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UNICEF

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Contents

1. Presidents' Letter

2. Simulation Topic: *The Challenge of Child Pornography: Laws and Regulations*

- I. History/Context
- II. Current Situation
- III. Key Points of the Debate
- IV. Guiding Questions
- V. Bibliography



1. Presidents' Letter

Dear Delegates,

We extend you a convivial welcome to the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) in the twenty-second edition of the CCBMUN. Our names are Juan Pio Escobar and Daniela Mesías, 11th and 12th graders students at the New Cambridge School, Cali, and we are glad to be your presidents. First of all, we would like to congratulate and thank you for being part of this committee, as you are here for an enriching purpose, which is to be citizens and leaders of this changing world. Throughout our experience, we have realised that these spaces are extremely important and will lead you to develop friendships, diverse skills, and unforgettable experiences, exponentially optimising your speaking skills.

As presidents it is an honour to be able to guide you on this path and to help you in whatever you need. Get informed, read, grow, and think about the role you play; do not limit yourselves to anything, and above all trust in your abilities and skills. So our message is to keep calm and not stress; let us make this committee a safe and fun place, so that it can leave us many happy memories and be for all the best models of our lives.

We know what pressure an activity like this can be, and we are aware that this committee is a challenge for us as well as for you; the previous work, the grades, the model's days, and the ambition to win a prize. But we invite you to see it as an opportunity to grow, perform, meet people, learn new things, expand your lexicon, have an open mind, create, and have fun. Through debate and reflection, you will be able to develop critical skills and learn to take informed positions on relevant issues that affect the world; this will help you significantly to achieve an incredible academic level and critical thinking. Additionally, we highly recommend that you never regard any performance as a failure. Nothing in life is a failure unless you do not take action and reflect on it, learn, or improve. For us, the most important thing is that this is a huge learning experience, so have fun, enjoy, and learn!



Our experience has shown us that debating is a skill that can provide very important qualities both in academics and in daily life. For this version, our main purpose is that you all have an unforgettable experience, without neglecting the different global themes proposed in the committee. Therefore, we are very excited to listen to you and, as your presidents, we hope that you will exploit your full potential and that we will have a beneficial and fruitful debate, in order to find early solutions for a better future in each nation.

Finally, we want you to know that we are here for whatever you need, to support you until the last moment. If you have any doubts, do not be afraid to ask, we will do everything possible to help you and support you whenever you need it. Once again we welcome you to UNICEF and hope you have an enriching experience. Without further ado, we wish you the best of luck and success.

Your presidents,

Juan and Daniela
UNICEF Chair



2. Simulation Topic: *The Challenge of Child Pornography: Laws and Regulations*

Written by Antonella Cura and María Juliana Ramírez for CCBMUN XXI

I. History/Context

According to the OHCHR (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights) child pornography is referred to as "Child pornography means any depiction, by whatever means, of a child engaged in real or simulated sexually explicit activities, or any depiction of the genital parts of a child for primarily sexual purposes" (OHCHR, 2000).

Pornography has been around for thousands of years although we don't really know how it started or how it developed. Over the ages the pornographic industry took on a greater role in societies around the world. Pornography plays a very prominent role in today's society around the world. According to Merriam Webster, Pornography is defined as "The depiction of erotic behaviour (as in pictures or writing) intended to cause sexual excitement " (Merriam Webster, n.d). It has caused different impacts on society, among which are: sexual idealisation; idealisation of bodies; and attraction to minors.

There have been various sexual revolutions in different parts of the world over time, and these have had a big influence on how pornography is regarded. The sexual revolutions that happened in the western world were influenced by different world events and new technologies. They began after the First World War and lasted until the 1970s. One of the major changes in thinking was the difference between sex and reproduction, where sex was regarded as a pleasurable activity in its own right, rather than a means to reproduce. The invention of contraceptives helped to liberate many conservative ideals.

Unfortunately, one of the effects of the sex industry has been the deformation of the reality of what the sexual life of a couple or an individual should be. According to sources in the ABC newspaper of Spain, high consumption of pornography can

cause negative effects on an individual's life, as it can present sexual relations in an exaggerated or distasteful way. However, it is a fact that pornography represents the first approach to sexual life for many adolescents; according to the INA (Institute of Applied Neurosciences), 7 out of 10 adolescents watch or have watched pornography. The consumption of pornography by minors is alarming given the fact that previously the average age for consuming pornographic content was between 18 and 20 years old, an age which is considered acceptable by professionals. The biggest reason for this is the ease with which pornography can be accessed on the internet. Although this committee will not be talking about children's exposure to pornography, it is important to keep in mind that, in general, children's exposure to pornography has increased with the rise of the internet, affecting what young people regard to be normal sexual behaviour.

Different branches of pornographic material depend on the tastes and sexual desires of the consumers. Among these is the branch of child pornography, which gets its name from the fact that it is the pleasure of an adult person to have sexual contact with minors or to look at sexually explicit material involving minors.

Nowadays, there are websites, companies, and places where individuals can go to satisfy their sexual desires with minors, often run by mafias. This content may be presented in a violent or non-violent way. The amount of child pornography available in the world increased

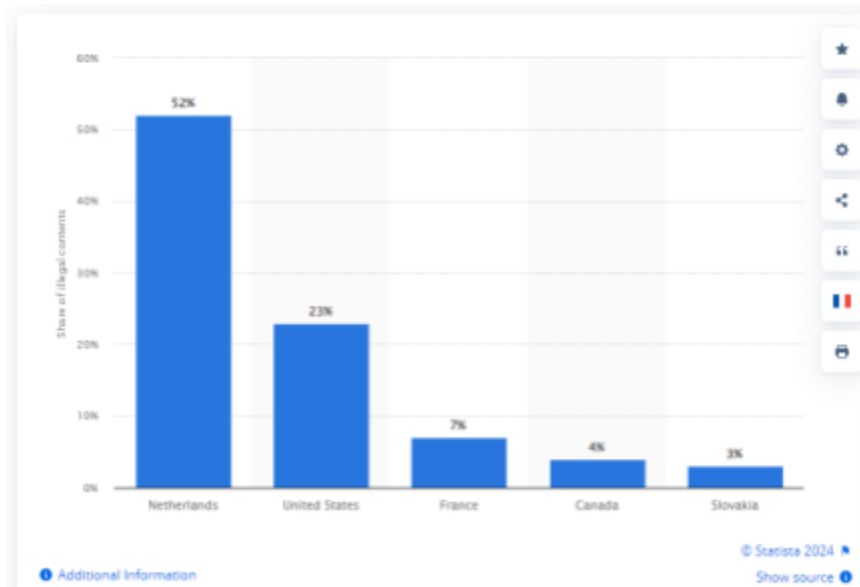


Figure 1: Ranking of countries hosting child pornography content worldwide 2019

significantly between the mid 1980s and the 2000s. Some countries are more likely to show child pornography, as can be seen in the graph.

An example of child pornography crimes can be taken from the book, “Los Demonios del Edén” (The Demons of Eden), by reporter Lydia Cacho. This Mexican reporter uncovered a child pornography ring in the hotel zone of Quintana Roo, Mexico in 2003, which sold the sexual services of minors. Countries such as Colombia, Japan, Thailand, and the USA were among the destinations for these minors. This hotel zone was in charge of promoting child pornography to consumers who were mostly important national figures, such as politicians and governors. After Lydia published the book, she suffered several attacks and threats between 2003 and 2007. Finally the leaders of the group were brought to justice.



Figure 2: Child pornography industry in Mexico

II. Current Situation

One of the most worrying branches of the pornographic industry is child pornography. This is an act that goes against the rights, privacy and integrity of minors participating in such acts.

When dealing with such a delicate subject as child pornography, one has to take into account the extensive concepts that the subject entails:

- The **legal concept** refers to the legislations that nations have around the world, and their stance (either firm or lax) to such legislations.
- The **socio-economic concept** refers to the relationship between the economic circumstances of families and the possibility of the children being involved in the pornography industry
- The **cultural concept** refers to the position which a nation may take on the issue due to cultural or religious beliefs.
- The concept related to **consumer power**, and the type of child pornography that they look for. If more consumers ask for a certain type of product, more of this product will be produced.
- The **medical concept** refers to the description of the physical, emotional and psychological effects of being a victim or consumer of child pornography, as well as the risks involved.
- And finally the **concept of visibility** regarding the subject, as many people are not aware of what is happening and therefore have no idea of how or why they need to protect their children.

Impacts of the popularisation of pornography in the digital era

In the past, minors used to work in places accessible to the public to produce child pornography, but the digital era has greatly changed the concept of child

pornography. As identified by OHCHR (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights) "New digital technologies generate unprecedented levels of pornography". New technologies and new forms of communication have caused an increase in the creation and possession of child pornography. Child pornography via the internet is illegal, and many methods have been used to try to erase it. However, the problem is still too persistent thanks to the freedom that the Internet gives consumers. The consumer can search and inquire about multiple topics without restriction using legal and illegal channels.

It has been recorded that in a period of one year, more than 2 million sites related to topics such as online sex games (most of them including child pornography) are available on the Internet. The digital era has made ownership and distribution of child pornography to be a fairly simple thing, especially with technology like VPNs, which can block the IP address of the consumer. The dark net or dark web is an Internet network where, according to research, approximately 900 child sexual abuse forums exist, leading to consumption of this material with little to no regulation (Gannon, Blokland, 2023).

Child pornography was also increased by the pandemic, as it was beneficial for the workers and consumers of it. According to sources of "El País", from having 17 million reports of specific cyber child pornography cases in 2019, they went to having 21.6 million reports in 2020.

Due to the growing problem of child pornography, many platforms have established legislation and regulations to minimise the rates of child pornography; however, although this has decreased the rates since 2020, it hasn't eradicated them completely. For example, Facebook has a programme to recognize faces and report them directly, whilst apps such as WhatsApp and Instagram are constantly updating their policies.

Many governments have also put policies and laws in place to tackle child pornography. In the USA they have introduced Project Safe Child, the UK has the Online Safety Bill, and the Government of the Virgin Islands has an Internet Watch

Foundation. However, not all countries have clear laws about this particular problem, as can be seen on the map below:

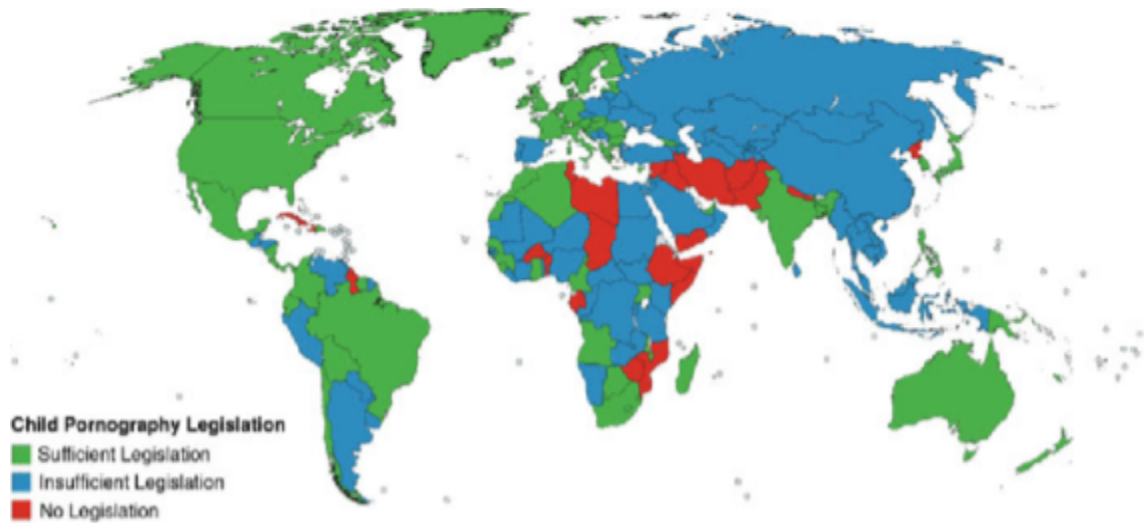


Figure 3: Child pornography laws in the world

Physical and Psychological effects of child pornography

Child pornography can mark the minor for life, causing trauma and future sexual dysfunction. The child victim has physical effects that can be detrimental to his or her development and growth. Among these are: the malformation of genitals; a high probability of teenage pregnancy; and a high probability of contracting STDs (sexually transmitted diseases). Psychologically speaking, they may be traumatised by these events, causing them to have problems forming relationships in the future, and showing self-destructive behaviours such as addiction and eating disorders.

III. Key points of the debate

- The lack of awareness of the problem of child pornography in society.
- The creation of laws and regulations related to child pornography and the compliance of countries.
- The cyber era in child pornography.
- Physical and psychological effects of child pornography.
- Focal points of the child pornography industry
- International cooperation to halt the production and distribution of child pornography

IV. Guiding questions

1. What are the current regulations for the consumption, possession and distribution of child pornography in your country?
2. Which penalties does your nation have regarding the possession and distribution of child pornography?
3. How successful is your nation in prosecuting individuals involved in child pornography?
4. How can we protect the minors involved and affected by child predators?
5. What measures can be taken to ensure online safety for minors?
6. How do we reconcile that in some nations the age of consent does not overlap with the age of majority, therefore it is still considered child pornography?
7. What needs to be done between countries on a global level to tackle child pornography?

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