

WHO 1950

Topic: “Mitigating Human Risks During World War II: Strategies for Protection and Preservation.”

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I. COMMITTEE BACKGROUND

Welcome delegates to WHO 1950, this committee takes place after 5 years of World War II (WWII), where you will have to help all injured people both physically and mentally. This is a special committee, since in the debate you are no longer in 2024 you are now in 1950. This means all your information needs to be from this year or before. Everything after this year did not happen. Good luck delegates and hope you have a great journey during this MUN simulation!

II. COMMITTEE BACKGROUND

In 1945, diplomats met to form the United Nations and proposed a global health organization, leading to the establishment of the World Health Organization (WHO) on April 7, 1948. Brazil and China initiated the idea in 1945, with a conference in February 1946 to draft the WHO Constitution, signed by 61 nations in July 1946 in Paris.

Its headquarters is located in Geneva, Switzerland, and has six regional offices and 150 field offices worldwide. The committee currently consists of 194 Member States.

WHO's global mission is to promote health, safety, and aid the vulnerable. To achieve universal health coverage, WHO focuses on improving primary healthcare access, sustainable financing, essential medicines availability, workforce training, community engagement in health policies, and enhancing monitoring and data systems.

III. HISTORY OF THE TOPIC

a. *Introduction of the topic*

The outbreak of World War II was caused by a mix of long-term and short-term factors. The Treaty of Versailles in 1919 imposed heavy reparations on Germany after World War I, leading to economic instability and the rise of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party. The Great Depression in 1929 worsened global economic conditions, fueling militarism in countries like Germany and Japan.

The failure of peace initiatives, including the League of Nations, allowed aggressive actions by totalitarian regimes. Japan's invasion of Manchuria in 1931, Italy's invasion of Ethiopia in 1935, and

Germany's annexation of Austria and the Sudetenland in 1938 highlighted the weaknesses of appeasement strategies. The war was triggered by Germany's invasion of Poland in 1939, prompting Britain and France to declare war and officially starting World War II.

b. Evolution of the topic

As the war progressed, the horrific consequences of the conflict became increasingly apparent, with approximately 39 million deaths in Europe alone, a staggering number that included both combatants and civilians. The widespread destruction of infrastructure, homes, and cultural heritage prompted a collective recognition of the need for protective measures to address the human toll of the war. The Nazi regime's systematic targeting of specific populations, particularly during the Holocaust, highlighted the urgent necessity for humanitarian intervention and the safeguarding of human rights. This led to the emergence of various organizations and initiatives aimed at protecting vulnerable groups, including refugees, women, and children, who were disproportionately affected by the war's atrocities. The establishment of the United Nations in 1945 marked a pivotal moment in this evolution, as it provided a platform for international cooperation in addressing human rights issues and coordinating humanitarian efforts. Furthermore, the war spurred the development of new policies and frameworks focused on the protection of civilians, including the formulation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, which aimed to set a global standard for human rights.

c. Relevant Events

The Holocaust, 1941-1945:

The most tragic consequences of World War II were seen during the time of the Holocaust, where millions of innocent people, especially Jews, were killed under systematic murder. Survivors of this horrific event face not only physical wounds but also deep psychological scars. We do address the needs of our population, but how about mental health support for those who are survivors of such an experience?. A safe environment and psychosocial counseling services will be essential to begin allowing survivors to heal.

Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, August 1945:

The bombings at the end of the war caused devastating destruction and immediate loss of life, as well as long-term health effects among the survivors. Lots of people have injuries and radiation-related illnesses, and thus there is an emerging need for medical help and rehabilitation. We are in need of

focusing on strategies that will ensure populations receive all necessary medical care and support to recover and rebuild their lives.

Displacement and Refugee Crises:

Starting from 1945 to the date, the war led to huge displacements of populations across Europe and Asia. Many citizens were displaced from their homes and livelihoods, leading to a refugee crisis that has plagued millions up until this very day. We, as delegates, must take on urgent actions to respond to the dire needs of these displaced people for shelter, food, and health concerns. It is only through the provision of humanitarian aid and resettlement options through partnership arrangements between countries that these people will be made safe and supported.

I. CURRENT ISSUES

a. Panorama

This committee has been established to deal with the unending health and emotional problems brought about by World War II. Though it ended five years ago, many were still wounded by it or psychologically traumatized by it. Countries are gravely concerned about the well-being of their citizens who need to be assisted through certain ways to heal from what befell them during the war. As delegates, we would brainstorm on ways to care and support the victims through the use of medical treatment for the injured and psychiatric treatment that would help them to cope with whatever they have faced. It is for this reason that we will come together and make sure we provide the proper recommendation in safeguarding and protection of health for all people affected by war. We will seek to collaborate in finding solutions that answer the needs of both body and soul so that citizens can start their journey of recovery and rebuilding their lives in safety and dignity.

b. Points of view

France (1940-1944):

France suffered heavily during World War II, but most of this war saw the country being occupied by Nazi Germany, heavy human rights violations and loss of life. The French perspective insists that there needs to be solid international legislation aimed at protecting civilians in conflict or war. Keeping in mind the atrocities of that war, France wants to see laws that would guarantee respect for human rights if war broke out again in any part of the world. Reconstruction programs were set up for the country as well as other countries who were affected by the war by sharing resources or providing humanitarian needs to those in dire situations.

Italy (1943-1945):

Having fought alongside the Axis powers, Italy faced its own share of destruction and hardship during the war. The Italian viewpoint highlights the critical importance of acknowledging past mistakes to prevent future conflicts. The commitment is towards fostering dialogue and cooperation among nations, recognizing that a collaborative approach can help mitigate the risks associated with war. As the nation works on rebuilding its economy and infrastructure, Italy is also dedicated to supporting international initiatives aimed at establishing humanitarian measures that protect civilians during armed conflicts, ensuring that the lessons learned from the war are not forgotten.

Poland (1939-1945):

During World War II, Poland suffered very much; millions of lives were lost, cities were ruined to dust and ashes. This has underlined the urgent need for deeper international cooperation in the protection of human rights and in the prevention of atrocities. Contrarily, the Polish point of view is in full support of creating laws and agreements that will guarantee protection for civilians in any conflict situation. The struggle for national reconstruction owes a great deal to inform the people about resilience and mutual assistance in the face of relentless oppression. Cooperation with other countries should be pursued to make sure that what they went through will never be experienced again. To show ways in which they can make peace with themselves through shared remembrance and activity.

Netherlands (1940-1945):

The war imposed on the Netherlands includes occupation and huge losses, including persecution of the Jewish population and other minorities. The Dutch standpoint places an emphasis on how hate and discrimination pitfalls have to be shown. Education and dialogue are seen as the proper instruments for achieving understanding and preventing conflict. The Netherlands, convinced that human rights during wartime can be collectively achieved, support various initiatives to foster peace and international understanding. In post-war, the strategy is to focus on community reconstruction and initiate an international solidarity effort against such a threat ever happening again to humanity.

United States (1945):

The United States played a critical role in bringing down the axis powers and hence faced a lot of challenges in the war. This experience has underlined the imperative protection of human rights, as well as aid to war-affected people. According to the U.S. perspective, this calls for international cooperation in realizing sustainable peace. There is a commitment to humanitarian services worldwide, especially in helping the European nations to rebuild and recover from the devastating effects of the war. It also calls for the establishment of machinery by the United States that watches out for human rights and prevents future wars. This vision of his is pegged on this idealistic belief that indeed a safer world can be fashioned where everyone can live free from fear and repression.

II. EXTERNAL ACTIONS

External actions

The Geneva Conventions (1949):

No sooner had the atrocities of World War II ended than the international community pursued an upgrade in the humanitarian treatment of people in wartime. It is for this purpose that the Geneva Conventions were established: the augmentation of humanitarian treatment towards the sick, the wounded, and prisoners of war. These conventions had as their aim the protection of non-combatants and, by consequence, preservation of human rights in wars.

The Nuremberg Trials (1945-1946):

After World War II, the Nuremberg Trials prosecuted the high-ranking officials of Nazi Germany for war crimes. In doing so, such trials consolidated an individual's responsibility for actions during the war, pinning the need to account for their actions and protect human rights. These results enabled the establishment of principles of justice that aspired to avoid atrocities in the future.

The Liberation of Concentration Camps (1945):

As Allied forces advanced across Europe, they liberated numerous concentration camps where millions of people were imprisoned and murdered at the hands of the Nazi regime. These liberations brought attention to the gross abuses of human rights that were taking place during the war and underlined the need for international cooperation on the prevention of atrocities in the future.

III. CONCLUSION

The staggering human cost and widespread devastation of World War II highlighted the urgent need for global strategies that prioritize the welfare of those affected by war and work to prevent future atrocities. The creation of the United Nations in 1945 marked a significant shift, providing a platform for international cooperation and the promotion of peace and human rights. The establishment of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1948 further bolstered these initiatives, focusing on both the physical and psychological effects of the war on individuals. The Geneva Conventions of 1949 were a pivotal moment in humanitarian law, aimed at ensuring the humane treatment of non-combatants and prisoners of war, thus safeguarding human dignity in times of conflict.

The Nuremberg Trials (1945-1946) played a vital role in holding individuals accountable for war crimes, reinforcing the idea that leaders and perpetrators must face justice for their actions. This move toward accountability helped establish international norms for protecting human rights and

preventing impunity. Moreover, the liberation of concentration camps in 1945 brought to light the horrific human rights violations of the Holocaust, igniting a global commitment to prevent such atrocities from happening again.

Post-war reconstruction efforts were fueled by a shared sense of remembrance, resilience, and community rebuilding. Countries like France, Italy, Poland, the Netherlands, and the United States emerged with distinct perspectives that emphasized the need for education, dialogue, international solidarity, and legislation to uphold human rights. Together, these developments underscored the significance of health, safety, and mutual support in rebuilding societies and averting future conflicts. The actions taken in the aftermath of the war laid the groundwork for a renewed emphasis on cooperation and the protection of humanity, ensuring that the lessons learned from the past continue to shape policies and strategies aimed at safeguarding people during crises.

IV. IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

- Here are ten questions that young delegates could consider while discussing strategies for protecting and preserving human rights during World War II:
- What were the major human rights violations that occurred during World War II, and who were the main groups targeted?
- How did different countries attempt to protect their citizens from violence and oppression during the war?
- What role did international organizations or treaties play in responding to human rights abuses during the conflict?
- How did propaganda influence public perceptions of different groups, and what impact did this have on their safety?
- What strategies did resistance movements use to protect vulnerable populations from persecution?
- How did countries handle the issue of refugee protection during and after the war?
- What lessons can we learn from the humanitarian efforts made during World War II for current and future conflicts?
- How can we ensure that the rights of individuals are respected during times of war?
- In what ways did ordinary citizens contribute to protecting those at risk during the war?
- How can the international community prevent similar human rights violations in future conflicts?

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