

Background Guide

WSOMUN

GEMS Wellington Academy Model United Nations March 22nd - 24th

COMMITTEE: UNICEF

Lead The Change...

Welcome Letter from the Secretary General

Distinguished delegates of the UNICEF committee,

It is my absolute honor to invite you to the second largest high school Model UN in the country; the first edition of the WSO Model United Nations conference held at the GEMS Wellington Academy - Dubai Silicon Oasis. I am beyond ecstatic and humbled to serve in the capacity of Secretary-General for this year's conference. In order to ensure that our conference's quality is of the highest caliber on an international scale, we have set up ideals and standards that orient us towards our goal while also providing us with the dedication necessary to make a difference. Our conference aims to engage and encourage the youth to participate and to share their ideas and beliefs about different and various global issues. The aim of our conference is to give students a unique experience where they are able to harbour their diplomatic skills and explore current affairs through a simulation of the United Nations. We strive to help students foster skills necessary for every day life, and provide education beyond the desk as practice is the best way to process theory.

Everything changes; but change itself is the only thing that doesn't. Remembering that nothing remains the same and even in the worst situation we face, we can and should rely on the fact that change is the constant. Throughout the conference, our aim is to develop solutions to issues which we currently face and widen our vision, while using the idea of change to our advantage. WSO Model united nations possesses an unique ability to bring forth students from diverse backgrounds to collectively work towards a cohesive and united goal. WSOMUN welcomes young leaders to portray onto a platform, values to be abided by, in order to create a change in the international community.

To this end, the members of the Secretariat have been working painstakingly, around the clock, to ensure that you enjoy every breath of this conference experience. I assure you that the final step of this journey will draw a higher academic and organizational line to satisfy all your expectations.

Looking forward to welcoming you this March!

With Best Regards,

Varsha Venkatraman

Secretary General

WSOMUN 2018

Welcome Letter from the Dias

Greetings distinguished delegates,

Welcome to WSOMUN 2018! We have the honor of being your Dais of the United Nations

Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) committee. We are looking forward to working with all of

you and hope it will be a memorable experience for you. As your chairs, we seek meticulous work

and a stellar performance from each one of the delegates, but also hoping that this whole experience

fills you with knowledge and experience for future projects. Likewise, we shall place in our utmost

best in moderating your debates to produce fruitful and constructive dialogue on these two issues.

Our biggest expectation for this committee is that you get the opportunity to enjoy it as much as

when we had the chance to participate as a delegate. In order to find good solutions to these two

alarming and life threatening global issues, we look forward to delegates conducting their own

independent extensive research, utilizing trustworthy sources: Remember that this background

guide should not be your sole source of information.

Your experience in the UNICEF committee will not only be academically challenging but also

entertaining and fun. We hope this conference will be mutually unforgettable for both parties. Please

do not hesitate in asking for help, and let us know if you have any questions! Our priority is that

you can enjoy this conference and have an amazing and rewarding experience. See you there in the

conference, delegates!

Best Regards,

Chair: Alijaeh Go

Co - Chair: Akanksha Mathur

Co - Chair: Nandini Garg

United NationsInternational Children's Emergency Fund



UNICEF promotes the rights and wellbeing of every child, in everything we do. Together with our partners, we work in 190 countries and territories to translate that commitment into practical action, focusing special effort on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded children, to the benefit of all children, everywhere.

In all of its work, UNICEF takes a life-cycle based approach, recognizing the particular importance of early childhood development and adolescence. UNICEF programmes focus on the most disadvantaged children, including those living in fragile contexts, those with disabilities, those who are affected by rapid urbanization and those affected by environmental degradation.

UNICEF was created with a distinct purpose in mind: to work with others to overcome the obstacles that poverty, violence, disease and discrimination place in a child's path. We advocate for measures to give children the best start in life, because proper care at the youngest age forms the strongest foundation for a person's future.

UNICEF upholds the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We work to assure equality for those who are discriminated against, girls and women in particular. We work for the Millennium Development Goals and for the progress promised in the United Nations Charter. We strive for peace and security. We work to hold everyone accountable to the promises made for children.

We are part of the Global Movement for Children – a broad coalition dedicated to improving the life of every child. Through this movement, and events such as the United Nations Special Session on Children, we encourage young people to speak out and participate in the decisions that affect their lives.

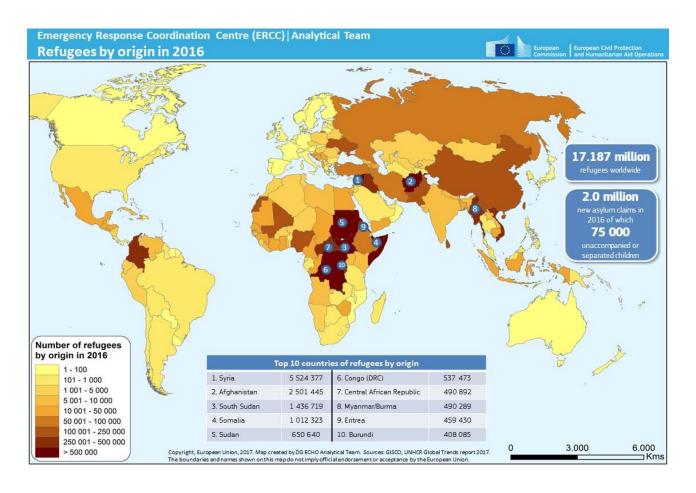
Source: http://www.unicef.org/about/who/index introduction.html

AGENDA 1

Protecting Children's Right to Healthcare and Education During Warfare and Crisis

Introduction to the topic

As of the year of 2017, the total seeking security and safety across borders has now reached an insurmountable amount of 22.5 million, the highest seen since the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) was founded in 1950. In this decade alone, the world has experienced countless crises across nations and regions. One of the most critical would be the Syrian refugee crisis that has left millions displaced across several neighboring countries as well as within the borders of Europe.



These emerging crises and wars, amongst many others, disturb the security and wellbeing of millions of people; the most detrimental effects fall on children that find themselves helpless amidst the wreckage. During these crises, children face hardships pursuing their education as well as maintaining healthy lives due to the difficulty of receiving education and necessary healthcare. Wars and internal conflicts lead to the disruption of economic, educational, social, and political safety and security.

United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organisation conducted a study that showed that even minor shocks that arise in children's lives due to war can lead to a potential decrease in their future wages due to educational cessation or healthcare deprivation.

There has been a rising trend that has been considered amongst countries facing internal conflicts and wars: These conflicts lead to a lower educational attainment of children. In countries such as Guatemala, Rwanda, Colombia, and Bosnia, these patterns have been extremely prevalent; and thus, demands the implementation of laws and regulations to control the issue of educational and healthcare depreciation.

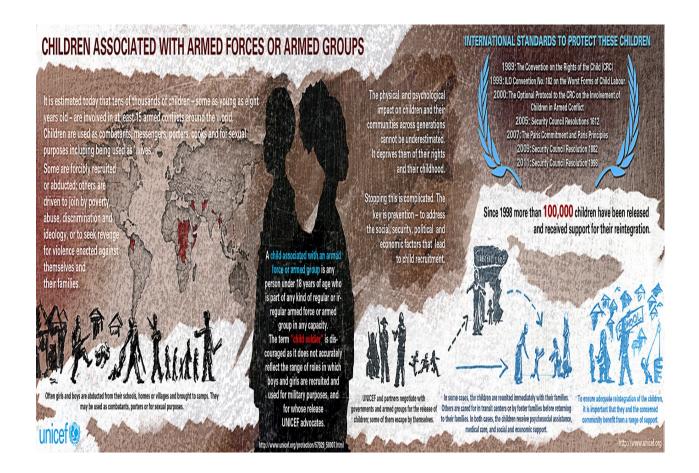
There is also the fact that children are also recruited as soldiers in these times of crises or in the state of warfare of the country. Children have long been exploited as a means of expendable labour in these wars; easily manipulated to the cause.

The protection of children's rights to healthcare and education is expressed in the 1989 Convention on the Rights of a Child (CRC). Both of these rights are fundamental to the development of a child. Educational not only affects children during the present, but also the future. The hindrance of education can prevent children from pursuing education that is necessary for them to evolve and eventually pursue higher education; and therefore, many of these children can grow up to be low-income workers due to the absence of a degree. Hence the perpetuation of conflict occurs can be attributed to this.

History of the topic

The recent developments in numerous wars and crises have been the increasing use of young children as soldiers. This is not necessarily a new concept or tactic. For centuries children have been involved in military campaigns with child ratings on warships, or as drummer boys on the battlefields of Europe. Despite the fact that the United Nations established mandates that prevent the usage of children in armed conflict, the problems persists and escalates further.

In the conflicts that are long drawn-out, children also become a valuable resource. Many current disputes have lasted a generation or more, thus children who have grown up surrounded by violence see this as a permanent way of life. When schools are closed and families fragmented, there are few influences that can compete with a warrior's life. In these circumstances and chain of events, a military unit can be something of a refuge for these children, serving as their surrogate family. At a more basic level, joining an army may also be the only way to survive.



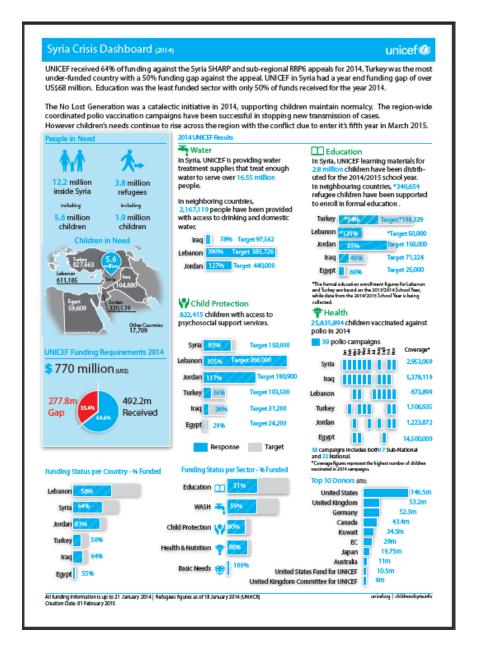
In 1990, at the World Summit for Children, the United Nations acknowledged the rising and alarming issue of the maltreatment of children's rights by establishing and adopting Resolution 51/77, seeking to apply legislations and regulations that ensure children's safety during armed conflict. It also led to a mandate that demands the creation of a Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict in 1996. Furthermore, UNICEF continues to be a key operational partner by ensuring that children who are forced into the military are released, rehabilitated, and reintegrated safely into secure communities. For those children in crises, they are supported by the UNICEF in a multitude of manners as shown below.

In addition, a resolution adopted by the United Nations Security Council in 1999 identified six grave violations against children during armed conflict; of these violations, the fifth one prohibits any attacks against schools or hospitals. Although educational institutions and hospitals being declared as safe zones that must not be interfered with during armed conflict, there have been several incidents of attacks on these areas.

Discussion of the topic

As seen through the history of the issue, children have long been exploited and thus the protection of their most fundamental human rights is crucial for their development especially in these dire circumstances.

The protection of the rights is directly linked to the protection of schools and hospitals within the conflict areas. Apart from the physical destruction, conflict can also result in the disrupted functioning or even the closure of these institutions. Children, teachers, doctors and nurses are also subject to threats by parties to conflict if suspected, for example, to support the other party to the conflict.



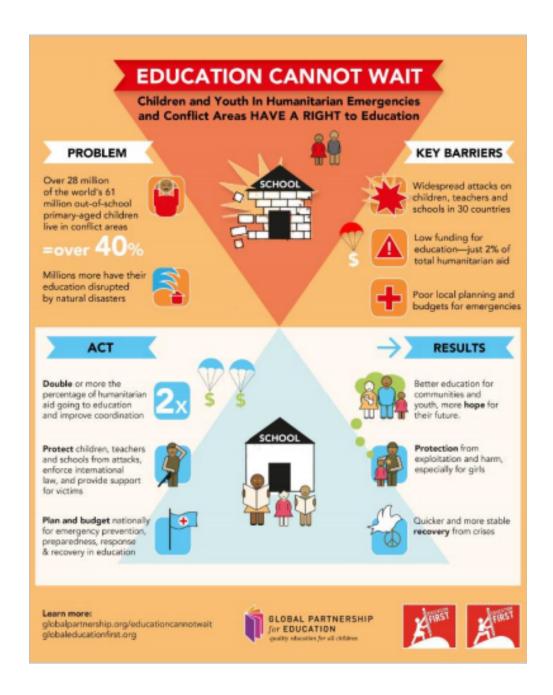
Furthermore, gender tends to play a role in the difficulty of educational and healthcare provision; for example, in Tajikistan, it is female students who find the most difficulty attending schools due to concerns over their safety. Moreover, research conducted in Austria and Germany found that children who were ten years old during the war suffered from a 20% loss of a schooling year as well as decreased likelihood of attending institutes of higher education.



It is also important to note that children who have lived in war zones can suffer from both physical and mental issues that require assistance to guarantee their wellbeing. Apart from serious injuries that might arise during war, children also often go through conditions of post-traumatic stress and other life-long conditions that can prevent them from living healthy lives in the future.

There is also the aspect of children being enlisted to armed groups, federal army or otherwise and how this must be eliminated at the grassroots level. There is the facet of the issue being the political influence that armed groups have exploiting systems of the nations especially education itself. In Sri Lanka, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) have been particularly active in the school system, indoctrinating children into their ideology.

A systematic and effective strategy needs to be employed universally for all countries to adhere to in addressing the multi-faceted issue above especially in the protection of rights for all children, no matter where they are nationals or not of the country.



Bloc Positions

Almost all countries are in solidarity in the protection of the rights of children in conflict areas. There are dissimilarities between the approaches of children being in the army. Ukraine is reported to have enlisted child soldiers, neglecting their health. There is also the case of marginalized groups being discriminated as seen in the Rohingya crisis. Research extensively on the stance of your country on the treatment of children in conflict regions.

Further Research

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- 2. https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/28/world/unicef-children-war.html
- 3. < http://repository.forcedmigration.org/show_metadata.jsp?pid=fmo:5191 > < http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/(httpAuxPages)/8BAE05FC33A200D480256B670065E3A3/\$file/StatesofDis ES.pdf>
- 4. https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/feature-does-drone-technology-hold-promise-un
- 5. https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/protecting-healthcare-in-conflict/

Questions to consider

- 1. What are ways that children can be protected from the harming effects of weaponry, physically and psychologically?
- 2. What are other major effects that can affect children throughout war?
- 3. What are ways that the use of children in armed conflicts can be diminished?
- 4. How can children with special needs be helped in these combat zones?
- 5. What has your country done in the past to improve children's health in war zones?
- 6. Has your country in anyway used children in warzones?
- 7. How can host-countries ensure the safe rehabilitation of refugees that underwent war experiences?
- 8. What investments can be made to ensure children pursue primary education as well as higher education in host-countries?
- 9. What precautions can be taken in case of a sudden attack on a school or hospital?
- 10. Can laws be established to ensure the safety of school instructors and medical personnel during war?
- 11. What are some other action plans that can be implemented to ensure complete safety of educational institutions and hospitals?

Bibliography

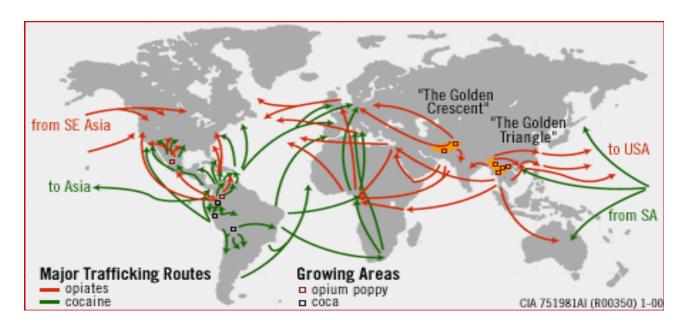
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- 5. Huijboom, S. (6 July 2015) *In Russian-occupied Donetsk, debate heated over use of child soldiers in war against Ukraine* [Online] KyivPost. Available at: https://www.kyivpost.com/article/content/war-against-ukraine/in-russian-occupied-donetsk-debate-heated-over-use-of-child-soldiers-in-war-against-ukraine-392798.html (Accessed: 17 February 2018)
- 6. Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (2018) *Children and Armed Conflict* [Online] United Nations. Available at: https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/protecting-healthcare-in-conflict/ (Accessed: 16 February 2018)
- 7. Schofield, B. (16 December 2010) *Boy soldiers: Using children in warfare is not a modern phenomenon* [Online] Independent. Available at: http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/boy-soldiers-using-children-in-warfare-is-not-a-modern-phenomenon-2161593.html (Accessed: 19 February 2018)
- 8. UNDESA. (n.d.) Fact Sheet Youth and Armed Conflict [Online] United Nations. Available at: http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/fact-sheets/youth-armed-conflict.pdf (Accessed: 16 February 2018)

AGENDA 2

The Role of Children in Drug Trafficking

Introduction to the topic

Drug trafficking has gradually become a global phenomenon that involves the trade of illegal substances against the drug prohibition laws. The General Assembly has also recognized that "despite continuing increased efforts by States, relevant organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations, the world drug problem... undermines socio-economic and political stability and sustainable development."



The usage of children in drug trades is deemed as one of the worst forms of child labor. Brazil faces a great epidemic in regards to illegal drug trade involving children. Statistics in the figure below show that children between the ages of 13-17 are more likely to be involved in drug trafficking, and what is more concerning is that fact that the trends would propose a decline in the age in future. [Figure 2.1]

A lack of education and high rates of poverty are possible causes that lead families to have to rely on illegal methods, such as drug trafficking, to obtain money. Children are often pulled out of schools when they are very young, and are taught how to smuggle drugs. Many children involved do not even remember how much education they received. As a result, they are unable to find jobs for themselves when they are old and must continue the vicious cycle and once again be involved, and involve their children, in drug trade.

3.2 Profile of children involved in drug trafficking schemes

Table 5: Age

Age	Under 18	Over 18	Quantity ¹²
13	2.50%	-	1
14	10.00%	-	4
15	17.50%	-	7
16	27.50%	-	11
17	32.50%	-	13
18	10.0%	-	4
20	-	20%	2
21	_	10%	1
22	-	10%	1
23	-	10%	1
27	-	20%	2
28	-	10%	1
30	-	10%	1
33	_	10%	1

There are a great number of teenagers between 15 and 17 years old involved in criminal activities, and a progressive increase in the number of children between 13 and 17 years old who are involved in drug trafficking schemes. It is important to point out, nonetheless, that what the data suggest and what privileged observers confirm ¹⁴ is that the age of children employed by the drug trade is decreasing. The table below demonstrates this fact. It compares the age minors and young adults enter the drug trafficking business.

Table 6: Age of entry into drug trafficking

Age	Under 18	Over 18	Quantity
8	2.50%	-	1
9	5.00%	-	2
10	5.00%	-	2
11	12.50%		5
12	15.00%	_	6
13	27.50%	10%	12
14	17.50%	20%	9
15	10.00%	20%	6
16	5.00%	20%	4
18	-	10%	1
25	-	20%	2

The lack of importance of education that plays a role in the lives of such families reflects on their attitudes towards the institution as a whole. Schools require discipline and studying for long periods and concentrating on specific subjects, for children involved in drug trafficking this is not possible, as school work is considered a distraction from trafficking. This results in the children dropping out sooner from school, and being unable to be socialised and disciplined according to normal social standards, causing such children to be categorised as "deviants" and become ostracised from normal society.

History of the topic

The three documents that set the foundation for drug policies in the United Nations are the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and the 1988 United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

Most countries have created laws which prohibit the illicit manufacture, possession, distribution, and sale of drugs. Punishments vary from country to country depending on the severity of the crime but can range from fines, imprisonment, and in some cases death. While some countries have taken a harsh approach to limiting drug trafficking by incarcerating drug abusers, others have chosen to provide rehabilitation services to assist those who suffer from addiction. The constant demand for narcotics from drug consumers causes the drug industry to exponentially grow, which poses another aspect into the issue.

In the preambulatory clause of Article 33 of the Vienna convention shows deep concern that "children are used in many parts of the world as an illicit drug consumers market and for purposes of illicit production, distribution and trade in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, which entails a danger of incalculable gravity" in regards to children's involvement in drug trading. Furthermore, the exploitation of children is done at almost every level of the trade, starting from production all the way to consumption.

The CRC and the drug control system share the same principle, that all States must be obligated to protect children from drugs. Although history does not have a plethora of data of the drug trade in relation to children, the 20th century has acknowledged the importance of protecting and enhancing children's rights to protection from drugs in international law, radical developments still need to be made, even in the developing world.

It was only after 1909, where the Shanghai Opium Commission sparked the beginning of States developing international control of drugs. During debate on the resolutions, the Dutch delegate recommended "prohibition of opium sales to children should be included in the final resolutions of the commission". However the British delegate, Cecil Clementi Smith, responded by claiming this "has already been carried out…by every civilised country" resulting in a lack of inclusion of minors in teh resolution and the Opium Convention of 1912.

Discussion of the topic

The world's countries should address the spread of these drugs across borders and around the globe; disrupt the financing of these operations; and take measures to hold accountable the major distributors of illicit drugs through the disempowerment of these factors with empowering the youth. Moreover the involvement and exploitation of children in drug trade is an issue that needs immediate and effective action, to prevent future generations from suffering in poor socio-economic condition, and being brought up in criminal environments.

The drug trade is also closely related to challenges to economic development and human development. Here the question of cultivation and drug production looms large. Although it is difficult to prevent states from allowing the cultivation of specifically opium and coca, incentives can be made to give these states alternative economic solutions. Most areas with high rates of children being involved in drug trading, show trends of higher rates of school dropouts resulting from the demands of the drug businesses. Therefore reducing the possible opportunities for the children later in life, and making them susceptible to living their whole life in the underground world.

Areas of poor education and poverty are likely to have great population sizes, and therefore a plethora of young workforce that can easily be manipulated into the trade against their will, even by their own families. Some may be unaware of their rights and possible legal implications of their actions, as they are brought up in an environment where it is considered to be a norm, and main source of income that supports their families.

Overall, drug trafficking has become one of the most threatening industries in our world up to date, and it continues to worsen as drug related violence progresses and cartel members continue to make large amounts of revenue from the sale of illegal narcotics. The exploitation of children makes the matter all the worse, and is a direct violation of these children's rights.

Bloc Positions

The involvement of children in drug trafficking is of consensus with the need to empower the youth from being exploited. The policies in each country are of different structures and priorities with the differing political and social landscape of each. For the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, which was designed to achieve coordination in the war against drug abuse, there are countries that are signatories such as Chad, East Timor and South Sudan. An approach from social, economical and political perspectives all needs to be accounted for the creation of comprehensive action plan on this issue on a global scale.

Questions to consider

- 1. Does your country have a history of drug cartels cultivating or soliciting drugs?
- 2. Has your country implemented major actions or created strategic plans to combat drug trafficking?
- 3. Does your country believe in the legalization of drugs? If so, which ones?
- 4. Is your country a party of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) or any of the other conventions mentioned above?
- 5. What are the factors that lead to children's participation in drug trafficking and how is it possible to prevent further involvement of children in such illicit activities?
- 6. What are the long-term effects associated with the involvement of children in drug trafficking?
- 7. How should Member States strengthen their policies on all aspects of anti-trafficking responses prevention, protection and prosecution?
- 8. How should the protection of the trafficked children be in terms of social services, health care, psychosocial support, and reintegration with family and community?
- 9. What are the standards that should established in each Member State in dealing with child trafficking such as developing and training responsible personnel on child friendly interviewing techniques?
- 10. How can timely victim identification be established regional and international wise?
- 11. Does the level of education and socio-economic development affect the rate of children being involved in illegal trading in your country?

Further Research

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- 2. http://www.history.com/topics/history-of-drug-trafficking
- 3. <www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/gangs-children-child-drug-dealers-class-a-aged-12-eight-youngestarrested-young-younger-heroin-crack-a7826551.html>
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