

Jordan Model Parliament'

2025-2026



{The mission is to} develop and empower young leaders who will drive change within and beyond their communities, and eventually across borders
King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein

Name of the Committee: Crime unit

President's Name: Uwase Ange

Issue: Is poverty the main cause of crime in Jordan?

Dear Delegates,

In this forum, delegates will have the chance to examine the pressing criminal justice challenges that our unit confronts.

These topics include whether honor killings should be punished through the death penalty and if poverty is the root cause for crime in Jordan. While broaching these topics, the delegates should ensure that the operational strategies encompass the legal, social, and ethical aspects. Furthermore, I urge the delegates to read the briefing packet thoroughly along with conducting background research. Through formulating the strategies, the delegates must keep in mind that the solutions should benefit not only the pursuit of justice, but also the society as a whole. Armed with these facts, the strategies should be actionable and able to be implemented as soon as possible. In other words, the strategies should consider long-term public safety benefits and be plausible. In this forum, the delegates will be in task forces and combine the strategies that they come up with before the conference. After doing so, the delegates will present their task forces' strategies to each other and have fruitful debates about them. If a delegate is presenting his/her strategies, one should give constructive criticism if the strategies have to be amended. Criticism without logical thinking will not benefit the delegate in amending his/her strategies. I hope you enjoy the briefing and you do not have to worry too much because I will be helping you throughout the conference.

Sincerely.

Is poverty the root cause for crime in Jordan?

Currently, the link between poverty and crime in Jordan is described as “a significant concern,” “a cyclical problem,” and “a key challenge for social stability.” This is so as economic pressures, including high unemployment and inflation, are seen as factors that can drive individuals toward illicit activities for survival (Jordan Department of Statistics).

Although “poverty” has been a challenge for a long time, currently, the problem is intensifying due to regional instability and internal economic strains. From 2020 onwards, economic hardships have been exacerbated by global events, placing a heavier burden on low-income families (World Bank). As the cost of living rises, the opportunities for legitimate income are too narrow to accommodate the needs of many citizens. Even worse, poverty rates are significantly higher among youth, who are also facing record unemployment. This would only worsen if economic growth continues to be sluggish, potentially increasing the risk of petty and organized crime. Therefore, some communities experience higher crime rates, which are often linked to a lack of economic opportunity. Ultimately, this creates a vicious cycle where poverty fuels crime, and crime, in turn, hinders economic development and investment. One of the factors that should be considered about this topic is the gap between urban and rural areas, where poverty is often more concentrated and access to services is limited. In other words, crime is not just an economic issue but also a geographical one. Another factor that is attributing to the complexity of this relationship is the large refugee population in Jordan, which lives under severe economic constraints and can sometimes be disproportionately

represented in crime statistics, though often as victims of exploitation themselves. Furthermore, as poverty affects education and social mobility, it can create conditions where criminality is perceived as one of the few available options, particularly for the youth.

Question:

Is Poverty the Root Cause of Crime in Jordan?

- What does recent data and research from Jordanian institutions (like the Department of Statistics) show about the correlation between poverty rates/indicators and crime rates?
- Are certain types of crime (e.g., theft, drug trafficking, petty crime) more strongly linked to economic hardship than others (e.g., violent crime, cybercrime)?
- How does the economic situation, particularly youth unemployment, contribute to vulnerability and recruitment into criminal activities?