GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MONDALE GA COMMITTEES
(Grades 9 – 12)

Political & Security
Economic & Financial
Social, Humanitarian & Cultural
Legal
Special Political
Administrative*

ANDERSON GA COMMITTEES
(Grades 7 – 8)

Political & Security
Economic & Financial
Social, Humanitarian & Cultural
Legal
Special Political

*(only for Mondale GA)
2019 TOPICS

Cybersecurity Threats
Safety of International Travelers
2019 TOPIC: 
CYBERSECURITY THREATS

Why this is important?
As technology advances and as more and more facets of daily life become digital, there is more risk in traveling the digital information highway. As more pieces of information are gathered and stored on the internet or done so digitally, governments are just as much at risk as everyday citizens. Many government agencies store sensitive information about citizens on digital servers which are at risk of being hacked or compromised by outside parties. Just as government data may be targeted by spies or terrorists, citizen data may also be a target of the government itself. Governmental spying on citizens’ activity online is an increasing threat as well.

Topic Summary and Background:
In the past decade, there have been dozens of high profile data breaches of multinational corporations. This data puts millions of people at risk of having their personal data stolen and mishandled by someone else. This risk is only expected to persist as the world continues to function digitally. The average consumer is not the only one at risk. Large retailers, government agencies, financial agencies, and media outlets are all at risk of being compromised by hackers and viruses.

Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:
1. Does the United Nations have a responsibility to protect the internet?
2. How can government data be protected online?
3. How can citizens be guaranteed privacy in a public platform?

Resources
Government Hacking

Cybersecurity Tips

Cybersecurity Trends
https://www.forbes.com/sites/gilpress/2018/12/03/60-cybersecurity-predictions-for-2019/#645a3a894352
2019 TOPIC: SAFETY OF INTERNATIONAL TRAVELERS

Why this is important?
International traveling has many benefits ranging from being a healthier individual to growing a better understanding of the world we live in and the people we who cohabit it with. Studies show that traveling will lower our chances for heart related complications by upwards of 30 percent. When a child experiences other cultures first hand they establish a sense of perspective and personal stance that is captivating to others they surround themselves with. When people travel internationally they begin to formulate their own thoughts and opinions instead of relying on what they read online or see on TV. Adam Galinsky, a professor at Columbia Business School Stated, “Foreign experiences increase both cognitive flexibility and depth and integrativeness of thought, the ability to make deep connections between disparate forms.” Having the ability to safely travel to other countries to experience their culture and way of life is essential to growth. According to a study that was conducted by CNN, more than two-thirds of global respondents, safety and security is of greatest concern when choosing an international travel destination.

International travel goes beyond recreational travel, it also extends to travel for journalism and business. On average, every five days a journalist is killed for bringing information to the public. These attacks are carried out by organized crime, militias, local police and even governments. Journalists travel to some of the most dangerous parts of the world to report on the atrocities that are taking place there. They put their lives at risk to bring to light “the story”.

Topic Summary and Background:
International travel has become increasingly dangerous for journalists in recent years. Between 1992 and 2019 1,333 journalists have been killed, 855 of which were murdered. The recent car bombing that killed Awil Dahir Salad has attracted international attention. Awil and his 3 associates were killed when their car exploded at a military checkpoint near Mogadishu. UNESCO has publicly condemned the killing of journalists such as this. The attacks that international journalists can encounter range from murder, abductions, harassment, intimidation, illegal arrest, and arbitrary detention. In 2017 travel and tourism contributed to $2.6 trillion dollars and nearly 119 million jobs world wide. That accounts for roughly 10.4% of the global GDP. 22.5% of the travel for business and 77.5% was for leisure.
Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:
1. What protections can be given to international travelers?
2. Whose job is it to protect international travelers?
3. What can be done to discourage attacks on international travelers?
4. Where would funding come from to help protect international travelers?

Resources
Benefits of International Travel
https://www.sais.edu.sg/blog/benefits-traveling-internationally-through-camps-and-field-trips/

Proven Health Benefits of Travel
https://www.nbcnews.com/better/wellness/5-scientifically-proven-health-benefits-traveling-abroad-n759631

Journalist Safety
https://en.unesco.org/themes/safety-journalists

Director General Condemns Terror Attack: Somalia Claimed Numerous Lives Including Journalist

Journalism on the Ground: Risks and Importance of International Reporting
https://cpj.org/events/2014/10/journalism-on-the-ground-the-risks-and-importance-of-international-reporting.php

UN Plan on Safety for Journalists
ECONOMIC & FINANCIAL COMMITTEE

2019 TOPICS

Money Laundering
Combating Misinformation in the Digital Age
**2019 TOPIC:**
**MONEY LAUNDERING**

**Why this is important?**
Money laundering is the deliberate hiding of money from government entities to camouflage crimes and illegal sources of income and also as a means of evading income tax and other financial assessments on that income. This is a detriment to member nations of the UN as an estimated 3% of the world’s money supply is “laundered” each year. Billions of dollars are concealed from government officials and therefore taxes cannot be assessed on that money—leaving local and national governments missing out on millions in revenues that could benefit others in the community. The persistence of Money Laundering also means that there are crimes and illegal activity that is going unnoticed and unsolved. Something needs to be done to strengthen UN Member nations and to stop this global crime wave.

**Topic Summary and Background:**
Money Laundering is the term given to the act of disguising illegal forms of income as legitimate forms of revenue in a financial disclosure of any kind. Disguising money obtained through “dirty” means is like cleaning it— or laundering it. Money Laundering is relatively new in the world of crime and law enforcement. The majority of the laws around money laundering were created in the 20th century as a means of taking on organized crime rings and other organizations that conduct less than legal operations around the world. While not an international crime, many organizations of this nature conduct international business. In 1996, the International Monetary Fund estimated that up to 5% of the world’s money supply is laundered each year. Money laundering makes illegal money look like legitimate income, thus concealing white collar crimes from local law enforcement officials. The persistence of crime is a major issue.

**Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:**
1. What is the international impact of money laundering?
2. What can be done to assist member nations fighting money laundering?
3. How does the United Nations assist member nations in this fight?
4. Should money laundering be an international crime?
Resources
What is Money Laundering?
https://www.int-comp.org/careers/a-career-in-aml/what-is-money-laundering/

Money Laundering in the News

Russian Lawyer at Trump Tower Meeting Charged in Connection to Money Laundering
https://www.npr.org/2019/01/08/683238650/russian-lawyer-at-trump-tower-meeting-charged-in-connection-to-money-laundering-

Israel Becomes Member of Global Body Against Money Laundering Terror Financing
https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-becomes-member-of-global-body-against-money-laundering-terror-financing/
2019 TOPIC:
COMBATING MISINFORMATION IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Why this is important?
This seems to be an ever present issue with the President of the United States, but it is also happening in other places of the world. Misinformation is being spread far and wide by the users and creators of digital information. As we advance in technology, there are more and more platforms in which this information can be altered, created, and not checked for accuracy. Platforms including Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter and more help provide information to the members of all communities. As more and more of the world is digitized, we have a higher risk of fake information changing the course of our daily lives.

Topic Summary and Background:
Misinformation can come in all different forms and also different levels of consequence. It can stem from an innocent debate where an opinion is stated that may not be based in truth that is then spread to many viewers or readers. It can also be planted information that is from a party that will benefit from the information that is being presented, regardless of its base in fact. A great example of misinformation is the Indonesia tsunami in October of 2018 which had hoaxers telling people that the storm was significantly worse than it was and it was being posted to news sources, causing panic among the community, and the world around them who were concerned for the safety of their family, friends, and part of their global community that were in danger. Misinformation is also extremely common through election seasons. This has led to complete political polarization in many countries.

Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:
1. How can the United Nations help combat economic downturn in response to misinformation?
2. What role does the United Nations in providing a safe platform for international viewers of media?
3. What ways can the community and its contributors be held accountable for the misinformation that is spread? How can this be enforced?
4. Can programs be created to detect and “debunk” misinformation before it spreads?
Resources
Indonesia Tsunami: Authorities Fight Hoaxers

Fight Fake News

Google Fighting Misinformation
http://www.nationmultimedia.com/detail/politics/30362903

Facebook and Fake News
SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN, & CULTURAL COMMITTEE

2019 TOPICS

Poverty and Social Exclusion
Religious Intolerance
2019 TOPIC: 
POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION

Why this is important?
Poverty is most often defined as a lack of economic resources that causes negative social consequences. This is often understated and the never ending circle poverty causes directly affects social involvement. Social involvement can include things as simple as working with other individuals at a job to having relatives, to having participation in politics and being a member of different activities and organizations. The understanding of this topic is seen most in what some people take for granted. Even if people have shelter, clothing, and food, economic problems lead to a lack of ability to partake in social relations at the same rate or level as individuals who are above the poverty line of only functioning at basic necessity. Economic hardship affects standards of life, social consumption, and the ability to partake in activities of leisure which is directly related to the possibility of meeting other people and maintaining relationships.

Topic Summary and Background:
Although the ways social exclusion is portrayed has changed over the years, the fundamental understanding of poverty has not. Being poor is not just about having no money, it is about the effects of not being able to provide more than what is absolutely necessary for survival. Not being able to wear certain brands and have certain products automatically provides a lack of social standing in their community. In the global perspective, how poverty is seen changes based on location. Poverty is on the levels of individuals but also entire nations. A prime example is the perception of a developing nation. These countries have an extreme lack of sanitation, health, and overall, are portrayed as sad, unhappy, and poor. Developed nations feel pity and a lack of respect towards those that they are “helping” with humanitarian aid and functional systems. Clearly drawing a line between those who are poor and those who are affluent.

Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:
1. What is the role of the United Nations in providing aid for those in poverty?
2. How can nations provide and improve opportunities for their citizens to come out of poverty?
3. Can social exclusion be solved without mitigating the issues of poverty? Can poverty be solved without mitigating the issues of social exclusion? If so to either or both, how?
4. How do neighboring countries create a space for aid in poverty-rich nations?
Resources
Poverty: The Past, Present and Future

1 in 5 Hungarians Still at Risk of Poverty, Social Exclusion

In Home Village of Girl Who Died in US Custody, Poverty Drives Migration
2019 TOPIC: RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE

Why this is important?
Worldwide, there are countless acts of religious intolerance committed each day. These actions are not contained to anything specific and can range anywhere from grudges and judgmental glances to deliberate acts of violence and condemnation of followers of a different religion. Much of the political unrest in the middle east currently is being fueled by radical Muslim groups attempting to take over territory for their God. Much of the Christian church is pitted against each other as there are more than 30,000 different denominations of the Christian faith who don’t always get along well with one another. Conflict in Southeastern Asia against Catholics, indigenous peoples in the United States, Muslim and Christian conflicts in the Middle East, religious suppression in Russia and the former Soviet Bloc all continue to plague the globe with unrest and violence.

Topic Summary and Background:
Religious intolerance, arguably, has led to the cause of more wars and the deaths of more people than anything else in the history of the world. Did you know that during the 1400s it was a sin to drink coffee in the Christian Church? The reason why: coffee was a drink common in the arab world since the 10th century and if the Muslims had it- it must’ve been the work of the devil. Ever since the dawn of civilization, mankind has had some notion for how the universe works and for how the natural world maintains order. Most ideologies agree that some larger than man, celestial force or being is in charge of maintaining order here on earth by controlling and manipulating chance, destiny, and the natural workings of the world around us. Regardless of one’s belief system, most people are very strongly religious. Most religions hold that if a follower does not uphold the values and regulations of that particular institution, that they will be judged poorly and condemned to eternal suffering based on their life on earth. Eternal destinies are not something taken lightly among religious laity all around the world and therefore, religion leads to a lot of conflict. Many religions are convinced that theirs is the “correct” version of the story and hold an enemy image of any other competing religious identity.

Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:
1. What makes something a “religion”?
2. How shall religious identity be protected?
3. Should actions that are motivated by religion be protected as religious expression?
   a. Are crimes committed in the name of religion protected as expression?
   b. Are crimes committed in the name of religious intolerance hate crimes?
4. Do religions need to be protected by the UN or its individual member states?

Resources
Religious Intolerance on the Rise
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2012/sep/20/religious-intolerance-on-rise-worldwide

Religious Intolerance in India

Religious Intolerance in Canada
LEGAL COMMITTEE

2019 TOPICS

Health Conditions of Refugee Camps
Rights of Children with Incarcerated Parents
2019 TOPIC:
HEALTH CONDITIONS OF REFUGEE CAMPS

Why this is important?
Refugees are coming to refugee camps in search of safety and more stability than the countries that they are fleeing from. They are often fleeing from political unrest and violence and religious persecution. When coming to these camps, the only thing that refugees are thinking of is a chance at survival and potentially finding resettlement in another country. Sadly these camps become a permanent home for some who then want to leave just as desperately as they wanted to leave their native country. The conditions in refugee camps are often missing running water and electricity, food is extremely lacking, and they often have infestations, contaminations and diseases that are rampant through the camps. The UNHCR also recently reported, in early 2018, that sexual assault is rampant in many camps. Not only does it affect their personal health, it is directly affecting refugees’ mental health.

Topic Summary and Background:
Plenty of countries have created refugee camps to house individuals who have fled their native countries due to war, political unrest, religious persecution, and lack of appropriate resources. These camps seem to be constantly underprepared for the amount of refugees who arrive and the condition in which they arrive in. Due to health issues that are often preexisting from their travel to the camp or from fleeing their native country, lack of food and water become even more detrimental to the state of the refugee camp. This also provides understanding for the spread of disease and infestations that become a part of normal structure inside of the refugee camps all over the world.

Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:
1. How can aid that is supplied be more effective for higher volumes of refugees?
2. What part can the United Nations play in providing assistance in the idea of creating more permanent settlements?
   a. Is this a practical solution and guide for future camps?
   b. How would it affect the current state of health inside the camps?
3. What solutions can be provided by the support of many countries to to contain illness, manage water and food supplies and create a sense of overall safety?
4. What punishment can be obtained for individuals who create and run unsafe refugee camps?
Resources
9 Maps and Charts that Explain the Global Refugee Crisis

Children ‘Attempting Suicide’ at Greek Refugee Camp

Rohingya Girls Face ‘Prison-like’ Conditions in Refugee Camps

No food, no medicine and little hope: The many challenges Rohingyas face
2019 TOPIC: RIGHTS OF CHILDREN WITH INCARCERATED PARENTS

Why this is important?
With over two million children in the United States experiencing parental incarceration, their rights and safety are of great importance. The children of our future need an appropriate and balanced understanding of the world to become great leaders and citizens of their respective nations. Parental incarceration has shown to be devastating to children’s mental health, behavior, homelessness and intergenerational inequalities. In most studies of the childhood experience, parental incarceration is often considered an adverse childhood experience. Studies have documented that difficulties include psychological distress, confused explanations given to child, immediate and drastic changes of childcare arrangements, difficulties in maintaining contact with parents as well as loss of family income and enormous stigma associated with parents being incarcerated. This often predicts home and school moves for the children. In every single one of these difficulties, none of them can be controlled by the child, so where do we find their rights? Do they have any?

Topic Summary and Background:
Often times political policies are crafted and aimed at reducing crime and eradicating issues such as gun violence and predatory offender registries. They are not seen being formulated around family well-being and child safety. While looking at many of the statistics surrounding incarceration, Oregon, US, has signed in a bill of rights for children with the aim of creating policy that helps children maintain contact with their incarcerated parents and reducing the negative effects and outcomes associated with having family incarcerated.

Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:
1. How can governments supply a better roadmap to communicating with parents through the process of their incarceration?
2. Should communities create family supporting projects that encourage contact with parents and children when separated?
3. How can the United Nations be involved in creating a more positive atmosphere for children who lack rights when their parents become incarcerated?
   a. Is there a solution where the UN is not directly involved, but can lead?
4. How do non-profit organizations and government fit into these situations and work together seamlessly?
Resources
Children of Incarcerated Parents in the US

Report Highlights Trauma that Thousands of Families Experience with Incarceration
https://www.texastribune.org/2018/12/07/family-incarceration-texas-prison-system/

End Children’s Trauma, Harm By Prioritizing Them When Parents Arrested, in Court
https://jjie.org/2018/12/05/end-childrens-trauma-harm-by-prioritizing-them-when-parents-arrested-in-court/
SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

2019 TOPICS

Managing Risks and Impact of Future Epidemics
Effects of Chemical Weapons
2019 TOPIC: MANAGING RISKS AND IMPACT OF FUTURE EPIDEMICS

Why this is important?
Between January 1918 and December 1920, over 500 million people worldwide were infected with the influenza. Between 50–100 million individuals, roughly 3–5% of the world’s population at that time. The spread of this disease was unprecedented at the time, it spread from Europe, to the Americas, to remote Pacific islands and even to the Arctic. A large factor for the widespread of the disease was the increased travel around the world. With modern transportation soldiers, civilians and businessmen were able to travel throughout the world more easily and affordably.

Topic Summary and Background:
The number and diversity of epidemic events has been increasing over the past 30 years, a trend that is expected to intensify. It is estimated that the world population will reach 11 billion by 2100, and one of the consequences of this population rise would be new challenges in controlling disease outbreaks, scientists say. With the population rising it is also predicted that there will be a boost in new infectious disease and drug resistant bacteria. A recent example of this would be in 2009 when the Swine Flu claimed the lives of thousands of people. We have also had Ebola hemorrhagic fever in 2014 in western Africa as well as the Zika Virus spreading wildly through the Americas in 2016. The Zika Virus was the first mosquito borne virus to cause birth defects in humans. We have been able to beat these outbreaks in a fairly timely fashion due to cooperation between countries and agencies. If countries divide themselves and refuse to work together, these diseases and outbreaks will continue at a faster pace and be more destructive and deadly.

Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:
1. What can be done to ensure disease doesn’t travel via international travel?
2. Would vaccinations be a successful tool in the battle?
3. Who will be responsible for helping fund these necessities?
4. What role do the United Nations carry in the fight to keep member nations safe from preventable diseases?
Resources
Health Epidemics Through History

Scariest Disease Outbreaks

Managing Risk and Impact of Future Epidemics

Spanish Flu Spread
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_flu#Spread
2019 TOPIC: EFFECTS OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Why this is important?
It is estimated that 1,300,000 people were affected by poison gases during the First World War. Only 90,000 of them died from their encounter with gas. Chemicals in warfare are not known for their fatality rate— but more for their devastating effects on the lives of those who survive. Soldiers who did not die from their encounter with poison gas in the First World War lost their sight, hearing, suffered massive chemical burns, respiratory problems, and suffered disfigurement that lasted the remainder of their lives. The issue of chemical warfare is not something lost in history. The current unrest in Syria has seen the repeated use of gas attacks on militants and civilians alike. The same effects of the chemicals witnessed in 1915 are still being observed as the conflict continues. This is still a pressing issue that impacts thousands of people around the world.

Topic Summary and Background:
The idea of using chemicals in warfare surfaced during the 19th Century. In fact, the same poison gas that was used during the First World War was actually invented by a United States scientist during the American Civil War in 1862. The use of chemicals as a new implement of warfare was first done in the First World War by the German Army in 1915 at the Second Battle of Ypres. Ever since the introduction of cannons to warfare in the 13th Century, defenders against these weapons knew that they could survive by fortifying their defenses stronger than the cannon’s power. Build walls higher, thicker, wear heavier armor, use more black powder, etc. These were the normal defenses of warfare against heavier armaments from an opponent. However, as was demonstrated in the First World War, chemical warfare is much harder to defend against as there is no way to fortify— the weapon isn’t a firearm or create a projectile.

Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:
1. What weapons are “chemical?” How shall they be classified?
2. Does the United Nations have a role in regulating the weapons of warring nations?
3. Do chemical weapons have a place in warfare?
4. How could the United Nations monitor use of chemical weapons in warfare?
Resources
National Center for Biotechnology Information

Brief History of Chemical War
https://www.sciencehistory.org/distillations/magazine/a-brief-history-of-chemical-war

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
https://www.opcw.org/
ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

2018 TOPICS

Maternal and Child Health
Civilian Impact of Weaponized Drone Strikes
Why this is important?
The health of mothers and children is heavily interrelated and affects many aspects of life. Maternal health can be defined as the mother’s health through pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period. Almost all maternal and child deaths occur in less developed countries, especially concentrated in Africa. Although attention to maternal and child health has been growing, there are still plenty of mothers and children under age five that have died. Improving maternal and child health is seen as critical to fostering economic development. The largest barriers that prevent exceptional health during this time of pregnancy and early childhood are a lack of funding and limited access to services and medical professionals.

Topic Summary and Background:
Each year, an estimated 5.6 million children under the age of five die from largely preventable or treatable causes. In addition to these children, 303,000 women die during pregnancy and childbirth each year, and millions more experience severe adverse consequences. Key interventions that decrease the risk of maternal and child mortality include skilled birth care, immunizations, and insecticide-treated mosquito nets. These are just some of the solutions that have shown to contribute significantly in the life saving efforts for mothers and children. The Sustainable Development Goals that were adopted in 2015 also include global maternal and child health targets including SDGs 2 and 3 to reduce MMR and end preventable deaths of newborns and children under five as well as ending all forms of malnutrition.

Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:
1. How can member nations provide better access to and quality of medical personnel and supplies for mothers and children?
2. How can the United Nations better partner with member nations to provide the maximum amount of support for their futures?
3. What global health programs currently exist that can be expanded upon or revamped to further ensure the safety and quality of care?
4. What can individual community members do to ensure their own health?
Resources
Africa Infant Mortality

Maternal and Child Health
https://www.cfhi.org/maternal-child-health

Health Minister to Attend Global Summit on Maternal Child Healthcare

U.S Government and Global Maternal and Child Health
2019 TOPIC:
CIVILIAN IMPACT OF WEAPONIZED DRONE STRIKES

Why this is important?
Drones take the human element out of the cockpit of traditional military aircraft. Just as they take the human out of the cockpit, they also remove human judgement and emotion from the cockpit as well as drones are used for a much more precise purpose. There have been issues in the past 20 years of increased risks in civilian safety with the use of pre-programmed drones carrying out strikes on military targets. Drones have risen in popularity during the increased unrest in the middle east since 2001. With the rise in use and functionality of such drones, there has also been an increase in intentional and unintentional civilian death and injury. Approximately 3% of deaths caused by drone strikes in Yemen alone are civilians. By year’s end in 2015, it was estimated that the United States had amassed 6,000 civilian casualties in drone strikes in the Middle East. The injury of civilians is inexcusable and cannot be ignored.

Topic Summary and Background:
Japan, during the Second World War, famously utilized their Kamikaze air attack technique. Kamikaze was a tactic that involves intentionally flying aircraft into targets as a means of inflicting massive damage upon that target. Since the dawn of manned flight in the early 20th Century, pilot safety has been a primary concern and point of constant revision by those in the aviation industry. Through the course of aircraft warfare in the past 100 years, the use of aircraft has resulted in thousands of pilot deaths and injuries. Completely removing the pilot from the plane would remove any and all risk of the pilot being injured in flight. Thus, the drone came about. Similar to any remote controlled airplane available as a child’s toy, the drone is a much larger, unmanned aircraft that militaries around the world have used in place of manned aircraft missions to protect pilots and aircraft alike.

Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:
1. What protections can be given to civilians in warzones?
   a. Whose job is it to protect civilians in warzones?
2. Is it ethical to use unmanned military equipment?
3. Who is responsible for civilian casualties committed by unmanned military equipment?
4. Does military equipment have to be manned in order to be used?
Resources
General Information About Drones
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unmanned_combat_aerial_vehicle

In Defense of Drone Strikes
https://www.brookings.edu/articles/why-drones-work-the-case-for-washingtons-weapon-of-choice/

Civilian Casualties and Drones

Geneva Convention Protocols
https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/geneva_conventions