

6th Legal

Novice GA



TOPIC: Protecting Rights of Prisoners of War

CHAIRS: Olivia Luis, Stella Traylor

LAIMUN XXIX

December 2-3

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LAIMUN XXIX

December 2-3

Letter from the Secretaries-General

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of our entire staff, it is our pleasure to welcome you to Session XXIX of the Los Angeles Invitational Model United Nations (LAIMUN) conference. LAIMUN XXIX will take place on Saturday, December 2 and Sunday, December 3 of 2023 at the Mira Costa High School (MCHS) campus.

Our staff, composed of over 120 MCHS students, has been working tirelessly to make your debate experience the best it can be. You will find your dais members to be knowledgeable about the issues being debated and MUN procedure. We pride ourselves in hosting a conference that is educational and engaging, and we hope you take advantage of that as you prepare and debate.

At LAIMUN, we value thorough research and preparation. We ask that delegates write position papers following [these directions](#). The deadline to submit position papers to be considered for Committee and Research Awards is Friday, November 24 at 11:59 PM PT. The deadline to submit to be considered for Committee Awards is Thursday, November 30 at 11:59 PM PT.

We also encourage all delegates to read the [LAIMUN Rules of Procedure](#) for conference-specific information and as a reminder of points and motions that can be made during committee.

Feel free to reach out to our staff with any questions or concerns you may have. Delegates can find their chairs' contact information next to their committee profile and the Secretariat's email addresses on the staff page. Any member of the LAIMUN staff will be happy to assist you.

We look forward to seeing you in December!

Sincerely,

Akash Mishra and Lily Stern
Secretaries-General, LAIMUN XXIX
secretarygeneral@mchsmun.org



Introduction to the USG

Welcome, Delegates, to LAIMUN XXIX!

My name is Naomi Kim, and I am so excited to conclude my fourth and final year at Mira Costa Model UN by being the Under-Secretaries General of the General Assembly!

Every year, we select the GA committee topics to reflect the diversity of issues present in our rapidly modernizing world, and this year is no exception. I am excited to hear the novel, creative, and detailed solutions each of you have to address these complex problems, and I hope that all of you can leave LAIMUN not just having given an awesome speech and spectacular formal caucus sessions, but with an enriched and diversified outlook.

But in order to have another amazing LAIMUN, I want to remind you all of our strict no pre-written resolutions policy. Under no circumstances is pre-written resolutions acceptable; additionally, delegates are only allowed to work on resolutions during committee sessions, not during breaks. Your chairs will outline this policy in greater detail before the start of debate, and we urge you all to comply.

Our staff have worked incredibly hard to create an informed, professional environment, and we hope that you enjoy it. Come equipped with knowledge, strong solutions, and your sleek WBA, but do not forget—MUN is fun!

If you have any additional questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at the following address: GA@mchsmun.org. If not, I look forward to seeing you all in December!

Best Regards,

Lily Stern and Akash Mishra
Secretaries-General

Naomi Kim
Under-Secretary General

Introduction to the Dias

Hello Delegates!

My name is Olivia Luis and I will be one of your co-chairs alongside Stella for this year's LAIMUN conference. I am currently a junior at Mira Costa and have been in Costa's MUN program since my freshman year. Last year I attended the Yale Model United Nations conference and it was an opportunity that helped me with both my speaking skills and in building up my confidence. I plan to continue MUN throughout my senior year and recommend you all do too.

Outside of MUN, I am involved in multiple clubs and organizations. I volunteer with the National Charity League and participate in Costa's I-Love Club which works to educate Costa students on the various ethnicities of our peers. I played basketball at Mira Costa during my freshman and sophomore years and have played club soccer for Beach FC for many years. I am also a working student at a little deli market in North Manhattan Beach. I love going to the beach, going on adventures, and hanging out with friends.

6th Legal is a committee I'm very familiar with as I have not only debated in it but have been on the dais of 6th Legal committees before. The topic of Prisoners of War is especially relevant today, especially when you consider the war in Ukraine and in Israel. Take these events into account when coming up with solutions. For those of you who are new to MUN and LAIMUN is your first conference, do not stress, Stella and I both understand that debate can be scary. I am excited to hear all of your creative solutions and to meet you all face to face. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

See you all in December – Olivia Luis

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Hello delegates!

My name is Stella Traylor, and I will be one of your co-chairs along with Olivia for this upcoming debate at LAIMUN XXIX. I am a junior at Mira Costa High School and have been in the Model United Nations program for three years. Throughout my years in the MUN program, I have been able to attend the National High School Model UN Conference in New York and a conference at William and Mary College. These travel conferences enriched my Model UN experience and helped me get to where I am today!

Outside of MUN, I enjoy being active and playing sports, both in and out of school. I have played soccer my whole life and currently play club soccer for Beach Futbol Club. I am also on the brand new Mira Costa flag football team, which has been an incredible experience, along with being on the MCHS track team for my 3rd year. I am also in the National Charity League, where I have participated in numerous philanthropic opportunities and community service experiences.

In 6th Legal, our topic concerning the rights of prisoners of war is very relevant and something everyone should know and learn about, and I'm so glad you all chose to be in this committee. For many of you, this will be your first debate in MUN, but you shouldn't be nervous, just give it your all and have fun! MUN is all about confidence and believing that you are well-versed and knowledgeable. I am so excited to see all the creative and insightful solutions you guys come up with for this pressing topic. Looking forward to seeing you all soon!

Best of luck – Stella Traylor

Committee Description

The Sixth Legal, otherwise known as Sixth Committee, is the primary committee that focuses on legal questions of the General Assembly. This committee focuses on the international law itself and one should expect debate to be centered on legislation towards a certain cause. In addition, the Sixth Legal is often used to allow bodies to report to the United Nations, including the International Law Commission, United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, and the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations. The Sixth Committee is essential for international law to prosper and treaties and regulations to be negotiated.

Creating comprehensive solutions regarding the treatment of prisoners must be a top priority for the international community. Around the world, prisoners are consistently denied their basic human rights both in developed and developing countries. Furthermore, women and persecuted groups often face worse punishment and treatment than majority groups in prison, and there are few effective pieces of legislation to protect prisoners around the world. In this committee delegates must be able to not only understand the issues on the surface, but be able to identify and account for their underlying reasons when drafting resolutions.

With phones, tablets, and other electronic devices seeing an exponential growth in the last few decades, the possible over-surveillance by governments has been a hotly debated topic. One side argues that they act as a defense mechanism against dangerous persons while others retort that they're an infringement upon our personal privacy. However, there have been cases of countries abusing their surveillance technologies and government authority, resulting in

accusations of human rights violations. Therefore, the existing international guidelines and potential updates/new legal frameworks are elements to be deliberated by the delegates of Sixth Legal.

Topic: Protecting Rights of Prisoners of War

I. Background

A prisoner of war (POW) is defined as a person who has been captured or confined by an opposing power during war or conflict.¹ A prisoner of war can be a humanitarian or medical aid worker, a civilian, or any person identifying as a member of a military group (soldier, commander, etc.). The treatment that prisoners of war face has been a longstanding humanitarian issue, as prisoners of war are often faced with brutal treatment in which they are beaten and tortured (either for information or “fun”) and forced into involuntary servitude. They are forced to live in horrific environments, barely being fed or hydrated and sleeping in harsh, filthy conditions. Discussions of wartime humanitarian efforts began in 1863, when 12 countries gathered and signed the First Geneva Convention.

Women and children are among the most vulnerable populations during wartime, and as a result, are caught and made prisoners of war. This is not necessarily because women and children are “soft –despite the stigma that exists– but because they are the most valued people in society. They are seen as more innocent and, because of this, can be used more successfully for leverage. Aside from this advantage, women and children are also the victims of violent war crimes. During periods of conflict, women often lose their primary source of income with the loss of their husbands and, as a result, are often displaced and stripped of their healthcare benefits. They

¹ “Prisoner of War.” Encyclopædia Britannica, 12 May 2023, www.britannica.com/topic/prisoner-of-war.

often then turn to gangs and war groups for help. On top of that, women and children are often victims of sexual assault.

Henry Dunant, a humanitarian who witnessed atrocities in the battle of Solferino, wrote the *Memory of Solferino* in 1862, in which he proposed a solution for countries to unite to provide relief to the battlefield.² This led to the creation of the International Committee for Relief to the Wounded, which would later become the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The ICRC works closely in tandem with the policies established in the Geneva Conventions. These Conventions established the Red Cross as a neutral organization during war tasked with collecting and reporting data about casualties and prisoners of war. According to the Conventions, it is the right of a prisoner of war to be visited by the International Red Cross for a wellness check, so the IRC can help them connect with their families as well as bring them food and clothing.³ The Red Cross plays an essential role in upholding the rights and ensuring the safety of prisoners of war.

During the American Civil War, President Lincoln implemented the Lieber Code, a series of laws that would govern the conduct and behavior of soldiers in order to protect the rights and liberties of the American people on both sides of the Civil War.⁴ The laws emphasize the

² “Henry Dunant (1828-1910).” ICRC, 6 Apr. 1998, www.icrc.org/en/doc/resources/documents/misc/57jnvq.htm.

³ “International Committee of the Red Cross Prisoner of War Items.” National Museum of the United States Air ForceTM, www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/Visit/Museum-Exhibits/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/579644/international-committee-of-the-red-cross-prisoner-of-war-items/#:~:text=The%20Red%20Cross%20also%20provided,Committee%20of%20the%20Red%20Cross. Accessed 17 June 2023.

⁴The Laws of War the Trial of Henry Wirz Mock Trial Curriculum The ..., www.nps.gov/common/uploads/teachers/lessonplans/Laws%20of%20War%20-%20The%20Lieber%20Codes.pdf. Accessed 17 Sept. 2023.

necessity of humane treatment towards prisoners of war, establishing that they deserve proper meals and living conditions and prohibiting torture or harm during captivity, killing in response to attempts to escape, and punishment for the color of their skin. The Lieber Code is an example of humanitarian laws, like the Geneva Convention, working on a smaller and more directed/specific scale.

The Geneva Convention is a set of guidelines for the international community to follow and therefore has no power to enforce consequences. A country can choose to abide by the guidelines and observe the Conventions, but that agreement can easily be taken back. Its “laws” can only be implemented into the judiciary of a state's own legal system, and the UN and global community cannot enforce it. It is likely that the offending party would be shunned by the rest of the world, cast aside, cut off from trade, and unsupported, but there is no telling how long this treatment would last and how effective it would be. This lack of enforcement is the cause of considerable anger amongst the international community.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) is an international body that works to hold the global community and individuals accountable for the most heinous of crimes. While there is no set punishment for a state's violation of the Geneva Conventions, the International Criminal Court investigates and tries those who are charged with war crimes and crimes against humanity, such as the mistreatment of prisoners of war. Since 2002, the year of the ICC's founding, this extra-legal step has provided more opportunities for justice.

There have been many instances throughout history where people were stripped of their human rights and made prisoners of war. In 1991, around 200 Croats were massacred by

Serbian. Croatian prisoners of war were separated into groups and annihilated, their bodies dumped in a mass grave. The capture and killing of these prisoners was the result of Croatia's fight for independence. In Imperial Japan, during WWII, around 190,000 soldiers were taken and held captive by the Japanese army. It was Japan's philosophy that those who surrendered were weak and did not deserve respect. It is because of this philosophy that prisoners of war in Japan were treated so harshly. Many prisoners worked at the Thai-Burma Railway at Kanu Camp in Thailand, where they were essentially made slaves, doing hard labor on nothing but a pot of rice.

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Groups from all over the world have started their own organizations and media campaigns that work to aid prisoners of war. Some are trying to bring prisoners of war home, while others send supplies and goods to POW camps. Many advocate for the improved protection of rights for prisoners of war by protesting and utilizing social media. While progress has been made to help uphold the rights of prisoners of war, they are still being treated unjustly. The Geneva Convention continues to be violated by warring groups, and the blatant disregard for humanitarian law is seen clearly in some of the world's most current atrocities. In Ukraine, about 1,900 soldiers were transferred to Eastern Ukraine, where Russia now has control. Prisoners of war are also being mistreated in the Middle East. It is the responsibility of the international community to guarantee that the rights of prisoners of war are protected and upheld.

II. UN Involvement

⁵ “What Life Was like for Pows in the Far East during the Second World War.” *Imperial War Museums*, www.iwm.org.uk/history/what-life-was-like-for-pows-in-the-far-east-during-the-second-world-war.

There are many different bodies of the United Nations, many of which work to uphold and promote the rights and protections of all people. UN bodies that work to specifically target the protection of prisoners of war (POW) are 6th Legal, the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and the International Court of Justice (ICJ). 6th Legal and ICJ take a more legal-focused approach, prioritizing the creation and development of international laws that can benefit POWs. For example, in May 1973, the ICJ took a case to court in which 195 Pakistani prisoners were being held captive in India.⁶ On the other hand, the UNHRC and OHCHR focus more on human rights violations. While their work is not entirely specific to prisoners of war, they aid in combating many of the issues that POWs face, such as malnutrition and inhumane treatment.

Within the UN, there have been multiple programs that work to combat the inhumane treatment of prisoners of war. Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 16 are Good Health and Well-Being and Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions. These goals both directly correlate with the ongoing issue of prisoners of war as the global community is fighting to ensure they are healthy, safe, and are provided with the proper legal help. The UN has also put into place the Programme of Work of the Peacebuilding Commission. Among other things, the Programme of Work has been tasked with both finding and implementing solutions to the POW crisis.

One of the most influential human rights documents part of international law is the Geneva Conventions. Adopted by the United Nations (UN) on August 12, 1949, the Geneva Conventions are a series of four treaties and 3 protocols that discuss the humane treatment of

⁶ <https://www.icj-cij.org/case/60>.

POWs, civilians, and soldiers⁷. Since the creation of the First Geneva Convention in 1864, the global community has periodically gathered to improve the Conventions; this happened in 1906 when 35 countries gathered to improve the Conventions agreements. It happened again in 1929, after WWI when it became clear to the world that more needed to be done to protect the rights of POWs. In response to WWII, the world gathered to create the Geneva Convention of 1949, improving the convention for the fourth time. The Geneva Conventions state that, among other things, prisoners of war have the right to correspond with family and the outside world, receive adequate housing and food, are not to be tortured, mistreated, or harmed in any way, and can be visited by the Red Cross for a wellness check. The Conventions are essentially the rules for war and draw the boundary lines for what a state can and cannot do during wartime. As of right now, over 190 states accept and follow the Geneva Conventions.

The Geneva Conventions produced The International Humanitarian Law. It is a series of “rules” that aim to limit and put a stop to the heinous actions that come out of armed conflict. This law holds states, governments, and other armed groups accountable for their actions. This law works specifically to protect medical response workers, humanitarian aid workers, and civilians⁸. The work that these people do is essential to any war effort, and without them, there would be no reason to create universal standards of humanitarian treatment. They help others, so

⁷ “Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War.” *OHCHR*, www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/geneva-convention-relative-treatment-prisoners-war. Accessed 16 June 2023.

⁸ “International Humanitarian Law.” European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, [civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/humanitarian-aid/international-humanitarian-law_en#:~:text=International%20humanitarian%20law%20\(IHL\)%20is,humanitarian%20aid%20during%20armed%20conflicts](http://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/humanitarian-aid/international-humanitarian-law_en#:~:text=International%20humanitarian%20law%20(IHL)%20is,humanitarian%20aid%20during%20armed%20conflicts).

the international community decided to help them back by protecting them and their rights during wartime.

III. Topics to Consider

A. Treatment and Conditions

Throughout history, those who have been detained by opposing powers in a conflict have been subjected to unfair, dangerous, and oftentimes violent treatment. The status of prisoners of war has developed and become more humane over the past few centuries, but that doesn't mean that they are treated fairly or have adequate enough conditions. Most prisoners of war are soldiers that are taken from the battlefields by the enemy and detained so that they do not pose a threat to the success of the enemy. It is expected that these detainees are to be released after the threat is no longer active. However, this is not always the case. Oftentimes, these prisoners are taken from their home country and kept in captivity for long periods of time in poor conditions and are vulnerable to abuse and torture. Before the Geneva Convention attempted to take control of this issue in 1949, many prisoners of war were kept against their will for several years, surrounded by mistreatment and death; however, the rules and laws the convention put in place have proven extremely hard to enforce, especially in less monitored areas⁹. Because of the little amount of rights and protection that these people were required to have, they have suffered from starvation, disease, lack of health care, and even murder. Prisoners of war have been forced to endure inhumane war crimes, including acts of torture, beatings, mutilation, and forced labor, as

⁹ Address, Mailing, et al. "History and Legal Status of Prisoners of War - Andersonville National Historic Site (U.S. National Park Service)." www.nps.gov, www.nps.gov/ande/learn/historyculture/history-legal-status-pows.htm.

well as forced political indoctrination and rigorous interrogation. To add on to all of this, some prisoners of war are treated even more harshly than others because of ethnic tensions, which is a very big reason why this problem is hard to get under control. As a result of their cruel and inhumane detainment, the majority of prisoners of war end up accumulating lasting physical and psychological issues. Many of these very brutal and severe acts have since been strictly banned internationally for all prisoners of war due to the adoption of the Third Geneva Convention¹⁰. This summit agreed upon a variety of new and approved ways to protect the rights and lives of prisoners of war, no matter what the circumstances are.

B. Access to Legal Protection

Along with the physical and mental mistreatment of prisoners of war, they often do not have proper access to legal protection and international representation of their rights. Because they are taken from their home state, the powers in control of the prisoners will often try to take advantage of their vulnerabilities to lock them up. Many prisoners of war have been prosecuted in court because of the so-called “crimes” that they have committed to end up in the prisoner situation in the first place. However, under international law, members of the armed forces have the right to fight in battle in other countries for their country, so when these prisoners are taken, they should not be charged for anything they did on the battlefield¹¹. This is not always the case, as instead of trying to prevent further hostilities, the detaining power’s motive in taking members

¹⁰ “Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War.” OHCHR, www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/geneva-convention-relative-treatment-prisoners-war#:~:text=No%20physical%20or%20mental%20torture.

¹¹ “Prisoners of War: What You Need to Know.” Wwww.icrc.org, 19 May 2022, www.icrc.org/en/document/prisoners-war-what-you-need-know.

of the opposing armed force is often for punishment. Because the prisoners do not have proper access to legal protection and the same rights they would have at home, the power in control can easily attempt to prosecute them for their actions in war. The Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions saw this reoccurring issue, especially in World War II, and made several international protocols that would help prisoners of war get the representation they needed to be rightfully protected and not taken advantage of, however once again, this is extremely hard to monitor¹². Developing countries often try to cover up the undocumented and illegal POWs to be able to keep them longer and avoid the rules put in place by the Geneva Convention. There is a grave need for more observation in these specific areas where the Geneva Convention is not abided by, especially to be able to record every POW that has been taken in and enforce the rules more strictly.

C. Release and Reintegration

In general, prisoners of war are only lawfully permitted to remain in detainment until the fighting that they were involved in has lifted. When that time comes, the prisoners are entitled to repatriation of citizenship to their home country and should not have any problem or delay in doing this. However, there have been numerous instances in the past where the detaining power went against this general rule and kept prisoners for extended periods of time in fear that they still posed a threat. Also, in the various guidelines and regulations that concern the protection of prisoners of war, such as the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and the third and fourth

¹² International Committee of the Red Cross. "Prisoners of War and Detainees Protected under International Humanitarian Law - ICRC." www.icrc.org, 29 Oct. 2010, www.icrc.org/en/doc/war-and-law/protected-persons/prisoners-war/overview-detainees-protected-persons.htm.

Geneva Conventions, there are discrepancies in how long they are able to be kept depending on health issues, criminal sentences, and parole policies. Rule 128 of the IHL deals with the release and return of prisoners of war, both internationally and non-internationally¹³. Honing the international part of this rule, it states that the termination of active hostilities in the host country marks the time that prisoners of war must be released and repatriated to return back to their home country. These agreements and regulations change and become more detailed when it comes to detainees with specific needs, such as children, pregnant women, mothers with young children, the injured, and the sick. For some released prisoners, the accommodation in a neutral country might be necessary because of unsafe or unstable conditions in the country they previously resided in. All of these special arrangements that are necessities for certain people do not seem as important to the detaining power, so they are often overlooked, and people do not get the correct protection and care that they need. This is where third-party organizations and NGOs come in, as they can help provide the care that the government would not be able to provide. Overlooking all of these complications in release and repatriation in a prisoner of war's journey to self-determination and independence, a majority of the time, those who have been newly repatriated have trouble reintegrating back into society, especially after enduring mental or physical trauma¹⁴. It is extremely important that these people get the care and opportunities that they need to get back on their feet, even after they have regained their citizenship and appear to

¹³ [Icrc.org, 2023, *ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/customary-ihl/v1/rule128*](https://www.icrc.org/en/customary-ihl/v1/rule128). Accessed 16 June 2023.

¹⁴ [Apa.org, 2023, *www.apa.org/monitor/feb04/helping*](https://www.apa.org/monitor/feb04/helping). Accessed 16 June 2023.

be free. They are still under the constraints of their past experiences and need assistance on their journey to reintegrate back into society.

IV. Case Study

There have been thousands of different cases of prisoners of war in numerous conflicts for centuries, but the most significant and relevant to today's setting is the war between Russia and Ukraine. This war has severely impacted the lives of hundreds of millions of people in Ukraine and surrounding countries and has consumed media ever since the invasion at the beginning of 2022. In the past year, almost six million people have been internally displaced within Ukraine, and almost eight million have been forced to flee to neighboring countries because of the violence this conflict has caused¹⁵. With all of this chaos and dealing with foreign aid, refugees, deaths, and negotiations, a big problem has been overlooked in the media and around the world. The issue of prisoners of war has been ongoing since the beginning of the war and stretches much farther than just Russians taking Ukrainians captive, it goes both ways, and there are many particular details that make this situation unique. First off, both the Russian Federation and Ukraine are parties to the Third Geneva Convention, which lays out regulations and guidelines that all parties must follow regarding the humane treatment and eventual release of prisoners of war. Last year, the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine interviewed more than 100 prisoners of war, both Ukrainians held by Russians and Russians held by Ukrainians, and the findings indicate that of the 159 former Ukrainian prisoners of war that were

¹⁵ Center for Preventive Action. "Conflict in Ukraine." Global Conflict Tracker, Council on Foreign Relations, 16 Mar. 2023, www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/conflict-ukraine.

detained in Russia, the majority were mistreated and abused at the initial site of capture¹⁶. Many reported being beaten, immobilized, stripped of their personal belongings, transported in overcrowded vehicles and had little access to food, water, and proper hygiene, all occurring within the first few days of their detainment. Upon being brought to the internment camps, prisoners of war were forced to undergo so-called ‘admission procedures,’ which included dog attacks, beatings, and threats from the Russian detaining powers. This ill-treatment and inhumane condition, along with sexual violence, remained unimaginable for the entirety of their stay in the Russian camps, and there were many reports of serious injury and even death. Abuse and torture were used to coerce and interrogate these Ukrainians about military information but were also used on a daily basis simply as punishment and humiliation. When one released prisoner described his experience being beaten and sexually assaulted, he said the abusers “simply had fun and were not interested in my replies to their questions.” However, atrocities have occurred on both sides, as indicated by Ukraine's prisoner-of-war camps for Russian prisoners, which had many similar reports. Most of the ill-treatment and poor conditions occurred in the capture and transportation phases of detainment, and many Russians reported being beaten after surrendering, intensely interrogated, and being confined in crowded vans. Furthermore, there were several reports of extended detainment in informal camps where Russians were taken and kept for longer than hostilities lasted. On top of this poor treatment, there has been a problem with Ukrainian authorities posting humiliating and violent videos of

¹⁶ “Ukraine / Russia: Prisoners of War.” OHCHR, www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2022/11/ukraine-russia-prisoners-war.

Russian prisoners of war on social media¹⁷. This exposes these people to public curiosity and commentary from the masses, which is against certain guidelines outlined in the Third Geneva Convention. In fact, all of these acts committed by both Ukrainian and Russian authorities are not permitted and are internationally banned for the protection of the human rights of all prisoners of war. The Russia-Ukraine war is a very radical and relevant example of this problem, and we must take action for the complete protection of innocent people's rights.

V. Guiding Questions

1. What kind of laws can be implemented to ensure that Prisoners of War are treated fairly? How can you modify current laws to help them?
2. What are the conditions of captivity for Prisoners of War? What kind of services can be offered to benefit them? For example, per the Geneva Conventions, the Red Cross is allowed to do wellness checks on prisoners of war.
3. What kind of mental health issues do Prisoners of War face upon their return home? How can you help them/provide them with beneficial services?
4. What kind of barriers are there that keep released prisoners of war from seeking help and reintegrating back into society? How can we make this an easier transition process?
5. How can we ensure that detaining powers have incentive to treat their prisoners fairly and provide safe living conditions for them?

¹⁷ "Ukraine: Respect the Rights of Prisoners of War." Human Rights Watch, 16 Mar. 2022, www.hrw.org/news/2022/03/16/ukraine-respect-rights-prisoners-war.

6. What are some ways that we can monitor the conditions of prisoner of war camps and the treatment of prisoners of war within them?

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