

**UN COMMITTEE ON SIERRA LEONE
EDUCATION SYSTEM**

Nikki Rajan

Co-Chair

Priya Kumar

Co-Chair



MMSMUN X

Dear Delegates and Sponsors, Welcome to Moody Model UN! Your co-chairs for the The UN Commission on the Sierra Leone Education System are Nikki Rajan and Priya Kumar. This committee focuses on solutions that should be implemented in certain areas to improve society and systems that are inefficient. During the sessions of this committee, delegates will focus on ways to reform the education system in Sierra Leone and create a new, more stable structure, which will allow access to education for all the children.

Nikki Rajan is an 8th Grader at Moody Middle school and is a co-chair of the UN Commission on the Sierra Leone Education System. During her recreational time, Nikki plays competitive tennis and is an active member of her school's track team. Furthermore, she is passionate about public speaking as she has also had several years of experience in Model UN and debate. Nikki looks forward to hearing all of the delegates' solutions and proposals during the exciting debates in the session!

Priya Kumar is a 7th grader at Moody Middle School and is so excited to be co-chairing SOCHUM this year! She has been involved in Model UN since 6th grade and has participated in many conferences since. In her free time, you can find her participating in clubs, playing volleyball, listening to music, or playing the piano. Priya looks forward to meeting all of the delegates and listening to the solutions they produce!

We hope you are excited about the committee, and we have a few words of advice to help you prepare. A position paper addressing both topics is required for award contention. They should be written in 12-point font, Times New Roman, double-spaced, and with 1-inch margins. Use the background guide to assist you and remember to use MLA citations properly for outside research. In order to write an effective position paper, clearly describe your stance on each of the topics from the point of view of your position. It is important to follow Moody's honor code, as no plagiarism of any kind is allowed. It is also prohibited to use any type of technology to assist you during committee sessions.

In between committee sessions, there will be merchandise sold to raise money for this year's charity, so remember to bring money. Feel free to reach out to us with any questions, concerns, or comments. We anticipate meeting each of the delegates and look forward to an enjoyable weekend of debate!

Your Chairs,
Nikki Rajan and Priya Kumar

Committee Overview

Background:

The purpose of this committee is to provide the opportunity for delegates to discuss possible solutions towards improving the education system in Sierra Leone. Some topics that are usually discussed include funding, resources, sustainable structures, and management. Improving the education system would allow easy access to the required education for children in Africa as well as help the overall environment as many are struggling to attend the schools.

Due to poverty and the lack of transportation to the schools, children in Sierra Leone are unable to educate themselves with the primary knowledge that is required in the country. Many are struggling with the lack of access to education and because of this, not only has the education value gone low, but the social

aspect for children is also struggling. Ever since the Civil War from 1991 to 2002, the economy has been decreasing, which influenced the drop in the infrastructure and poverty rate. This event also caused around 1,270 primary schools to annihilate and forced around 67 percent of all-school aged children out of school in the year 2001. The education is still, infact, improving with quite a bit of developments needed for the successfulness of the schools.

The education system in Sierra Leone consists of three basic levels of education: primary, junior secondary and senior secondary. Although the first six years of primary school are free of costs, students are still unable to attend the schools because of the long distances from their homes to the schools. Likewise, much of the population is stuck in poverty and it is

difficult for the students to pay off any required fees for the ongoing education levels after the primary. Furthermore, girls have a harder time accessing secondary education due to cultural beliefs that discourage their participation in the schools.

I. Contribution to Solutions and Access to Quality Education

Although the education system in Sierra Leone is slightly improving, there are several other factors that must be taken into consideration for the increase of education and success in the economy. First off, there is a large shortage of resources in schools such as textbooks, writing utensils, and other necessities. The access to quality education is still unable to be pursued due to poverty, gender discrimination, negative social norms, and long distances to schools. Because of the factors stated previously, many children in Sierra Leone fail to complete primary school or to make the

transition from primary to Junior Secondary School.

In August of 2018, the Sierra Leone Government decided to launch Free Quality School Education for all primary school children. This provides free tuition and admission to all students in government approved schools. Although this initiative is well received, many children are still unable to attend the schools as a multitude of students live in rural areas where there are no schools nearby.

There have also been quite some contributions from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). UNICEF has been providing financial and technical assistance to the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education. Likewise, partners have been also addressing the educational needs and developments for the out of school children through a community-based school enrolment drive, which includes school materials such as

uniforms, textbooks, learning materials, bags, etc. This program also helps adolescent females who are unable to attend the schools by a bridge program to prepare them.

Questions to consider:

1. What resources should be acquired?
2. How will the educational economy increase?
3. What are solutions towards increasing employment in schools?
4. How should students who live in rural areas access education?
5. Will females be able to also attend most schools?
6. Will working with other countries be feasible?
7. What is the estimated time and cost necessary?

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