

The United States of America

Positions for the United Nations Children's Fund

I. Improving Primary and Secondary Education to Combat Child Labor

The United States of America strongly believes in the importance of providing primary and secondary education to children globally will assist in the eventual elimination of child labor. **Internationally**, The United States supports the Declaration of Human Rights along with the General Assembly Resolution (A/HRC/RES/8/4), which recognizes the universal right to education. The United States approves of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) Target 2.A: "Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling." The United States is a founding member of the International Labor Organization International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC) which seeks to develop and implement measures to prevent child labor, remove children from hazardous work, provide for their rehabilitation and social reintegration and offer alternatives for them, their families and the wider community. The IPEC programme incorporates a wide range of categories of work against child labor, including research and statistics, providing educational units, developing and implementing measures to prevent child labor, removing children from hazardous work, providing rehabilitation and social reintegration and offering alternatives for children and their families, acknowledging that education is instrumental in achieving these goals. The ILO's Education For All initiative (EFA) seeks to combat child labor and aim to influence national education policies so that global education systems prevent children from being drawn prematurely into labor and are more responsive to the needs of children released from hazardous work. In addition to this, The U.S is in agreement with ILO Convention No. 101 that state "Children under the age of fourteen years may not be employed ... save outside the hours fixed for school attendance." As a member of Global Partnership for Education (GPE) United States has contributed \$44,827,093 in 2014. Since 2004, these funds provided to Global Partnership for Education have been used to build, rehabilitate and equip 52,600 classrooms, and to train about 300,000 teachers mostly in primary education. The United States endorses International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) International Conference on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families to create a safer and more educational environment for children. **Regionally**, The United States has worked extensively and been a key financial backer of World University Service of Canada (WUSC), a leading non-profit organization based in Canada working with post-secondary institutions, private-sector partners and volunteers to provide education, employment and empowerment opportunities that improve the lives children globally. WUSC and The U.S have also worked with the 60 Million Girls Foundation and in 2008 with their assistance; WUSC and The United States were able to pilot the girls' education initiative. A main component of the initiative was the remedial education courses. In 2011, WUSC received continued funding from The US State Department's Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration to help provide more facilities for education. **Nationally**, The United States has passed strict standards and laws, eliminating unfair child labor practices. The Fair Labor Standards Act establishes an 18-year minimum age for those occupations that the Secretary of Labor finds and declares to be particularly hazardous for minors, or is detrimental to their health or well-being. In Addition to this, The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (FLSA) states that children under 12 may not be employed, children between 12 and 16 may be employed in allowed occupations during limited hours, and children between 16 and 18 may be employed for unlimited hours in non-hazardous occupations. The United States National Education Association (NEA) is focused on: increasing equity and opportunity for all students, strengthening support for teachers and school leaders, expanding high-quality preschool program, affordability and quality in postsecondary education, promoting educational innovation and improvement and improving school safety and climate. The American Association of School Administration (AASA) and its primary responsibilities include: improving conditions of children and youth, preparing schools and school systems, connecting schools and communities, and increase the quality and effectiveness of school leaders. **Moving forward**, The United States **I.** Urges Member States to amend laws pertaining to the elimination of child labor, **II.** Recommends working with private and public sectors within countries to support additional aid for families, thus allowing children to acquire education without affecting wellbeing and income that may have been brought in by said child or children working outside the home, **III.** Advises that Member states acknowledge the importance of educating girls and promoting women empowerment, **IV.** Encourages member states to provide rehabilitation and social reintegration programs from children recovered from labor situations.

II. Eliminating Child Trafficking

The United States acknowledges the current global issue of child traffic and recognizes the need for statewide cooperation in tackling this issue. **Internationally**, The United States is in agreement with Article 4 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which addresses and acknowledges child labor and child servitude, and child trafficking as a global issue. In addition The U.S endorsed the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, which was implemented by The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, by General Assembly resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000. The U.S supports The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (2000) The United Nations General Assembly adopted this protocol in 2000, and it applies to the sale of children for purposes of sexual exploitation, child labor or adoption, and covers prevention, prohibition and assistance to victims. The United States is a member state of The Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) which was established on March 26th 2007, and is managed by UNODC in cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). UN.GIFT's mission is to mobilize state and non-state actors to eradicate human trafficking by: (1) Reducing both the vulnerability of potential victims and the demand for exploitation in all its forms; (2) Ensuring adequate protection and support to those who fall victim; and (3) Supporting the prosecution of criminals involved, all the while respecting the fundamental human rights of all persons. The United States commends the ICPD International Conference on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families protocols on the trafficking and smuggling of people, specifically children, which focused on criminalizing trafficking, suppressing organized crime and facilitating orderly migration. **Regionally**, The United States applauds the efforts of The Child Rescue Association of North America, a non-profit organization in Canada and the United States that exists to rescue children from situations of human trafficking. The Child Rescue Association of North America focuses on encouraging young people to educate and spread awareness of the child trafficking industry, thus they created the Backyard Broadcast, a youth run network seeking to combat The U.S and Canadian child sex industry. **Domestically**, The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 is the Federal human trafficking legislation, and established several methods of prosecuting traffickers, preventing human trafficking, and protecting victims and survivors of trafficking. The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (TVPR) included a pilot program for sheltering minors who are survivors of human trafficking, and grant programs to assist state and local law enforcement combat trafficking. It also expanded measures to combat trafficking internationally, including provisions to fight sex tourism, a \$5 million pilot program for treatment of trafficking victims abroad, and a strengthening of the regulation over government contracts to ensure they are not made with individuals or organizations that promote or engage in human trafficking. The End Trafficking Project is the U.S Fund for UNICEF's initiative to raise awareness surrounding child trafficking, through the mobilization and encouragement of communities and take meaningful action to help protect children, in partnership with concerned individuals (citizens) and groups. The San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking (SFCaHT) launched in January 2010 with a membership of over 20 agencies representing a broad array of nongovernmental organizations, government agencies, law enforcement agencies, service providers, educators, and community members. The SFCaHT is committed to preventing human trafficking, prosecuting traffickers, and protecting victims through collaboration and building a strong team of anti-trafficking advocates and experts. **Moving forward**, The United States urges member states to continue the fight against the trafficking in children. Thus, the following action plan R.I.S.E is proposed: (1) **Recognize** the reality and various aspects of child trafficking, including but not limited to sexual and marital trafficking, slavery, organ harvesting, forced military conscription, adoption, and labor; (2) **Urges** states to **Introduce** education programs as the primary tool for raising awareness. These programs should stress the need to educate children so that they are equipped with the information and knowledge necessary to protect themselves and be aware of what could occur; (3) **Advises** governments to work with non profit origination to provide monetary **Support** to develop programs which allow a more rapid response and rescuing of victims, and; (4) **Seeks to Enhance** the capacity of families, parents, health workers, teachers, police, social workers, and others who care for and work with children need the skills, knowledge, authority and motivation to identify and respond to child protection problems. Broader initiatives such as the provision of education and safe areas for play, enhance the capacity for protective environments.