



ArcMUN

Aristotelio College Model United Nations

**The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural
Organization committee
(UNESCO)**

**UNESCO's role in promoting education as a tool to prevent
violent extremism**

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INTRODUCTION

We're very excited to welcome you to the 15th ArC MUN and we're highly anticipating meeting you in March! We can assure you, that we will have a really interesting debate on our topic. However, in order for you to get into the M.U.N. spirit and feel the vibe, you'll need to do some research! We will try our best to make your experience unforgettable and we'll guide you through the process. If you have any questions or need some further help, feel free to contact us via email at unesco.arcmun@gmail.com. We have also created a group in Facebook for your direct contact with us. You can send a request at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1864354277185001/?ref=bookmarks> (UNESCO ARCMUN 2017) in order for us to keep in touch with you and inform you better and if you like get to know each other.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION

In order for you to be fully prepared for the session, you should follow the next steps:

1. Get accustomed to the procedure of the session. Please feel free to read the procedure in the official website of ArcMUN 2017. (<http://aristoteliocollegemun.weebly.com/rules-of-procedure.html>) We will explain the procedure once more when in person, so please do not worry that much for the rules from now.
2. Read your Study Guide and indulge yourselves in individual research. Read the links provided in this guide and also do research in other websites and mass media. However, keep in mind that you should conduct your research based on official data provided by formal websites (i.e. the UN website, the European Commission etc.)

3. Know the policy of the country you are representing. You should always bear in mind that during the conference you will be representing a **specific country** and its policies and not your personal point of view on the issue debated.
4. You should know not only your country's view on the topic, but also some general information regarding alliances, geopolitical state, natural resources etc.
5. Write and send to the committee email before **February 1st**, a position paper, in which you will explain **your country's point of view, measures and possible suggestions on our topic; "UNESCO's role in promoting education as a tool to prevent violent extremism"**.
6. Visit the session's website to see the official example of a position paper and how it should be structured.

INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK

In 1945, UNESCO was created in order to promote a lasting peace on the basis of humanity's moral and intellectual solidarity. UNESCO's role is based on people's intelligence to innovate, expand their horizons and sustain the hope of a new humanism.

One of its main goals is to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all and prevent the violation of human rights. These can be achieved by;

- Mobilizing for education; so that every child has access to quality education as a fundamental human right and as a prerequisite for human development.
- Protecting freedom of expression; an essential condition for democracy, human dignity and sustainable development.

UNESCO Member States adopted the landmark decision (**Decision 197EX/46**) which calls on the Organization to enhance its capacity to provide assistance to countries as they work to strengthen their education sector responses to violent extremism, including through human-rights based **Global Citizenship Education** (GCED) programmes, keeping in mind national contexts. The framework of Global Citizenship Education (GCED) is one of the strategic areas of UNESCO's Education Sector programme for the

period 2014-2021. It prioritizes the relevance and content of education in order to ensure that education helps build a peaceful and sustainable world. Education for global citizenship encourages children and young people to explore, develop, and express their own values and opinions, while listening to others' points of view.

Furthermore, UNESCO is helping countries deliver education programmes that help build learners' resilience to violent extremism and mitigate the drivers of the phenomena. UNESCO's action to **prevent violent extremism through education (PVE-E)** seeks to strengthen the capacities of national education systems (eg. policies, teachers, educational contents) to appropriately and effectively contribute to national prevention efforts.

The promotion of human rights through education is also one main concern of UNESCO's initiatives towards preventing extremism.

The report¹ of the Centre on Religion & Geopolitics, is an overview of the extend of religious extremism, related activity and measures to counter it across the world. It is a detailed analysis, provided with numeral facts, such as which countries were targeted by violent extremism, percentages and fatalities the past year. The analysis is written in a region-oriented way, so that every subunit refers to their findings regarding a region -that may diverge from a single country to a whole continent, for example Europe.

Extremism

Nowadays, the term is mostly used in a political or religious sense, for an ideology that is considered to be far outside the acceptable attitudes of society. Such ideologies are characterized by distorted interpretations of culture, hatred, and ignorance. A common example of such behavior would be the actions of the Jihad; the attacks and the way they treat people of different religious groups. You need to take into account that those people are borne and raised into these beliefs and they are taught not to accept any different opinion or conviction.

¹ Tony Blair Foundation, *Global Extremism in May 2016* [online] Available at: <http://tonyblairfaithfoundation.org/religion-geopolitics/reports-analysis/report/global-extremism-may-2016>

You also need to consider how a rounded education can affect one's viewpoint and prevent their manipulation. As the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said: "Terrorism and violent extremism prevail when Human rights are violated." The protection and preservation of human rights are vital to reduce violent extremism and in order to do so education can be the keystone to win such battles, by winning hearts and minds, by giving hope instead of fear and destruction.

POINTS TO CONSIDER DURING THE DEBATE

- What is violent extremism and in which countries we detect such cases the last years? Which are the consequences of violent extremism, both physically and mentally?
- How can education prevent extreme ideologies from finding supporters and what is the role of the teachers on the topic as it is mentioned in the *Teachers' Guide for Countering Violent Extremism*?
- How the counties of the United Nations can support the less developed countries and the vulnerable populations, which do not have access to education?
- What measures should UNESCO propose for the promotion of global citizenship education as a means to prevent extremism?

USED AND USEFUL LINKS

<http://en.unesco.org/about-us/introducing-unesco>

<http://en.unesco.org/education2030-sdg4>

<http://en.unesco.org/sdgs/ci>

<http://en.unesco.org/preventing-violent-extremism/edu-as-tool>

<http://www.gcedclearinghouse.org/sites/default/files/resources/role-of-education-in-countering-violent-extremism-meeting-report.pdf>

Decision 197EX/46:

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002351/235180e.pdf>

A Teacher's Guide on the Prevention of Violent Extremism:

<http://www.gcedclearinghouse.org/sites/default/files/resources/244676e.pdf>

Preventing violent extremism through education:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79MTkVumCcQ&feature=youtu.be>

Medium Term-Strategy:

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002278/227860e.pdf>

Approved Program and Budget:

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002266/226695e.pdf>

Global citizenship education in action:

<http://globalhive.ca/hubs/education.pdf>

<http://en.unesco.org/gced/approach>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XVSgbU6WVSk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KuKzq9EDt-0>

Global Citizenship Education to prevent violent extremism:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nhwVKKPDm4A&list=PLWuYED1WVJIMU8LoFM4V>

[TCXiyFatiWYsm&index=10](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nhwVKKPDm4A&list=PLWuYED1WVJIMU8LoFM4V)