

COMMITTEE GUIDE

SOCHUM



SOCIAL CULTURAL AND HUMANITARIAN COMMITTEE

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2023

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1. Presidents' Letter

Dear Delegates,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to CCB MUN XXI. It is a great privilege for us to have each one of you as delegates of this committee, and we hope it will be an invigorating and challenging experience that drives your curiosity and preparation. We are Lucía Restrepo and Ilana Malca, seniors at Colegio Bolivar. Since middle school, we have participated in numerous models and won various prizes. Model United Nations has been an enriching experience, making us gain a wider worldview and significant knowledge in MUN procedures, which we aspire to transmit to you this year.

In this committee, we will debate two topics throughout the three days in which the model will be held. Both topics require a proficient level of analysis and prior investigation to ensure a proper assessment and approach during the committee. MUN is a fantastic opportunity to gain valuable skills, such as acquiring comprehension of issues in our world, using diplomacy as a way to transmit ideas, and finding innovative solutions for current problems. That is why we hope to see commitment and eagerness from all delegates.

We expect you to come prepared and to complete your research in order to be able to represent your nation to your greatest ability. Please come with an open mind, ready to have fluent and dynamic discussions, and to contribute frequently. We hope that you have an enjoyable time in this model and that you are able to learn and grow as a delegate. Don't hesitate to contact us, through the committee email or via WhatsApp with any questions or inconveniences that might occur during the model. We hope to see you aspiring for greatness and doing your best at all times.

Best of luck!

Lucia Restrepo & Ilana Malca (SOCHUM Chair)

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2. Topic 1: *To What Extent Should the Government Interfere in Social Freedom in the Age of Mass Surveillance?*

I. History/Context

Surveillance first appeared in ancient civilizations, where authorities and rulers used informants and spies to maintain control of their populations and collect information from them. It was during the 20th century, notably in times of war and increased security concerns, that the current era of monitoring started to take shape. A big development of surveillance was highly influenced by the two World Wars. During World War I and World War II, governments from all countries implemented extensive surveillance measures to monitor their citizens, gather intelligence on enemy forces, and suppress dissent.

Another era that influenced and accelerated the expansion of surveillance was The Cold War, which lasted from 1947 to 1991. This was a time of political tension between the United States and the Soviet Union, when each country tried to dominate the world stage, leading to global espionage, with intelligence agencies from both nations engaging in large-scale monitoring activities.

Later, the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, on the Twin Towers in New York City marked a huge turning point for mass surveillance. (Bergen, 2023) Many countries created and started applying counter-terrorism measures in order to avoid similar disasters in the future. Many countries started to expand the surveillance power of their governments, raising concerns about the erosion of civil liberties and privacy rights.

Due to our quickly developing world, new digital communications have been introduced into our daily lives, facilitating access to information and rapid communication, among many of the benefits. These new developments have also facilitated the capacity of governments and large corporations to manage extensive surveillance, which has increased concerns about the ease with which the collection of personal information could be used to exploit an individual's vulnerability.

These new conditions have created a global debate on the extent to which governments should have the right to intrude on a citizen's privacy in order to assure society's security. It is supremely important to find a balance between security concerns and social freedom. The goal should be to maximise security whilst minimising unnecessary intrusion, maintaining public trust, and safeguarding the essence of social freedom in society.

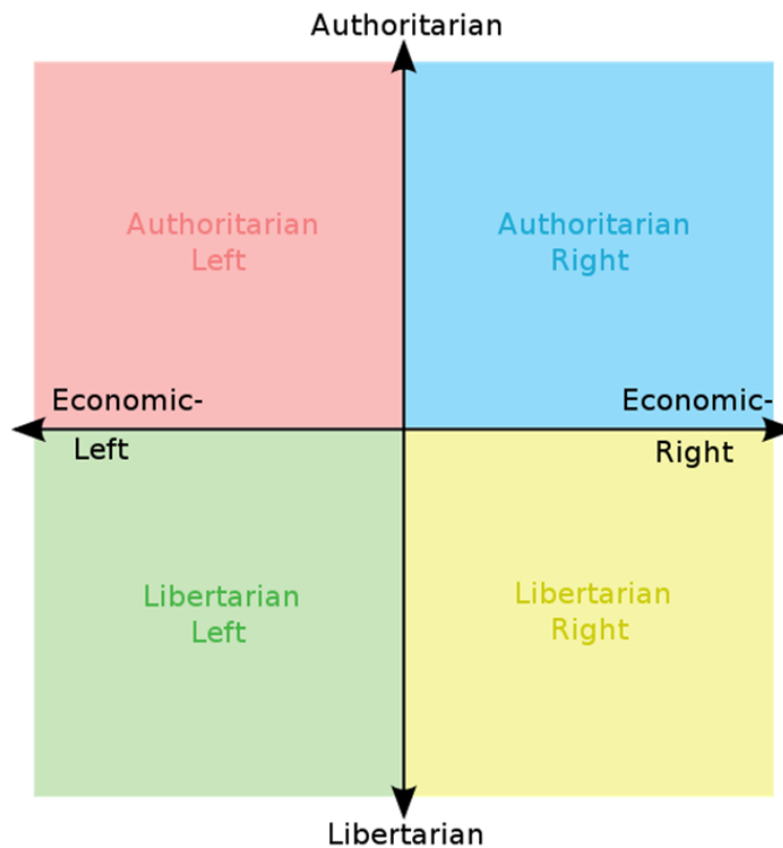


Figure 1: (Jnerst, 2020)

For decades, social freedom and privacy have been tied to the political and economic ideology of each country, which can be seen in its position in the political compass. Authoritarian governments tend to give their individuals little to no freedoms and are often considered oppressive regimens. They focus more on the prosperity of the country as a whole instead of the individual citizens. On the other hand, libertarian governments tend to focus more on individuals rather than on society as a whole; countries such as Switzerland and Denmark are examples of this.

As all nations in the committee will have different standpoints in the political spectrum, we can not change that, but as a committee, it should be our goal to establish what are some examples of clear violations of social freedoms in order to guarantee dignity and safety for all citizens.

Even though mass surveillance can bring numerous benefits to nations and governments, it also comes with multiple drawbacks for the citizens. Some of these negative repercussions are, but are not limited to: erosion of personal privacy (mass surveillance violates citizens' right to privacy); deterring effects on freedom of expression (mass surveillance inhibits people from expressing themselves freely due to the fear of possible repercussions from authorities; targeted discrimination and profiling (surveillance creates profiles of people based on factors like race, ethnicity, political beliefs and religion). This leads to even more marginalisation of vulnerable communities, and increased government control, as authorities now have the ability to control and regulate citizens' behaviour through daily monitoring. There are also data security and breach risks; by collecting and storing all this personal data, there are higher risks of a malicious actor trying to steal that information. Finally, there is a negative impact on citizens' creativity and innovation as, by violating the basic human right to privacy, citizens' freedom of expression is strongly compromised.

What is social freedom?

To be able to have a complete understanding of this issue, it is crucial to understand what is being referred to when talking about social freedom. These are some of the examples that fall under the category of social freedom:

- **Freedom of expression:** freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers
- **Right to privacy:** the right of persons to be free from unwarranted publicity. Unwarranted appropriation of one's personality. Publicising one's private affairs without a legitimate public concern.

- **Freedom of association:** freedom of association encompasses both an individual's right to join or leave groups voluntarily, the right of the group to take collective action to pursue the interests of its members, and the right of an association to accept or decline membership based on certain criteria.
- **Religious freedom:** the right we all have to act upon what we believe.
- **Right to abortion:** the right to choose what to do with the unborn fetus
- **Freedom of culture and traditions:** dedicated to creating and making available their art, allowing others to freely use, study, distribute, and improve on the work of others.
- **Economic freedom:** the fundamental right of every human to control his or her own labour and property. In an economically free society, individuals are free to work, produce, consume, and invest in any way they please.
- **Freedom of movement:** the liberty to move freely from one place to another

(Merriam Webster, 2023)

II. Current Situation

Nowadays, we can gain a wider perspective of the approach distinct government types have regarding the concept of social freedom and privacy. While it is important to respect different countries' ideals, as part of this committee all nations should assure that no human rights are being violated in the process.

It is common for nations to have as much information on their citizens as possible in order to facilitate such things as public service planning, tax collection, public health, migration, border control, and public safety. The question is, until what point is it standard data, and when does it become an invasion of one's privacy? In our world we have countries like North Korea, a repressive regime that restricts liberties such as the freedom of speech, or political expression, creating a nation where the state is in total control of individuals and can often lead to abuses of human rights. At the other end of the spectrum, we have countries, such as Switzerland, that are known for their commitment to human rights and liberties. They have data protection laws and privacy regulations in order to safeguard citizens' information whilst also maintaining public safety.

Not only have aspects of social freedom been developing through the use of technology, but mass surveillance and its usage has also increased. Many countries have adopted different ways of monitoring large groups of people, and even entire populations. This has led to the creation of laws in order to protect the rights of citizens and to ensure their various freedoms, which are obligatory in most countries.

All countries that have created and adopted laws concerning mass surveillance take different stands and measures regarding it, meaning that in certain countries you might face no privacy at all. Countries like the United Kingdom have laws that grant extensive surveillance powers to government and law enforcement agencies. This means that the government agencies can access all the



Figure 2: (Prosegur UK, n.d.)

information about citizen's movements, taking away their right to privacy. An example of this is the recent use of passport information to make a database for police profiling; when citizens apply for a passport, their data is immediately entered into a police database without their knowledge or consent. You can read more about this in the following link: <https://therecord.media/uk-passport-database-crime-suspects-facial-recognition-cctv>

Countries such as China have implemented even more comprehensive surveillance systems that include: facial recognition technology; internet monitoring; and extensive data collection on its citizens, often referred to as the "Social Credit System." Some people believe that this allows for a safer and more harmonious environment for all, whilst its opposers say that it leaves citizens with no privacy at all and without the chance to demand their basic human rights. (Donnelly, 2023) They are also countries like Germany that have implemented laws that allow for surveillance activities, but they are subject to stricter oversight. This means that citizen's privacy won't be lost completely and, unless a certain level of vigilance is needed, citizens won't be monitored. However, the amount of 'necessary' vigilance is very much open to interpretation.



Many countries argue that mass surveillance is used for the sole purpose of national security and counter-terrorism efforts. Even though they say that they are using it to ensure the citizens' safety, they are still violating their basic rights and leaving them with little to no privacy.

Figure 3: (European Liberties Platform, 2017)

When we use the term 'no privacy', we mean that citizens are being observed 24/7, and the government and law enforcement agencies are able to intercept and access all their citizens' communication data. Some countries that fall into this category are Israel and Russia, even though their laws vary from each other, their main purpose is very similar. In countries such as Israel, various surveillance measures have been implemented in order to maintain social order and security. In contrast to countries like Russia, laws permit the government and other law enforcement for mass surveillance and monitoring of electronic communications, solely for the guise of counter-terrorism and national security.

III. Key Points of Debate

- Understanding of the term social freedom
- The extent to which governments should monitor citizens
- The limits of social freedom
- The level of government interference in personal matters
- The relationship between government interference and maintaining social order

IV. Guiding Questions

1. What does your government understand by the term social freedom?
2. Is there a limit to social freedom? To what extent should citizens be allowed to act and speak as they please?

3. To what extent does your government think it should monitor its citizens? What systems does it have at the moment to monitor citizens, and what does it intend to do in the near future?
4. In what ways is government surveillance beneficial for maintaining social order? How much does your government agree with the statement that “the common good” is more important than individual liberty?
5. How does your government ensure that mass surveillance does not violate its citizens’ human rights?
6. How does your government protect citizens’ privacy, especially with respect to digital data?

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Topic 2: Reducing Crime Through Employment Programmes in the Developing World

I. Context

In the developing world, individuals are faced with various struggles such as a lack of economic resources, political instability, minimum health care, and limited access to education, among many more. In the face of this frustration, it is common for people to turn to illegal or unethical practices in order to survive. With no job or economic safety, they end up stealing as a way to obtain basic resources such as food, water and clothing. Although not all crimes can be traced back to the root of unemployment, it is crucial to address the situation, to ensure the safety and quality of life for all citizens. It is not justified to use unethical means as a way of personal gain, but it is also crucially important for the government to provide a dignified way for all citizens to make a living.

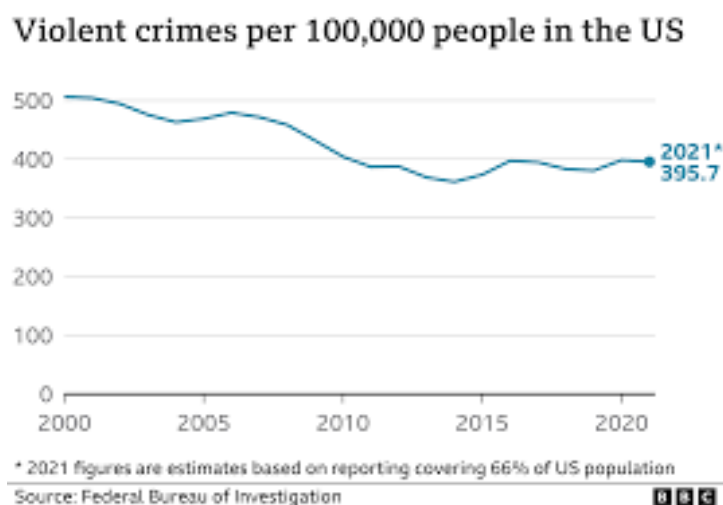


Figure 1: (BBC news, 2022)

Crime has always been present since the earliest societies were established. By crime, we understand, *“an action or omission which constitutes an offence and is punishable by law.”* (Oxford Languages, 2019)

Even though crime has always been present in societies, it has changed drastically in many aspects, for example, in the number of crimes and the type of crimes committed. *“Crime has undergone significant changes since the year 1900 due to shifts in societal, technological, economic, and cultural factors.”* (BBC UK, 2021)

These significant changes haven’t been necessarily negative since the crime rate index has decreased notably since the 2000’s. For example, in the USA, the Crime Index total, considered a measure of serious crime, decreased 0.2 percent to an estimated 11.6 million offences in 2000. This is the lowest measure since 1978. Five-year and ten-year trends indicate that the 2000 national total was 14 percent lower than in 1996 and 22 percent lower than in 1991.” *(Crime in the United States 2000 | Office of Justice Programs)*

Nowadays given all the changes we’ve had in society and civilization we can assert, *“Many types of crime exist. Criminologists commonly group crimes into several major categories: (1) violent crime; (2) property crime; (3) white-collar crime; (4) organized crime; and (5) consensual or victimless crime. Within each category, many more specific crimes exist.”* (Publisher, 2016) All these categories have evolved and developed by the hand of society, given that society’s problems are reflected in the crimes committed.

Unemployment remains a significant challenge faced by the developing world, and it often originates from multiple factors such as rapid population growth, limited job opportunities, and insufficient investment in education and skills development. Developing countries have to face a lack of economic sectors and infrastructure, and this obstructs the creation of new jobs. This causes individuals to be left unemployed, recurring to unstable or illicit jobs as a way to satisfy their basic needs, which only adds to the cycle of low resources and inequity. In order to encourage sustainable job creation and give people the tools they need to transcend their way of life, addressing unemployment in developing nations calls for a comprehensive strategy that incorporates education and training, inclusive economic policy, entrepreneurship support, and infrastructure development. *(What Is Unemployment? Definition of Unemployment, Unemployment Meaning - the Economic Times, n.d.)*



“Statistics show that between 1993 and 1997, the rates of criminal activities declined almost at the same rate as the rate of unemployment declined.” (Raphael, Steven & Winter-Ember Rudolf. Identifying the effect of unemployment on crime. *Journal of Law and Economics*, 44 (1) (2001): p.259.) This is only one quote of the many that prove how crime and unemployment are strongly correlated and how they affect each other. This research, conducted for more than four years by Steven Raphael and Rudolf Winter-Ember, led them to the conclusion that if we want to reduce crime, we must address and find viable solutions to unemployment. A lot of programmes and solutions have been proposed, but none have successfully ended or improved unemployment to a satisfactory degree.

As we can see in the graph below, the unemployment rate grows and decreases in step with the crime rate. It has been proven that unemployment and crime have a strong correlation with each other. The x-axis in this graph represents the years and the y-axis represents the percentage per year. In the graph, we can see that as the unemployment rate decreases, the crime rate does as well and vice versa. “Crime goes up 5% for every 1% increase in unemployment” (Marty. G, 2013) This data shows that, in order to reduce crime and other societal problems, we should reduce unemployment.



Figure 2: More than just a job (G.M. 2009)

“Crime not only affects economic productivity when victims miss work, but communities also are affected through loss of tourism and retail sales. Even the so-called victimless crimes of prostitution, drug abuse, and gambling have major social consequences. Drug abuse affects worker productivity, uses public funds for drug treatment programs and medical attention, and leads to criminal activity to support the expenses of a drug habit.” (Economic and Social Effects of Crime | Encyclopedia.com)

II. Current Situation

Nowadays, it seems that, in some places, applying for and getting a job has gotten more complicated than committing a crime, especially for young people, given that the requirements for just applying are sometimes almost unreachable. That is why many adolescents prefer to earn their living by committing crimes or finding illegal ways of earning; these actions often lead to a jail sentence or even death.

The requirements employers ask for vary depending on the type of job, the employer, and the type of industry, but in countries such as the United States, there are certain common requirements that apply to all jobs. Some of those requirements include: a well-structured resume or CV; submitting an application beforehand; meeting the minimum qualifications for the job; having the necessary work authorisation; passing the background check made by the company or boss, who will verify your educational and employment history; and lastly be culturally fit for the company’s values and culture. After meeting all these requirements, applicants must still pass the interview and then the trial work period before they will be granted the job. This is why many young citizens are more likely to apply and work in illegal industries, sometimes leading them into crime.

If it is hard for ordinary citizens to obtain a job, it is twice as hard for an ex-prisoner or a person convicted or accused of a felony to get that job, making it even harder for these citizens to reintegrate into society. Also, there could be some legal restrictions as well, taking into consideration that many countries such as the United States of America contain legal restrictions on hiring individuals with past criminal records. Ex-convicted citizens are also at

a greater disadvantage because they may have gaps in their education and limited job experience due to their incarceration.

Many developed nations around the world have systems to promote employment. Germany has a dual vocational training system, where students can combine what they learn in class with job training, giving them direct access to industry. South Korea has a programme of creative economy which fosters entrepreneurship and innovation that will generate jobs. Singapore provides citizens with skills for future programmes that offer training and education to adapt to the changing economy. Programmes such as these could be adapted by developing countries as a way to promote employment and to improve the economy.

Other examples of programmes used by different countries to promote employment are: job training, which is a way to create basic skills for individuals to be better qualified when applying for a job; wage subsidies, which provide employers with financial incentives to hire unemployed workers; entrepreneurship support programmes, which provide the foundation for people who wish to start their own businesses; and job search assistance, which essentially teaches individuals skills such as writing a resume, interviewing, and networking. Such programmes not only contribute to individual economic empowerment, but also foster social stability and cohesion within communities, thus promoting safer environments for all citizens.

Developing countries usually have higher levels of unemployment, which brings more crime as a result. This is because these countries face particular socio economic problems such as: limited access to education; lack of economic opportunities; inadequate social support systems; and urban-rural disparities. Despite this, many developing countries already have employment programmes in place. Two examples are described below.

Venezuela has a 15.3% unemployment rate and a crime rate of 81.4 for every 100,000, but the government currently has many working programmes to help resolve the problem. *"In 2022, the Venezuelan government launched a program called "Plan Empleo Joven" (Youth Employment Plan), which aims to create 1 million jobs for young people by 2025. The*

program provides training and job placement assistance to young people.” (National Institute of Statistics (INE).

Papua New Guinea: Another example of such programmes is Papua New Guinea. Due to their alarming rates of crime, especially in the country’s capital Port Moresby, The National Capital District Commission launched the Urban Youth Employment Project in Port Moresby with technical assistance from the World Bank in an effort to help youth, and to encourage their social involvement with the hopes of reducing crime rates. The programme aimed to provide youth with skill training and short-term job placement in either public works or on-the-job (OJT) training. This initiative managed to substantially increase employment possibilities, earnings potential, and living conditions of urban youth. As of 2020, more than 8,000 young people in Port Moresby without jobs had benefited from the project since it began in 2012 (Oleksiy IvaschenkoSr. Economist at World Bank, 2020) It is the primary public intervention aimed at addressing the economic and social marginalisation of the unemployed youth, and it is one of the very few programmes that invests in the nation's marginalised young people.

Unemployment can be an unending cycle, as the whole economy has to change for the job opportunities to do so. According to the International Monetary Fund, *“When economic activity is low, firms cut jobs and unemployment rises. In that sense, unemployment is countercyclical, meaning that it rises when economic growth is low and vice versa.”* (International Monetary Fund). Countries in the developing world often have lower economic growth and activity, which can lead to more people being left without a job. It is also very common in these countries to have lower rates of education, making individuals unemployable in many cases. A country that has low education is more prone to have citizens who are not qualified for many jobs, lowering the economy, and making the country have even less monetary resources to invest in the education system.



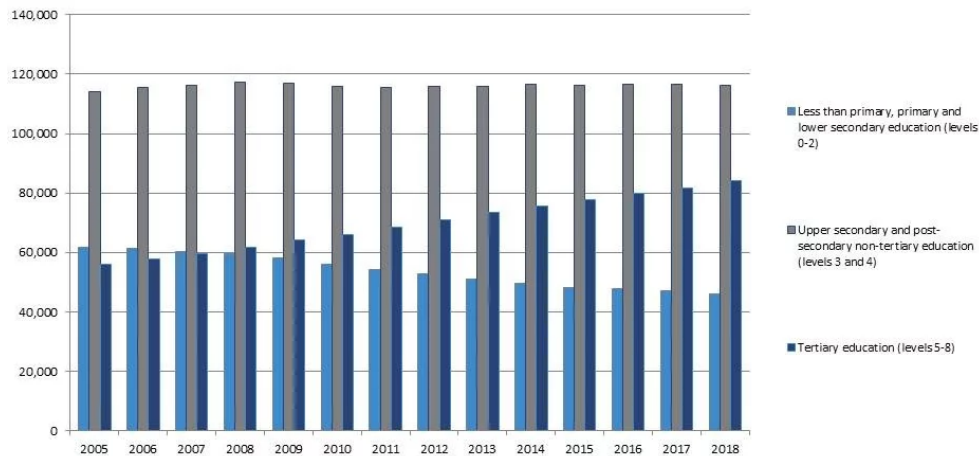


Figure 3: Labour force in the European Union Member States by educational attainment level 2005-2018

“The positive trend of more and more people succeeding in completing education levels beyond the compulsory is more than just welcome; it has been strongly fostered by the European Youth Guarantee and the Public Employment Services. Nevertheless, it still demands further political endeavours as despite the overall number of persons with low skills on the labour market actually decreasing, their job prospects also noticeably continue to decline.” (Kopf, 2020)

If developing countries are to reduce the amount of crime, it is essential that they find ways to improve the employment prospects of their citizens.

III. Key Points

- The relationship between unemployment and crime
- The main challenges associated with high crime rates and unemployment in the developing world
- The potential impacts of social safety nets in reducing crime rates by addressing unemployment
- Strategies that can be employed to encourage entrepreneurship and self-employment as a means to reduce crime

- Examples of employment programmes that have helped to reduce unemployment rates
- Aid to ex-prisoners to enter the labour market

IV. Guiding Questions

1. In your country, is there a correlation between unemployment and crime rates?
2. In your country, approximately what percentage of GDP is lost through crime?
3. What systems does your country have to support people who become unemployed?
4. Describe any strategies your country has used to improve job opportunities for the unemployed with the purpose of reducing crime rates.
5. What educational programmes does your country have to help school leavers find jobs and to prevent students falling into crime?
6. How can foreign investment and trade contribute to job creation and crime prevention in developing countries?

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