

This topic is about how disabilities can interfere with a person's right to move to another policy. It is related to strict immigration policies in certain countries. In Australia, for example, certain persons with disabilities are not allowed to move into the country because of high health care fees that must be paid by the government. This is a social and humanitarian issue that belongs in SHC.

Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Affairs Committee

MUNSA XVIII

Agenda Item 1

Discussing the effects that an impairment, disability, or handicap has on a person's legal right to immigrate to another country. Combating discrimination against mentally and/or physically impaired, disabled, or handicapped peoples as it pertains to immigration rights.

Report of the Chair

I. Statement of the Problem

1. One out of every ten people who are displaced will have a disability. 88% of the disabled population lives in developing countries and 90% of that population lives in rural areas.

2. In many countries, people with mental and physical disabilities often face some level of prejudice including physical abuse, ostracism, and fear of contagion. This causes for many families, with a family member who is disabled, to flee to a country that is more accepting of special needs. Although oftentimes countries they are fleeing to have 'health tests' that are not possible for disabled persons to pass.

3. This topic relates to the global community because when people are not granted the right to immigrate to a certain country due to a disability, this is a form of discrimination inflicted by the government.

4. Often times, health care becomes an issue for immigrants with disabilities. Many governments who offer universal health care benefits view people with disabilities as too expensive to provide healthcare for. These countries then do not grant immigration to the person with disabilities.

II. History of the Issue

5. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that about 15% of the world's population has some kind of disability, impairment, or handicap. People with disabilities are among the most neglected of all displaced peoples. Because of how they are perceived in society, they are often excluded from mainstream assistance programs and forgotten when specialized and targeted services are established.

6. In 1971, Ecuador's new immigration reforms stated that foreigners could legally be excluded

if they have “acute or chronic psychosis, a dangerous disorder, a sexual deviation or general or progressive general paralysis, including in this category persons who are chronic alcoholics, atavistic, epileptic, mentally retarded, cretins, blind and, in general, invalids whose injury may prevent them from working.” (Disability + Immigration, 2001)

III. Potential Solutions

In terms of resolution writing, delegates must keep the following in mind:

- Creation of more immigration-specific disability discrimination policies
- Enforcement of health care policies relating to disabilities
- Consideration of healthcare reform as well as healthcare and immigration policies
- Improvement of management information systems needed to address the gaps in data, ensuring that refugees with disabilities are higher on the international agenda

In resolutions, delegates must address what will be done to improve the social perceptions of people with disabilities, handicaps, and impairments.

IV. Position and Research Tips

- What laws does your country have regarding immigration, healthcare, and discrimination?
- What action has your country taken in the prevention of disability discrimination?
- Has your nation been involved in the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Affairs Committee before? What role and approach have they used in the past?
- How will your country’s economic status affect its policies on immigration and healthcare?

Useful Web Sources

- www.un.org/disabilities
- <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/migration/>

V. Note to Delegates

Delegates,

We are so thankful you have dedicated your time and energy to participate in MUNSA XVIII! All three of us love MUN, and feel very passionately about our topics. We are excited to see how you remain authentic while collaborating to create a well written resolution that addresses the discrimination of disabilities, impairments, and handicaps. If you are unclear on anything or have any questions feel free to email any of us!

Sincerely,

Kate Gilbert, Kerrington Cai, and Brendan Rodriguez

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2) The effects that forced or voluntary migration has on culture loss, especially for refugees and indigenous peoples.

While the majority of indigenous peoples worldwide still live in rural areas, they are increasingly migrating to urban areas, both voluntarily and involuntarily. This is a reflection of the growing trend of global migration, whereby the majority of the world's population will soon live in cities. This is a cultural issue and would fit well in SHC.

MUNSA XVIII

Agenda Item 2

The effects that forced or voluntary migration has on culture loss, especially for refugees and indigenous peoples.

Report of The Chair

I. Statement of the Problem

1. Economic and political issues in countries around the world can affect a person's decision to immigrate to a new country. Most of the world's indigenous peoples live in rural areas, however there is an increasing amount of indigenous people moving to cities. This movement is usually caused by land possession by governments, an inability to find employment opportunities, natural disasters and more. Policy framework and decision making of nation states often exclude indigenous peoples' voices and lead to the discrimination of their culture.
2. Culture is a patterned way of life shared by a group of people. It encompasses all the humans have and do to produce and to relate to each other. Culture includes agreed-upon principles of human existence as well as modes of survival. Indigenous peoples are spiritually connected to their land and when their land is damaged or taken from them they lose their sense of identity. Indigenous peoples are very vulnerable to racism and discrimination because they are usually uneducated, lack health care, and have limited political power.
3. Often times, refugees are displaced from their home country because of political corruption or economic hardship. Refugees then go to more developed countries that have jobs available for the refugee.

II. History of the Issue

1. Indigenous peoples see themselves as a part of their environment and have unique attachment to their land or territory. This allows them to develop means of production based on their knowledge of their environment.
2. Cultural diversity and culture loss is a difficult debate that is commonly discussed in today's globalizing world. Technology and urbanization have decreased the amount of cultural diversity

in the world. Many scholars argue that culture loss is not a prevalent issue because it is a natural process in today's society.

III. Potential Solutions

While writing resolutions, delegates must keep in mind:

1. What indigenous groups their country may have encountered conflict with.
2. Pre-existing refugee programs and refugee migration policies within the country.
3. That delegates should take a stance on whether cultural diversity is important in today's society or not.
4. That delegates should have an opinion that is relevant and authentic to the delegate's country.

IV. Position and Research Tips

- Research and firmly establish your country's position on the subject.
 - Additionally, support this position with evidence, preferably in the form of past action regarding the subject.
- Carefully consider the impact of the groups affected in terms of culture, structure, and economy when authoring solutions.
- Consider the impact that cultural diversity has on the world.

Useful Web Sources

- <http://home.pacific.net.hk/~tonyhen/global.htm>
- <http://www.greatschools.org/find-a-school/defining-your-ideal/284-cultural-diversity-at-school.gs>
- <http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/globalization-and-cultural-diversity>
- <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTSOCIALDEVELOPMENT/EXTINDPEOPLE/0,,menuPK:407808~pagePK:149018~piPK:149093~theSitePK:407802,00.html>
- http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/SOWIP_web.pdf

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