

# 2024

## BACKGROUND PAPER

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**Topic:** Addressing the Hyper- and Hypo- sexualization of  
Children in Developed Countries

UNICEF

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## Committee Background

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Established in 1946 in the aftermath of World War II, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has been unwavering in its mandate. Committed to aiding children and young people in peril, regardless of their country's wartime involvement, UNICEF's core mission is to reach every child in need.

Focused on safeguarding children's rights to survival, well-being, and realizing their full potential, this commitment forms the very DNA of UNICEF. Amidst global challenges, from the ravages of war to contemporary issues impacting millions, UNICEF remains dedicated to protecting the rights and welfare of all children, irrespective of their identity or location.

# Introduction of the Topic

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The sexualization of children, encompassing both hyper- and hypo-sexualization, is a critical concern in developed countries. It affects their physical, mental, and emotional well-being, impacting their development and future relationships. This paper provides a comprehensive background for understanding the issue, examining its forms, causes, and consequences, while suggesting potential solutions and recommendations for the Model United Nations debate.

The hypersexualization of children in developed countries is a pressing concern that encompasses various aspects, including media portrayal, marketing tactics, and societal attitudes. This phenomenon involves the premature exposure of children to sexual content, often through advertising, entertainment, and social media platforms. Conversely, the underrepresentation or misrepresentation of children's sexual development, known as hypo sexualization, can also have detrimental effects on their understanding of healthy relationships and self-image. This topic raises critical questions about the impact of cultural norms, parental guidance, and regulatory measures in safeguarding children's well-being in an increasingly digital and sexualized landscape.

# Evolution of the Topic

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In the early 2000s, the hyper- and hypo-sexualization of children garnered notable attention in developed nations. As societal awareness heightened, conversations about the influence of media, advertising, and online content intensified. By the mid-2010s, several countries took steps to address this issue, implementing regulations to curtail explicit content featuring minors and advocate for age-appropriate depictions.

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Transitioning into the late 2010s and early 2020s, technological advancements played a crucial role in shaping the landscape. The ascent of social media platforms and streaming services introduced new challenges, sparking ongoing debates on shielding children from inappropriate online content. During this period, there was a surge in efforts to establish digital literacy programs and enforce stricter online regulations.

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By 2024, the narrative evolved further, emphasizing the importance of global collaboration. International initiatives and agreements surfaced to counter the cross-border nature of online content, underscoring the necessity for a unified approach in safeguarding children from sexualization. This progression mirrors the dynamic interplay of technology, media, and societal values in the ongoing pursuit to protect the well-being and innocence of children in developed countries.



# External Actions

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The UN addresses the hyper- and hypo-sexualization of children in developed countries through various initiatives, emphasizing protection, education, and awareness. Collaborative efforts focus on legal frameworks, advocacy, and comprehensive strategies to safeguard children's rights and well-being. Ongoing dialogue aims to combat harmful practices while promoting a balanced understanding of sexuality in the context of child development.





# Committee Focus

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UNICEF, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, focuses on promoting and safeguarding the rights and well-being of children worldwide.

Its committee priorities include child survival, education, gender equality, protection from violence and exploitation, and ensuring that children have access to health care, clean water, and nutrition.

UNICEF works collaboratively with governments, NGOs, and communities to address the diverse challenges faced by children, aiming to create a world where every child can thrive and reach their full potential.

# Conclusion

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In conclusion, addressing the hyper- and hypo-sexualization of children in developed countries is a multifaceted endeavor that requires a comprehensive approach. The United Nations, through various agencies like UNICEF, engages in initiatives focusing on legal frameworks, education, and awareness to protect children's rights.

Ongoing efforts aim to strike a balance between safeguarding children from harm and promoting a healthy understanding of sexuality within the context of child development. Collaborative measures with governments, NGOs, and communities are essential to create an environment where children can grow, learn, and thrive free from the negative impacts of inappropriate sexualization.



# Participation List



**China**



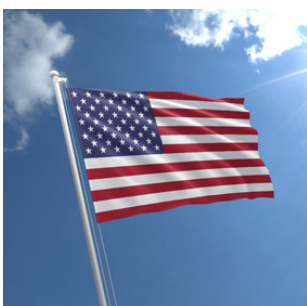
**France**



**Russia**



**United Kingdom**



**USA**



**Canada**



**Mexico**



**Japan**



**Germany**



**Argentina**



**South Korea**



**Australia**

# Participation List

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**Spain**



**Norway**



**Belgium**



**Indonesia**



**Colombia**



**Afghanistan**



**Brazil**



**Ukraine**

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