

Offspring of migrant workers getting the same health benefit as citizens offspring in developed and developing nations

Report of the Chair

I. Statement of the Problem

1. Equal access to health care for children of migrant workers in another country is an ongoing problem in many developed and developing countries. Health care is a basic right for children all over the world, but in some nations and countries, this right is not always available or supported. According to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) children of migrant workers in particular are deprived of health care.^[1]
2. According to Convention on the rights of the Child (CRC) all human rights, including ESCR (economic, cultural, social rights) must be protected and fulfilled for all children.^[2] "All children within a state, including the undocumented children, have the right to affordable health care. The rights that are preserved in the International Covenant on Economic and Social Rights apply to everybody, including migrants, no matter of legal status and documentation."^[2]
3. In some countries the national policy of the birth registration of children born to migrant parents, either one or both parent being a migrant that are undocumented violates basic child rights- to a name, registration, and identity- making it harder to have access to the basic rights, such as education and health care.^[3] With this being said children and adults are prone to catch diseases and illnesses and tend to have a shorter life expectancy due to the lack of care.
4. There are two types of broad groups of children that are affected by migration; are those who migrate with their parents and those who are born from migrant parents in their destination country. Many of these children due to their citizenship status are often discriminated against.^[5]
5. Most children of migrants-61% in 2003- live in families where one or more children are citizens but one or more parent are non citizens leaving the health and security of children to be greatly affected due to the lack of a legal status.^[4]
6. Caring for the health of migrants and migrant children is beneficial not only for migrants but for the host populations. Recognizing the necessity to knock down barriers in access to health care can represent an improvement in health care in general for the whole population itself.

II. History of the Problem

7. UNICEF (United Nations Emergency Children Fund) was originally created to provide emergency food and healthcare to children that have been devastated and affected by World War II. UNICEF was created by the United Nations General Assembly in December, 1964. UNICEF's original name was United Nations Emergency Children Fund but was later shortened to the acronym that is very well used today. It officially became part of the United Nations system in 1953.^[6]
8. UNICEF and its partners the National Working Committee on Women and Children have been working together for ten years to work on solutions for problems migrant children face. They have contributed to the establishment of eighteen Child-Friendly Spaces that helps target migrant and left behind children.^[7]
9. South Africa has signed and established many United Nations conventions to create the framework and legislation policy in keeping up with human rights for all children, especially for migrant children. The ACRC (African

Convention on the Rights of the Child) ensures the rights and freedom of migrant children regardless of their position.^[8]

10. Article 24 of the CRC stresses the State Parties the establishment that health care services are available and open to all people. No child should be deprived from of these services and there should be no discrimination no matter what the child's position. Although the article was made to grant access to services it is only granted in some countries due to restriction laws.^[7]

III. Potential Solutions

11. Developing a potential solution to the suppressing issue of children rights to health care, delegates are encouraged to keep in mind the following points:

- Compare the access to health care in developed and developing countries
- Reduce restrictions on migrant birthing rights
- Consider what is already been done to provide access to affordable health care
- Consider what needs to be done to ensure equal access to health care

IV. Position and Research Tips

12. All delegates should remember to use credible sources when researching their country's position. Delegates should remember to remain true to country's position on the topic at hand. Thing's to consider when researching:

- Is there equal access of health care to migrant children in your country?
- What percent of migrant children have access to health care?
- What could your country do to provide equal access to health care?
- Does your country discriminate against illegal migrant children?
- What actions have been taken to provide health care in your country?
- What is your government's role in providing health care?

Useful Web Sources

- <<http://www.unicef.org>>
- <<http://www.ohchr.org>>
- <<http://www.escr-net.org/>>
- <<http://www.cnn.com/>>

V. Notes to Delegates

Welcome Delegates,

My co-chairs Nick, Eric, and I are very excited to see and have you in our committee room. I appreciate the time, effort, and research you put into your position papers and conference. We hope that you have a great time delegating at MUNSA XVIII and enjoy this wonderful experience.

- Victoria Phongsavane

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