

SPECIAL COMMITTEE: ANTI VIGILANTE LEGISLATION

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CIMA: March 6-7, 2020



I. Historical Background

Following the STAR Labs Particle Accelerator Explosion of 2013, the frequency of metahumans, superheroes, and aliens has increased dramatically. This explosion resulted in some 2600 people developing the meta-gene, one that affects roughly 12% of all living organisms. This gene defines whether or not an individual has the potential to develop abilities beyond normal human capabilities in response to a traumatic incident, turning them into Meta-humans. There are approximately some 1.3 million Meta-humans on Earth, 99.5% of which are considered "nuisance-level" (minor power levels.) The other 0.5% consists of what are considered as Alpha- and Beta-level threats. Additionally, the presence of alien lifeforms on Earth has formed superheroes that walk among us every day. These individuals, either by choice or force, have landed here on Earth and now must acquire a new way of living. Their abilities have allowed them to act as vigilantes in their respective areas, using unnatural forces to become formidable powers against certain criminal groups. Furthermore, individuals have become "super" through designing their own inventions that give them the qualities of a superhero or training to become one. Whatever the case may be, all these individuals share a common trait: serving the community, either locally or globally, through acts of vigilantism.

According to the Cambridge English Dictionary, vigilantism is the practice of ordinary people taking unofficial action to prevent crime in their region. Whilst the idea of civilians working to stop crimes and catch and punish criminals seems to be ethically correct to most, issues arise when these vigilantes intervene in police and government affairs. Governments, police departments, superheroes, and vigilantes have found themselves in a difficult situation as they have

not been able to find a solution to this pressing dilemma of public safety. While American politicians such as Emily Pollard have proposed anti-vigilante legislation in places such as Star City, the international community has yet to pass legislation regarding vigilante and superhero work. With the effects of superhero and vigilante work increasing every day, countries have begun to voice their opinions regarding the control of these enhanced individuals. The United Nations has yet to put out any official legislation, so the world waits to see how the international community will handle the issues that accompany vigilantism.

II. Rise of Vigilantism

Vigilantism occurs when individuals in a given city or state feel that the threats against themselves or their community cannot be stopped by state law enforcement. Through traumatic events where they have seen the atrocities of high-crime affect their lives, these individuals feel it is their duty to be the watchful eye of their city against these criminals. That being said, these vigilantes do not believe that local police or law enforcement have the necessary power to stop these criminals due to a lack of funding or internal corruption which has plagued cities such as Gotham and Central City. Therefore, it is up to private individuals to take matters into their own hands and deal with the problems as they arise. This brings up issues with the local and state governing body regarding the rights of citizens and the legitimacy of the government. They worry that if these individuals acquire too much power, they will be able to sway public opinion and lead to anarchy and revolt against the government, disrupting social order and peace even more.

III. Vigilantism on a National Scale

On the international level, countries worry that their sovereignty might be challenged by these enhanced individuals. It has been shown to the international community that superheroes are able to contest, and in some cases overcome, the military power of some of the most

technologically advanced countries. Presidents and leaders have brought up concerns regarding their national security and the maintaining of peace internationally. Who is in charge of these superheroes? Who is responsible for paying for the damages that they cause? Do they report to any leader or group? And if so who? Is it correct for any country to control such a powerful weapon? Are they considered citizens or equipment of the state? All these questions and many more have brought together international leaders to discuss their stance on the legality of vigilantism and what punishments, if any, should be administered to them. Having a force such as a superhero or vigilante could jeopardize the entire principal on which the United Nations was built upon following World War II: preserving international peace.

IV. Public Opinion

The public's opinion is an important factor to consider when deciding how superheroes and vigilantes should be treated. Beginning to idolize these vigilantes and superheroes immensely, citizens often see these individuals as a powerful source of good that can protect their community better than their local police force or state government. From monuments such as the fifteen-foot-tall one of Superman in Metropolis to the celebrations such as the Flash Day Rally in Star City, people are showing their support and gratitude to these individuals. However, it is important to note that not all groups feel that vigilantism is a beneficial thing. A study by Vanderbilt University stated that "in the moments in which societies have been more prodemocratic societies they have also been less supportive of vigilante justice." Certain communities have voiced their opinions against the use of vigilantism, saying that these actions favor a culture of chaos and disorganization, which could negatively affect the stability of a society.

Furthermore, news stations and media companies such as CatCo, The Daily Planet, Central City Picture News, and The Central City Citizen have become an important part of the discussion regarding these individuals, influencing the public's opinion surrounding important topics such as

crime, vigilantism, and superheroes. In fact, these news stations have the power to change a vigilantes entire career, as was shown when Central City Picture News was the first to cover the story of the Flash which garnered international attention.

V. Guide Questions

- a.** What is your delegation's opinion regarding the use of vigilantism?
- b.** Should vigilantes work with or without government intervention? If so, to what extent?
- c.** Should superheroes fall under the jurisdiction of the international community?
- d.** Does your delegation favor current vigilante acts or the presence of vigilantism as a whole? What measures does your delegation propose to support your beliefs?
- e.** What solutions or legislation does your delegation propose to tackle the ongoing issue of vigilantism?
- f.** Should the national government intervene in vigilante matters / In regards to your nation's national security policy, how will acts of vigilantism be treated?
- g.** Should federal governments intervene in state matters of vigilantism if no measures have been taken regarding the issue at hand?

Message from the Dais:

Hello delegates! We are **super** excited to be your chairs for this dynamic and (hopefully) fun committee. We encourage you to go beyond the information presented in the briefing to have a better grasp on the issues of vigilantism and your stance regarding superheroes. Our committee will be set in the present day in the DC universe / Arrowverse. For delegations that represent countries, your position will largely reflect your stance on national security and the rights of citizens overall. For delegates that represent superheroes, your identity will be protected, this meaning that it cannot be used as blackmail or anything of the sort. Position papers should be written in **Times New Roman size 12, double-space**, and in between **2-3 pages**. Citations may be written in either footnotes or on a separate page at the end of the document. Position papers should be submitted to the committee email by **Thursday, February 27, 2020 by 11:59PM in PDF format**. Feel free to email us if you have any doubts or questions regarding the committee, we look forward to being your chairs!

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Works Cited:

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