of bride price. In South Sudan, the bride price binds the wife as a subservient to the husband, essentially giving the husband permission to treat her however he wishes with absolutely no consequence.

GBV and VAWG continue to occur in South Sudan as we speak, coming from many different sources. Though UNMISS has contributed countless hours to improving the situation and working with the South Sudanese government to improve corruption in the nation and hold authoritative figures accountable for their actions, there is only so much that can be done. It is important to remember that with conflict-related sexual violence, there will always be an excuse to sexually assault women. Any minor event could be used as justification for an act of rape or sexual assault towards women or girls. Solving the situation in South Sudan is a matter of resolving conflict within the government in order to end VAWG. The problem must be addressed on a larger scale, with assistance from other organizations, treaties, and laws that can give the long-awaited freedom to women and girls suffering from conflict-related sexual violence every day.

QUESTIONS

1. What can be done to increase the number of cases of CRSV that are reported?
2. How does conflict-related sexual violence affect the international community as a whole? Has any country not involved in a certain conflict stepped in before to address this issue?
3. What are some things that can be done to assist countries before/after a conflict occurs?
4. Since women are more susceptible in areas of conflict, what actions can be taken to protect women specifically from being raped/abused in a conflict-based setting. How can that stop CRSV from occurring in the future?
5. Considering gender-based violence as a factor of CRSV, what can be done to improve gender equality in a corrupt nation?
6. What can be done to prevent authority figures in a corrupt nation from exploiting sexual violence onto women and girls? In what countries is this an issue? How has it been addressed?



TOPIC 2: Arms Control and Non-Proliferation

BACKGROUND

Arms control is defined as the restricting of weapons, whether it be in relation to their development, production, stockpiling, or proliferation.²⁴ With the Second Industrial Revolution around the middle of the 19th century, the world saw many technological advancements that would allow for innovative approaches to every-day challenges. Of course, progress was not restricted to mere peaceful applications of new technology. In light of such vast industrial growth, the world saw inventions that would allow societies to militarize and create more advanced weapons of war - using several new processes to significantly increase the rate at which nations could do this.²⁵ English inventor and engineer Sir Henry Bessemer is responsible for an invention that greatly aided development: the Bessemer Process.²⁶ While he is widely recognized for developing this process to facilitate the production of more inexpensive steel, Sir Henry Bessemer also set out to engineer a more accurate cannon than had ever been imagined previously.²⁷ There was an improvement in other aspects of defense as gun technology improved, and the industrialization that had originated in Britain rapidly spread throughout the world.

Great technological and scientific advancements were used to secure victory for the Allied Powers in World War I and the Allies in World War II. Nonetheless, few innovations received as much attention as the atomic bomb used to establish victory over Japan in 1945.²⁸ Ever since the United States dropped the first nuclear weapons on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, nations throughout the world have seen nuclear weaponry as a means of establishing themselves as an international power and intimidating other nations into submission. In fact, distrust between the United States and the Soviet Union, despite fighting on the same side in WWII, propelled both nations to develop the largest nuclear arsenal possible. The United States had always been weary of communist rule in the Soviet Union, and the Soviet Union was bitter about the United States' late entry in the war that had cost them many lives. Postwar Soviet expansionism soon became a concern, and the United States determined that a strategy called "containment," in which the U.S. would increase its defense spending by four-fold while preventing Soviet expansion, was the best approach to the problem.²⁹ Despite these efforts, the Soviet Union tested its own atomic bomb in 1949. Lasting almost half a century, the race for the greatest nuclear stockpile between the United States and the Soviet Union came to be known as the Cold War. Although these two superpowers never came to direct blows, the Cold War represented a struggle to preserve democracy and freedom throughout the world, followed by a need to regulate the proliferation of arms.³⁰ Although the intensity of the conflict made world powers aware of the need to address weaponry, both the United States and the Soviet Union were convinced that they could not safely disarm, for it would make them vulnerable to the possibilities of the other side not disarming and, therefore, controlling the other. With this, the goal of the international community became not to eliminate nuclear weapons, but rather to maintain a stable nuclear deterrent as a means of controlling the nuclear arsenal. Under the principle of nuclear deterrence, a state in possession of nuclear weapons is discouraged from using them because of the threat of retaliation by another nuclear power.³¹

In light of this, it is important to recognize the difference between arms control and disarmament. Generally speaking, complete disarmament is not an attainable goal as long as nations continue to compete for power and hold on to uncertainty concerning the state of



weapons in foreign territories. In order to limit the risk of nuclear destruction, several agreements on arms-control have been created, some of these being the Partial Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty of 1963, the 1970s Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT), and the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM Treaty).³² The SALT agreements aimed to restrain the buildup of nuclear-armed intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), as well as limit the future deployment of anti-ballistic missiles (ABMs). Moreover, in 1968, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, or the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), was established. This treaty has member states who are in possession of nuclear weapons and others without a nuclear arsenal.³³ Despite having 185 parties, the NPT only recognizes the “Big 5” as nuclear-weapon states: Russia, the United States, China, France, and the United Kingdom.³⁴ Many regions of the world - some of which include Latin America, Central Asia, and the South Pacific - have designated nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZs), banning the development and deployment of nuclear weapons within these areas in reinforcing the contents of the NPT.³⁵ Regardless, other nations, including Pakistan, India, Israel, and North Korea, also have nuclear warhead inventories within their nations. The nine nations with nuclear weapons possess a total of approximately 13,500 nuclear warheads; however, only about 9,500 of the warheads are in military service (while the rest await dismantlement), and about 90% of these weapons belong to Russia and the United States. Currently, Russia holds around 6,375 warheads, the U.S. has 5,800, China has 320, France has 290, the U.K. has 215, Pakistan has about 160, India has 150, Israel has 90, and North Korea is estimated to have between 30 and 40 nuclear warheads.³⁶ Despite originally being an NPT member state, North Korea withdrew from the treaty in 2003. With a lack of transparency, it has grown difficult to determine exactly how many nuclear weapons this nation has.³⁷ Iran is another nation in which nuclear activity is not entirely clear.

Aside from nuclear proliferation, it is important to consider the spread of small arms in light of the global arms trade. This trade fuels civil war, contributes to escalating crime rates, and feeds into terrorists’ arsenal.³⁸ The United States is the biggest exporter of arms throughout the globe, with Saudi Arabia, the biggest recipient, accounting for a total of 22% of its exports.³⁹ Between 2014 and 2018, the “Big 5” were the top five exporters of arms throughout the globe. There are over 1 billion firearms throughout the world, and most of them belong to ordinary civilians. In fact, there are about 21 firearms for every 53 Yemeni residents, firearms are responsible for 1 out of every 10 deaths in Colombia, and 80% of guns in Mexico that are used for crime came from manufacturers outside of the country.⁴⁰ Such weapons have been responsible for about 2,436,351 deaths as of 1989, and these numbers continue to grow as nations fail to better control the use of weapons within their territories.

Despite efforts to reduce the threat of nuclear war and the proliferation of arms in the past, there is still much that must be done in order to exercise complete control over this aspect of international affairs. It is evident that changes must be made in order to protect innocent lives and ensure that peace is preserved worldwide.

UNITED NATIONS INVOLVEMENT

The UN has had to make several interventions on behalf of arms control in nations across the world. Under the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), Secretary General Antonio Guterres formed an agenda on May 24th, 2018, for nations to target all disarmament-related



issues, including weapons of mass destruction, conventional arms, and future weapon technologies.⁴¹ Within the agenda, Guterres stresses the need for disarmament aims that align the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as disarmament may play a role in solving Goal 4 (Quality Education), Goal 5 (Gender Equality), Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).⁴² Adopted by all member states of the UN, the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons was made in 2001 to regulate and counter the issues that come with the trade and usage of small arms and light weapons.⁴³ Since then, the UN has worked towards the implementation of the Programme of Action on a national, regional, and international level through three Review Conferences, six Billennial Meetings of States, and two meetings of government experts, all from 2003 to 2018. Altogether, the UNODA focuses on several issues regarding arms control: conventional arms, ammunition, small arms and the arms trade, landmines and depleted uranium, Improvised Explosive Devices (IED), military expenditures, and the UN Register of Conventional Arms. The Conference on Disarmament (CD) began negotiations towards a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty starting in January of 1994 under the Ad Hoc Committee, having been established for that purpose. The treaty, known as the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), came to its final version in 1996 and was adopted by 36 countries within the General Assembly under A/RES/50/245.⁴⁴ Furthermore, the treaty has been mentioned in Guterres' "Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament" in order to appeal to remaining countries who have not yet ratified the treaty in order to facilitate the disarmament process.

Under the Seventy-Fourth session of the First Committee (Disarmament and International Security), 19 draft resolutions were formed regarding the decisions concerning the General Assembly's call for clearing a path towards a nuclear-weapon-free world.⁴⁵ Within these resolutions, one focused on the elimination of atomic bombs in the Middle Eastern Zone. Many of these resolutions consisted of the ratification of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), ratification of other disarmament treaties, and a focal point on the control of arms within the Middle Eastern Zone. The First Committee has recognized the specific threat of nuclear weaponry within this area and has written several resolutions with the support of most member states.

The UN has also created resolutions to combat small arms and light weapons. S/RES/1540, presented by the Security Council, asks member states to refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer, or use nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons. It also aims to restrict the means of delivering such weapons, in particular methods used for terrorist purposes.⁴⁶ Furthermore, this resolution calls for states to implement their own precautionary laws on the proliferation of particular weapons in order to ensure non-proliferation. This resolution set the framework for several other agreements including S/RES/1887, which stresses the importance and implementation of S/RES/1540.⁴⁷

CASE STUDY: North Korea and the U.S.

North Korea has some of the largest arms control and proliferation issues in the world. For many years, the United States tried to negotiate with North Korea regarding their use of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction, as North Korea poses a large threat to every other country around the world with their weapons development and the exportation of their



bassile missile technology. The United States has attempted to take numerous measures to address the challenges posed by North Korea, including engaging the US military, establishing heavy sanctions, and exporting controls. Also, the United States has taken part in two major diplomatic initiatives to have North Korea abandon their nuclear weapons in return for support and aid.

North Korea began conducting nuclear research in the 1960s, and by the early 1970s, they acquired access to advanced plutonium reprocessing technology - supplied by the Soviet Union. Then, in 1985, North Korea signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as a non-nuclear weaponized state. The NPT required non-nuclear weaponized countries to agree to stop the creation and obtainment of nuclear weapons, and both the United States and North Korea signed this treaty. Shortly after the signing of the NPT, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) discovered that North Korea had diverted plutonium from its civilian program to weapon purposes. Regardless, in 1994, North Korea announced to the world that they had intentions to halt their massive nuclear and missile production. That same year, former United States president Jimmy Carter and former leader of North Korea Kim Il Sung negotiated the U.S-North Korea Agreed Framework. In this framework, North Korea pledged to freeze their plutonium-based weapons program at Yongbyon in exchange for two light-water reactors, along with other forms of energy assistance. Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea, committed to abandoning its illegal plutonium weapons program in return for support. The entire agreement collapsed in 2002, however. In January, 2003, North Korea stated that they had decided to remove themselves from the NPT, reopening their massive nuclear facilities. Eventually, after leaving the NPT, the U.S-North Korea Agreed Framework was broken as well. The second diplomatic effort to halt North Korea's nuclear program was created in August, 2003, involving China, Japan, North Korea, Russia, South Korea, and the United States.⁴⁸

Two years later, North Korea pledged to abandon all nuclear weapons and all existing nuclear programs, and they also claimed that they would return to the NPT. However, after many disagreements, North Korea stated that they would never return to the talks and no longer wished to be tied up in the NPT.⁴⁹ For many years after, they stood by this statement, continuing to disregard the NPT and avoiding any talks. In January, 2018, another diplomatic effort was made when North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Un, declared the country's nuclear arsenal "complete" while offering to discuss with Seoul regarding their participation in the Seoul South Korean Olympics. After meeting with South Korean president Moon Jae-in, Kim Jong Un declared that both countries would work together in terms of denuclearizing the Korean peninsula. As of June, 2019, North Korea appears to have assembled between 20 and 30 nuclear warheads, while also having the supplies for 30-60 nuclear weapons.⁵⁰ With all of their advanced missile and nuclear technology, North Korea has become one of the main suppliers of missiles to countries within the Middle East and South Asia, including Iran, Egypt, Pakistan, Libya, Syria, and Yemen. All of these missile transfers are one of North Korea's primary sources of hard currency, meaning that if this country stopped supplying other nations with nuclear weapons, we would see a major depletion in their overall economy. To this day, North Korea continues to develop more advanced missiles and nuclear technology. With this, it is expedient for the international community to establish a sense of control over the country to halt the proliferation of such powerful weapons.

It is important to note the United State's stance on nuclear weapons compared to North Korea's. In July, 1945, the U.S. tested their very first atomic bomb, and less than a year later, the



U.S would become one of the first countries to use nuclear weapons in a war/conflict: atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. At one point in history, the U.S. held approximately 31,000 nuclear weapons, however after various arms control agreements and unilateral reductions, only about 5,800 nuclear warheads are left. Since the end of the Cold War, each and every U.S. president has outlined their own Nuclear Posture Review (NPR). The United States' 45th president, Donald Trump, stated that American nuclear forces are “directed toward deterring aggression and preserving peace.” Even though about only 5,800 nuclear warheads are left, it's important to know that 3,800 of the 5,800 are active, and the other 2,000 warheads are awaiting dismantlement. Under the 2010 New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (NEWSTART) the U.S is only allowed to deploy 1,500 nuclear warheads on around 800 strategic launchers.⁵¹ Meanwhile, the exact number of nuclear warheads that North Korea is in possession of is unknown. As a whole, North Korea is known for its culture of secrecy, and their work on nuclear weapons is no exception. Despite the pressure the international community has placed on North Korea to be more transparent, there is still much ambiguity concerning the exact state of nuclear advancements within the nation. It has also not been helpful that North Korea and the United States, with a history of tension, continue to view each other in the worst lens possible. As both the United States and North Korea have many strong, opposing opinions on a variety of topics, with nuclear weapons being one of them, solving conflicts between these two nations continues to be a difficult endeavor. Although the United States does possess the power to launch nuclear weapons at any given moment, this nation's stockpile does not pose a threat to the globe. Meanwhile, the uncertainty of North Korea's nuclear arsenal is of major concern and creates a threat to international security.

QUESTIONS

1. How can countries that are enemies come together and establish agreements based off of nuclear missiles and trade?
2. Is it important to stop the creation of new nuclear missiles? What can be done to prevent countries from doing this?
3. Is complete disarmament a feasible solution? What might incentivise nations to consider this approach?
4. What are some reasons nuclear technologies could be harmful to a nation? What are the effects of storing nuclear energy/weapons without using them?
5. Seeing as the NPT has established the “Big 5” as nuclear weapon countries, what can be done to incentivise these nations to participate in Non-Proliferation? How will this be beneficial if they comply?
6. How might one address the small arms trade within a nation? How can countries stop the arms trade across their borders?

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