

Position Paper Outline

A Position Paper entails a brief introduction of the topic and highlights your country's stance. It further sheds light on the possible solutions that the committee can debate upon. Thus, crafting a thorough position paper allows you to gain a better understanding of your country and dwell into the intricacies of its foreign policy.

Mentioned below are some key points to help you formulate a Position Paper.

➤ Topic Background

Here, you need to establish that you are aware of what your topic is. The topic background typically defines any key terms related to the issue at hand and provides a brief summary of the history of the issue and potential consequences of ignoring the issue.

For example, a topic background on the issue of human trafficking might provide the official definition of human trafficking (“the illegal abuse of individuals through coercion, deception, and other recruitment and harboring for sexual and labor exploitation”), general statistics from reliable sources that broadly encompass the issue (“According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), since 2012, 20.9 million victims presently suffer from this modern-day slavery”), and explore broader implications (“This crime not only impedes human rights but also poses global health risks and influences development”).

➤ Past International Actions

This portion addresses efforts the UN has previously made and endeavors your country specifically has taken on to combat the issue at hand. Consider what UN programs, events, resolutions, and agreements your country has participated in. Take note of the other participants in these efforts, too—they could serve as important allies in committee. You could also shed light on how effective these policies were and how can be they be modified.

➤ Country Policy

This section ought to summarize your country's own unique stance on the issue and what they believe the international community should do to resolve the issue. Here, delegates must remember that this area consists of their country's policy, rather than their own opinion on an issue. If your country does not completely condemn human trafficking, for example, because of their own stakes in the practice, then your policy must reflect that, in spite of your disagreement. Finding speeches from your country's leaders, scoping out their government's website, and evaluating their actions in the UN are some ways to develop an understanding of your country's policy.

➤ **Possible Solutions**

Using the information you've gathered in previous sections of the paper, brainstorm your own solutions to the issue based on your country's perspective. Could you create a new program, or further develop another one? Could you provide aid to an area, and at what cost? Will you involve NGOs or peacekeepers? How can you collaborate with other countries?

For your help, we have attached a sample Position Paper below.

Sample Position Paper

Committee: Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Country: United States of America

Delegation: Lahore University of Management Sciences



Over incarceration presents a problem that is prevalent worldwide. In dividing the issue, we can look at three stages: pre-trial, sentencing, and post-trial structures. Policies by countries at these stages then determine how conditions and treatment of prison populations are handled. Systematic manipulation in favor of political gains or creating more chasms against disenfranchised communities exacerbate the issue at hand. Moreover, trust in incapacitation over rehabilitation has guided most approaches to criminal justice resulting in disproportionate sentencing. To tackle problems holistically in the coming future, the international community must collaborate to strengthen their justice systems. Addressing the issue of excessive pre-trial detentions, the United States of America adopted Senate Bill 91 for the state of Alaska, imposing a venture into alternatives to pre-trial detentions and a program to sustain it. Other reforms include Senate Bill 1154 (Omnibus Crime Reduction and Sentencing Reform Act) and the First Step Act that address the latter two stages mentioned above. The Delegation of the United States of America aims to strive for justice and its appropriate propagation in tandem with international norms and cooperation with other nations.

The delegation of the United States strongly advocates reforms in order to counter the growing number of incarcerated people in prison systems across the world, while at the same time making special considerations for the physical and mental wellbeing of affected individuals. This commitment to reducing prison populations is reflected in the decline in the rate of incarceration in the USA; since 2009, the rate of incarceration has steadily declined to reach its lowest since 1996. These results have been achieved by working in earnest towards policies to reform aspects of our criminal justice systems. One major piece of legislation in this regard is the recently passed First Step Act, 2018. The Act focuses on easing mandatory minimum sentencing, with a greater push towards less restrictive forms of supervision such as halfway houses and home confinement. The new law also focuses on issues faced by female inmates, from the treatment of pregnant women to the provision of free sanitary products. Furthermore, the United States has been working towards tackling issues of recidivism, substance abuse, mental wellbeing, education, and reintegration. At the federal level, the Federal Bureau of Prisons has undertaken several reforms to these ends. These reforms range from the building of schools for inmates within the federal prison system and provision of treatment for substance abuse, to prioritizing mental health treatment and developing standardized, evidence-based programs to reduce recidivism.

Given the multi-faceted and complex nature of the problem, any potential solutions to the issue must take into account the many driving factors at hand. Solutions must address ideal goals, but must also be grounded in a practical understanding of political and economic realities in countries. One such

solution may be modelled after the US Justice Reinvestment Initiative, which works towards analyzing data from criminal systems to understand factors behind over-incarceration, and implementing policies to reduce recidivism and increase public safety. A key aspect of this approach is to engage with non-governmental organizations and independent research groups to accurately ascertain real-time problems in prison and sentencing procedures for efficient and progressive solutions. Proper implementation of these policies is crucial in ensuring lasting change, an aspect that the global community can collectively work towards.