

3rd SOCHUM

*Novice
General
Assembly*



TOPICS: Child Labor in Asia

CHAIRS: Aidan Tacinelli, Stella Traylor

LAIMUN XXVIII

December 3-4

LAIMUN XXVIII

Letter from the Secretariat

3

Introduction to the USG

4

Introduction to the Dais

5

Committee Description

7

Topic: Child Labor in Asia

8

LAIMUN XXVIII

December 3-4

Letter from the Secretaries-General

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of our entire staff, it is our pleasure to welcome you to Session XXVIII of the Los Angeles Invitational Model United Nations (LAIMUN) conference. LAIMUN XXVIII will take place on Saturday, December 3 and Sunday, December 4 of 2022 at the Mira Costa High School (MCHS) campus.

Our staff, composed of over 100 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 25 at 11:59 PM PT. The deadline to submit to be considered for Committee Awards is Thursday, December 1 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,

Allyssa Lessinger and Brady Stephens
Secretaries-General, LAIMUN XXVIII
secretarygeneral@mchsmun.org



Introduction to the USG

Hi Delegates! My name is Tucker and I'm the Under-Secretary General of General Assembly committees. This is my fourth year in the Mira Costa Model UN program and I am ecstatic to welcome you all to LAIMUN XXVIII.

I'm so excited to see various diplomatic strategies in committee regarding the pressing issues we encounter on a global scale. Our chairs will hold the delegates to high standards of research, diplomacy, speeches, and solutions.

At LAIMUN, we have a strict no pre-written resolutions policy—resolutions can only be worked on at your chair's discretion. Please verify that your work is authentic to ensure all delegates experience a fair and accurate simulation of a United Nations conference.

The Mira Costa Model UN program has provided me with incredible opportunities and lasting memories; I hope that LAIMUN XXVIII will be a memorable experience for you as well! Mira Costa MUN provides a profound opportunity for delegates to gain knowledge, confidence, speaking skills, and most importantly, a new understanding of international relations and current events. All LAIMUN XXVIII staff have worked hard to provide the best experience for everyone in attendance and we wish you the best of luck throughout your preparation!

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to GA@mchsmun.org or other members of the Secretariat. I can't wait to see you in December!

Regards,

Allyssa Lessinger and Brady Stephens
Secretaries-General

Tucker Gauss
Under-Secretary General

Introduction to the Dias

Hello Delegates! My name is Aidan Tacinelli and I will be one of your chairs alongside Stella for 3rd SOCHUM Novice! I am currently a junior at Mira Costa and have been a part of the MUN program since freshman year. I have been fortunate enough to go to conferences such as BruinMUN, NAIMUN, as well as the Berlin MUN conference in the upcoming fall. Last year, I was the legal for 1st DISEC Novice and really enjoyed my time moderating and listening to everyone's creative solutions.

Outside of MUN I am on the tennis team, involved in Link Crew, and volunteer for the friendship foundation. I participate in Speak the World Club which I founded alongside one of my friends from MUN, as well as Friendship Club. A fun fact about me is that I have citizenship to three different countries; the US, Canada where I was born, and Austria where my family is from. I love to travel and have a great interest for the world and what it beholds. I also like to hang out with my friends and go on drives around the South Bay. I love watching movies, listening to music, and trying all different food cuisines.

In 3rd SOCHUM, we'd love to see solutions attaining to all aspects of the pressing issues mentioned. Being able to see the conflict from all perspectives and explanations for its occurrence is highly encouraged and will benefit the entire level of committee itself. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to email sochum.nov.laimun.xxviii@gmail.com and we will be more than happy to help. LAIMUN will be a blast this year and we look forward to meeting you all and seeing all the creative solutions you guys have to offer!

Best Regards,

Aidan Tacinelli

Hello delegates! My name is Stella Traylor and I will be one of your chairs for this upcoming debate. I am a sophomore at Mira Costa Highschool and I have been in the Model United Nations program here since freshman year. I did the Intro to MUN class last year and really loved it and found a passion in speaking and debating, so I decided to pursue it. I hope to keep going with MUN throughout my 4 years of highschool and I highly recommend you do too!

Outside of MUN, I play club soccer and have been playing soccer my whole life, I am in ASB here at Costa, and I am on the track team. I really enjoy playing sports and being active, especially in soccer and track. I have also had a great time participating in ASB and it has helped me become more involved in the school and really appreciate the events that go on here! I also love going to the beach and hanging out with my friends.

I think this topic 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 a lot 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 in yourself that you know your stuff. I am so excited to see all of 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 committee 3rd SOCHUM, or the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural committee, was established in 1947 and its participants encompassed the entirety of the United Nation's General Assembly. The committee deals with issues falling under any or multiple of those three categories as one of the 6 General Assembly committees. The main focus and reason for this committee is to examine and question human rights issues and has commonly debated the rights of women and how to enhance their place in society, the rights of children, and the treatment of refugees. In summary, 3rd SOCHUM focuses broadly on the welfare and protection of violated groups in order to alleviate the frequency of human rights breaches on an international scale¹.

One of the main and most important aspects of the SOCHUM committee is that not only does the committee debate upon social and humanitarian issues, but they also directly address and adapt to human rights questions that work in conjunction with the United Nations Human Rights Council, or the UNHRC. In working alongside the Human Rights Council, SOCHUM has notably pursued social development issues amongst the international community in order to provide sustainable humanitarian support where it is needed.

It is important to note that SOCHUM resolutions are not binding, legally enforced, therefore having no concrete power to force change on countries. Changes often come as a result of SOCHUM resolutions either suggesting countries to change, or helping mount international pressure on countries that refuse to respect the policies debated on and agreed upon by the United Nations. Even still, what is passed is not law, so compromises should be made for countries to be willing to adopt any passed resolutions.

¹ Old Dominion University, <https://www.odu.edu/al/centers/modelun/conference/committees/third-sochum>.

Topic: Child Labor in Asia

I. Background

Out of the 627 million children populating Asia, nearly ²150 million suffer from harsh forms of child labor. Most of these cases occur in the age gap of 5-14, meaning most of these children have spent and will have spent their entire lives being physically and emotionally exerted in the workforce. This poses a major problem on the global scale, as millions of children become employed and trapped in rigorous job sectors. There is rarely a way out, as many employed children remain in these jobs for years, living their lives in fear.

Child labor has been reported throughout all major historical periods. It received the most attention starting in the ³19th century when children were a normal and crucial part of the workforce. Specifically beginning to show prevalence between 1851 and 1890, England, Italy, and the United States employed countless children between the ages of 10-14. Among these ages, England peaked at 29% of employment in 1851, the United States at 12% in 1900, and Italy at 64% in 1881. These employment rates among children proved their significance in the construction of early economies. Since this employment boom, child labor rates have been rather steady, with rates only dropping during periods of war and other conflicts. Using England as an example, child labor rates among both genders plummeted from an average of 22% to 6%

² *Child Labour in South Asia*, 19 Aug. 2014, https://www.ilo.org/newdelhi/areasofwork/child-labour/WCMS_300805/lang--en/index.htm#:~:text=There%20are%2016.7%20million%20.

³ Ortiz-Ospina, Esteban, and Max Roser. "Child Labor." *Our World in Data*, 9 Feb. 2016, <https://ourworldindata.org/child-labor>.

during World War I. This can be explained by the importance of children in the war effort, moving their usual workshop in a factory to the treacherous scene of a battlefield. These statistics can be seen throughout all aspects of Europe during this time period, showing the universal necessity of children throughout all aspects of life during the early twentieth century.

As the West continued to develop, the importance of children in the workforce dropped. Technology improved, resulting in less reliance on large amounts of people to accomplish tasks in the workforce (i.e. children). Government regulation additionally prohibited and limited child labor, as awareness brought to this issue caused countries to begin action on exterminating child labor from their industries. Children began to live idyllic lives, having school five days a week and only having to worry about school and homework. This resulted in increased education rates throughout the West, with children going to school with the sole purpose of finding interests that could lead to job aspirations later down the road. The only job they ever had to think about were chores for their busy working parents.

Asia's underdevelopment has proven itself as a major factor in their extensive use of children in the workforce as of today. Although the amount in places such as India have decreased in recent years, the decline of child labor is not as dramatic as the international community would hope. There is still a significant number of children employed in the workforce, and even more remain through the informal economy. Even after its decrease, India as well as Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Nepal continue to lead the global statistics of child labor in

the modern world⁴. These four countries have a combined employment rate of 16.2 million between the ages of 5 and 17. These statistics pose countless problems to the children finding adolescence in South Asian countries. Children severely lack access to education due to the fact that being employed at such a young age places them far away from resources that can aid their education. In these four countries, 31.8 million children between the ages of 6-14 are out of school⁵. This creates a ripple effect, seeing that literacy and development rates of the new generation remain stagnant. The overall long-term productivity and creativity among this generation are affected, as instead of receiving education for higher paying fields, they are stuck performing manual labor.

The job sectors that children are employed in range widely. They typically are used in domestic labor, seafood processing, garment and footwear factories, mining and quarrying, brick kilns, pyrotechnics, rag-picking and scavenging, rubber and sugarcane, and even in sex-related industries⁶. All of these jobs are physically exertive and poorly sanitized, and children face the threat of injury and trauma every day in these sectors. The most dangerous sectors are construction and sex services. Children working in construction often deal with severe forced labor, carrying heavy objects and using mechanical tools that can cause life-threatening injuries. Their extensive work hours additionally block their access to food, causing these children to

⁴ *Child Labour in South Asia*, 19 Aug. 2014, https://www.ilo.org/newdelhi/areasofwork/child-labour/WCMS_300805/lang--en/index.htm#:~:text=There%20are%2016.7%20million%20.

⁵ “Children in South Asia.” *UNICEF South Asia*, <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/children-south-asia>.

⁶ “Child Labour in Asia and the Pacific (ILO in Asia and the Pacific).” *Child Labour in Asia and the Pacific*, <https://www.ilo.org/asia/areas/child-labour/lang--en/index.htm>.

become malnourished and lacking the energy needed to accomplish their demanding tasks.

Providers of sex services have been in even more harm, and it continues to plague the well-being of Asia underground. UNICEF has estimated that over one million children are used in the sex trafficking industry each year. It has also been found that around 40% of victims are sold by parents, and 15% are sold by distant relatives⁷, where these sold-away adolescents can remain in the sex trafficking industry for years with no escape.

The recent COVID-19 pandemic has only worsened the conditions for these children across the globe. In these tightly packed working spaces, COVID-19 is easily transmissible and thus contractible. Many children have fallen ill to the virus, which has only heightened the terrible risks that are placed on employed children throughout Asia. Through the massive breakout, augmented poverty has struck many developing countries. Millions have been affected by furloughs and layoffs as a result of COVID-19's disruption of supply chains and business closures. Globally rising unemployment has exacerbated poverty and undone prior gains in lowering child labor. These economic downturns and high unemployment within child's families have placed them under even more pressure to work and earn money during these unprecedented times. This increase in poverty in relation to Covid-19 has led to prediction that child labor rates will increase by 8.9⁸ million at the end of this year if no solutions are put in place.

⁷“Child Labor in Asia: A Review: ヒューライツ大阪.” *Child Labor in Asia: A Review* | ヒューライツ大阪, <https://www.hurights.or.jp/archives/focus/section2/2001/09/child-labor-in-asia-a-review.html#:~:text=In%20Asia%20C%20many%20of%20these,and%20increasingly%20in%20drug%20trade>.

⁸“3 Ways the Pandemic Exacerbates Child Labor.” *United States Department of Labor*, <https://blog.dol.gov/2021/09/29/3-ways-the-pandemic-exacerbates-child-labor#:~:text=COVID%2D19%20has%20interrupted%20supply,progress%20in%20reducing%20child%20labor>.

A significant reason why children are so important in the Asian economy is due to the lack of technology in lesser developed countries. These countries lack the technology to do work efficiently, resulting in the necessity of children to fulfill needed roles in job sectors that require mass amounts of people. This issue is most evident in agriculture sectors, where hundreds upon hundreds of people are needed to plant and cultivate crops. Child laborers are also depended upon in mining industries, where mass amounts of people are needed to explore and acquire resources from mines. But in these countries, there are many issues that lead to children being so susceptible to employment. They lack access to physical protection in their towns, which leads employers to have an easy time finding and recruiting children. They additionally lack information in regards to avoiding child labor, which poses a major threat because children do not know how to avoid it. Children's own parents are also responsible, as they need extra money to provide for their families which can be accumulated through their children. On top of the lack of access to physical and informative protection, political instability and weak government are significant additional factors within this topic. These weak governments lead to lack of enforcement within existing child labor laws and further encourage child-employing job sectors to continue their actions, all with little to no effective conviction in place.

II. United Nations Involvement

The United Nations has been extensively involved in attempting to prevent child labor in Asia and around the world. The UN has provided a strong framework for addressing child labor

and child exploitation. This has been through the creation of the ⁹Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Children on the Sale of Children and on the Involvement of children in armed conflict, the ILO conventions (No. 138, 146 and 182), and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol which supplements the Convention on Transnational Crime. Their goal is to raise global support to end the use of children in armed conflict by 2025 and all forms of child labor by 2030 as demonstrated in the ¹⁰UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development (SDGs). ¹¹Target 8.7 of the SDG's sets the goal to take immediate action to eliminate the worst forms of child labor, and to fully cease all use of children 5-17 years of age in the workforce by 2030.

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) works with government and for-profit agencies to encourage the implementation of a framework to end child labor in affected areas. UNICEF works to provide preventative measures and find the source of the child labor problem for many businesses and families. UNICEF has collaborated with governments to integrate programs, such as age assessment procedures, to prevent children from working in armed forces.

Furthermore, the 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labor was held in Durban, South Africa on May 15th through the 20th of 2022. This conference addressed the critical amount of time left to achieve the goals of Target 8.7 and assessed the world's progress towards complete elimination. The conference analyzed what is being done by different actors around the world and how they can further use various practices and programs to speed up the

⁹ "Child Labour and Exploitation." *UNICEF South Asia*, <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/what-we-do/child-protection/child-labour-and-exploitation>.

¹⁰ "The 17 Goals | Sustainable Development." *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>.

¹¹ "Goal 8 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs." *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal8>.

decrease and eradication of child labor.¹² Some of the key topics that were discussed at this conference include positive market labor performance, child labor in agriculture, the informal economy, the effect of COVID-19, and much more. The ultimate product of this conference was the creation of the Durban Call to Action stating its goal to eradicate child labor, how this call to action will be implemented, and what immediate measures must be taken in order to kickstart the eradication of child labor and forced labor.

The International Labor Organization (ILO) is a UN Agency that works with member states to set labor standards and develop policies, and also specifically targets child labor.¹³ The ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) aims to make progress on the elimination of child labour, through strengthening countries to be able to deal with the problem and encouraging a global movement to fight against child labour. Currently, IPEC has operations in 88 countries, and it is the largest program of its kind in the world and the biggest program under the ILO.

III. Topics to Consider

A. Children in Armed Forces

¹² "5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour." *5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour*, <https://www.5thchildlabourconf.org/en/conference>.

¹³ "About the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) (IPEC)." *About the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) (IPEC)*, <https://www.ilo.org/ipec/programme/lang--en/index.htm>.

An important and very serious topic in the realm of child labor is the forceful recruitment of children under the age of 18 into armed forces. In 2017, it was estimated that 100,000¹⁴ children were being forced to fight in dangerous armed conflicts around the world. As armed conflicts grow and become more serious, this number rapidly increases, putting children's lives at risk. In 2019, the number of children being forced into these armed conflicts doubled, coming from countries such as Iraq, Syria, and Yemen. This growth has come with weapons becoming easier to use and operate and the growing intensity of conflicts in these areas. Because of the developing state that children undergo before they become adults, it is less difficult to manipulate them into joining armed forces than it is for adults.

On top of the current humanitarian crisis in Yemen, the use of children in armed conflicts has seen a 500% increase. Children as young as ten years old are being forced to fight as soldiers either for groups affiliated with the Houthis or by terrorist groups such as al-Qaeda and ISIS. These terrorist groups, especially ISIS, are also taking over Iraq and Syria. The 700,000 children out of school and under ISIS's control are being exploited and forced into armed labor. Regardless of where or what they are being used for, the children involved must undergo the damaging consequences of these corrupt countries' actions. Not only are these children at risk of severe injury and death, but this forced wartime recruitment affects their mental health as well. Having to deal with such dangerous and terrifying situations at such a young age, their lives and minds will forever be altered.

¹⁴ Kozhanov, Nikolay, et al. "Begin with the Children: Child Soldier Numbers Doubled in the Middle East in 2019." *Middle East Institute*, 1 June 2022, <https://www.mei.edu/publications/begin-children-child-soldier-numbers-doubled-middle-east-2019>.

B. Cheap Labor in the Development of Private Industry

Another significant topic which must be addressed by the international community is the role that cheap labor plays in developing private industries recruiting vulnerable children to work. Children in developing countries of Asia are forced to work in ¹⁵fields, factories, and sweatshops in a variety of different industries, ranging from agriculture to manufacturing. These children are minimally paid to work in harsh and sometimes dangerous conditions and it is severely damaging to the children involved. In many countries in Asia, industry standards are voluntary and not enforced, so many companies do not take them seriously or completely ignore them.

A large portion of these children are being used for labor in agricultural sectors of the economy. South Asia, whose agriculture sector hosts the largest number of child laborers in the world, has more than ¹⁶16.7 million children barely managing to survive off the miniscule pay from laboring. India, the region's most populous country, hires 56% of its child laborers in the agriculture sector to produce crops like cotton, rice, sugarcane, wheat, and tobacco. These young workers toil away for long hours in hazardous and high risk environments, handling toxic pesticides and heavy loads of produce in the unbearable heat.

These children are also used in other industries as well, ones that are just as dangerous and exploitative, including manufacturing. This kind of labor happens all over Asia, but it is

¹⁵ "Child Labor in Asia Pacific Fuels Global Commodity Industry." *San Diego Union-Tribune En Español*, San Diego Union-Tribune En Español, 7 June 2016, <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/en-espanol/sdhoy-child-labor-in-asia-pacific-fuels-global-2016jun06-story.html>.

¹⁶ "No Way out for South Asia's Child Laborers - UCA News." *Ucanews.com*, <https://www.ucanews.com/news/no-way-out-for-south-asias-child-laborers/94892>.

most prevalent in the world's leader of manufacturing, China. China currently holds about ¹⁷61% of full time child laborers in Asia. Laws that prohibit children from working are not enforced and an estimated 10 million children are working in China's factories. In order to keep China a low-cost manufacturing powerhouse, these children and other workers are not getting paid nearly enough to thrive, nor merely survive.

C. Poverty

It is also important to be aware of the reasons for why child labor is so frequent in Asia, mainly poverty and underdevelopment. Poverty is a significant driving factor in the vulnerability of children that are used in the workforce. ¹⁸The ongoing economic crisis in Asia has continued to exacerbate this issue by destabilizing families throughout Asia and forcing all members of a family to enter the workforce, even children. Often, parents will force their children to work for some extra money to increase the household income.

Recently, a major contributor to the rise of poverty and therefore child labor is COVID-19. ¹⁹Over the past couple years, the effects of COVID-19 have put over 5 million people in Asia in extreme poverty. As these families have lost their jobs and find it hard to get back on their feet, they resort to employing their children as well to gain a larger income. Additionally, industries that are struggling as a result of the pandemic are finding it difficult to

¹⁷ "The Statistics." *Child Labor in China*, <https://webpages.scu.edu/ftp/multimedialearning/wkwok/less%20money%20statistics.html>.

¹⁸ "International Working out of Disaster Office Labour." *Trafficking in Children in Asia; a Regional Overview*, https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@asia/@ro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_bk_pb_114_en.pdf.

¹⁹ Jacob, Charmaine. "Covid Pushed Nearly 5 Million More in Southeast Asia into Extreme Poverty, Says Asian Development Bank." *CNBC*, CNBC, 17 Mar. 2022, <https://www.cnbc.com/2022/03/17/covid-pushed-4point7-million-people-in-southeast-asia-into-poverty-adb.html>.

maintain everything with the lack of business. There has been an incline in child labor in these industries as they began to recruit children for cheap labor.

Poverty and unstable households can also result in little or no education for children, therefore, contributing to vulnerability of these children to be employed as a child worker. Children who lack basic skills and knowledge are large targets for traffickers looking to recruit and manipulate children into working. Several countries in Asia have extremely low literacy and education rates for children, who usually do not receive proper education if their families live in poverty. Lack of education can also leave a child with no other choice but to work, because families of children who do not go to school often force them to join the workforce. The desire for extremely poor and poverty stricken families to make their children work and earn easy money is very prevalent in Asia, but many jobs that these children are left with are dangerous and put their safety at risk.

D. Family Separation

Another major issue within this topic is the separation of families. Through child labor, children are sent away and often do not see their families for months on end. This poses detrimental effects upon the stages of adolescence. The ages of 7-14 have been the most crucial in coming of age and in learning. When these children are sent away and given a major role in industry, they rarely get the chance to see their families and to gain crucial life skills that are needed to come of age²⁰. Without the role of a typical parental figure, children will feel

²⁰ “Children Separated from Their Families.” *UNICEF South Asia*, <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/what-we-do/child-protection/children-separated-their-families>.

emptiness within their minds, lacking information and life lessons that are needed to transition into the later stages of adolescence. These children lack comfort they gain from their parents, and not seeing them creates dangerous mental and emotional effects on their young minds. It will place serious effects on how they view the world around them, and it may cause a loss of motivation and drive to succeed. Without their parents as well as siblings, they are unable to be provided with early education/job skills and are left without knowledge of their own culture and even language. Without these, the cycle of poverty is perpetuated and mental health issues are exacerbated. The tools needed in pursuing plans in the future become merely non-existent, of which will remain impossible with the continuous existence of child labor.

IV. Case Study: *India*

India has led the Asian child labor statistics for over twenty years. The child labor industry in India is crucial to their economy by means of fulfilling demanding and labor-intensice job sectors. However, most of the facilities that abuse children are located in India. The main provinces that exploit and abuse children for their free labor are in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra²¹. Of these provinces, Uttar Pradesh has the highest percentage of child labor, housing 20% of all Indian child laborers within its own boundaries. The majority of Indian child labor exists within the garment and silk industry, although it is also prevalent in brick kilns and agriculture. Child labor continues to be

²¹ Ramachandran, Ambika. "Child Labor in India." *Humanium*, 29 Sept. 2020, <https://www.humanium.org/en/child-labor-in-india/>.

such an issue in India due to poverty. Poor families have no choice but to put their children to work rather than teaching them due to poor living conditions, limited income, and a lack of job diversification. These poor families also find sex trafficking a viable way to make extra money and lessen the economic burden on their families.

India has implemented many different laws and resolutions in attempt to solve child labor. They first adopted the Bonded Labor System Act in 1976,²² which was a provision for the eradication of the bonded labor system in order to prevent the economic and physical exploitation of the weaker parts of the population. India additionally later adopted the Child Labor Amendment Bill of 2016. This bill prohibited the employment of children in all occupations and the employment of teenagers in hazardous activities and procedures. Both of these bills publicized the threat of child labor among the new generation and raised awareness on child labor identification and protection. However, these bills weren't fully effective as they were unable to detect the forms of child labor that continued to thrive underground and behind closed doors.

NGOs have had greater significance in the elimination of Indian child labor. Care India²³, Child Rights and You²⁴, Hand in Hand India²⁵, and World Vision India have all worked towards

²² "The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976." *THE BONDED LABOUR SYSTEM (ABOLITION) ACT, 1976 (ACT NO. 19 OF 1976)*, [https://labour.gov.in/sites/default/files/TheBondedLabourSystem\(Abolition\)Act1976.pdf](https://labour.gov.in/sites/default/files/TheBondedLabourSystem(Abolition)Act1976.pdf).

²³ "Top Indian NGO: Charity Foundations in India for Women & Child Education Health." *CARE India*, 7 Oct. 2021, <https://www.careindia.org/>.

²⁴ "Cry Is India's Most Trusted NGO Working on Children's Rights." *CRY*, 18 June 2022, <https://www.cry.org/>.

²⁵ "International Ngos Based in India." *HAND IN HAND INDIA*, 18 Apr. 2022, <https://hihindia.org/>.

the causes. Overall, these NGOs have worked towards reducing child labor through education and humanitarian support for these victims. Educating them allows them to become more aware of the world around them and less susceptible to child labor. Emotional and humanitarian support has also helped child labor victims come out of times of distress and move towards a safer and more secure future, away from child labor. They have also promoted employment in other safer sectors in India's government. This has allowed them to work more safely and efficiently, allocating viable funds to provide for and promote a living for themselves. These NGOs have been so effective, that many children helped by these organizations have come back as volunteers to help other children who suffered from the same problems as them.

Overall, India has been a prime example of what needs to be done in countries continuously suffering from child labor. Although they have accomplished the difficult task in many different forms and approaches, child labor ultimately still remains a major issue in not only their country but many others. Much still needs to be done to tackle the massive child laboring industries that exist behind closed doors, and profusely save these children from the threats they are exposed to everyday within the laboring sectors.

V. Guiding Questions

1. How has the West contributed to the necessity for child labor in Asian markets?
2. How can child labor be effectively limited on an international scale?
3. How does poverty lead to child labor and what can be done to ultimately minimize it?

4. What alternative means of technology can be placed in child laboring sectors to minimize the need for children in job sectors?
5. How can the underground forms of child labor (through means of the informal economy) be addressed and ultimately eradicated?
6. What relation does the sex trafficking industry have with child labor and what can be done to lessen its threat?
7. What is the role of family and its affect within child labor?
8. How has your country been involved with the continuation and/or reduction of child labor?
9. How can the aftermath of COVID-19 and its affect to child labor be addressed and ultimately diminished?

Works Cited

Child Labour in South Asia, 19 Aug. 2014,

https://www.ilo.org/newdelhi/areasofwork/child-labour/WCMS_300805/lang--en/index.htm#:~:text=There%20are%2016.7%20million%20

Ortiz-Ospina, Esteban, and Max Roser. “Child Labor.” *Our World in Data*, 9 Feb. 2016,

<https://ourworldindata.org/child-labor>.

“Children in South Asia.” *UNICEF South Asia*, <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/children-south-asia>.

“Child Labour in Asia and the Pacific (ILO in Asia and the Pacific).” *Child Labour in Asia and the Pacific*, <https://www.ilo.org/asia/areas/child-labour/lang--en/index.htm>.

“Child Labor in Asia: A Review: ヒューライツ大阪.” *Child Labor in Asia: A Review* | ヒューライツ大阪,

<https://www.hurights.or.jp/archives/focus/section2/2001/09/child-labor-in-asia-a-review.html#:~:text=In%20Asia%2C%20many%20of%20these,and%20increasingly%20in%20drug%20trade>.

“Child Labour and Exploitation.” *UNICEF South Asia*,

<https://www.unicef.org/rosa/what-we-do/child-protection/child-labour-and-exploitation>.

“The 17 Goals | Sustainable Development.” *United Nations*, United Nations,

<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>.

“Goal 8 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs.” *United Nations*, United Nations,

<https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal8>.

“5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour.” *5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour*, <https://www.5thchildlabourconf.org/en/conference>.

“About the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) (IPEC).” *About the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) (IPEC)*, <https://www.ilo.org/ipec/programme/lang--en/index.htm>.

Kozhanov, Nikolay, et al. “Begin with the Children: Child Soldier Numbers Doubled in the Middle East in 2019.” *Middle East Institute*, 1 June 2022, <https://www.mei.edu/publications/begin-children-child-soldier-numbers-doubled-middle-east-2019>.

“Child Labor in Asia Pacific Fuels Global Commodity Industry.” *San Diego Union-Tribune En Español*, San Diego Union-Tribune En Español, 7 June 2016, <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/en-espanol/sdhoy-child-labor-in-asia-pacific-fuels-global-2016jun06-story.html>.

“No Way out for South Asia's Child Laborers - UCA News.” *Ucanews.com*, <https://www.ucanews.com/news/no-way-out-for-south-asias-child-laborers/94892>.

“The Statistics.” *Child Labor in China*, <https://webpages.scu.edu/ftp/multimedialearning/wkwok/less%20money%20statistics.html>.

“International Working out of Disaster Office Labour.” *Trafficking in Children in Asia; a Regional Overview*,

https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@asia/@ro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_bk_pb_114_en.pdf.

“Children Separated from Their Families.” *UNICEF South Asia*, <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/what-we-do/child-protection/children-separated-their-families>.

Ramachandran, Ambika. “Child Labor in India.” *Humanium*, 29 Sept. 2020, <https://www.humanium.org/en/child-labor-in-india/>.

“The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976.” *THE BONDED LABOUR SYSTEM (ABOLITION) ACT, 1976 (ACT NO. 19 OF 1976)*, [https://labour.gov.in/sites/default/files/TheBondedLabourSystem\(Abolition\)Act1976.pdf](https://labour.gov.in/sites/default/files/TheBondedLabourSystem(Abolition)Act1976.pdf).

“Top Indian NGO: Charity Foundations in India for Women & Child Education Health.” *CARE India*, 7 Oct. 2021, <https://www.careindia.org/>.

“Cry Is India's Most Trusted NGO Working on Children's Rights.” *CRY*, 18 June 2022, <https://www.cry.org/>.

“International Ngos Based in India.” *HAND IN HAND INDIA*, 18 Apr. 2022, <https://hihindia.org/>.

“3 Ways the Pandemic Exacerbates Child Labor.” *United States Department of Labor*, <https://blog.dol.gov/2021/09/29/3-ways-the-pandemic-exacerbates-child-labor#:~:text=C OVID%2D19%20has%20interrupted%20supply,progress%20in%20reducing%20child%20labor.>

Jacob, Charmaine. “Covid Pushed Nearly 5 Million More in Southeast Asia into Extreme Poverty, Says Asian Development Bank.” *CNBC*, CNBC, 17 Mar. 2022,

<https://www.cnbc.com/2022/03/17/covid-pushed-4point7-million-people-in-southeast-asia-into-poverty-ADB.html>.