

Hilton 2022 Chair Letter

CCPCJ — Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Committee Overview

Online Gender Based Violence in the Philippines

Asian American Hate Crimes in the US

Cryptocurrency in Financial Crime

Youth Involvement in Gangs in Latin America

Committee Description:

This committee will be run Harvard Style, meaning that resolutions are not to be written until the date of the conference itself. Additionally, it is highly suggested that every delegate write at least one position paper on a topic, as doing so will be necessary to be considered for an award. Position papers should be handed in to the chairs at the start of the committee.

All delegates are expected to come to the first day of the conference with a working knowledge of all or most of the topics, as well as the policies of the countries that they represent. Keep in mind that CCPCJ is a commission within the UN focused on the prevention of national and international crime, as well as the establishment of fair and efficient justice systems. Above all, remember that Model UN is not a competition, so get to researching and try to have a little fun!

ABOUT US:

Hello! I am Angel Tang, a senior at Mendon High School. This is my 3rd-time chairing, and my 4th year in MUN. I am the co-founder of ROC Code, a Rochester-based, youth-led organization whose goal is to spread programming knowledge. I am the co-editor of Mendon's newspaper--Runestone--and I also play tennis!

Hi! My name is Katherine Pepin and I am a senior at Fairport High School. This is my 1st time chairing, which I am very excited about, and my 3rd year in MUN. I am currently on track to being certified as an EMT in the fall and this past summer I was a ropes course counselor. In my free time, I love to play volleyball with my friends and binge watch series on Netflix.

Online Gender Based Violence in the Philippines

Over the years, online gender-based violence (OGBV) incidents in the Philippines have revealed patterns of repeated forms of violence against women and girls through the use of information and communications technology (ICTs). In accordance with the expectation of increased gender-based violence during crises, OGBV incidents in the Philippines surged by 165 percent at the height of the pandemic in 2020. And in 2021, seventy-five reports of OGBV in the Philippines were mapped by the Foundation for Media Alternatives (FMA). The most prevalent cases were non-consensual distribution of intimate images (48.00%), threats of violence or blackmail (41.33%), and deleting, changing or faking personal data (22.67%).

In 2021, sextortion continued to be one of the most common OGBV incidents. These are frequently carried out by women's ex-partners, who coerce women into getting back together with them by threatening to expose their explicit photos, some of which may have been taken without the woman's knowledge. In other cases, when the victim and the offender are still in a relationship, intimacy is frequently abused. Women are frequently threatened, have their reputations tarnished, or have their money stolen by perpetrators who first win their affection before subsequently abusing their trust and confidence.

Although there were 43.84% fewer OGBV reports in 2021 than there were in 2020, these cases are nonetheless still prevalent and are beginning to appear on more platforms. Online harassment is supposedly on the rise in the online gaming industry, but as incidents have only just begun to emerge, there is still very little knowledge in this area. Dating apps are also increasingly being used as venues for gender-based violence. These instances demonstrate that abuse has no bounds, particularly given the facilitative nature of the internet.

Moving forward, much work has to be done to address the risks made possible by technology that prevent women from feeling secure online. To guarantee that the internet is secure for everyone, platform providers and designers, users, and the government must work together and act quickly to solve this issue.

How can the CCPCJ prevent the spread of OGBV? How can the CCPCJ provide support to women who have already faced OGBV? How can the CCPCJ investigate newer platforms on

which OGBV cases are starting to appear and prevent the spread of OGBV cases to other platforms?

Sources:

<https://law.upd.edu.ph/prevalence-of-online-gender-based-violence-in-the-philippines/>
<https://www.apc.org/en/news/fma-hijaako-and-what-current-data-map-online-gender-based-violence-philippines-telling-us>

<https://fma-ph.medium.com/philippine-laws-on-domestic-violence-and-online-gender-based-violence-a1a9a2f339e>

Asian American Hate Crimes in the US

Early May of this year, three Korean women were shot inside a Korean-owned hair shop in the Koreatown area of Dallas, Texas. Since the Atlanta shooting last year, which left eight people dead, six of whom were Asian American women, anti-Asian violence and prejudice have increased. Even before the deadly Atlanta-area spa shootings in March, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) had faced nearly 4,000 hate incidents since the pandemic began, a 149% rise over the previous year. Reported episodes range from verbal harassment, insults, and jokes to violent attacks in schools, businesses, and other public spaces.

According to a nationwide study by AAPI Data and Momentive: 1 in 6 Asian American people reported suffering a hate crime in 2021, up from 1 in 8 in 2020. According to the 2022 STAATUS Index, 1 in 5 Americans, compared to 1 in 10 the previous year, feel that Asian Americans are at least partially to blame for COVID-19, which may be the cause of the rise in hate crimes. Moreover, 1 in 3 Americans, up from 1 in 5 in 2021, feel that Asian Americans are more devoted to their nation of origin than to the U.S., and Americans are now more inclined to think that calling the coronavirus the "Chinese virus" and "Wuhan virus" is acceptable.

Early studies have connected increases in anxiety, depressive symptoms, and sleep issues among individuals who are targeted to the rise in anti-Asian prejudice. Furthermore, relieving these people's suffering isn't always easy. AAPI people are less likely than people of other races to seek mental health services, mainly because of cultural prejudices against mental health resources.

Anti-Asian xenophobia and bias in the United States dates back to the Page and Chinese Exclusion Acts, which barred potential immigrants from entering the country in the 19th century, and forcible internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, which marked the apex of anti-Asian prejudice in the United States. As a result of this racist past, AAPI people continue to experience harassment including being labeled the stereotype of the "perpetual foreigner," painting them as foreigners who can never genuinely identify as Americans.

How can the CCPCJ help stop AAPI hate crimes and the psychological effects that come with these crimes? How can the CCPCJ help the victims of AAPI hate crimes? How can the CCPCJ raise awareness regarding the COVID-19 virus and AAPI culture in general?

Sources:

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/anti-asian-hate-crimes-increased-339-percent-nationwide-last-year-repo-rcna14282>

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/how-we-rise/2022/05/18/confronting-the-invisibility-of-anti-asian-racism/>

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/americas/hate-crimes-against-asian-american-and-pacific-islanders-on-rise-in-us/2604755>

<https://www.apa.org/monitor/2021/07/impact-anti-asian-racism>

Cryptocurrency in Financial Crime

As technology continues to evolve, criminals have found a new way to launder money: cryptocurrency. Cryptocurrency is a digital currency that is regulated by a decentralized system. There are over 5,000 known cryptocurrencies around the world. Popular platforms include Bitcoin, Ethereum, and Dogecoin. Criminals gravitate towards this new form of financial crime because cryptocurrency is both anonymous and international. Along with the use of cryptocurrency for money laundering, criminals use the anonymity of crypto platforms to pay for services or commodities, such as drugs or trafficking.

The increase in frequency of cryptocurrency fraud is substantial. According to Chainalysis, a blockchain data company, criminals laundered \$8.6 billion cryptocurrency during 2021, which was a 30% increase from 2020. The popularization of cryptocurrency platforms for illicit purposes has contributed to the increase in arrests for money laundering. In 2016, two individuals

hacked Bitfinex, a virtual currency exchange platform, and stole about \$4.5 billion. Recently, the police have made their arrests, but the US government has only recovered \$3.6 billion. As more and more users contribute to cryptocurrency platforms, criminals are able to receive more benefits each time they launder or commit fraud.

Beginning in 2011, cryptocurrencies have been the standard means of payment for dark web platforms such as the Silk Road. In 2013, the US seized \$1 billion in cryptocurrency connected to the Silk Road. According to Europol, the volume of transactions on dark web marketplaces for 2020 totals to about \$1.7 billion worth of activity. Specifically, Bitcoin proves to be a prevalent form of payment on the dark web. In 2019, the total bitcoin spending on the dark web was \$829 million or about .5% of all bitcoin transactions.

While cryptocurrency does have benefits such as protection from inflation, a greater level of accessibility, and an increasing investment value, the risks associated with the currencies usage are numerous. The variety of criminal activities associated with cryptocurrencies threatens the security and privacy of the general public.

How can organizations and governments regulate these systems to ensure that money laundering doesn't occur? Should CCPCJ intervene and if so how? In what ways can CCPCJ prevent further criminal activity surrounding cryptocurrency?

<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/two-arrested-alleged-conspiracy-launder-45-billion-stolen-cryptocurrency#:~:text=%E2%80%9CToday%2C%20federal%20law%20enforcement%20demonstrates,Assistant%20Attorney%20General%20Kenneth%20A.>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-60072195>

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/cms/sites/default/files/documents/Europol%20Spotlight%20-%20Cryptocurrencies%20-%20Tracing%20the%20evolution%20of%20criminal%20finances.pdf>

<https://www.tookitaki.ai/news-views/moneylaundering-via-cryptocurrencies/>

Youth Involvement in Gangs in Latin America

At an unsettling rate, gangs in Latin America are targeting children for recruits. On average, child recruits are between the ages of 9 to 15, yet gangs continue to lower the bar as needed. Many of these organizations prey on children in poverty, school dropouts, and kids venturing towards US borders by offering education, food, money, or shelter in exchange for certain jobs. Gang members are easily able to manipulate youth recruits, especially if they lack a parent or guardian. Youth recruits are also high in number which allows them to be highly expendable. By the end of 2020, 97% of students across Latin America did not attend in-person school, which freed up plenty of children for gangs to target.

As a result of the high dropout rates, high crime rates, economic struggles, and the significant amount of poverty in regions in Latin America, children are placed into a vulnerable environment. According to a March 2021 report by UNICEF, Latin Americans and Caribbean students made up 60% of students worldwide who missed an entire year of school. COVID-19 also sent many families into poverty or into a period of financial distress due to the fact many people were laid off. For instance, the Colombian government imposed one of the longest COVID lockdowns in Latin America, which shifted the unemployment rate from 9.8% to 14.7%. For children who have a poor homelife, an absence of parental figures, or a lack of basic necessities, some gangs provide a sense of belonging and protection.

Once a child is affiliated with a gang, they could be used for a variety of services such as lookouts, informants, and assassins. Gang recruiting is brutal and gang members do not look favorably upon children who want to back out of the organization. The Aguilas Negras, a Colombian drug trafficking group, took away a youth recruit's food, forbade the recruit's visitation of their family and threatened to kill them when the recruit informed the gang of their desire to leave. Colombia is a hotspot for minor recruitment and even a place where guerillas and gangs work together to recruit minors. Nonetheless gangs have infested all of Latin America from the small communities to large cities. The high-risk life of a gang member can result in juvenile delinquency, substance abuse, unsafe sexual practices, arrest, homicide, and many other longterm disadvantages.

How should CCPCJ approach the increase in youth recruitments to gangs? What role could Latin American governments and NGOs play in the decrease of youth involvement in violent organizations? How can CCPCJ ensure both the prevention of further youth recruitment and the protection of current minors who are affiliated with gangs?

<https://blogs.unicef.org/evidence-for-action/know-dont-know-youth-gangs-latin-america/>

<https://americasquarterly.org/article/schools-out-in-latin-america-gangs-are-thrilled/>

<https://goodfaithmedia.org/children-easy-targets-for-latin-american-gangs/>

<https://insightcrime.org/news/analysis/why-children-are-low-risk-labor-for-latin-americas-drug-gangs/>