

**Cleveland Council on  
WORLD AFFAIRS**



# Cleveland-Autumn Conference 2019

Position Papers for:

United Nations Human Rights Council



*Delegation from: The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan  
Represented by Strongsville High School*

## **Position Paper for the United Nations Human Rights Council**

The issues presented before the United Nations Human Rights Council are: (1) Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict Related Sexual Violence and (2) The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests. Afghanistan holds the view that fixing the institutional problems surrounding these issues will preemptively solve further issues regarding them.

### **I. Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict Related Sexual Violence**

Conflict zones are always difficult to operate in, whether as a government or an NGO or even as the UN. Often times, there are insurmountable barriers in operating there, such as governmental and non-governmental groups preventing aid from reaching the region as a political move. Additionally, all people in the conflict zone have an understandable and natural distrust of authority. It is difficult or sometimes even impossible for them to tell who is correct and who is wrong in these places where two or sometimes more groups are vying for control. In this environment, conflict zones become like black boxes, where neither the government or any NGOs can see what is actually happening in the regions. If a power imbalance between genders is prevalent there, it is difficult to combat.

Afghanistan has first-hand experience with difficulties in war zones. The rightful government of Afghanistan has been battling crippling poverty of its citizens for many years, but it has in addition had to face the threat of the Taliban. At one point, the Taliban had effective control over a large portion of Afghanistan's territory. As referenced before, in cases like Afghanistan's, areas controlled by the Taliban operate like a black box, with no information coming out and no governance flowing in. Therefore, even though Afghanistan's constitution explicitly includes a clause about how men and women are equal, and even though the Afghan government has been taking concrete steps to rectify gender inequality and to reduce conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), it cannot help those areas still under terrorist control. In this way, the CRSV in Afghanistan is a direct outgrowth of the lack of peace and stability in the region, and the lack of regard for women's rights that these terrorist and insurgent groups have.

Without help, the Afghan government can do very little about the issue in the areas where it is most prominent. Where rule of law is prevalent, there is less CRSV, but where there is not, the Afghan government does not have the resources to help those in need. Those people already affected by CRSV also need help. Afghanistan, then, proposes a three-stage plan for reducing CRSV in a permanent fashion, to be implemented wherever a conflict zone is determined to exist. The first stage is damage control, where the UN would offer medical professionals and social workers to train and educate locals, and especially local women, on how to deal with those affected by CRSV. Although this will likely not reduce the incidences of CRSV to any appreciable degree, it is the only thing the UN could likely do without taking a side on the conflict. The second stage of the process is creating a set of resources that local judiciaries and police can follow to better convict and punish those who commit and did commit such heinous crimes. These resources could be authored by a number of groups, but Interpol would be an obvious candidate. The third and final stage would be to correct the underlying power imbalance between genders that results in CRSV. This stage, realistically, cannot be completed by the UNHRC alone, but will instead have

to involve cooperation from many groups. However, this stage provides a measuring stick in order to compare how a country is doing to how it was earlier. The gender inequality index published by the UNDP would be a good start to hold nations accountable to this goal.

## **II. The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests**

Starting in 2018, French motorcyclists began protests against rising fuel costs, using high-visibility yellow vests to mark their cause as organized and directly purposed. This movement has evolved into a symbol for protests revolving around anti-establishment sentiments. This has sparked both satisfactory and disastrous progress for influential political groups. An echo of the Arab Spring protests that happened close to Afghanistan only a few years ago seems imminent. Taking precautionary action against violence will allow lives to be saved and problems to be solved diplomatically. A government and its people should work towards a better future together, with the attempted elimination of infighting being at the forefront.

Afghanistan believes in the right to free speech for its people. The Afghan Constitution Article 34 specifically mentions that freedom of expression shall be unchallengeable, so long as such right is carried out within the law. Such that, violent protests can only hurt all parties involved, and will cause dire consequences for the citizens rebelling. The Arab Spring protests have caused an increased presence of ISIS and other terrorist groups in Afghanistan and its neighbors. These yellow jacket protests exist in the same vein, wherein violence has often unintended consequences. The right to assemble and expression is fundamentally important, but the actions these protesters are employing should not be tolerated.

Taking action on this issue should be framed by asking why violent protestors choose to do so. Eliminating the need for protest would, evidently, curb protests dramatically. The UN's duty is to the people, and so the governments should work with the people to solve the problems both have with each other. Yellow jacket protests will not be necessary if the issue is solved. And so, Afghanistan proposes a plan to connect the wishes of the people to their respective governments, while also confronting the current protests. Currently, the UN can provide humanitarian aid to both sides, to minimize the number and severity of injuries. This however, needs to work in conjunction with a component that targets future occurrences. Protests occur—particularly violent one—when the people that their voices are not being heard. To stop the possibility of the necessary violent government intervention, there should be a system where people can peacefully put forward their ideas and contentions, and expect to be heard. This would need to be done in such a way that all parties are voluntarily participating, and there shall be no forced action on any party. Stopping protests after they occur will not solve anything, it will only allow for other groups to learn how to become better at evading governmental forces. Working with those that disagree will allow the people to exercise their right to expression, and will keep contained the radical notions that arise from the continued violent protests.

# **The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests**

*Delegation from: Angola*

*Represented by: Western Reserve Academy*

## *Position Paper for the Human Rights Council*

### **I. The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests**

The yellow vests is a movement that started in France, because of the raising costs of fuel and living by the tax change that mostly influences the middle and working class. The right of assembly, like the protest form the yellow vests, has to be ensured at all times because it is crucial for the maintenance of a free democracy. The law says that protests have to be registered but not approved, but actually, in the last time the government prohibited assemblies.

Even though the government has to protect the right of assembly in their constitution, they have to start enforcing it in everyday actions. The extremely big wealth gap is one example of injustices in Angola and if people could assemble to plan and take action, that might help to improve the overall social and political situation in Angola. Angola signed the African charter on human and peoples' rights, furthermore, they signed the Protocol to the African Charter on Human And Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights. Even tough they signed it, it's still not the reality in Angola.

The official laws don't have to change, but the reality of police forces have to stick to the rights. The police has to stop using every kind of violence against peaceful protesters and we need NGOs and independent examinations to allow assembly and freedom in Angola. So policies can become human-friendly and improve the chance of living for every class.

**Delegation from: The Argentine Republic**  
**Represented by: Beachwood High School**

***Position Paper For Human Rights Council***

The issues before the United Nations Human Rights Council are: addressing impunity for perpetrators of conflict related sexual violence; and the right to assemble and a study of the yellow vest protests. The Argentine Republic hopes to find long term solutions that ensure the rights of women and protesters while regulating violence.

**I. Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict Related Sexual Violence**

Sexual- and gender-based violence (SGBV) has been a prevalent issue within the global community, raising many urgent humanitarian and legal questions. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres stated “Centuries of patriarchy and discrimination have left a damaging legacy. Sexist attitudes and stereotypes are widespread in Governments, the private sector, academia, the arts, science and technology, and even in civil society and international organizations like the United Nations.” Between 2011 and 2013, over 6,000 Syrian women were raped in the Syrian Civil War. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, over 6 million men, women, and children are targets of SGBV. Worldwide, WHO has reported 35% of women have been victims of gender-based violence. To combat this issue, the UN Security Council passed resolution 1325 in year 2000, calling upon nations to especially protect vulnerable women from violence in armed conflict. In 2007, the UN launched the UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict STOP RAPE NOW, working to improve coordination in national efforts to prevent sexual violence. In 2013, UNFPA and UN Women initiated the Joint Global Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence in order to provide accessibility and guidance to victims of SGBV. Penalizing SGBV across international borders, however, has proven to be difficult. Extremist groups often target civilians in developing nations where enforcing laws is difficult. Furthermore, international courts prove to be more symbolic than punitive. Under the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Articles seven and eight declare rape, sexual slavery, and forced pregnancy as a crime against humanity and a war crime, violating the Geneva conventions. However, the ICC is only able to try individuals, not extremist groups who are major perpetrators of conflict-related sexual violence. Furthermore, the ICC’s jurisdiction is restricted only to countries that have ratified the Rome statute. In many cases, perpetrators of international conflict-related sexual violence are rarely prosecuted.

The Argentine Republic has had a substantial amount of experience in dealing with SGBV. Similar to other Latin American countries such as Mexico, Honduras, and Nicaragua, Argentina has seen an increase in ‘femicides’, homicides on women with sexist motives. Usually done by males with ill intent towards a female intimate partner, over 200 cases per year have been reported in Argentina alone. Furthermore, cases of sexual assault, femicide, and rape have been severely underreported due to corruption and bias in the investigative process. However, Argentina has done much to combat the growing issue. In 1994, Argentina passed its *Ley Nacional 24.417*, effectively legitimizing sexual assault as a punishable offense. In 2009, Argentina’s *Ley 26.415* expanded the definitions of sexual assault and increased maximum sentence to life in prison. Passed in 2017, *Ley Brisa* offered financial compensation to children whose mothers were victims of femicide, while Argentina continues to implement its National Action Plan in cooperation with the UN Women Council. In fact, Argentina is ranked 47th in 189 countries on the UNDP’s women’s empowerment index. In regards to sexual violence in international conflict, Argentina has signed on UN Security Council resolution 1325, calling for action in protecting women against gender-based violence. Furthermore, after a 1994 attack on a Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, Argentina has repeatedly shown its support in fighting terrorism. The nation has established an anti-terrorism database in 2019 and openly contributes to global investigations on terrorism. Argentina is additionally opposed to the systematic sexual violence in areas such as Syria and Myanmar, where women are raped by soldiers to extract information or expedite their displacement, while also voting for the 2013 Security Council resolution 2106, strengthening efforts to eliminate impunity for perpetrators of conflict related sexual violence.

During the committee session, the delegation from the Argentine Republic hopes to implement a plan based on (1) increasing prosecution of SGBV cases within sovereign nations' judicial system (2) increasing judicial power of the International Criminal Court and the International Justice System to prosecute perpetrators of SGBV in conflict ridden areas where impunity is likely to occur (3) encouraging implementations on preventing SGBV by reducing risk factors such as poverty, low education, and childhood marriages that increase the chance of falling victim to SGBV. By focusing on implementing preventative measures and increasing the power of the ICC only in areas too unstable to properly prosecute perpetrators, Argentina hopes to put an effective end to the issue of impunity for perpetrators of conflict related sexual violence.

## **II. Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests**

Whether economically, politically, or scientifically, revolution has been a constant in the history of the modern world. Sparked by the will of the general population to change an aspect of society, many have shaped the international community today. Most recently, the yellow vest movement is a group in France consisting of about 280,000 citizens of France, protesting increasing gas prices and tightened state control over markets. Over the course of several weeks, many others have joined the protest, developing a negative sentiment towards French prime minister Emmanuel Macron, deemed "President of the rich." In 2018, Macron's approval rate dipped below twenty five percent while protestors accuse him of cutting taxes for the wealthy and raises them for the lower class. Over a year has passed since the conflict first began in October 2018: 50,000 have taken to the streets, 4,000 civilians have been injured, and 11 have been killed up to June of 2019. The protests in France, however, demonstrate a larger trend of an increase of grassroots protests against political, economic, and social issues across the global community. In 2009, an influx of protestors and revolutionaries in middle eastern countries instilled more democratic systems of government in the Arab Spring. In 2019, Chileans and Argentines rallied to protest their respective government's oppressive economic policies. Historically, the United Nations has done much to combat the issue. The 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights includes articles 19 and 20, ensuring the right to expression and the freedom to join associations and meet peacefully. In 2010, the Human Rights Committee passed resolution 15/21, mandating special rapporteurs to report on the status of the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful protest. In 2018, the UNHRC passed resolution 38/11, reaffirming the rights of peaceful protesters worldwide. Overall, protests and revolutions are regarded as an invincible force, and the UN has taken actions to peacefully facilitate the process.

Although the Argentine Republic recognizes the importance of the right to protest, one must question the validity of such protest when turned violent. Inspired by the Yellow Vest Protestors in France, Argentine citizens started protesting for similar reasons and under the same name. In response to the change in food prices, inflation, and interest rates, protesters have taken to the streets to voice their opinion. During peaceful protest, the Argentine Republic has a welcome and open minded policy. The nation has some of the highest human rights standards in the world, ensured through Article 75(22) of the Argentine Constitution. Argentina has also co-sponsored resolutions 38/11 and 15/21, guaranteeing the rights of people during protest. In lieu of violent altercations, however, Argentina is staunch in its position of placing the stability of the state as top priority. It is often the fault of protesters when peaceful protests escalate into violent riots. In Argentina's 2001 protests against former president Fernando De la Rúa, over 22 were killed through the riots. To control the violent protesters, the Argentine Government used rubber bullets, police force, and other anti-riot measures. Although Argentina heavily values the right to assemble, one must not forget the potential harm done by violence and rioting.

During debate, the delegation from Argentina hopes to implement solutions based on preventative measures and prioritizing national stability while also guaranteeing the right for people to assemble. Furthermore, the delegation of Argentina hopes to raise awareness on the potential abuses of government power and create a policy that ensures police force is not excessive. In regards to social media, the delegation is not afraid to limit the distribution of dangerous and inflammatory content that sparks riots and violent protests.

*Delegation from: Commonwealth of Australia*  
*Represented by: Strongsville High School*

### **Position Paper for the United Nations Human Rights Council**

The issues before the Human Rights Council are “Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence” and “Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests.” The Commonwealth of Australia is dedicated to finding nonviolent solutions to these issues that uphold modern standards of democracy, as well as the standards set forth in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.

#### **I. Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence**

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHCR) was created as a successor to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. Founded in 2008, the organization aims to protect fundamental human rights and advance human rights around the globe. In addition, the organization aims to protect the statutes found in the *UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. These protections are relevant to survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. According to United Nations Peacekeeping, conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) encompasses acts of sexual violence that are “motivated by political, military or psychological objectives to control territory, population or resources.” Sexual violence is perpetrated throughout war due to a sense of entitlement in men, as well as a belief that women are subservient to men. Throughout history, sexual violence has been consistently utilized against vulnerable populations. Examples of this phenomenon are evident, demonstrated by the Rape of Nanking in 1938 and the mass rapes that occurred between religious groups during the partition of British India in 1947. Men also suffer from CRSV, and it is not uncommon for incidents such as gang rape and forced nudity to be perpetrated against men. Conflict-related sexual violence is an indicator of genocide, and mass rapes and sexual exploitation of women have been important parts of international conflict through modern history that must be addressed.

Perpetrators of sexual violence during war and armed conflict are rarely held accountable for their crimes, as these crimes are difficult to prove in a court of law. International court systems such as the International Criminal Court have successfully held government officials accountable for the perpetration of conflict-related sexual violence: however, preventative measures are also necessary for curbing CRSV. Despite the presence of institutions already in place to address conflict-related sexual violence, violence remains widespread and impunity persists.

The Commonwealth of Australia is capable of working towards several solutions to respond to conflict-related sexual violence. Australia calls for a balance between preventative measures and response methods, and to achieve this balance, focus must be placed towards preventative methods, as they have been somewhat neglected. An important solution that Australia calls for is an increase of women within United Nations police and peacekeeping staff. Female peacekeepers and police officers act as role models of gender equality, and in addition, the presence of female authority figures empowers women: they provide a greater sense of security to women and children and improve access and support from law enforcement agencies to local women. These women also assist the United Nations in addressing and

responding to sexual exploitation and abuse. Furthermore, Australia condones the idea of reparations for victims of conflict-based sexual violence, including financial restitution and relocation in order to protect the mental wellbeing of victims, as well as to ensure a safe and successful future for those who have been victim to sexual violence during armed conflict.

## **II. The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests**

The right to peaceful assembly is established by Article 20 in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In October 2010, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution 15/21 supports the right to freedom of peaceful assembly. The yellow vest protests were a part of a movement in France that began in November 2018 because of the rising fuel crisis and high cost of living. The protests stemmed from a series of events, but mainly the fact that a disproportionate burden of the government's tax reforms were falling on the working and middle classes. In October 2010, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution 15/21 established the right to freedom of peaceful assembly. Resolution 15/21 establishes the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association for an initial period of three years. The Special Rapporteur is an independent expert appointed by the Human Rights Council. Their job is to examine and report on a specific human rights issue or a certain situation in a country. Another important part of their job is to assess the fulfillment of the rights to freedom of assembly and of association. The mandate for Special Rapporteur was extended for two additional, three-year cycles, ending in June 2016.

The yellow vest movement began during the first protest on November 17, 2018 and lasted, on a large scale, until June 2019. The main causes of this movement include: rise in crude oil prices, fuel tax, and a 2017 wealth tax repeal. With the new legislation, there was a dramatic impact French citizens in many different ways. The daily costs created by the new rules and regulation but the heaviest burden on the middle and working class. To voice their extreme displeasure, the citizens took to the streets and protested the changes. The first protesters were workers from rural areas that could not afford to make it to work because of the increased gas prices. As the number of protests increased, so did the civil unapproval of President Macron's green tax. Soon the movement reached throughout France and made its way into Paris. The working and middle class joined the movement because of the decreasing standards of living, which propelled the growth and popularity of the movement throughout the country. The direct intentions of the protests was to: repeal the green tax on diesel, raise the minimum wage, and dissolve the National Assembly and hold new elections. There were also frequent chants calling for Macron to resign. In a poll reported on December 3, 2018, 72% of the French people support the yellow vest protests, even after the protests turned violent. Macron and top officials discussed possibly declaring a state of emergency because of the various riots and protests. Even with extensive legislation, in regards to the right to freedom of assembly, French officials resorted to emergency measures to restrict citizens' right to peacefully assemble.

The Commonwealth of Australia is working towards several solutions to resolve situations similar to the Yellow Vest Protests. In the instance of the Yellow Vest Protests, solutions can include: mitigating the tax burden on the middle and working class, redistributing the tax levels on gas and other basic needs to decrease the cost of living, and if necessary reinstating the necessary degree of wealth tax to reach the goals that the legislation was set out to accomplish.



**Delegation from: Bahrain**

**Representation: Western Reserve Academy**

### **Position Paper for United Nations Human Rights Council**

The issues before the United Nations Human Rights Council are impunity for perpetrators of conflict-related sexual violence, the right to assemble, and the yellow vest protests. Bahrain, as a country, believes that sexual violence against anyone is unacceptable. In 2015 we passed a law that any violence against women is outlawed and a serious crime. We have penalized rape and assault since 1973. As a country, we believe that protests are a threat to our government system. Therefore we do not support the Yellow Vest Protests.

#### **Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict Related Sexual Violence**

War in countless countries has caused an increase in sexual violence against women and girls. Countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo use forced prostitution and rape as a way to control minority groups. Another region with problems similar to this in Bosnia. Bosnia has been trying to cleanse their bloodline to be Serbian. Rape and other types of sexual violence have been used to control and segregate minorities. These wars caused the ICC (International Criminal Court) to have been created. The ICC is used to hold countries' leaders accountable for allowing sexual violence and committing mass genocide. Even though we have the ICC and other courts, these crimes against women are still undermined.

Bahrain does not support the corruption of the military and the violence against young girls. We support holding the perpetrators accountable for their harmful actions. Bahrain has a policy that any violence or sexual violence against women is criminalized. We recognize the problem of violence against young women and girls as being a terror tactic, and we are against it. Bahrain currently has a hotline that allows anyone to hurt or concerned to report any domestic violence. We have also outlawed harassment in the workplace. Young men that harass women are fined five hundred dinars. These types of crimes are against our morale as a country.

The country of Bahrain believes that international policy is not enforced. Though international policy states that sexual violence is a severe public health and human rights problem, the only action the World Health Organization has done is to try and raise public awareness. Domestic laws in many countries are mostly about outlawing sexual harassment in the workplace. There is also the problem of street harassment. Bahrain calls on the UN to make fines mandatory. This would mean that any man to call a woman a derogatory name on the street will be fined. CRSV is punishable and preventable. Many women and children still do not have access to a fair judicial system. Bahrain calls on the UN to make reporting sexual violence easier and to have a better support system for those it affects. Overall we need to address how the conflict of war affects the civilians of the UN. Bahrain, as a country, believes that action needs to be done to protect the rights of all men, women, and children in the UN from the CRSV.

## *The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests*

In 2011, in Bahrain, around one hundred thousand people decided to voice their frustration with the country's government and peacefully protest. At the protests, government authorities such as police and officers took the lives of over eighty people and imprisoned hundreds more. When the citizens got even angrier about the issue because of the brutality, the government began to lie and deny the violation of their authorities.

The Bahrain government is a monarchy, but the Prime Minister and the King make it more of a dictatorship. The citizens of Bahrain feel that they have a right to assemble protests and speak out on their opinions. They organized protests, such as a yellow vest protest, a political and economic protest where thousands wear a yellow vest to support their cause. Since the beginning of the protests, there have been even more instances of abuse and killings which has only created violent protests. The Bahrain government has no intent on ending it and have made no effort to try and listen to what the citizens want.

*Delegation from: Belgium*

*Represented by: Mentor Highschool*

### **United Nations Human Rights Council**

The issues presented to the Human Rights council are Addressing Impunity for perpetrators of Conflict Related Sexual Violence; and The Right to Assemble and a Study of Yellow Vest Protests. The country of Belgium is completely invested and devoted to the protection of human rights for its citizens and those of other countries when addressing these topics and hopes to come to concessions with all involved when creating a resolution.

#### **I. Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict Related Sexual Violence**

The Belgian Criminal Code prevents any sexual violence, anything related is strictly outlawed. These laws can be found in article 10 of the preliminary section of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Belgium actively stands against conflict related sexual violence and continues to address the issue along with other nations as a violation of human rights, as well as assure efforts in aiding to diminish the issue. Any form of sexual violence is inhuman as it is considered a form of torture due to the long lasting physical, mental, economic, and social effects, sexual violence can be constituted as a war crime, and according to international law, a crime against humanity. Belgium holds strong intent to see forth that those guilty of said crimes not walk free, but reap any punishment deemed fit depending on both the extent and austerity of the committed atrocity.

Belgian history has seen numerous cases of sexual violence, as have all countries considering the fact that this is a world wide epidemic strongly inflicting all nations, whether legal or not. Awareness around the issue is steadily increasing in Belgium, new information is being gathered and analyzed each day. Researchers have found over a fourth of victims of sexual violence within Belgium are under the age of 18, the other common targets being women and minorities. To aid victims affected by sexual crimes, many care centers which provide mental and physical aid have been put into action, shelters for those rescued from human trafficking, donations from the government to earn money for housing, medical care, and supplies for victims. With hopes to stop these crimes at their source.

Belgium will see through that through creating an awareness around the issue as well as see it fit that those guilty of any crimes involving sexual violence receive the warranted punishment given to them by the court, in addition to continuing to and improve tactics in helping all those afflicted by this crime. Inclusive of doing all in its power to assure that the amount of victims staggers to a new low by making sure the issue does not occur in the first place.

#### **II. The Right to Assemble and a Study of Yellow Vest Protests**

Article 26 of Belgium's constitution protects the right to assemble so long as it is peaceful and without arms. Taking this right away or suppressing it in any way threatens democracy as a

whole; suppressing this right suppresses the people's ability to come to concessions with their government. With this, a solution should be found that allows for protest while keeping in mind and finding solutions for and de-escalating protests that become violent, as some of the yellow vest protests have.

While the yellow vest protests had started in France as a protest to expensive taxes, later honing in on the president himself, they moved into Belgium, specifically to a large, majorly unorganized and unauthorized protest in Brussels. This protest had begun peaceful but escalated quickly, violence lasting over an hour until it had been dispersed with police intervention. This violence was unacceptable as police vehicles were looted and destroyed, and rocks and firecrackers were thrown at police. While the citizens of Belgium have the right to assemble and to protest peacefully, actions need to be taken to prevent any vandalism, violence, or harm that can be created as has been caused in the yellow vest protests.

The country of Belgium hopes to reach concession with fellow delegations in the Human Rights Council promptly to ensure that not only the rights of citizens are protected but their safety as well. Preferably, Belgium hopes to work on finding a resolution that builds the ability to find ways to de-escalate large-scale, violent situations to minimize any possible damage or harm. This would entail police detail in large cities and proper training to aid in de-escalation.

*Delegation From: Bolivia*

*Represented by: Westlake High School*

## **Sexual Violence**

A major topic that is not talked about enough, is sexual violence. Bolivia has one of the highest rates in the world for sexual violence. Not to mention the numbers are constantly increasing, affecting women and young girls the most. The vicious nature against women, can be viewed as a dread strategy, utilized by gatherings to destabilize an undesirable network, receive assets and rewards of regional occupation of that group. This issue affects everyone on the globe, because if we let it happen here, then that is saying it's ok, which lets other countries believe that it's "not that big of a deal" as well. The radicalization of this violence prompts expanded unfair practices against sexual orientation standards.

### **I. Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict Related Sexual Violence**

Over 18 countries have reported countless cases of sexual harassment and abuse. This shows it can only spread and almost nothing is being done to stop it. In spite of the serious issues some women and girls face, the people who commit these violent abuses are rarely held accountable. The issue is that most victims go through severe pain and trauma, leaving them unable to speak up for themselves. This causes no one to be punished, leaving the abusers to commit the same acts again. Many victims and their families suffer through a lot, such as unwanted pregnancies. The mother and the children of this result are criticized and often referenced by people in their communities as affiliates of the enemy. So far the international community has categorized sexual violence as a war crime and has begun assisting in holding perpetrators of these crimes legally accountable for their actions. The International Criminal Court (ICC), an independent judicial body from the United Nations, is the highest criminal court for crimes that are committed against international law. Bolivia firmly believes that to end sexual violence there needs to be much stricter laws and policies in place. The first step is to have recovery facilities put in place for survivors of abuse. The trauma and toll it causes people is almost unmatched, and the fact that it's happening all the time makes it so much worse. The next step is to allow restraining orders to be put in place against the abuser. The punishment of this crime is also going to be much harsher and longer than previous laws. If the abuser is found guilty, we propose one year minimum of jail time and a \$5,000 fine. Bolivia's hospitals will also be investing in rape kits that help the police identify the criminal. Around the globe protests have begun as a way for people to express their political opinions, as well as their dissatisfaction with governments. Bolivia in fact is undergoing a massive amount of protests right now, as of September 2019 on the issue of the Amazon forests. The right to assemble is a topic being discussed all around the world because there is always someone who wants their voice heard. Peaceful protests aren't usually questioned and they are almost always accepted, but it is the violent protests that start causing international unrest.

### **II. Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests**

Protests are a great way for citizens around the world to make their voices heard. The right to assemble is a right set forth by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The protests in Bolivia so far have thankfully have been peaceful. This causes the police and government to accept these protests. Unfortunately not all gatherings are like this. The yellow vest protests in France that have been going on for about a year has become quite violent with about 3,000 people injured; both police and protestors. Although the original belief intended was to peacefully protest their distress, the situation got out of hand and violence erupted all throughout the crowds of people. The use of social media has definitely created an impact to protests and it has allowed people to use their voice in a safer way. It has made protests more organized under specific themes and people. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), stated in 1966 that freedom of expression is critical and that the promotion of hatred religious, national, racial or violence is prohibited by law. Bolivia believes there should be a limit to how protests are created. As long the protests follows the ICCPR and does not become violent and stays on track just to make their voices heard, Bolivia believes in the right to assemble freely.

*Committee: Human Rights*  
*Delegation: Cameroon*  
*School: Chardon High School*

### **Position Paper for the United Nations Human Rights Council**

The issues being presented are: Addressing impunity for perpetrators of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, and The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests. The delegation of Cameroon is vehement in debating potential resolutions among all countries present.

#### ***Topic A: Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence***

Conflict-related sexual violence incidents, including both pillaging and homicide, contribute to thousands of both men and women all over the world living in fear, forced into silence. A survey was conducted in 2011 of the estimates and determinants of sexual violence against women in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The DRC Minister for Gender, Family, and Children states that more than 1 million of the country's women and girls fall victim to sexual violence. The United Nations Population Fund regarded that 15, 996 current cases of sexual violence were recorded in the DRC in 2008 and 65% of the victims were children and adolescents younger than 18 years old, and with an overall 10% of all victims that were younger than 10 years old. Most reports in the DRC regarding said topic are related to the ongoing armed conflict in the country; the majority concentrating in Nord-Kivu and Sud-Kivu, bordering Rwanda. Nevertheless, there has also been ample unrest in neighboring provinces which include Maniema and Katanga.

Both women and children bear the brunt of Cameroon's recent conflict. On September 7, 2018, hundreds of women rallied and protested about the various abuses against them, their husbands and their children. Women and young girls have fallen victim to various cases of sexual exploitation. Some women are forced to offer sex in exchange for protection or nourishment. According to Rita Agbor, a gender officer for the feminist advocacy group Women For a Change (WFAC) Cameroon, "One can find as many as 13 or 14 girls sharing a single room, where each one has her turn to go in search of men and provide food for the others." Schools, hospitals and entire villages are being destroyed, mostly by government forces, and the educational prospects of a generation of young people are being affected. Young women and girls who are unable to attend school are especially at risk because they're becoming prone to early pregnancy. As a direct result of government-initiated sexual assault against young boys and girls, both Cameroon and Congo, our own neighbors, (and all of its inhabitants) fall victim to violence and sexual conflict. Protests meant to uplift and give a voice to all victims often result in government forces being used and many lives being lost. Due to these conflicts being orchestrated by the government, it is natural many of these reports go unnoticed, undocumented, and ultimately deemed "unreliable."

According to the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registrating, and Tracking (SMART), sexual recidivism rates for rapists, for new charges or convictions, were 14% with a five-year sentence in jail. 21% at 10 years, and 24% at 15 years. This disturbing information produces the question: Why do sex offenders who face a higher jail sentence have a higher rate of committing sexual crimes (or nonsexual crimes) again? Shouldn't years of prison curve their mentality of not being a

criminal? Unfortunately, it is the exact opposite. Jail should be about rehabilitation and facing the consequences of violating laws. The Delegation of Cameroon believes there should be a therapy program implemented in which perpetrators of sexual violence/violation and potential perpetrators can receive rehabilitation and take responsibility for their actions. Seeing as the rates of recidivism are higher the longer they spend time in jail, we believe that a program in which perpetrators can receive the therapy and convalescence they need can hinder them from reoffending. Much like Sweden, we want to focus on rehabilitation. If you treat people as animals or inhumane, they will behave as so. For potential perpetrators who recognize their mentalities/behaviors as erroneous and want to seek help, therapy should always be an option. In the same vein, those potential sex offenders can have the opportunity to confess and seek real help; the only other options are jail or even death. We believe we can decrease the likelihood of recidivism if we pay our attention to rehabilitation in order to prevent such tragedies from happening with such consistency, or again.

### ***Topic B: The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests***

The Yellow Vest Protests are largely valued internationally as a movement giving voice to those less fortunate. Starting in October of 2018, various protests have sparked in France due to economic injustice. These demonstrations were largely inspired due to rapidly rising fuel prices, rising about 6.2% in price that year, and taxes being pushed on the middle class. These burdens are an insult to the ideals of the French people and these protests are a direct and justified reaction to them.

Cameroon's tax rate averages about 35% and over 48% of its population are considered to be living in poverty. The index of economic freedom grades Cameroon with a staggering 52.4%. The Yellow Vest Protests have transpired because of the economic atrocities that have been pushed onto the people. In Cameroon, the government is less lenient. In a protest against said government in 2008, there were 100 or so deaths as a direct result. The right to assemble is not respected in Cameroon, and that needs to change. The right of assembly is a fundamental human right that deserves the utmost respect. To disregard this right or to abolish this right with unjustifiable violence, is unacceptable.

The Delegation of Cameroon would appreciate any efforts made by the other delegations to put forth an official statement to present to Cameroon's Republic.

*Country: Chile*

*School: St. Edward High School*

*Committee: United Nations Human Rights Committee*

### **I. The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests**

The Yellow Vest protests are part of a movement in France that started when French President Emmanuel Macron put in place a fuel tax in November of 2018 which sparked nearly a whole month of protests across the nation. These protesters gained fame for donning yellow safety vests, or “Gilets Jaunes” as the French would call them. A lot of the protesters were from rural areas, and couldn’t afford to pay the expensive fees as they drove long distances as a part of their daily lives. The protests grew as more and more of the middle class joined in to voice their frustrations at Macron for the slipping standard of living in France. These protests turned violent as they spread to the streets of Paris from rural areas, and riots broke out all over the city. This unrest sparked a national crisis, as many of these protesters blamed President Macron for the increase in fuel prices. Many middle-class protesters say that they earn enough to avoid being on welfare but not enough to make ends meet, blaming these issues on President Macron. French police clashed with the Gilet-Jaunes as France struggled to contain the riots. The protests sparked a global debate on the right to assemble and the right of citizens to protest their government.

As a democratic nation, Chile is an advocate of human rights, and it respects any attempt by the citizens of a country to voice the concerns of their country. However, Chile also respects the right of the government to take action if any protest becomes violent and disturbs the peace of the country in question. Chile recognizes the right of French citizens to protest peacefully and supports any demonstration that they might perform against their government as long as these demonstrations do not turn violent, as was the case in December of 2018. Chile has begun a new age of accountability and responsibility with regard to the protection of human rights in its own nation. Under the stewardship of President Sebastián Piñera, Chile has become a role model in the global community for their work in apprehending and sentencing perpetrators of human rights violations that took place in the 1970s, during the decade of strict military rule in the country. An example of this crackdown would be the arrest of several officers that worked under Augusto Pinochet, during his time as dictator of Chile, who have been recently sentenced for their role in the disappearances of 119 political opposers during the height of Pinochet’s rule. The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) has recently adopted a resolution that promotes the protection of human rights in regards to peaceful protests. In the 25th session of the UNHRC, in 2014, the committee stated that countries have a responsibility to their people to uphold the fundamental freedoms citizens have to protest their governments. They explained that countries should do their best to encourage peaceful protests, and provide the petitioners with the resources and space needed to effectively voice their opinions. This resolution thoroughly protects protesters and dissuades the use of force for countries trying to suppress particularly “rowdy” crowds, citing that it is the first and foremost responsibility of states to respect the citizens’ right to protest and to support the petitioners in their efforts.

However, what this resolution fails to recognize is how states should deal with protests that get too out of hand or start to get violent and aggressive, as was the case in France during December of 2018. The country in question, according to this document, is not authorized to contain any riot that may form out of a peaceful protest. By not allowing states to use aggressive force when protests turn nasty, the UNHRC is putting the stability and peace of a country at risk due to radical and angry protesters going over the top in their demonstrations. For example, the state of France was put into disarray and a national crisis was sparked by protests that escalated into violent riots that the country was not able to deal with. In order to prevent such conflicts from arising, the UNHRC needs to adopt a resolution that puts in place guidelines on how states can deal with and contain violent protests that spiral into full-blown riots. Chile believes that this sort of resolution would be a way to maintain the balance between protecting the rights of citizens and ensuring the country's safety and security when things turn violent. The use of force may be necessary for some situations- for example, if citizens are breaking the law when protesting or if they are disturbing the peace of the nation. What this resolution could do is outline the ways countries can contain these riots without infringing on the rights of the citizens. However, there is a fine line between keeping the peace and forcibly oppressing the rights and views of protestors. Any resolution to be adopted would need to toe the line very carefully on what is acceptable and what is not. Overall, Chile supports and respects any attempt by the citizens of a country to protest their government, but also believes it is important to address how governments should deal with peaceful protests, and wants to work together with other countries in the Human Rights Committee to work on a solution to this growing problem

## **II. Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict-Related to Sexual Violence**

Sexual violence is a growing problem in the world today but many people are confused as to what it actually is. Sexual abuse is any sexual act or any attempted sexual act of violent coercion, or any derogatory act directed against a person's sexuality, regardless of the relationship to the victim. Sexual violence can have psychological, emotional, and physical effects. In the United States, one out of every six women has been the victim of attempted or of a successful rape. Moreover, men are at risk as well. If a man was in college he would be five times more likely to be sexually assaulted than a man who does not go to college. In 1998, approximately 17.7 million women in the United States had been the victim of attempted or of a successful rape. In 1998, approximately 2.78 million men in the United States had been the victim of rape. Based on these statistics, it is clear to see sexual violence in the U.S, as well as globally, is on the rise.

The nation of Chile has been very strict about the topic of sexual harassment in the past. Strict laws have been put in place, to try to deal with this issue, and punishments can vary from fines to being in prison for up to five years. Chile punishes their sexual abusers harshly. With these punishments in mind, over the past months, Chile has united with Peru to discuss this topic, with both countries being eager to fight this troubling issue. They came to an agreement to enact laws that will prevent sexual violence from happening in Peru and Chile. In 2018, the United

Nations decided to fund 10 survivor-projects in many countries around the world. These projects provide legal aid for survivors, assisting children, especially those born of rape, and strengthening the prevention of conflict-related sexual violence. One example of these projects is Stop Street Harassment (SSH). SSH's goal is to end gender-based street harassment worldwide. SSH also documents the problem and demonstrates why it is a human rights violation. This project is one of many put in place by the UN to stop sexual violence all over the world. In the past, the UN has only been focused on funding projects to deal with this dreadful issue.

However, children born because of rape appear to be the ones most affected by this issue. The children would often lack access to resources in the community, family protection, education, or even their livelihood. Also, being socially excluded from the rest of the community is an issue. These children would often have trouble with registering their births, their legal names, or even the rights to citizenship. A way to solve this extensive issue would be to have the UN fund more projects on the issue and draft a resolution to help these neglected children. A resolution would include projects that cause sexual violence to drop as well as funding for neglected children. This solution would be effective, as past UN projects have been working to prevent this issue as well. As long as the UN keeps funding these projects and extends help to these children, this issue will eventually be resolved.

*Delegation from: People's Republic of China*  
*Represented by: Gilmour Academy*

## **Position Paper for the Human Rights Council**

### **I. Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence**

The best way to address discrepancies between international and domestic law pertaining to issues such as rape and forms of gender-based violence is to maximize the government's ability to ensure the security of its citizens. The reason we can't simply try to convict current crimes is that rape and sexual violence are extremely difficult to prove, and the rights of those being prosecuted must be upheld. Only a government can most effectively protect the lives of those in danger of being mistreated, and citizens can enjoy the benefits of this while retaining their right to privacy. This balance can be attained by using security as an accountability measure so that people aren't being actively watched, which would violate their privacy. Instead, surveillance can be used as evidence to convict anyone who commits a crime in the future, since it can be used as irrefutable proof of the truth. This will act as an effective deterrent to crimes of sexual violence without violating the rights of the population. In the past, my country has done work towards this ideal by increasing and improving surveillance systems, and it has worked tremendously well. China believes that this is the best course of action for all members of the UN moving forward.

### **II. Right to Assemble and the Yellow Vest Protests**

In the past, peaceful protest has been used to affect change and ensure governmental legitimacy, and civilized negotiation has enabled the needs of citizens to be met without violence. Violent protest can never be tolerated, but when it arises, it is crucial to see why peaceful protest failed. In this case, the French government has repeatedly declined to genuinely negotiate with the disillusioned populace, whose frustrations with their poor quality of life are entirely justified. The freedom to assemble cannot be violated under any circumstances, even if there is a risk of violence. All that can be done to deter and stop violent protests is to punish offenders through the use of surveillance as a way to hold people accountable for their actions. Increased security can be used to address situations such as the Yellow Vest Protests, but for assembly to serve its purpose, the French government needs to negotiate with its citizens. In order to force this, France must be required to manage and fix its problems or else be removed from the United Nations. With regard to the question of how domestic and civil society can be affected by protests in other countries, assembling cannot inhibit the proper functioning of commerce or government agencies. This means that police must have permission to stop and arrest protesters who physically prevent commerce, travel and government work from happening. Also, the impact of social media on the nature of protests is somewhat worrisome. The anonymity of social media allows for the perpetuation of hate speech and planned violence, neither of which can be tolerated. In order to fix this problem, China believes that the solution is to require people to be accountable for their online activity by removing anonymity from the internet. Every internet user ought to be required to have their accounts tied to their official identification, which will act as an accountability measure and deter hate speech and violent assembly properly.

**Delegation: Republic of Côte d'Ivoire**  
**Represented by: Beachwood High School**  
**Committee: United Nations Human Rights Council**

### ***Position Paper for United Nations Human Rights Council***

The issues before the Human Rights Council are: Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict Related Sexual Violence and The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests. The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire remains dedicated to universal human rights, and hopes that the Human Rights Council may resolve these issues in a sovereignty-conscious, effective, sustainable, accessible manner.

#### **I. Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict Related Sexual Violence**

Sexual violence underlies generations of war and combat. Seen most poignantly in the recent genocides in Bosnia and Rwanda, conflict related sexual violence (CRSV) has veritably become a tool for hereditary control and therefore a form of social reengineering, taking on the form of rape, forced sterilization, prostitution, exploitation, sex trafficking, enslavement, and similarly coercive sexual acts. As a result, CRSV devastates victims not only from personal, medical, financial, and other such standpoints through an increased chance of post-assault poverty and disease, but also from familial, cultural, and social ones. In a world where this scenario affects 7% of women (250 million), it is easy to understand why the international community has taken many measures to address and prevent the pain and trauma of victims. The 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court provided a universal judicial precedent for the prosecution of sexual crimes committed en masse; UN Security Council Resolutions 1820, 1888, 2106, 1325 and others of the past few decades condemn rape as a war weapon, encourage States to uphold gender rights in conflicts, urge response to human rights violations during wars, and promote awareness of the CRSV humanitarian crisis. While helpful to the synchronization of domestic and international law, these measures remain predominantly symbolic or unfeasible; more is required still.

Côte d'Ivoire is unfortunately party to the horrors of CRSV, both at the hands of paramilitary separatists such as the Alliance Patriotique de l'ethnie Wè and ill-trained military members. Following the CRSV-ridden post-election crisis of 2010-2011, President Ouattara has taken many initiatives to combat these realities, including the founding of the Special Prosecution Cell and other "specific, time-bound commitments" according to a 15 April 2017 Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence. A 30 July 2019 periodic report on Côte d'Ivoire praises its Law No. 2014-388, Decree No. 2016-373, and others which promote and protect human rights defenders and create a "national committee to combat sexual violence", respectively. Encouraging news came from a 2018 report from the Secretary-General which concluded that there were no new sexual violence incidents by Ivorian security forces recorded in 2017. Nevertheless, problems persist. Many judges classify sexual crimes as indecent exposure misdemeanors to save time and earn better salaries in lieu of delivering appropriate justice. The few shelters for CRSV victims are ill-equipped and can only offer stays of several days. Protection programs for individuals who file complaints are scant, and CRSV remains a daily reality during conflicts. Côte d'Ivoire accepts these difficulties and acknowledges that it has room to grow, but notes that most if not all such issues stem from budget limitations which heavily restrict the ability of the state to intervene.

Among the challenges of the Human Rights Council in addressing justice around CRSV is the challenge of effectivity. While many past UN resolutions have attempted to harmonize international enforcement of counter-measures to CRSV and are complemented by special representative reports which suggest individualized actions for States to undertake in, these efforts have yet to succeed in a truly effective, sustainable way. Côte d'Ivoire hopes the Council is open to a different approach; namely, one where effectivity is achieved not through quantity but through accessibility. Such a path will allow member States to rely on legislative, judicial, diplomatic, and humanitarian means to address CRSV issues without necessarily relying on financial means to do so. Needless to say, cost-effective and comprehensive resolutions are not mutually-exclusive; it is the express hope of Côte d'Ivoire for the Human Rights Council to come together behind a resolution which addresses (1) barriers to proper reporting, documenting, and investigating of CRSV incidents (2) much-needed reform of military processes and executive bodies to better facilitate justice with regard to CRSV (3) various inadequate forms of justice; all in ways designed to ease, not strain, State economies. Expensive measures such as reparations, reintegration programs, victim shelters must still to be incorporated, but funds must be raised for these initiatives so as to not discourage States from partaking in them. In short, protocols must be secured against future CRSV, relief measures must be secured for victims, and justice must

be secured for perpetrators. Côte d'Ivoire looks forward to a productive discussion of the pressing issue of CRSV as well as to equally productive solutions.

## **II. The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests**

“Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression... Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association”—so read Articles 19 and 20, respectively, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Since 17 November 2018, radical, ‘alt-left’ revolutionaries have been taking advantage of these reasonable privileges, overrunning France in a series of protests that more often than not turn to violence as a means to advance a destabilizing agenda. Their movement stems not so much from legitimate political concerns as from irrational anger; the fuel tax and economic injustice around which their protests center are dividing a strong nation, bringing it to the brink of anarchy. French President Emmanuel Macron’s sensible reforms are undeniably aimed at progress—the concessions his administration has been forced to Yellow Vests protesters are generous on the former’s part and extortionate on the latter’s. While their liberty in the form of assembly is undeniable, the destructive implications of their partisan rhetoric is likewise so. Some sources indicate that the occurrence of violence in protests has increased by approximately 1.2% annually between 1915 and 2015; the infamous Yellow Vest Protests in France are simply one of the latest examples. The Human Rights Council must find some way or another to reconcile the right to assemble with peace, order, and stability.

Despite progress in the sphere of liberty, Côte d'Ivoire has faced relentless international criticism. Allegations have been made that the state judiciary is not independent in determining cases of human rights, that unwarranted pretrial detentions are frequent in cases of protest and assembly, and that fundamental human rights to assembly and expression are curbed by tuem state itself. Transcending this criticism, however, Cote d’Ivoire passed a new constitution in 2016 which “protects the right to free assembly” as reports the independent Freedom House; Côte d'Ivoire was also the first African nation to adopt a law that protects human rights defenders in 2014, and President Ouattara recently established the Cellule Spéciale d'Enquête (Special Investigation Cell) which has already prosecuted dozens of criminals for egregious human rights violations including suppression of speech. These positive realities are direct manifestations of President Ouattara’s “expressed commitment to ensure justice in all cases of violations of human rights.” Côte d'Ivoire acknowledges that on occasion it is required to respond with force to a protest, but resorts to this method only as a response to unlawful protests or those violent in the first place. With regard to concerns that amnesty is granted to military members who partake in protest suppression, it remains national policy to promote reconciliation, unity, and progress as opposed to excessive punishment and retribution. Overall, Côte d'Ivoire affirms the right of individuals to protest and assemble as guaranteed by the Ivorian constitution, by legislative-judicial policy, and by international law—yet affirms that these need not cost a nation order and peace.

Côte d'Ivoire is hopeful that resolutions of the Council uphold this view. The freedoms of opinion, expression, speech, assembly, protest, and association are inviolable ones, but must be guaranteed in a manner which also makes room for stability and national security. The Human Rights Council must both affirm peoples’ right to assemble peaceably and respect individual member States’ domestic balance of liberty and order. In doing so, the Council helps standardize the international approach to personal rights while simultaneously permitting nations to grow and develop individually. In light of this, one measure the Council ought to consider is the commission of special Rapporteurs through thematic mandates to publish a comprehensive evaluation of the matter across the world every certain period of time (note that country mandates which provide superficial, insubstantial comments on each nation’s policies may actually deter from the aforementioned ideals). Far more effective than the current system of short-term periodic reviews are large-scale examinations of global trends and patterns that are of greater relevance and value to the world collectively in addressing human rights issues. Côte d'Ivoire is optimistic that care will be taken along all processes to uphold national sovereignty, of course, but is confident that the Council will move in the right direction; the direction of global development and advancement.

*Delegation from: Croatia*  
*Represented by: Orange High School*

### ***Position Paper for the Human Rights Council***

The issues presented before the Human Rights council are: Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict Related Sexual Violence and The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests. Estonia recognizes the importance of these dilemmas and wishes to work with other countries for a permanent solution.

#### **I. Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict Related Sexual Violence**

In many states, issues regarding gender equality is an ongoing issue with major consequences. The issue regarding related sexual violence is a major issue, which is only made worse with conflicts. Although conflict-related sexual violence can happen to all genders and ages, it happens mostly in girls and women. This can be caused by a need for power, as doing such horrible things can be seen as a way of getting power and taking control starting on a smaller scale. Conflict-related sexual violence can be used as a weapon of war, politician aggression, and an instrument of ethnic cleansing. When basic human rights are being violated, and many innocent people are being punished, the abusers should be held accountable for their actions and be punished for their wrongdoings, and victims should be able to obtain justice. The issue of impunity from perpetrators of conflict-related sexual violence is critical to address.

Croatia thinks that Conflict-Related Sexual Violence is unacceptable and that addressing impunity for perpetrators of this horrendous act must be dealt with and victims must obtain justice. Croatia is an expert on this issue because it has dealt with this issue in the past. During Croatia's Homeland War some of 2,500 people mostly women but also men, were estimated to have suffered from severe forms of sexual violence. In many of those cases the perpetrators were unpunished. This happened between 1991 and 1995. Although this issue has been a problem in Croatia, Croatia has since adopted a law in 2015 aimed at providing victims with support, recognition, and compensation, even if the perpetrators were never found or brought to justice. Croatia was the first country to establish a fully-fledged reparation program that, usually providing an initial compensation award, monthly stipends, access to free health care, priority in housing, psychological and legal help, and in some cases a priority in public and private employment. Since then, many victims have been guided towards justice and the issue has become less severe, although many other countries still have this as a major issue.

The delegation of Croatia is committed to lowering the amount of conflict-related sexual violence events and is a leader in dealing with this issue. One way this can be solved is to hold offenders accountable for their actions in an attempt to lower the sexual violence rate. Countries should also encourage others to change Legal systems to provide justice. Croatia also urges all UN Member States to put survivors at the center of their work and develop programs aimed at helping victims. With these solutions, ways for Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence should be improved.

#### **II. The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests**

The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests is a crucial part of the success and fairness in a country. When the people of a country are unable to voice their opinion, chaos may arise and protests and disagreements become violent. The right to assemble promotes public discussions and diversity and public issues can be argued peacefully. It is also an important tool to achieve changes in society. The Yellow Vest Protests started in France in an attempt to increase fuel prices with a tax, but it has since grown into a much bigger and symbolic event.

Croatia is a big believer in individual rights and the ability of the public to express their opinion. In the Croatian constitution, all citizens are guaranteed the right to peacefully assemble and publicly protest. This has helped prevent some issues from being bigger and more violent. In many countries, citizens are not guaranteed this right. This can lead to riots, civil wars, and other major events that could have been solved before they happened. In many areas around the world, people are not happy with their government for many reasons. Many people in France are not pleased with their government. Because of this, the Yellow Vest protests were started in November of 2018 as a way to peacefully protest gas prices. With the prices rising, many French citizens were angered and went to social media to address their concerns. It then grew and protested issues on taxes, living conditions, stagnant wages, high unemployment, and other things. The idea was originally to do this peacefully but the tides turned when the government and police got mad at the protest and used force to stop them. Their methods included water cannons, tear gas, and launchers that shoot rubber pellets into the crowd. Although these methods are not supposed to cause death or serious injury, many protesters have been injured. Because of this, the French government is being watched closely by other countries. Since then France has attempted to solve the issue but it hasn't worked very well and many are still angered.

Supporting freedom of protest, Croatia suggests that France try to compromise by taking back the tax and locating the money in a different place. Although the tax has turned into more of a symbol of individual rights in France, taking back the root of the problem could at least nullify it. Furthermore, France is a country with a strong infrastructure that could support itself without the tax.

***Delegation from: Cuba***

***Represented by: Hawken Upper School***

***Position Paper for the Human Rights Council***

The issues in this topic are: Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict Related Sexual Violence and The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests. These topics are relevant in Cuba and there is hope to cooperate with other countries to help bring peace and Resolutions to these issues.

**1. Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict Related Sexual Violence**

According to the CDC, sexual violence is sexual activity when consent is not obtained or freely given. Sexual violence can happen anywhere to anyone. Today it leaves impact on all communities, regardless of ethnicity, age, gender, or sexual orientation. In Cuba, Sexual Violence is a huge problem. In the 19th century, through a document issued by Spain, many laws were set in place. Amongst many Titles and Articles, was that in regard to Crimes against Chastity. Though crimes of all categories were more than susceptible to impunity. In the 20th century the president decided to intervene, taking such crimes to the Cuban police force. Soon after, in hopes of getting ahold of Cuba, the US created a secret police force, further suppressing crime. But amidst conflict between the US and Cuba, the Cuban police took back the responsibility. Upon such changes, crime rates increased. Tourism grew, resulting in a greater population and at the same time prostitution increased. Many programs were initiated during the Castro days, to encourage women to become factory workers and learn skills such as sewing, though prostitution was still heavily increasing.

Cuba has enforced justice for sexual violence, though impunity for many remains. In Cuba, there are methods of legalizing rape. It is a custom in many countries to marry off young women. In Cuba, this is the case. Upon marriage these children are susceptible to sexual violence, and have no power to withhold or deny consent. It is a loophole in the system that allows for men to legally rape women. Sexual violence is especially a problem for women who are uneducated, as they do not have the power to take action.

Sexual violence is clearly a problem in Cuba. Cuba is still stuck in the world of inequality, but after the Cuban revolution, organizations were created to support equality. The Federation of Cuban women was created in 1960 by Vilma Espin to help support women, taking them out of their homes and into society. Women's activism is a growing movement in Cuba, though due to the presence of gender stereotyping, women are still victims of inadequate legislative action regarding sexual violence. In 1980, Cuba ratified the Convention on The Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against women. (peacewoman.org). These are steps forward as the FCW advocates for women, though it is said that the FCW has close relations with the government, in which heavily restricts civil liberties.

## **2. The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests**

The first documented protest was recorded in 1215, and they have continued through history all the way into modern times. Most times, protests have the purpose of communicating thoughts, new ideas, or displeasure. They may be directed at laws, officials, or other government related concerns. Set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is the right to join associations which people use to gather and protest. Protests have been organized through the years in many different ways, but now the newest way is by social media. Social Media is an easy way to communicate with large amounts of people and arrange a protest.

One instance in which social media was used to organize protests was in France. The population there started protesting to demonstrate their displeasure primarily with the state of taxes, conditions, wages, unemployment, and the president. In October 2018, protesters started organizing together and showing their unity by wearing yellow vests, hence creating the Yellow Vest Protests. These protests started peacefully but the peace was broken when police started using a variety of methods to break up the crowds. Among these tactics were spraying fire hoses, using tear gas, and shooting rubber pellets. Although the government is encouraging peace talks, there has been more violence in the protests which has caused more than 3,000 injuries to both protesters and police. The government won't publicly disclose what is happening in peace talks as well, so the population is also displeased about that. There have also been bills allowing police to crack down on protesters, which is making the situation tenser. There is an issue stemming from this situation which is: to what extent should freedom of speech be allowed when it started to intrude on the freedoms and lives of other people? This question can be applied to the situation in Cuba as well.

In Cuba, situations similar to the Yellow Vest Protests have arisen. The people are currently protesting against their oppressive, communist government. For years, the people of Cuba have had very few freedoms under the government. In the past, the only way to get access to a cellular device was by going to a public hotspot zone and buying a scratch-off phone card. However, that changed with the release of 3G technology. Now, Cubans are able to have cellular phones. Social media sites aren't blocked, so there have been many protests arranged on sites such as twitter and Facebook. In an interview, a 20-year-old salesman from Havana said "social networks are revolutionizing Cuba... this is the only way they will hear us". In the past, many conflict mitigation methods have had to do with peace talks and compromises, which is something the Cuban government is open to. The government of Cuba believes that these complicated issues must be approached with knowledge of both sides. There is hope to team with France and work together to solve this situation and reach compromises with the people, perhaps using social media to help mitigate this crisis.

*Delegation from: The Arab Republic of Egypt  
Represented by: Lakewood High School*

### **Position Paper for The United Nations Human Rights Council**

The United Nations Human Rights Council is has been tasked with working to resolve the following topics: Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict Related Sexual Violence; and the Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests. Egypt stands firmly behind the belief that strong solutions are needed to safeguard human rights across the globe, within a firm framework of relativism and cultural sensitivity that reflects the nature of the situations of foreign states and persons affected by human rights abuses today.

#### **I. Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict Related Sexual Violence**

As a country who has suffered greatly from this issue in the past, The Republic of Egypt understands the dire need to deter further violence from occurring. In a study done by Women of the United Nations in 2013, 99.3% of women (including young, adolescent women) reported being sexually harassed at least once in their lifetimes. 82.6-86.5% of the same women reported feeling unsafe and insecure when out in the street or using public transport. The Republic of Egypt has historically been a patriarchal society, pervading all of the Egyptian lifestyle and making it difficult for females to escape their constant subordination. Women are discouraged from pursuing political, social, and work-related goals by horrid group-rape demonstrations (the most notorious of which being in Tahrir Square). The Republic of Egypt is second only to Afghanistan in the world population in regards to frequency and prevalence of sexual harassment.

The government of Egypt has been engaged in combating the issue of gender-based sexual violence (and the punishments that should ensue), among many other nations Egypt has cooperated with. New articles were added to the Constitution of the Arab Republic of Egypt that introduced more protection for women and girls against gender-based violence, as well as the assurance of their equality to men. Article 11, dedicated to the assurance of equality and safety for women, and 53, which discussed the importance of equality before the law, were added and updated with new legislation designed to further the equality of women. The National Council for Women was created by the President of the Republic of Egypt in 2000; it is closely affiliated with the presidency and works towards developing national legislation and policy that promotes the safety and equality of women, as well as implementing consequences for those who continue to discriminate. The law, created in 2018, that institutionalized this council was built upon sentiments already iterated in the Constitution of the State--that all citizens, regardless of sex, are equal in the eyes of the law, that discrimination is punishable by said law, and that protection of women's autonomy and equal rights will be enforced by the Government of Egypt itself. Another law was passed in June of 2014 condemning the actions of verbal, physical, online, and behavioral harassment, instituting a sentence of 6 months to 5 years in prison, with possible fines in addition to this.

The Republic of Egypt would like to highlight the extent to which it has acted out against the prevalence of sexual violence and the lack of punishment that ensues. Egypt has already co-signed papers declaring its desire to combat sexual and gender based violence and inequity. The Republic of Egypt hopes to see such documentation as in its constitution implemented on a larger, more global scale. Egypt

would also wish to put special emphasis on allowing women to partake in their duties in the home and at work while being safe and protected against discrimination. Impunity should be addressed with national standards; nations should create laws punishing such actions within their own cultural parameters. Women should not have the opportunity to feel unsafe in our modern-day world.

## **II. Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests**

The Republic of Egypt understands that the right to assemble peacefully is a natural right of citizens, and should be protected as such. The right to assemble peacefully is integral to Egypt's institutions, but is also distinctly applied in a fashion most suited to Egypt's historical and current levels of security and peace. Egypt practices a balance of freedom and security that is most sensible and practical for its own purposes; this is assured in the Egyptian Constitution in Articles 55 and 54, where Egyptians are guaranteed the right to peaceful assembly if unarmed and nonviolent, but the right of the government to counter militant or societally detrimental associations is equally guaranteed. The yellow vests protests occurring of recent in France are an indicator that nations with an inadequate balance of government and civil rights cannot maintain their own population's security and order.

The Republic of Egypt has endorsed and signed onto the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights (UNDHR), as well as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), establishing an international position that supports well regulated and peaceful freedom of speech and assembly around the world. Egypt has recognized a domestic method for managing protests and civil dissent that has protected the nation from disorder and instability, through its passage of the Protest Law in 2013, which protected the nation from extreme violence and detrimental acts of association. In the interest of national security, Egypt has also moved to protect its citizens rights to peacefully assemble on their own concerns, not the interests of foreign nationals, those of whom often work to manipulate through unregulated international penetrations of Egyptian online and social platforms. In recognizing the need for a balance of keeping civil order and allowing freedom of expression, Egypt, among other nations present in the UNHRC, voted in September against the destabilizing draft resolution A/HRC/24/L.7 on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association. Egypt instead proposed multiple amendments to the draft resolution to ensure that the interests of nations of all levels of stability and security were represented, demanding less invasive investigations by foreign bodies into domestic affairs.

Eurocentric historical precedents on one's right to assemble peacefully should not be applied to any state in a manner insensitive to that nation's national security situation. The Republic of Egypt supports lessening the practice of mandated hosting of security liabilities into foreign nations sent by other states, and proposes instead a firm cooperative effort between sovereign nations themselves in identifying nationally strategic manners in which to protect citizens' rights to assembly. Unregulated expressions of protest can lead to unstable and violent waves of chaos and weakened states. Egypt promotes the guarantee of non-violent and non-detrimental associations internationally, and encourages other states to recognize objective and empathetic resolutions as the most effective way to secure the guarantee of the right to peaceful association while maintaining domestic security and order.

*Delegation from: the Democratic Republic of Ethiopia*

*Represented by: St. Vincent - St.Mary's High School*

*Position Paper for the United Nations Human Rights Committee*

The topic before the United Nations Human Rights Committee are: Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict Related Sexual Violence and The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests . The Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is dedicated to working toward solutions for these demanding issues, and looks forward to working with fellow UN nations.

I. Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict Related Sexual Violence

Sexual violence, as an act of war, has had devastating effects on entire cultures. It can destroy the social structure of a society. These acts can infiltrate the foundational unit of the family which cultures depend. These acts leave cultures vulnerable to attack and further violence. They also leave individuals to be left as statistics and forgotten. Not only are individuals often forgotten, but those who commit these violent acts often receive no punishment. They can continue committing these horrifying acts and continue this devastating cycle. Throughout history, we see examples of conflicted related Sexual Violence includes the Bosnian genocide, Democratic Republic of Congo. These tragic and far-reaching acts of war are far too many, as no example of this should be tolerated. As a global community, we recognized this as an act of war. However, we have yet to advance our justice systems to see this as an act of war rather than an act against an individual. Cases of individuals have often brushed aside or seen as a common act of violence or uncorrelated leaving organization of this war crime to be overlooked.

Ethiopia is glad to see progress in accountability and information with the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres Report on Conflicted-Related Sexual Violence. This report reflects on the progress of previous UN solutions, including Resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1960 (2010). Using the information in this report and past UN Resolutions, we can reflect on our global progress in combating impunity. The Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, in its efforts to end conflict-related sexual violence has focused on preventive measures. Ethiopia understands the need for action and is participating in the End Gender Violence in Schools initiative. The initiative works to end sexual violence among the most vulnerable demographic, young girls. Ethiopia recognizes that itself as well as the global community has many steps to take before progress in ending impunity in Sexual violence in areas conflict however if we continue to respect national sovereignty and as communities we can look for beneficial solutions.

As an international community, we need to work to carry out justice and make sure the perpetrators of these violent acts are punished. We must focus on a country by country basis to reform the way these crimes are handled as we join together as a committee. As a committee, we must look at a plan to uphold these systems in times of crisis. However, punishment should not

be the only focus as we look toward a solution; we also need to turn toward preventive measures so that the destruction of these atrocity acts never occur. Women's rights advancement is a tactic which has been used in the past to prevent sexual violence and empower women to report acts. Possible solutions can come from building on and examining past women's rights initiatives. Education of all people on this issue should be discussed in any solution created in this upcoming committee session. Education will be imperative for recognizing and prevent the use of sexual violence, especially in war. We must prevent these acts before they occur as this is better than merely focusing on carrying out justice after these atrocious crimes have been committed.

## II. The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests

Protests in many countries and regions have sparked interest in today's world. Often, citizens protest to shed light on an issue that has been prolonged and increased to the point of severity where mass change is deemed necessary by the majority. Unfortunately, there are many cases where protests do not result in a positive outcome for the majority. Headlines have shocked the world, which has drawn massive amounts of attention to this particular topic. News articles and journalists that discuss the gruesome methods enforced to break up large groups of citizens assembling under a common cause, telling of methods such as tear gas, rubber bullets, and water hosing have been implemented in many cases. Far worse equipment has been used to tarnish citizens of their right to protest, such as guns that fire lives ammunition. Such repercussions end in mass fatalities, which has historically sparked significant conflicts throughout the world on a multitude of different occasions.

Throughout history, past actions for forms of protest have been undeniably good and evil. Citizens have demonstrated that they can peacefully protest, but they have also proven that they are capable of destruction. Enshrined in the constitution of the Federal Democratic of Ethiopia; freedom of assembly is validated. Ethiopia has historically handled protests with potential to become violent in a peaceful fashion, such as the peoples' rights protests in 2016 where the internet was disabled and people with intent to harm were arrested and tried peacefully. Because of this and actions like this, the prime minister of Ethiopia

There are a plethora of options to combat this particular issue. Although there are many solutions and ideas, it is primarily the right of each country to dictate how protests should be handled. The encouragement of stricter regulation of government would impede on national sovereignty. This is why the delegation of Ethiopia would like to encourage that each country handles issues within its borders as best seen fit.

*Delegation of: Fiji*

*Represented by: Chardon High School*

### **Position Paper for Human Rights**

The issues before the Human Rights Committee are: *Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence*; and *The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests*. The delegation of Fiji is committed to a productive debate that comes to a resolution reasonable to all countries involved.

#### **A. Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence**

Addressing impunity for perpetrators of conflict-related sexual violence has become a major issue throughout the world and is continuing to affect people of all ages and genders. Sexual violence can lead to forced pregnancy, rape, prostitution, and abortion; this type of violence can scare or even damage someone's mental and physical health and can impact the rest of somebody's life. Sexual violence affects society in a way that our environment will not be as safe and secure as it used to. One in five women and one in seventy-one men get raped or sexually assaulted a year. Sexual violence needs to become a more known and worrisome subject and the Human Rights Committee needs to find a possible solution.

Fiji has one of the highest percentages of sexual violence in the world and is continuing to increase. Fiji passed the Domestic Violence Degree in 2009 and commenced in 2010. This was passed to hopefully reduce the number of people affected by sexual violence. Women eighteen to sixty-four years of age have been affected by their own partner at least once in their lifetime which turns out to be sixty-four percent of women. This also includes sixty-one percent who were physically attacked and thirty-four percent who were sexually abused. The Police Commander took part in crusades to arrest, assault, and rape of sex workers. These crusades caused perpetrators to be more violent to the police.

Addressing impunity for perpetrators of conflict-related sexual violence in Fiji needs to come to a stop and become more of a concern for citizens. Hopefully, the Human Rights Committee can come together and create a better and more effective way of protecting people of all genders and sexualities from perpetrators.

#### ***Topic B: The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests***

Actions speak louder than words, in the case of the yellow vest protest, this may lead to a bigger problem than we anticipate. The yellow vest protest is a protest against raising the prices of fuel taxes. People all over the world show their effort to stop this problem by protesting and wearing yellow safety vests to show their awareness. Nearly 4,000 officers and protesters have died or gotten injured from this all over the world. This a problem all over the world, but it is especially bad in France.

The country of Fiji is for keeping the yellow vest protest alive. We believe that it will strengthen the county and overall make it a better place. The citizens of Fiji will appreciate the country more by having fuel taxes be lower. It will make the country a happier place by allowing people to spend more money on

things they want instead of need. They also won't have to worry about not wanting a buy gas because of the price. The yellow vest project will ensure that fuel taxes will get low and stay low.

The Delegation of Fiji hopes to partner with the Yellow Vest Project in order to lower gas prices and aid the economy of Fiji and other countries. The delegation hopes the Human Rights Committee can come to a righteous solution that is fair for all countries.

*Delegation From: French Republic*  
*Represented By: Mentor High School*

***Position Paper for the United Nations Human Rights Council***

The topics for debate in the United Nations Human Rights Council are as follows: Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, and The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests. The French Republic wishes to address these topics with efficiency and urgency

**I. Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence**

The United Nations Human Rights Council was founded in 2006 with the intent to promote and strengthen human rights, and to preserve all improvements made on human rights. One of the topics currently presented to the United Nations Human Rights Council is Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence. The topic of impunity for perpetrators of sexual violence is an extremely prevalent issue and should be addressed with the utmost respect. Much of the sexual violence that occurs in modern society stems from institutionalized and cultural gender inequality, and in the face of the law, most of these perpetrators do not receive any sort of punishment for the crime committed. This is a very serious issue in today's world, and completely infringes upon basic human rights. This topic must be addressed immediately and efficiently.

The French Republic is strongly opposed to impunity for perpetrators of any form of sexual violence, whatsoever. The French Republic believes that International courts such as the ICC should be utilized when addressing these perpetrators and that no impunity should be granted. The French Republic has no military court system, so each and every perpetrator is always tried as a normal person in the face of the law. The French Republic has instituted a zero-tolerance policy for conflict-related sexual violence as well as preventative measures for the issue. The French Republic strongly urges other nations to implement such preventative measures and zero-tolerance policies. The French Republic strongly believes that these acts of sexual violence are a result of misogyny among the perpetrators. This is one of the reasons why France has implemented its zero-tolerance policy and why all individuals are tried in the same court. In cases where a female victim of sexual violence may conceive a child, the French Republic strongly urges the availability of contraceptive measures to those who may be in need. The French Republic passionately advocates for the reproductive rights of all women across the globe and believes it is imperative that women are given access to healthcare. The French Republic also strongly encourages the distribution of resources and job opportunities. Without job opportunities and resources available, women may sell themselves in order to make money to support either themselves or their families. When women are forced to sell themselves to provide, it can lead to further sexual violence. Due to this, the French Republic has provided financial aid to victims of sexual assault, which has worked well in ongoing projects to prevent sexual violence. This success has led the French Republic to firmly recommend that other nations provide funds to victims of sexual violence and draft projects against conflict-related sexual violence. The French Republic has worked hard at preventing conflict-related sexual violence, and strongly opposes impunity for perpetrators of sexual violence. The French Republic continues to implement preventative measures to the cause and urges other nations to follow in its footsteps and do the same.

The French Republic has strong positions surrounding this subject matter and hopes that delegations of the committee may use the previously stated ideas and preventative measures in their resolution writing and in debate. The French Republic believes that the committee has the potential to make a positive change on the outlook of the future, and believes that all of the steps that France has taken to prevent conflict-related sexual violence and the impunity for perpetrators of that offense have been addressed properly. The French Republic looks forward to working with other delegations on this pressing matter.

## **II. The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests**

In recent times, protests have emerged against high unemployment, taxes, stagnant wages, and poor living conditions. These protests have been deemed the ‘Yellow Vest Protest’. These protests infringe on human rights, and due to the protests stemming from issues such as poor living conditions and stagnant wages, the protests have gained mass media attention. The UNHRC is now beginning to look into how to end these protests without infringing on national sovereignty or impairing a nation’s economy; The French Republic wishes for this topic to be addressed with concern and efficiency.

In past efforts, the French Republic has gone to great lengths to end these protests and has done strenuous amounts of research on them. The Yellow Vest protests emerged as a peaceful protest, however in recent months, the protests have turned extremely violent. The French Republic has even gone as far as to use police and military force on the citizens who cause harm to the environment and those around them. The French Republic has passed bills that are meant to reprimand those who are harming police and military officials. When President Emmanuel Macron visited Buenos Aires for the G-20 summit, these protests turned into full-fledged riots. President Macron denounced the violence and stated that anyone who caused harm to the environment, or police and military officials would be found and tried in the court of law. One of the main contributing factors to the Yellow Vest Protests is the issue of mass misinformation and encouragement for escalation spread through social media. France highly discourages the use of social media because of the support for these ‘peaceful protests’ that often turn into violent riots. The French Republic also actively discourages the use of social media for privacy and security reasons. The past efforts that the French Republic has used to alleviate the Yellow Vest Protest’s violence involve police force, including water cannons, rubber pellets, and tear gas. These methods are extremely effective in breaking up violent protests and riots. In terms of domestic society and how protests in countries affect protests in other countries, all issues related to international affairs must be addressed without imposing on national sovereignty. The French Republic wishes for peace in all of Europe as well as the world. The French Republic is in favor of collaborating with other countries dealing with the same issues of protests in order to achieve peace and preserve each delegation’s national sovereignty.

The French Republic has stated it’s opinions and past efforts clearly, and wishes for other delegations to review these methods and consider them if a Yellow Vest protest is to occur in their country. The French Republic has high hopes for the committee and hopes that they can consider the past efforts seen above in their resolution writing and in debate. The French Republic believes that with proper communication and collaboration among nations, the issue of the Yellow Vest protests may be alleviated and Europe and the rest of the world can come to a consensus on how to approach and manage these protests without infringing on national sovereignty and maintaining peace globally. The French Republic looks forward to working with other delegations on this important topic.



***Delegation of: India***

***Represented by: Chardon High School***

### **Position Paper for Human Rights**

The issues before the Human Rights Committee are: Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict Related to Sexual Violence; and Discussing the Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests. The Delegation of India is committed to a productive debate that comes to a resolution reasonable for all countries involved.

#### **Topic A: Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict Related Sexual Violence**

Conflicts related to sexual violence happen all throughout the world. Many countries have not conducted proper research on the topic. Despite the lack of data available on the subject, the available data suggests that a lot of countries deal with this problem every single day. Sexual violence has a major impact on physical and mental health. The sexual violence is far too common and will affect people's overall well-being.

This issue affects the citizens of India. Some circumstances help to provoke these attacks, including marriage. A remaining tradition in India is forced or arranged marriage. This form of marriage is the structure of sexually violent acts, as when they are reported of happening, they are not taken seriously enough. In just one state in India, in a sample of 6000 men, 22% admitted to having used sexual violence against their wives. A similar and also common concept in India is child marriage. In India, the median age of first marriage is 16 years old. A survey was conducted of 5000 Indian women, and the data collected proved that 56% percent of them were married before they even turned 15.

India would like to see the Human Rights Committee make a big contribution to help organize a group of people who will help to raise awareness and create an environment where the citizens of India feel like they can safely report any future attacks of this nature. India would also like the Human Rights Committee to petition for laws against marriage of children under the age of 15.

#### **Topic B: The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests**

Protests happen throughout the world. Protesting is expressing disapproval to the government or people. The yellow vest protests are happening in France; they started in November of 2018. People are rioting against high taxes, high fuel prices, unemployment, and living conditions. Crude oil prices are increasing dramatically. People are getting mad over this. People aren't accepting President Emmanuel's new customs about taxes. Government leaders are breaking apart the mobs with defense guns and water cannons. They're rioting and protesting the streets of France. The people are wearing yellow vests as they protest. That's why it's called the yellow vest protest.

India is very aware of the protests happening in France. India, itself, has many protests. One example is the Indian anti-corruption movement or Indian anti-reservation movement. Recently, the people of India have been protesting against the on-going global climate strike and environmental issues. This relates to the protests happening in France because people are rioting and disagreeing with governmental concepts.

India has lots to contribute to the lack of fuel and car issues happening in France. India manufactures many cars. They could work on donating special cars that use renewable resources instead of fuel. This would reduce the fuel protests and anger. India also produces great amounts of fuel that could also be donated to help the country of France. India is excited to help France solve the yellow vest protests.

*Delegation from: Italian Republic*  
*Represented by: Westlake High School*

### ***Position Paper for Human Rights Council***

The issues before the Human Rights Council are: Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict Related Sexual Violence and The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests. The Italian Republic is devoted to maintaining just laws regarding providing just punishment to those who commit crimes of sexual violence and would like emphasize the importance of fortifying the right to assembly in all instances including the prevailing yellow vest protests.

#### **I. Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict Related Sexual Violence**

The Italian Republic believes that all crimes of sexual violence should be punished as a crime against personal freedom, including sexual harassment, physical or verbal, discrimination, abuse of power, and stalking. The Italian Republic is dedicated to protecting all victims of every type of sexual criminality, including conflict related sexual violence.

Due to the rise of reported attacks on women, the Republic of Italy recently passed the codice rosso, or code red law. From 2006-2016, at least 160 women were killed, and many were reported to be killed by their husband or partner, otherwise known as a femicide. The Code Red Law ensures prolonged prison sentences for the perpetrators of sexual violence, abuse, and stalking. The law also states that cases of sexual violence will now be seen by the court as a priority and those who report an incident will be summoned to a court hearing within 3 days. Similarly, the UK's prosecutions are brought under the Sexual Offences Act 2003. This rules that if you are charged with sexual assault, the maximum prison sentence is 10 years if the victim is over the age of 13, and up to 14 years if they are younger than 13. In Italy, the crimes of sexual violence can only be investigated if the victim files a formal complaint within 6 months of the attack. While the Code Red Law focuses primarily on the visual aspects of the sexual assaults, it differs from other European laws regarding sexual assault due to its raised prison time harsher punishments. This integral law expresses Italy's dedication to the cause of penalizing all perpetrators of sexual violence.

Ultimately, the Italian Republic hopes that the Human Rights committee is able to come to a proper conclusion to this international debate and ensure that perpetrators of sexual violence are allowed the comparable punishment to their crime in every instance, universally.

#### **II. The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests**

The Italian Republic regards the right to assemble as a fundamental human right and maintains that the established yellow vest protests should be permitted in any state in which the movement arises. The republic would like to reiterate its full withstanding encouragement for all countries to ensure that the inalienable right to assembly is guaranteed in all states.

The fortified support by the Italian Republic not only for the participants in these yellow vest protests but additionally for the plainly universal right of assembly has recently been publically upheld by a patent meeting between the Italian deputy prime minister and the head of the yellow vest protests himself. While other countries have a more austere relationship with the most vocal members of the yellow vest protests, Italy has made an effort to hear their voices in a show of the unwavering stance upon the all-embracing right to assembly, especially in response to the actions of one's government. The French citizens' association that make up the yellow vest protests The Republic holds that the only viable reason to forbid peaceful assembly would be if it potentially violated the safety and security of any persons. While the country fully supports citizen-led assemblies and demonstrations, it is important to denote the requirement delineated within the Italian Basic Law that all instances of public assembly must be registered in advance, purely for motivations regarding the safety of citizens both involved and otherwise removed from the situation. Italy's embrace of this guaranteed freedom stems from the horrors of its previously fascist regime, replaced in 1948 with the republic that ensures these integral freedoms. Italy stands by any group that seeks personal expression, even if their viewpoints contradict that of the government in power, and recognizes the broad value of citizens' associations.

In conclusion, the Italian Republic would like to recapitulate the opinion that all citizens' groups should be recognized in a legitimate manner no matter the group's political affiliations thanks to the universal right to freedom of assembly. The Italian Republic hopes that the Human Rights Committee is able to reach an all-encompassing agreement that guarantees this right to all peoples around the world.

*Delegation from: Japan*

*Represented by: Strongsville High School, Claire Sharp and Allyson Blazetic*

## **Position Paper on the Human Rights Council**

The issues before the United Nations Human Rights Council are Impunity in Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and the Right to Assemble in relation to the Yellow Vest Protests. The State of Japan is deeply committed to progress on these complex issues.

### **I. Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence**

Conflict-Related Sexual Violence or CRSV has been classified as a war crime as well as a crime against humanity by the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1820. Particularly in states with great amounts of violence and corruption, perpetrators are emboldened by the collapse of social and governmental structures. The International Crime Court has prosecuted few violent sexual offenders and convictions are often largely symbolic. Variability in local conflicts, underreporting, intimidation, stigma, weak judiciaries, fear of retribution, and accessibility pose some of the most prevalent obstacles to holding perpetrators of CRSV accountable. The United Nations Action against sexual violence in conflict was formed in recent years to address this issue.

Following World War II, the State of Japan has made various improvements to modernize sexual violence laws and investigations, as well as pacifist constitutional reform to ensure accountability for Japanese perpetrators. The Japanese statutes concerning sexual violence were modernized recently in an effort to promote gender equality in Japan. The State of Japan recognizes sexual violence as a fear tactic, systematic ethnic cleansing method, and radicalization technique in conflict zones. As well as recognizing social gender inequalities are at the core of a violent impact on women during conflict and peacetime.

The State of Japan recognizes the separation of municipal and international court systems and encourages the utilization of preventative and response actions for conflict-related sexual violence. With respect to nations' foreign sovereignty, systematic domestic reforms such as increasing the availability of local police forces, vetting practices for soldiers and authorities, protection for victims, and accountability for perpetrators are encouraged. Another such recommended action is ensuring the prosecution of perpetrators meets international standards and facilitating the participation of women in reform and peace processes. Educational programs can help to train local authorities to reduce stigmatization and modernize police practices as well as strengthen basic social services such as legal aid and health care. The prioritization of survivors' welfare is integral in establishing an information system on sexual and gender-based violence, especially in cases involving non-state actors. United Nations-sponsored awareness campaigns may also contribute to a reduction in underreporting and cultural backlash. The State of Japan also encourages adequate allocation of resources to CRSV survivors and prosecutions and International Crime Court investigations. Finally, a holistic approach to varying conflicts and cultural expectations, considering local perspectives in all actions.

### **II. The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests**

An alarming rise in protest worldwide has affected almost all countries in some shape or form. Leading causes for any protest includes regional conflicts, unpopular politicians, the status quo, and other causes of social unrest. The Yellow Vest Protests in France, have been some largest protest in the contemporary world. The main cause of these protests was the increase in crude oil prices in November of 2018. Since then they have become significantly more violent and larger amounts of people have taken to the streets. In total there have been eleven casualties and three killed in traffic accidents. There is no exact reason why the yellow vest but most of the patients are rural minorities. Who, under a 2008 law, were required to keep these yellow vests in their vehicles in case of an emergency. The protest's main focus is to fix the Globalisation Neoliberalism Corruption Labor code reform high taxes Macron's economic positions.

The country of Japan is on that allows protest; in Article 21 of The Constitution of Japan, “Freedom of assembly and association, as well as speech, press and all other forms of expression, are guaranteed.” The Japanese have had only seven major protests throughout the last couple of centuries. This shows how the Japanese don't feel the need and want to create violent protests, like other countries in the world. The Japanese Constitution provides its citizens with the freedom of speech, press, and declares the right of people to choose and replace publically elected officials. This allows the citizen of Japan to not result in protest the first time around on a large issue.

Japan recognizes the issues of the Yellow Vest Protest and encourages France to look into options to stop the protest now before they escalate further. First Japan strongly encouraged to try and create new laws on violent protests and stricter punishment to those who are creating the mass protest. Next to address is to enforce a more advanced police force. A three-tier system, like Japan, would encourage less violence and the police would have more control over the civilians. Finally if the issues itself were addressed of the oil prices, try to make the people happy. If everyone is treated the same city and rural areas much could be done.

*Delegation from: Mexico*  
*Represented by North Olmsted High School*

### **Position Paper for the United Nations Human Rights Council**

The topics of the issue for the United Nations Human Rights Council: Addressing impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict Related Sexual Violence and the Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vests Protests. The delegation of Mexico is determined to reform actions taken against perpetrators related to sexual violence and addressing the concerns that fuels the Yellow Vest Protests.

#### **I. Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict Related Sexual Violence**

The necessity of addressing the impunity of perpetrators violating laws related to sexual violence is imperative to Mexico. Mexico and many countries in Latin America have high rates of sexual violence that result in little to no proper charges for violators. Due to the lack of implications of sexual violence laws, perpetrators are consistently assaulting victims. Higher crime rates can mean poverty is prevalent, more civil unrest, and there is less prominent authority. All contributing factors to fuel the deadly Drug War and the chance that more sexual assault may occur. 94% of rapes in Mexico go unreported. Mexico's justice reform in the judicial sector that occurred began in 2008 and sought to be implemented by 2016 advocates that will help Mexico achieve a more democratic rule of law by introducing greater transparency, accountability, and due process to Mexico's judicial sector. Mexico advocates for lowering rates of sexual violence by implementing stronger rules and regulations in order to improve economic, social, and government conditions. By doing so, it may improve other countries' as well.

High rates of sexual violence within a community is a sign. A sign of distress within the community, revealing the ugly economic, social, and government corruption. In 2015, the rape rate for Mexico was 12.6 cases per 100,000 population. Though Mexico rape rate fluctuated substantially in recent years, it tended to increase through 2006 - 2015 period ending at 12.6 cases per 100,000 population in 2015. More women stay at home rather than work because of the increasing sexual violence. Less working women means the rate at which money spent decreases. Interviews for this study revealed a situation involving women workers in the subway stations of Mexico City. These women were subject to harassment by union leaders, who demanded sexual favors throughout the hiring process and as a requirement to keep their jobs. The new government of the PRD (Democratic Revolution Party) in Mexico City has attempted to address this issue by allowing the Human Resources Office of the subway system to control the hiring process, and by appointing women to some supervisor and management positions. The Federal Criminal Code criminalizes sexual harassment under Article 259, which leads to most victims being reluctant to report such behavior for fear of losing their jobs, creating a continuous abusive trend. Apart of the reason the rate of rape is increasing is due to a the intense focus on ending the ongoing drug war. However, it has been shown that most sexual violence victims will be addicted to alcohol, cocaine, marijuana, and other drug abuse. By cutting down rates of sexual violence, it can aid Mexico fight the ongoing Drug War more efficiently. The lack of justice in sexual assault cases is simply a harsh condition due to the Drug War in Mexico that claims hundreds of lives daily, including in countries in Latin America. Police corruption runs rampant because of the Drug War and in effect the impunity of perpetrators of sexual violence increases. Mexico wishes to thoroughly address sexual violence and in turn can chip away at the everlasting Drug War. We believe that by addressing sexual violence rather than the Drug War head on as we have for many years, a new perspective could mean further breakdown of the Drug War.

Mexico advises completely new revisions to the police system. Bribery of officials must be eliminated, any corrupt officials purged. Specifically trained supervisions must be put into place to create harmony among the policing force. All courts must have additional judges to make sure there is no impunity of perpetrators. Creating a new set of laws regarding violators must be made. Jail time, parole, and number of community service must be specified. This does have a tremendous cost. Mexico implores the UNHRC to ask surrounding countries to contribute a fund for Mexico. By providing additional funds, these new revisions can be put into place and decrease sexual violence, meaning that the Drug War can have effective measures finally taken towards it. And ending the Drug War means lives can be saved by the hundreds in Mexico and Latin America, and less sexual violence and other terrible conditions that come with the Drug War.

## II. The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vests Protest

Protests signify a large enough concern within a country that a group of citizens finds significant enough to gather in order to rally for change. Many large scale protests can cause radical change within a governing body, shown through the classic examples of the American Whisky Rebellion or any of the French Revolutions. In fact, the Yellow Vest Protests originated in France where the original concern was the influx of oil prices for French citizens. Many of these concerns reside in Mexico. Mexico is currently experiencing an oil crisis which has brought upon Mexico's own Yellow Vest Protests. Through a specific social app called Whatsapp, a cross-platform messaging and voice over IP service has allowed for the instant spread of the Yellow Vest Protest. Mexico views the Yellow Vest Protests that are within Mexican borders as a valid concern because of the illegal siphoning and distribution of oil done by illegal groups. If this issue is not addressed properly, the economic consequences will be severe due to the prominence of oil exports and the increase of crime will damage communities further, and the Yellow Vest Protest may grow in numbers and severity. Mexico looks to judicial reform and the creation of groups to halt the illegal infiltration of oil companies and selling of oil. If Mexico continues to suffer from this issue, the Yellow Vest Protest may grow out of hand and affect surrounding countries. Mexico calls upon the UNHRC to aid Mexico as well as France, who faces the Yellow Vest Protests with higher intensity but facing the same issues.

There has been a shift of booming business from illegally distributing drug cartels to illegally siphoning oil. This shift of illegal business has damaged the country economically and socially. Crude oil is the number one export in Mexico, accumulating 14 billion from the market. Mentioned before, the heightened focus on the drug war has caused oil theft and other types of theft or illegal activity to increase. This increase in illegal activity has resulted in deaths. The Mexican city La Preciosita, an illegal oil pipe was set out for locals to rush and collect the free flowing oil. A puncture within the pipe caused an explosion, nearly killing one hundred people. Gangs have made more than 12,000 illegal taps resulting in the loss of profit. The money going towards these gangs fund other illegal activities that contribute to the rising crime rates of Mexico, oil theft becomes more and more prominent, hurting the industry because we are the seventh largest producer of oil. These oil siphoning damages not only the Mexican oil industry, but agriculture in Mexico. Due to oil theft, it has left environmental turmoil, there are more than 4,500 contaminated sites, anywhere near these sites, farmers are unable to water their crops. Vegetables become contaminated, which accumulates 7.2 billion dollars yearly as an export. Farmers cannot afford to clean his land, and continues to use contaminated water that could poison people due to the fuel in the water. This is prominent in other countries as well, such as Nigeria. These are more than enough reasons to take on solving these issues raised by the public.

The Yellow Vest Protests have swept the globe, manifesting in Lebanon and Chile as well. To effectively address and stop the Yellow Vest Protests, it is evident that force must be wielded. One country must address these public issues and therefore shut down the Yellow Vest Protests to set an example, a plan for other countries that have these ongoing protests to take action to satisfy the public but keep government interests in mind. While President Obrado has promised to stop oil theft, Mexico does need aid in order to do so. Mexico proposes that funds are provided to a special force, specifically to stop oil theft. While Mexico has made efforts to do this, it is at a smaller scale than it should be to tackle the massive issue. To have a specialized force like America's CIA or FBI would have to be necessary to take down oil theft. This can boost Mexican economy, a prominent player in global trade, moral between the people, and lower crime rates. If this does occur, other countries will desire to follow to achieve the same results. By creating these special groups, they can be sent over to other countries who have similar issues. And if the protests continue, they can under law but if they resort to violence, it must be immediately shut down. Military force may have to be necessary in order to protect the public from harm. While protests are important for voicing the general concerns, violence is not tolerated for voicing these concerns. The right to assemble is important, but so is the general public's health. The Yellow Vest Protests have raised fair concerns. And it is time for the UNHRC to address them, starting with Mexico.

***Delegation From: Federal Republic of Nigeria***  
***Represented By: Beachwood High School***  
**Committee: United Nations Human Rights Council**

The issues before the Human Rights council are: Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict Related sexual violence and The Right to Assemble and the Study and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests.

***I. Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict Related Sexual Violence***

Throughout history there has been conflict related sexual violence (CRSV) committed around the world, today the problem is getting worse. In the current societal climate, only 230/1000 cases of sexual incidents are reported and on average only 5 of the 230 reported cases are given a felony charges. The issues related to CRSV are overlooked and the dangerous citizens committing these crimes are given impunity and walk free. The Federal Republic of Nigeria believes that sexual criminals should not be given impunity and CRSV needs to be stopped, but nations should be afforded their sovereignty when addressing the issue.

In Nigeria today CRSV and abduction of young women is a prevalent issue. A major contributor is the Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad or Boko Haram, a Islamic extremist group. Boko Haram takes women and children and enslaves them and often makes them sexual slaves. Boko Haram has constantly used CRSV for a variety of purposes including ethnic cleansing. Nigeria also has a large Aids/Hiv issue today, more than two million people that inhabit Nigeria today have Aids or Hiv. Also noting that half of the population(one million) with Aids/Hiv are women. Today, Nigeria is the most populous African nation with 190 million people. Many of the CRSVs committed in Nigeria come from Boko Haram who terrorizes the Northeast section of Nigeria. Boko Haram carries out attacks on bus stations, churches, on police and even a UN headquarters. Including ruthless attacks on civilians, Boko Haram captures young women and sells them on the black market, according to Boko Haram, Allah permits one to sell humans. Additionally, in Nigeria a poll stated that three out of every ten people know a rape victim and 79% of rapes go unreported.

The Nigerian delegation believes that sexual related crimes need to be more monitored and prevented, and dealt with in collective means between nations. Nigeria is actively taking steps to stop CRSV. Nigeria has a Sexual Offenses Bill, passed in 2015 that gives sex offenders and rapists life in prison. The Child's Rights Act, passed in Federal Parliament in 2003, made the legal age of consent in Nigeria 18, but the bill was not passed in all Nigerian states. Boko Haram, a Islamic extremist group in the Northern Part of Nigeria, is responsible for many abductions and rapes spans multiple nations so Nigeria calls on other African Nations involved to help stop Boko Haram and its prevalent use of terror tactics and ethnic cleansing. The Federal Republic of Nigeria believes that the issues with CRSV needs to be dealt with but the issues need to be dealt with national sovereignty kept in mind.

***II. The Right to Assemble and the Study and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests.***

Currently, there are protests all around the world; some have to do with freedoms and rights, others have to do with the environment. However, most important are the labor protests happening around the world, in particular the Yellow Vest Protesters in France. The protest rooted in France that spurred into 29 other countries fights for better conditions for labor/wage workers. The protest started in 2018 when the price of crude oil increased and French Labor workers wanted a higher minimum wage. The protest called for French President Emmanuel Macron to step down because of his poor treatment of the labor workers in France. The protests are ongoing now and turned violent in November of 2018. The yellow vest symbol represents the Yellow vest that is required in motorists cars in case of emergency. The inexpensive yellow vest became the symbol of the working middle class movement.

The Federal Republic of Nigeria strongly believes that a nation should acknowledge the voices of its people but in a diplomatic context, in a holistic discussion, and on a national level rather than an international one. In the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chapter 4 line 40, Nigerian citizens have the “right to peaceful assembly and association.” The Nigerian legislative assembly also has the power of minimum wage, trade unions, industrial disputes, and the safety and welfare of the labor workers. Thirty percent of the Nigerian population is involved in the labor force. Over the past 30 years, the labor force has increased from 29 million to 59 million. Nigerian workers are paid a minimum living wage. The oil, gold and cocoa bean industry dominate Nigerian exports.

Nigeria encourages free speech and the upholding Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Everyone is subject to the law and should conduct themselves accordingly. Nigeria promotes the creation of policy limiting the extent of communication revolving around protests if those communications incite violent or terrorist activities. Nigeria believes that government action is justified to halt or disperse protesters if public order and safety is threatened. Throughout the 21st century the Nigerian Government has passed a series of laws to help the wage workers in the countries. The acts span from trade unions to pensions and pension reform to benefit Nigerian workers, the acts also address minimum wage. In Nigeria there are also federal regulations on job termination, setting notices depending on how long a person has worked.

Nigerian workers do have the right to assemble and hold peaceful protests. Nigeria condemns the French Yellow Vest Protesters for using violence. Nigeria supports the French Government in their necessary suppression of the violent protests and holds the view that as long as protests are peaceful, opinions can be expressed. Nigeria believes the United Nations should create regulations for nations to be used during violent uprising within their countries. Nigeria agrees with workers protesting for rights, but condemns violence being used during these protests; therefore Nigeria urges the United Nations to pass resolutions regarding violent protests.

*Delegation from: Nigeria*

*Represented by: Fairport Harding High School*

## **Position Paper for the United Nations Human Rights Council**

The issues for the United Nations Human Rights Council are: Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence; and The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests. Nigeria has bills, policies, and teams put into place to help with the sexual violence and rights of genders. Nigeria believes it is important to have the right to peacefully assemble because it's a way the public can express their views to their leaders, and to others in society.

### **I. Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence**

In 2015 UNICEF reported that one in four girls and one in ten boys are victims of sexual violence before the age of 18 in Nigeria and according to a survey by Positive Action for Treatment Access reported that over 31.4 percent of girls in Nigeria said that their first sexual encounter was rape or a forced sex of some kind. Nigeria is not proud of these numbers nor do we condone these acts and we have things in place to try and stop these acts. Below are some of the things that we are trying to do to fix these sexual violence issues that we are having.

In 1995, Nigeria created our own National Human Rights Commission which now has a website. This website has different focus areas and the very first one is “ the rights of women and other gender-related matters.” In the article on this focus area, Nigeria speaks about how women do have rights but are denied these rights due to their gender. According to this article, there is 18 human rights framework for the protection and promotion of women's rights, some are local, international, or regional. In 2006 there was a National Gender Policy adopted by the Federal Government and now there is a bill being made up for women. Nigeria is trying to change the bad look upon us about sexual violence, we have many things set into place to help but most are not being enforced or being followed by the citizens of Nigeria.

Nigeria Calls upon the United Nations to help us enforce the rules and policies set into place by us, so we can execute these horrible acts being done in our country. We would also like to call upon the UNICEF and the CSW to help Nigeria put more or even more efficient rules and policies in place that are more effective than what we have now. Nigeria wants to be known as a nation that gives women equal rights and enforces all of these rules.

## **II. The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests**

France wanted to raise taxes on fuel. Motorists were against this so they started protesting in smaller regions of the nation on Saturdays, wearing their yellow safety vests and creating roadblocks. Violence ensued as the protests made their way into Paris. Some of the violence included store windows being broken, buildings being vandalized, important monuments defaced, things being set on fire, and tear gas thrown into people's faces. On top of that, roadblocks caused multiple car crashes, which killed several people. France has allowed these violent protests to go on for months.

It is important to have the right to peacefully assemble because it's a way the public can express their views to their leaders, and to others in society. It promotes diversity and public discourse, plus it's the right way to achieve change in society. In most countries, it is a constitutional right to assemble. Organizers of assemblies have to choose the time and place that may be appropriate for expressing and conveying their views. Though most citizens throughout the world have the inherent right to assemble, there are practical limitations to those rights such as not being allowed to assemble in the middle of the night.

In 1995, Nigeria established the National Human Rights Commission. The Human Rights Commission aligns with the UN General Assembly, which established independent National Institutions for the promotion, protection, and enforcement of human rights. As was previously stated, these assemblies change society for the better. Nigeria has been working hard to ensure each of our citizens' rights are protected. Nigeria requests that every nation in the UN keeps the Universal Human Rights Declaration in practice. This will ensure that people throughout the world can feel safe as they practice their inherent right to assemble.

Nigeria would like to use information from the Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association to establish an independent commission. This commission will review the data from the Rapporteur to determine whether a country will be declared contumacious. If found so, the commission will formulate a list of actions for the government to implement to correct the nation's human rights violations. This independent commission will succeed in ending the violent protests happening within the Yellow Vest Protest in France.

***Delegation of: Philippines***

***Represented by: Chardon High School***

### **Position Paper for the Human Rights Committee**

The issues before the Human Rights are: Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of conflict related sexual violence; and The Right to Assemble and Study of the Yellow Vest Protest. The delegation of the Philippines is committed to a productive debate that comes to a resolution reasonable to all countries involved.

#### **A. Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict Related Sexual Violence**

Gender related violence has been occurring more and more often in many different areas of the world. There are many different types that attack a specific age range or gender. The sexual violence rate is highest in women. Sexual violence is non consensual and forced upon a person. Some countries with higher rates in sexual violence can be considered violence related to conflict. If a war is going on in the country it is more likely for the rates to be higher. Unfortunately the people doing the crime are given impunity. The criminals are barely held accountable for the trauma they put the other person through.

In the Philippines, the Safe Spaces Act was put in place to stop harassment. It prohibits groping, sexual slurs, cat-calling, wolf-whistling, and stalking. This has helped the Philippines tremendously. The Philippines has also made very strict punishments for the criminals that preform sexual violence. Perpetrators will be given prison time depending on how severe their actions were, and they will also be given a fine ranging from one thousand dollars to ten thousand dollars.

As the delegation of the Philippines it is our belief that no matter how many laws are put in place they will only work if they are enforced equally and firmly . The delegation believes that new laws banning sexual violence and creating a bigger punishment will make the rate of sexual violence decrease dramatically. However, this will only work if the laws are enforced properly.

#### **B. The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests**

The Yellow Vest Protest originated in France as a result of people who live in rural areas who couldn't pay the high price of fuel to get to the city. The protest started in the small areas around the city, but it quickly grew larger. It started with only lower class citizens, but now middle class citizens are also questioning their living standards. The protest has grown violently by the people wearing yellow vests blockading around the city. They have been looting shops, vandalizing buildings, and even attacking officers. Other countries in similar situations have created punishments for citizens who participate, or some countries have given the people what they wanted to stop the protest.

In the Philippines, the government has reacted in multiple different ways to protests and rights in their own country. In the Philippines constitution it states that "No law shall be passed abridging the freedom of speech, of expression, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and petition the government for a redress of grievances." The Philippines government is not allowed to make laws that

take away the right to assemble. In a situation similar to the Yellow Vest Protest in the Philippines, the government would be allowed to shut it down. In the constitution it says they are allowed to peacefully assemble. As the Yellow Vest Protest has become violent, it would no longer be a right the citizens would have. In France the right to assemble is also being abused because they are also only allowed to peacefully assemble. The law in France is that they can turn down the assembly if it is disturbing public order. While this protest has grown on non-peacefully the government should shut down the people because it is no longer apart of their rights.

The delegation of the Philippines believes that people should have the right to assemble. However, when the protest becomes violent the right to assemble is no longer valid. The Yellow Vest Protest has shown that assembly can grow violent. In the case of a violent protest the right to assemble is no longer adequate.

*Delegation from: the State of Qatar*  
*Represented by: Saint Joseph Academy*

*Position Paper for the Human Rights Council*

The issues before the Human Rights Council are: Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict Related Sexual Violence; and The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests. The State of Qatar desires protection of the Right to Assemble, and a swift resolution to Conflict Related Sexual Violence in times of war and tension.

**I. Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict Related Sexual Violence.**

Conflict related sexual violence (CRSV) is an embarrassing issue that has unfortunately always been present. However, the discourse surrounding the topic is a more recent development. In the past, it was assumed to simply be a byproduct of war; although, it has been recently assumed to still be a punishable offense by a multitude of nations. The International Human Rights Law (alongside other legislation such as the International Humanitarian Law and International Crime Law) has concluded that CRSV is now a punishable crime. Sexual violence in times of war and conflict is now being discouraged, both through conversation and the implementation of further training and encouragement to prevent the offense.

United Nations sanctions have been utilized to further prevent CRSV in times of conflict. While the Qatari Constitution does not explicitly mention crimes based in sexual assault, the Qatar Penal Code states in Article 294: “Anyone who instigates debauchery, dissipation or prostitution in public by words, gestures or any other means is convicted to no less than six months and no more than three years in prison.” Therefore, the Delegation of Qatar deems CRSV as a form of debauchery, and based upon implemented policy within the state, supports the punishment of such war crimes. Conflict related sexual violence, whether utilized as a strategy or war or simply debauchery, should be treated a crime and not simply as a result of war. CRSV displays that the focus of militaries is not directed in the correct areas, and such offenders are more distracted by selfishness than defending that of the nation’s pride.

Article 53 of the Constitution of Qatar, explicitly states that the protection of the state is the duty of all citizens. It is the belief of Qatar that the utilization of such mindset would prevent CRSV in times of war, as well as strengthen world military. By viewing CRSV as a form of debauchery, and discouraging the practice, the rates of its occurrence could be greatly reduced with little cost or additional policy. This would make the resolution of this topic much more rapid, and appease a wide variety of nations in its both its subjectivity and flexibility. The committee should address this topic with a full understanding of its depth, and strive to come to a quick resolution.

## **II. The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests**

Allowing peaceful assembly is an important right in the State of Qatar. Being able to calmly gather poses little problem as long as there are the proper authorities present to keep the people in check. Continuing the practice of allowing assembly allows for citizens to stand for themselves and what they believe in a safe and contained way. Under Article 44 of the Constitution of Qatar, it is stated that “The right of citizens to assemble is guaranteed in accordance with the provisions of the law.” However, in order to continue to protect not only those who are peacefully protesting, but any counter-protesters and bystanders, the presence of police forces ensures that protection and limits any possibility for violence to occur. As Qatar has had very little issues with these laws since they have been in place, it is the best interest of the country to continue to allow citizens the right to assemble.

In 2011, a large group of Qatari citizens gathered to protest the Syrian regime and support those who had already been opposing its vile actions. This act of civil coordination to speak their mind motivated many others around the Arab world to combat the injustices in Syria. In addition to this example of the positive effects of peaceful assembly, the necessary actions of police is supported by the Egyptian protests at their Embassy, where police took measures to ensure that everyone remained as safe as possible. Behavior such as this seems to be absent in France, where citizens have been allowed to form a tumultuous group and ruin a city in order to prove a point. Inciting violence and causing harm to others is not the way to fight for human rights because others will only be more likely to look down upon violent groups and think of such institutions as wild and unorganized.

Qatar will continue to fight for the right of citizens to publicly support a cause. As has been shown in the past, the State of Qatar is committed to securing public, safe, and peaceful assembly. Whether it is through the nation’s Constitution itself, or previous actions of the government, the country has shown that it is committed to promoting the values of safety and security in assemblies, ensuring that there remains order in the nation. Qatar cannot and will not stand for disorderly actions of citizens, such as in the Yellow Vest Protests, because of the harmful unrest that they cause in society. Other nations should follow in the footsteps of Qatar in allowing a baseline of controlled civil protest in order to protect general safety while simultaneously granting the ability for citizens to assemble.

*Delegation from: the Republic of Rwanda*  
*Represented by: Archbishop Hoban High School*

### *Position Paper for the Human Rights Council*

The issues facing the Human Rights Council are: Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict Related Sexual Violence; and Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests. Rwanda aims to protect the safety and wellbeing of all those currently affected by both the unfair impunity of sexual offenders as well as the controversial Yellow Vest protestors.

#### **I. Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict Related Sexual Violence**

The act of sexual violence is a dangerous and extremely harmful transgression that often leads to systematic marginalization, as so clearly seen in the devastating genocide occurring in the state of Rwanda in 1994. These detestable acts set dangerous precedents and directly violate a multitude of international laws, not the least of which being the 1st article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In dealing with the criminals guilty of genocide and sexual violence in Rwanda, an international court was established to help punish said individuals. This ensured swift and strict punishment of all offenders, with no leniency. In the aftermath of this tragedy, harsher legislature has been implemented in Rwanda to ensure apt punishment for sexual offenders.

As seen in Customary International Humanitarian Law rules 94 and 156, sexual violence and rape is vehemently prohibited and considered to be a war crime of a serious nature. Additionally, common article 3 of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 spoke against the perpetrators of such violence. Acknowledging this, the Statute of The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda made clear, in articles 3 and 4, that there would be prosecution for those who committed heinous war acts of a sexual nature. Given the severity of the situation, this action was completely necessary to punish these war criminals. Affirmative action is necessary to prevent a dangerous cycle of impunity in these offenders.

It is unfortunate that, internationally, the conviction rate for perpetrators of sexual violence is so low, and therefore a much more affirmative plan that rejects impunity for said criminals must be established. The Republic of Rwanda urges its fellow member nations of the UNHRC to abolish symbolic punishments and take concrete actions against those who commit acts of mass sexual violence. Victims of sexual assault deserve to feel safe, and this can only occur if they can trust local law enforcement to be aware of the gravity of this crime and to detain those who have committed such crimes. For this reason, the Republic of Rwanda also encourages that the UNHCR develops guidelines for law enforcement training. Additionally, further initiatives to education nations and their people on the severity of impunity will help to raise awareness on national levels, and push individual states to action. The need for effective combatants to prevent impunity for

sexual offenders is severe, and as such Rwanda encourages further action to be taken towards this very severe issue.

## **II. Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests**

The Republic of Rwanda acknowledges the severity of the sentiments accompanying the Yellow Vest Protests and wishes to emphasize the importance of the right to assemble. However, in the case that the government is being slandered and acts of aggression are being committed, further action can and should be taken. Rwanda is a strong proponent of the right to assemble, and as such these rights should be respected. However, considering the case of the horrendous Rwandan genocide from 1994, this right can lead to much worse, more violent circumstances. It stands to reason, then, that when turning violent, state and international bodies have legitimate reason to step in and prevent any further acts of aggression from occurring. While economic concerns following the Yellow Vest Protests express legitimate concerns, the violence raises many questions about the ideology and boundaries of the protestors.

Balance in these situations is difficult to maintain. Many violent insurrections throughout history have arisen from lack of a government's sympathy for its subjects, such as the Peasants Revolt of 1381, yet similar violent revolts have been successfully settled by government intervention, such as the American Whiskey Rebellion of 1794. There are times when it is necessary to have the government step in, as violence protests set a dangerous precedent. Furthermore, the UNDHR should further define the rights and limits of protesters, particularly when these assemblies interfere with the rights and safety of others. Rwanda strongly supports the right to free speech and assembly, however boundaries must be drawn in the case of endangerment to others.

Speaking to the specifics of the Yellow Vest Protest, Rwanda would like to emphasize the desire to see a peaceful resolution reached. However, this state also acknowledges there may be a need for the French government to pursue more affirmative action against any violent protests. The current communication between the French government and the protesters has unfortunately yielded minimal results. As such, the government has the right to protect its citizens from further acts of violence disruption being caused by the Yellow Vest Protest. The Republic of Rwanda would look favorably upon an initiative to clarify the rights of those assembling in protest. This addendum to the UNDHR must explicitly state that governments have the right to interfere with protests that become violent or threatening to another group, thereby infringing upon the rights of this group.

*Delegation from: Saudi Arabia*

*Represented by: North Olmsted High School*

### **Position Paper for Human Rights in Saudi Arabia**

The issues in Saudi Arabia that have been causing some concern to the public have been: Addressing impunity for perpetrators of conflict related sexual violence and The right to assemble the Yellow Vest Protests happening in France in which we have an Embassy. The delegation of Saudi Arabia is committed to keep its citizens safe.

#### **I. Conflict Related Sexual Violence**

Conflict related sexual violence, or CRSV, has been occurring around the world during times of war for thousands of years. These crimes most often occur on women and children and the perpetrators often go unpunished. While CRSV has been happening for an incredibly long time, an increasing number of these crimes are occurring in The Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan and Somalia, all countries which have internal conflict occurring. These cases of CRSV both literally and figuratively hit close to home for Saudi Arabia. In the Democratic Republic of Congo in particular the United Nations reported 1,049 cases of CRSV, approximately 70% of those cases were reported to be perpetrated by one of Congo's armed groups and the remaining 30% by the Congolese police. In March of that year the police took steps to prevent sexual violence in the Congo.

We at Saudi Arabia wish to make the world a safer place however these numbers may be over reported and allegations of rape should remain as such, allegations. All accusations must be taken with a grain of salt and should be extensively researched to confirm or deny whether or not they are factual. All that aside, the actions taken by the Congolese government were a step in the right direction and are what we should all be looking to do. Furthermore, actions must be taken to hold true perpetrators accountable during difficult times when conflict is occurring. CRSV has been happening for too long to be allowed to continue! It is finally time to end this problem which has endured for thousands of years, affecting countless, men, women, and children.

#### **II. Yellow Vest Protests**

The yellow vest protests have been an ongoing riot since late 2018 in France. They started when the Prime Minister Emmanuel Macron raised taxes on motor fuel. Many motorists were angry at this and started to protest by wearing the yellow emergency vests, which were meant to be worn when there was a serious emergency. This became an issue when thousands of motorists began blocking french roads to riot. Police were trying to get the rioters to move away from the road, on which the Louvre is located, so tourists can get to and from. Which had resulted in police throwing tear gas at the crowds multiple times. Although, through police efforts, protesters began to riot in the streets, even throw projectiles at capitol buildings. The reason people are continuing to riot over the tax prices are because of Prime Minister Emmanuel Macron not talking about the raising of the taxes or the riots, what many are calling unjustified police actions, and even the protestors turning on their Prime Minister, saying that he should resign.

Saudi Arabia believes that to keep its citizens safe, the protests need to stop, but in the meantime urges citizens and tourists to avoid the areas the protests are taking place. As Saudi Arabia has been apart of the French Embassy for a long time, and has helped with decisions for a long time. What the french police are doing and not doing are what most causes a concern to the public and the government. As the police have tried to calmly move and avoid and physical conflict with the protestors, yet as the protestors became more violent, political, and refusing to move, the police had to be more aggressive and eventually had to throw tear gas to get the rioters to stop. Many of the protestors started yelling “Macron resign” while throwing projectiles at capitol buildings as a way to show their political resentment. Saudi Arabia believes that to keep their citizens safe that the french police took all the right precautions, yet still urge citizens to be wear of the protests.

However, the putting away of the political aspects of the rioters needs to be stopped if we want to make any progress. The protests are going to continue unless Emmanuel Macron speaks up about the raising of fuel tax prices. The political actions such as the throwing of projectiles and choice words towards the Prime Minister, of the protestors need to be monitored. If the french government takes matters to quickly then the Saudi government could face a backlash from the citizens. Saudi Arabia would like to see peaceful protest, and look at protests from the past and relate them to now and how they are different. It is very clear that the yellow vest protests are something needed to keep the country going, but need to be monitored to keep the citizens safe.

***Delegation from: Representative of Senegal  
Represented by: Berea Midpark Highschool  
Committee: Human Rights Council***

### ***Position Paper on United Nations Human Rights Council***

The issues before the Human Rights Council are: addressing impunity for perpetrators of Conflict Related to Sexual violence and the right to assemble and a study of the yellow vest protests. Senegal is eager to strengthen the rights of all Senegalese.

#### **I. Addressing impunity for perpetrators of Conflict Related to Sexual violence**

In 2016, there has been a widespread of strategic and mass rapes, genocide, forced displacement, and arbitrary detention. Numerous women escaped or released from armed forces or terrorist groups. Unfortunately, many problems of sexual violence have been a problem in Africa, it's used as a tactic of war, it was often targeted to specific communities so that they'd escape which includes natural resources such as cobalt and gold. It was a tool for repression, to ruin peaceful protests, and to influence an election to intimidate women's right and journalist would cover these issues. Terrorists use sexual violence to create a new generation of children to use as their image and to pass on their plans according to their ideology.

The Senegal government is aware of the situation that is going on, they established robust child protection strategy on 2013 which it made child committees complemented secondary schools for girls with the help of the international organizations. They also proposed a target to end teen pregnancies and to empower girls. President Macky Sall who was reelected in February, instructed the minister justice to draft a law proposal which should criminalize rape and demanded the government to apply a law that ends gender-based violence, sexual violence, and to ensure the safety of Senegalese people.

As the representative of Senegal, we are eager to help women to avoid sexual violence. We highly believe that women should never experience what they've experienced because it can cause trauma and the feeling of emotional invalidation. As the Senegal government also focuses on this issue, we would like to propose a new form of punishment to the sexual predators who take advantage of each citizens especially women and that form of punishment isn't just serving jail time but a form of punishment that scars the suspect to never do this again is to the removal of their private parts. Another solution to implement is that all citizens should have their own protection like pepper spray or a free karate or judo class for each individual especially girls and boys. It's not always going to work but as long as it avoids sexual violence, it should never be ignored. Each country's government should approach its citizens through preaching the importance of self-defense is at schools, communities, and to announce. Even if some of the media are biased, as long as it spreads the word, people of each country will hear the word.

#### **II. The right to assemble and a study of the yellow vest protests**

On February 14, 2019 the protest in France has convinced the authorities to rethink their law enforcement. It all began on the tax fuel hike which converted into economic anxiety and anti-establishment sentiment that it encourages violence by torching banks and businesses. More than 1,700 have been injured in the protest. Yellow vest activists accused the police of heavy-handed repression of their right to protest. Stun grenades and rubber bullet launcher injured many people who are protesting.

The UNHCR are investigating about this situation. The high officials told the French government to rethink their law enforcement policies and encourage French authorities to make avenues to reduce tension. Egypt restricts their sales of the yellow vest to stop the protests and Senegal is doing the same. It affects the African countries including Senegal to this issue. Luigi di Maio accused France of trying to colonize the African countries. It also made African exports more expensive than they should be.

We would like to propose two solutions into this matter, one is still ensuring the safety of protesters with harmless method of suppressing and the other one is making sure that the government should listen to what the protesters want. These two solutions may look difficult to enforce but it helps the situation to be less violent. We all know that the yellow vest protesters don't listen to the police and encourages violence, instead of stun grenades and rubber bullet launcher, we should instead use smoke grenades to stun them and the use of shield to suppress the protesters or we can also hire undercover police to take a look at the situation. With listening to the protesters, it can spark new ideas to the congress. We believe that when a government listens to its citizens, it doesn't just lessen the violence, the government itself understands the perspective of its people. We're going to approach by letting one of the protesters' "representative" to talk to the senate. As for the undercover police and the harmless suppression, it's only introduced to the police officials because there is a high possibility of civilians taking advantage of it.

*Delegation from: the Kingdom of Spain*  
*Represented by: Mayfield High School*

### **Position Paper for the United Nations Human Rights Council**

The issues before the Human Rights Council are: Addressing impunity for perpetrators of sexual violence related conflict; and the right to assemble regarding the case of the Yellow Vest Protests. Spain is committed to helping those facing difficulties, and expresses hope to further an advancement towards a viable solution.

#### **I. Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict Related Sexual Violence**

Creating "a war within a war", conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) is used by militants to degrade and demoralize a group of individuals and their community. In many conflict-ridden countries, sexual violence has become systemic, reaching increasingly appalling levels of brutality. For example, in countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, sexual violence is used to destabilize entire communities. Despite this, those who direct these forms of abuse are rarely held accountable for their actions and the perpetrators often act with impunity. The Kingdom of Spain believes that this has to be changed as the degrading treatment of these communities impacts their access to the necessities of life and violates their reproductive rights.

As shown by its support of resolution 2467, the Delegation of Spain believes that accountability is the key to addressing CRSV. The international community's approach today has very low rates of punishment for acts of sexual violence, leading to their perpetrators believing there will be no punishment for their crimes. This feeds to the cycle, allowing militants to continue their heinous actions. As such, the delegation believes that impunity must be combated at a national level and that a survivor-centric approach must be adopted. Spain believes that the United Nations must ensure that reparations are provided to the survivors of sexual violence, allowing the victims to rebuild their lives and complete their healing process. The delegation also maintains that awareness campaigns such as those created by the United Nations- African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) must be adopted in order to redirect stigma from the victims to the perpetrators. It presumes that the combination of international and local organizations will create a plan that sufficiently caters to the needs of CRSV survivors. Concurrently, Spain has been reforming its sexual offense legislation and encourages the United Nations to support other countries in doing so as well. The delegation is hopeful that the United Nations will create an international standard for sexual violence which includes all physiological or physical attacks directed at a person's sexuality. It urges countries that are involved in conflicts to adopt this international standard of gender-based violence so as to prevent discrepancies between national and international law, combat impunity, and make it easier to convict perpetrators.

The education of the public is also a very important facet in combating impunity and preventing CRSV. Spain believes that by promoting and educating the public on women's rights and gender equality during and after conflict, the Human Right Council can put an end to the ideologies that militant groups use to justify their horrific actions. Such education can reduce the stigma associated with victims of sexual violence, leading to increased reporting of crimes. Not only does this prevent impunity, but it also provides the United Nations with an increased understanding of the causes and significance of sexual violence, which it can use to frame future resolutions. The Delegation of Spain also calls for countries involved in such conflict to educate their judges and other law personnel on gender violence to ensure that perpetrators are properly prosecuted. This is contemporaneous with what is being done in Spain. Lastly, the Delegation of Spain calls for the assistance of victims of sexual violence through the provision of health care services, including sexual and reproductive health care. By providing sexual health services, the United Nations can reduce the risk of unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases that are prevalent in areas of conflict.

## **II. The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests**

For the past few months, the nation of France has been seeing a number of people participate in a movement known as the ‘Yellow Vest movement’, and are advocating for the lowering of taxes on specifically fuel for vehicles, and claim the taxes to be disproportionately burdened on the middle and lower classes. The Kingdom of Spain supports efforts made by the Yellow Vest movement as a significant matter that must be addressed and attended to. However, the Delegation also simultaneously acknowledges that the safety of law enforcement officers must also be taken into account as well, and promotes a safe environment for parties to exercise their rights to freedom of peaceful assembly. In the last few months, Spain has had a few protests of its own, the Delegation realizes that the safety of everyone involved in the protests must be protected.

Recognizing the importance of an individual’s right to freedom of opinion and expression as presented in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Kingdom of Spain adheres to the precedents set by this unanimous agreement, and firmly believes that every citizen, regardless of their circumstances, is entitled to their freedom of speech and assembly, as those rights should be protected by law. However, Spain finds it important to acknowledge how important it is to ensure the safety of bystanders, who have nothing to do with what is going on. Spain reaffirms that peaceful protest must be a priority that both law enforcement and protesters alike must strive to attain, for the betterment of both parties, and calls other states to support such regulations. As such, the Kingdom of Spain has supported resolutions such as *A/HRC/RES/31/37* and *A/HRC/16/4*.

Regarding this particular subject, Spain encourages the international community to focus on the situation at hand and set aside differences to work together. Spain also recognizes the motivations of protestors who feel wronged by their respective country, and speak out against such limitations they feel need to change. Many times, the protestors who use subjectively violent tactics often feel frustrated with the lack of change happening and feel the need to use more questionable methods to raise awareness for their cause. While the interest of those inside the protest should be protected, the Spanish Delegation also wishes to validate the well-being of bystanders, who are getting hurt as a result of vehement protesters. One part of the action taken would be to raise the number of law enforcement at a protest to make sure everything goes smoothly, and quickly disengage a potentially dangerous situation from escalating. Preventative measures should be taken by Nations, and law enforcement to make sure violence does not occur amongst protestors and keep every party safe from harm. One thing to understand is violent protests can break out in any social structure regardless of whether it is poor or strong. To add to this, Spain proposes and requests that other Nations to sanction off protests which are by their nature, violent, and section by section, increase the number of security at these particular protests, if they are known for having been violent in the past. Similarly, if the Human Rights council wishes to promote meaningful and long-lasting peace amongst a government and its people, the council is suggested to encourage other nations to support peaceful protests above all else and award those who successfully change legislation for the better, in a workable manner. Lastly, the Spanish Delegation would also like to bring in the protests in Catalonia, as some protesters have resorted to violence as a result of growing restless. Likewise, law enforcement in the area have been arming themselves more heavily during this time, and station themselves inside armoured vehicles to avoid injury. Spain firmly believes that in order to achieve a demonstration that is serene, all participants must remain peaceful, making sure as to not harm any innocent civilians. Spain believes that if the participants in these protests choose to be violent, the government should take necessary actions in order to protect those who may be affected by those acts of violence.

*Delegation from: Togo*

*Represented by: Orange High School*

### ***Position Paper for the Human Rights Council***

The issues presented before the Human Rights Council are: Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict Related Sexual Violence and the Right to Assemble a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests. Togo, recognizing the significance of these two topics in relation to its own state and the rest of the world, looks forward to working with its fellow delegations to find lasting solutions.

#### **I. Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict Related Sexual Violence**

Impunity for perpetrators of conflict related sexual violence is a huge problem in Togo. In Togo over 25% of women are sexually harassed and most perpetrators of this crime have been able to pay their way out of jail. This problem of un-addresses sexual harassment plays a huge part in Togo's human rights. Togo has a negative view on this problem and would like to work to eliminate this problem.

Togo has one of the largest campaigns against sexual harassment but, it is still faced widely and the laws against it aren't doing their job. According to the OECD gender index, over 29% of women are sexually harassed by non-partners. Plus, another 13% of women are sexually harassed by their partners. Out of these 42% of sexually harassed women only 22% of their cases are solved. The other 20% have been able to find a loophole in the law that they are breaking or just pay their way out. Because of this, people think there is no consequence leading to the continuation of this issue and the impunity of those committing it. Togo has been enforcing new laws and has had new organizations to help enforce the law and fix this problem. One of these new laws is law no. 2006-010. This law states that anyone who commits an act of sexual harassment in the work place will lose their job, pay compensatory damages, and will face jail time. Also, one of the organizations in Togo started a program called SOS Girls. This organization is a place for any victims of sexual harassment in school to go to so that teachers and other students can be caught immediately to help prevent those who commit the crime from doing it again. On top of all of this, Togo has been strengthening their legal system to catch where the loopholes are and to prevent bribery. Because of all this, Togo has drastically lowered its rates of sexual harassment and made its country a safer place for women and children.

The United Nations have the duty to protect human rights by eliminating the impunity of perpetrators of sexual harassment. Sexual harassment takes place in many places like the school and the work place and needs many forms of prevention. Togo urged the United Nations to enforce stronger laws against sexual harassment. Plus, Togo request the United Nations to provide programs at schools for those who have faced sexual harassment.

#### **I. The Right to Assemble a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests**

Togo would like the right to assemble a study of the yellow vest protest. The Yellow Vest Protests are a series of protests conducted by motorists in France, to refuse the increase in fuel

tax. To protest, these motorists wear yellow vests that they are ordered to keep in their vehicles as a cry for attention. As a result of their protests, French authorities have participated in uncivil restrictions, harming those who have chosen to protest. Togo encourages the rethinking of French authorities and suggests France set in place a new protocol that prevents the outbreak of violence and simmers tensions between the two groups. Also, they would like to study the recent epidemic to find a proper solution.

It is said that since the beginning of the Yellow Vest Protests in November of 2018, over 1,700 citizens have been injured as a result of the rioting. Police and other French enforcements have exercised the use of extreme force. These extreme forces consist of non-lethal weapons, which in actuality, have caused a severe amount of damage. A few of these weapons include resources such as grenades and defensive bullets. Although few protestors have broken out in violence, the majority of protests practice peacefully and feel as though their protesting rights are being stripped from them. This restriction and impressment of the people's right to peaceful assembly breaks the guidelines of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, of which France is a member of. The country of Togo acknowledges its struggle with preserving the right to protest with its citizens in its past. Many incidents have occurred in which the authorities associated with the country of Togo have impressed their people's rights regarding protests. In a more recent protest of mass demonstration among various opposition groups, authorities practiced force that resulted in the death of nearly 11 people. Since, Togo has absorbed the recommendations of further examining human rights, and cracking down on torture and violence caused by officials and authorities. As Togo oversees and works towards improving its human rights, more specifically those regarding peaceful assembly, we encourage France to consider some of these points as well. The people's right to assemble is one that cannot be taken from them, especially with violence.

The United Nations has the right to protect the people's freedom of assembly and to acknowledge the recent outburst as a result of the Yellow Vest Protests. These protestors run the risk of their lives in order to stand up for a cause they believe in. The country Togo asks for France and other countries in their position to reconsider people's rights, ending unnecessary violence and impressment of basic human rights. Lastly, Togo requests a program to be enforced throughout offices and schools, teaching and educating the people of their basic human rights.

*Delegation from: Ukraine*

*Represented by: North Olmsted High School*

***Position paper for the human rights council***

The issues before the human rights council are: Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests. Ukraine has looking for aid and to advise in the solution of both issues due to current events occurring within Ukraine.

**I: Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence**

The U.N. has already made legislation toward forwarding the end of impunity for perpetrators of conflict-related sexual violence. The decision making for such issues are backed by the U.N.'s declaration of human rights (D.H.R.). This will be the core of any proposed legislation in the UNHRC debate as the issue contradict the D.H.R.

Ukraine has passed several pieces of legislation to combat sexual violence within its border and to mitigate extraterritorial cases. Ukraine is currently in a conflict relating to non-governmental organizations in eastern Ukraine and has had cases that are relevant to the subject of discussion. Although it is questionable to how the U.N. can or attempt to address the impunity that is given to individuals of non-governmental organizations. Ukraine has not proposed any international legislation to combat this issue although does want to agree to an effective and justifiable solution to this issue.

Ukraine's main interests in this topic regarding how the potential legislation will regard the responsibility of nations that give backing to organizations of whom's members are impunitive under the organization's standards. The legislation also has to be justifiable to the extent of the impact it has on national sovereignty. Another priority is to ensure the appropriate means in which a nation or organization can have legal action taken against them under the guise of the proposed legislation.

**II: The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests**

The U.N. itself has not to my knowledge directly addressed the issues of the *Yellow Vest* protesters although individuals that have prominent standing have addressed the issue. The U.N. has almost always made decisions in favor of rights for people or organizations that get silenced from political protest. The U.N. has a difficult issue as it respects national sovereignty but also attempts to deliver human rights where they are being violated and this is where the issue lies. What can, and should the U.N. do in regards to the specific event of the yellow vest and their deprivation of liberty?

The Yellow-vest are a phenomenon that are only appearing in France and more precisely on the streets of Paris, so it is not a domestic Ukrainian issue. In regards to how the Ukrainian government treats protester is very different from other countries in which partake in the delegations treat theirs. The Ukrainian government isn't a clearly defined principle it has little in common with countries such as

Russia and has key differences when compared to the UK or USA. The policy we contain is that we allow non-violent protests that do not actively go against the founding ideals of our nation such as fascist and communist parties, but in most other regards there are no limitations placed protesting. Ukraine as of writing this paper has not introduced any legislation international or federal in which to address the yellow vest. We also don't have any concerted efforts in establishing any international policies in regards to liberties like freedom of protest and speech.

Ukraine's desired outcome from this session of debate will include the principle of the freedom to protest is upheld and that the French government's response has been inappropriate. Multiple other factors will be considered in decision making such as not restricting our sovereignty and our protesting policy, with additional factors that regarding the solution method itself and can only be explained in length with the knowledge of the proposed cases that will be gained during the session.

*Delegation from: United Arab Emirates*

*Represented by: Solon High School*

### **Position Paper for the United Nations Human Rights Council**

The issues placed before the Human Rights Council are *Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict Related Sexual Violence* and *The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests*. The United Arab Emirates firmly believes the United Nations must come to a comprehensive solution involving these fundamental human rights. The United Arab Emirates maintains that failure to create plans and regulation to protect these rights will cause the UNHRC to fail its mission.

#### **I. Addressing Impunity for Perpetrators of Conflict Related Sexual Violence**

United Arab Emirates, as a developed country with close interests in the topic at hand, believes the United Nations Human Rights Council needs to come up with a plan to stop impunity for sexual violence perpetrators. The United Arab Emirates has been a recent leader in women's progression of rights in its region, having a constitution that guarantees the equality of men and women; moreover, guaranteeing equal property, legal, and educational rights to all women.

After supporting the passing of S/RES/2467 a comprehensive resolution passed by the United Nations on the topic of sexual violence against women, the United Arab Emirates finds itself again intertwined in the crisis at hand. United Arab Emirates condemns countries that are able to assist with the crisis but yet still stand on the sidelines. The UAE strongly believes that we must first address the root of this onion layered issue. This involves stopping the impunity of perpetrators of sexual violence.

The United Arab Emirates proposes a 3 pronged solution to combat this issue. First, the United Nations Human Rights Council must urge governments to not let criminal sex offenders "get off easy", that is, governments must actually enact punishments on said offenders. Second, the UNHRC should push countries to engage more resources catching criminal perpetrators of sexual violence, this would work to further break the chain of sexual violence. Lastly, countries must increase the punishments on criminal sex offenders to discourage future perpetrators.

#### **II. The Right to Assemble and a Study of the Yellow Vest Protests**

The United Arab Emirates, a country with close ties to France, condemns the actions of the way France treated the Yellow Vest Protesters. The United Arab Emirates has made huge advances in human rights over the recent years through the advancement of economic opportunity as well as an increasing amount of rights for women to ensure equality. It is evident that by allowing members of a state to voice their own opinions and train of thought, incredible advancements can be made within the state. The French Revolutions are important to note here as such extreme

actions ultimately led to greater democratic values and modern day France; however, those actions could only be performed through overthrowing the current government. Ultimately, it is critical to interpret the protest of the individual as it can lead to positive growth and to not shut it down to the point where the crowd begins to revolt.

It is also critical to acknowledge the fact of how protests can impact the domestic civil society of the country, and the world as a whole. The Yellow Vest Protests is evident here as the United States Emirates asserts that aggression towards protesters will only make the side rebelling more well known and stronger. This would lead to more individuals within France to support and assist the Yellow Vest Protesters due to the alarming rise of taxes, unemployment, etc. as their right to assembly is being disrupted. Protests internationally can cause an even greater impact. The civil rights movement led by MLK within the United states not only led to the improvement of civil rights of African Americans, but it also echoed it's impacted as it inspired the improved rights of individuals around the world. The United Arab Emirates has even been impacted by this due to the recent surge of women's rights, echoing democratic improvements to other regions over the world. Therefore, the United Arab Emirates encourages France to listen to the Yellow Vest Protesters as reaching a solution will ensure safety and echo democratic values all over the world.

The United States Emirates would also like to cite how social media is impacting the protest at hand. In this modern age, global communication can occur in mere seconds, allowing for nearing any individual to stay connected and updated on issues in the world. In the wake of police aggression in the face of these protesters, social media can quickly spread how the French government is violating the human rights of French citizens. The United Arab Emirates urges France to avoid violating the rights of assembly and speech of these protesters as information can spread quickly that will not only allow for many people of France to condemn their government, but also individuals all around the world. The United Arab Emirates, through recent progressions, have seen how allowing the viewpoints of not just the government to form legislation can lead to progressive movements such as the improvement of women's rights. In the end, The United Arab Emirates strongly encourages France to run their protests in order to further expand democratic values that will only help the world.