

IBERIAN MUN Special Conference

Officer Report 2022

Research Report on the question of bodily autonomy and efforts made to restructure health systems.

The question of bodily autonomy and efforts made to restructure health systems is an issue that has received little debate in previous IMUN conferences, nevertheless it is still an issue that is predominant in today's society. Before focusing on the research and the facts of this issue it is important to first understand it. This agenda issue focuses on individuals' autonomy, self-ownership, and rights over their own bodies, and how health infrastructure that can be reconstructed to fit this necessity. This agenda issue is in complete unison with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states "An essential part of contemporary human rights is the concept of personal autonomy. Every person must have autonomy so that he/she can feel free to make decisions" (GUMBIS et al.).

Due to current events, delegates will have a tendency to focus on abortion as the main issue regarding 'bodily autonomy'. While this is a great example which must be debated during the conference, delegates must approach it with caution, ensuring that only their countries opinion is being represented, hence appropriate research must be conducted. Additionally, delegates should also focus on other examples of 'bodily autonomy', such as euthanasia and treatments for LGBTI persons. Finally, delegates should also consider "the definition of bodily autonomy [...] for trans persons who face cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, and possible torture, in the form of abusive requirements for gender recognition such as medical certification, surgery, treatment, or sterilization" ("Bodily Autonomy")

But that is only half of the issue at hand, the second half focuses on restructuring health systems to fit these needs. As the OHCHR stated “access to transition related medical care is part of the measures ensuring bodily autonomy for trans persons; efforts to criminalize or restrict such access are concerning and represent an imminent threat to their human rights” (“Bodily Autonomy”). Therefore, the resolution should focus on measures to increase availability to appropriate health care to these different communities. To construct these solutions delegates can simply research past studies made on the possibilities of restructuring health systems, these reports tend to be very detailed and there are a large number of them, different reports target different countries (USA, European Union, Saudi Arabia, China, Japan, etc.) hence delegates are recommended to read them. If not, depending on the country delegates must search for the country's perspective on this issue and build measures accordingly.

Works Cited

- "Bodily Autonomy & Integrity." *OHCHR United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner*, www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/Summary-Bodily-Autonomy-Integrity.pdf. Accessed 30 June 2022.
- GUMBIS, JAUNIUS, et al. "Do Human Rights Guarantee Autonomy?" *Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos*, University of Vilnius, www.corteidh.or.cr/tablas/r26750.pdf. Accessed 30 June 2022.