

## **Committee: Special Political and Decolonization Committee**

### **Topic: Addressing the Global Spread of Antisemitic Extremist Groups**

#### **Report of the Chairs**

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#### **I. Theme of the Conference**

Model United Nations San Antonio (MUNSA) is a conference dedicated to fostering authentic and passionate debate amongst delegates in order to generate solutions to current global issues. The theme of *MUNSA XXIV: Envision* encapsulates our mission to urge delegates to foresee a future in which these problems have been dissolved. With collaboration in mind, delegates from every committee are encouraged to visualize innovative resolutions and a prosperous world to come. Together, we will propel ourselves into an age in which brilliant ideas converge to transform our world and address its most paramount issues.

#### **II. Rationale**

Antisemitism is a problem that countries around the world have been working to eradicate for decades. After years of fluctuation, 26 percent of people worldwide meet the Anti-Defamation League's criteria of antisemitism.<sup>6</sup> This percentile continues to grow despite efforts made by both the UN and individual nations.<sup>4</sup> This committee urges delegates to visualize a future in which hate due to beliefs has been eradicated. By debating this topic, delegates will develop solutions to achieve this vision.

#### **III. Background of the Topic**

In the past, antisemitism manifested itself in various ways. The most notable example is the Holocaust, but there have been many more cases, some of them dating back thousands of years. Anti-semitism began in ancient empires including Babylonia, Greece, and Rome.<sup>1</sup> As Christianity began to spread throughout Europe, Christians persecuted Jews, accusing them of the kidnap and murder of Christian children. This form of anti-semitism progressed until the Middle Ages when it began to transform into the practices of Nazi Germany. This often involved Jews being forced into ghettos and made to wear a patch or hat identifying them as a Jew. Much

of this discrimination was a result of the Jews dominating the moneylending business, which was caused by the Christian prohibition on moneylending for interest.<sup>8</sup>

Throughout the 1800s and early 1900s, antisemitic riots became commonplace in Russia. These riots, called pogroms, were encouraged by the Russian government and were often aided by the government and police forces.<sup>7</sup> During the Russian Revolution, 1,326 pogroms took place in Ukraine, killing between 30,000 and 70,000 Jews and leaving half a million homeless.<sup>1</sup> Later, during World War II, Nazi Germany began one of the largest and most well known antisemitic campaigns. Ultimately, about 6 million Jews were killed in what is now known as the Holocaust.<sup>2</sup> This committee hopes that, despite the rampant persecution and racism that the world has experienced in the past, delegates will work together to develop an effective solution to finally eradicate antisemitism.

#### **IV. Contemporary Evidence of the Topic**

Today, many governments still restrict the rights of Jewish citizens, and some even completely deny citizenship to Jews. In other countries, governments are not openly antisemitic, but they endorse antisemitic literature and television programs, ignoring the growth of antisemitism within their countries.<sup>3</sup> Verbal abuse, vandalism, and acts of violence continue to increase in both occurrence and severity in countries where governments are actively fighting antisemitism. Today, 74 percent of people in the Middle East and North Africa have displayed anti-semitic tendencies, leading to discrimination and hate crimes against Jewish communities throughout these regions.<sup>5</sup> In order to achieve this committee's goal, delegates must be honest and willing to cooperate in order to find a solution to this problem.

#### **V. References and Research Resources**

1. History.com Editors. (2018, March 1). Anti-Semitism. *History.com*, Retrieved from <https://www.history.com/topics/holocaust/anti-semitism>
2. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM). (n.d.). Antisemitism: The Longest Hatred. *USHMM*, Retrieved from <https://www.ushmm.org/confront-antisemitism/antisemitism-the-longest-hatred>

3. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). (2019, July 1). Addressing antisemitism through education. *UNESCO*, Retrieved from <https://en.unesco.org/preventing-violent-extremism/education/antisemitism>
4. Secretary-General. (2018, September 26). Anti-Semitism Rising Even in Countries with No Jews at All. *United Nations*, Retrieved from <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/sgsm19252.doc.htm>
5. Anti Defamation League (ADL). (n.d.). Global 100. *ADL*, Retrieved from <http://global100.adl.org/>
6. Anti Defamation League. (n.d.). Anti-Semitism Globally. *ADL*, Retrieved from <https://www.adl.org/what-we-do/anti-semitism/anti-semitism-globally>
7. Berenbaum, M. (n.d.). Anti-Semitism. *Encyclopedia Britannica*, Retrieved from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/anti-Semitism>
8. British Library. (2006, January 6). Anti-Semitism. *British Library*, Retrieved from <http://www.bl.uk/learning/histcitizen/voices/info/antisemitism/antisemitism.html>

## **VI. Note to the Delegates**

Thank you for deciding to participate in MUNSA XXIV. The experiences at MUNSA will allow you to explore the complexity of the world, accumulate knowledge, and find what YOU can do to take action and find solutions! We encourage you to take advantage of your time during and before the conference to actively engage in debate and to build research skills. If you have any questions, comments and/or concerns, please contact us. We look forward to meeting you come January 2019 and wish for a successful two days!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us.

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