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SSUNS

UNGA: Special Session Indigenous Affairs

29 October 29, 2016

Position Paper 1

In Ghana, the medical industry focuses on supernatural causes as the answer to people's illnesses. People try to cure these diseases through prayer, magic charms, and herbal remedies. Medical doctors do reside in Ghana, but in mainly the big cities. Because of this the indigenous peoples cannot have easy access the help they need. There is approximately 1.1 medical doctor for every 1000 people living in Ghana. Mental illness is very prevalent in Ghana. Every day in Ghana, at least five people commit suicide and are successful. No one is able to support the people affected by depression and other mental illnesses. Often, these cities where the indigenous peoples live are isolated. Therefore they feel they have nowhere to go and get help, so they commit suicide. Along with the problems with mental illnesses, there are 39.7 infant deaths out of every 1000. Between the years 2008 and 2013, there were 3.5 million cases of Malaria affecting mainly children under five and pregnant women. There are also 288 cases of Tuberculosis out of every 100,000 people. One 78% of those cases were treated. Most of the people not treated were indigenous peoples. Indigenous peoples of Ghana are not getting the medical support they need to thrive.

As a result, a traveling agency shall be constructed to travel to Ghana. The agency will include social workers and therapists, medical doctors, midwives, and pharmacists. They will travel across Ghana providing help for the affected peoples in remote indigenous towns. Alongside these workers would be the indigenous peoples own healing practitioners. This would keep the western medical professionals from doing anything disrespectful to the indigenous people of Ghana. The doctors can diagnose all patients, the pharmacist can distribute the appropriate medicine needed, and the therapists and social workers will provide help for the patients suffering from mental illness. The midwives can be there to help deliver babies and keep them healthy. This program will be funded by nonprofit organizations.

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Position Paper 2

In Ghana, the indigenous people have been marginalized. They are not set as a priority in the government and therefore suffer greatly with their land laws, rebuilding after natural disasters, and with climate change. The peoples share land in a system called “communal lands”. Recently, as urban cities expand, the chiefs of the tribes are forced to accommodate some of their lands. In 2015, Ghana reported 243,988 natural disasters. These included floods, and very strong rain and wind storms. With so many disasters it is very hard to rebuild after every one, especially within a country with so much poverty. Ghana experiences many droughts, floods, and sea erosions. This can affect the way indigenous life is lived. The people may not have a way to compensate for the change and therefore will not have what they need to survive.

As a result, a non-profit will be constructed to support the indigenous peoples of Ghana in protecting their lands. They will strike a deal with the government to respect and keep them on the land. Another non-profit will be stationed in Ghana to support them through natural disasters. They will provide the appropriate resources lost during the disaster. Social workers will be there to support the people affected in an emotional way. They will stay until the peoples land is rebuilt and they are all safe. Then they will travel to the next afflicted area. Yet a third non-profit will be constructed to help the indigenous peoples adapt to the ever changing climate. They will provide new ways of transportation if necessary and also provide other necessary tools.

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Position Paper 3

As a whole, the county of Ghana's poverty is at 24.2%. Out of this the majority of that 24.2% is indigenous people. The rate of poverty has been decreasing, yet since 2012, the rate of the decrease has decreased. The economic gap between the urban and rural areas of Ghana has doubled since 2012. Therefore poverty is a growing concern for these peoples. Also, the country is facing an economic crises where food prices have gone way up and are even more unreachable for the indigenous peoples. The same thing is happening with fuel and utility prices. Poverty is one of this countries' main issues and it is especially hard for the indigenous peoples who are marginalized and not receiving proper economic help.

As a result, a team of educators will arrive in Ghana to educate the indigenous youth. They will teach them the core subjects math, history, language, and science. Along with those, they will be taught skills of the workplace. This will provide the people a way to find jobs to keep a steady income. Some will also be taught how to run their own business of a service people need to receive the biggest income possible. This will improve the economy of the indigenous people permanently. It will be better than giving them money because as it is said "give a man a fish he eats for a day, teach a man to fish he eats for life." We would be teaching these young people skills they can use for the rest of their life and they can pass them down to their kids and as a result the poverty of these peoples will forever improve.

