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Topic: Indigenous Peoples, Healthcare, Mental Health, and Wellness

Country: Argentina

In the past several years, there has been an overwhelming internal and external push to strengthen countries from incoming or outgoing drug trade, drug use, and other drug related, and, or caused, crimes. Argentina wants to work with other countries to dispose of the illegal global drug trade because it is affecting Argentina's lower class citizens, the indigenous people. "Argentina is a federal state comprising 23 provinces with a total population of over 40 million. The results of the Additional Survey on Indigenous Populations (2004-5), published by the National Institute for Statistics and Census, gives a total of 600,329 people who recognise themselves as descending from or belonging to an indigenous people, while the latest national census from 2010 include a total of 955,032 persons self-identifying as descending from or belonging to an indigenous people. There are today 35 distinct indigenous peoples officially recognized," (Ovejero 2016).

Because of the high influx of drug trade into Argentina, Argentina has noticed that "higher suicide rates, alcohol abuse and dependence are the main mental health problems identified [in Argentina]" (PAHO, 2016). It is clear to Argentina that "understanding the health network is important to improve [the] population's' access to services," (PAHO, 2016), which is considerably high compared to countries like Canada and Brazil, having 4.7 hospital beds for every 1,000 people and 3.16 physicians for every 1,000 Argentinians, but the total population is much higher and the GDP per capita (ability to afford medical care) is much lower.

Argentina has been striving to cut off drug trade and monitor the health of its people, including the indigenous people. "As an example, in Chaco Province, the local indigenous community built a concrete model in the existing health network. It aims to improve knowledge of the health system in this community. Although the results have not yet been measured, there are early indications demonstrating the positive impact of improved health system knowledge for the indigenous population," (PAHO, 2016). Argentina believes that monitoring the goods being traded in free trade is necessary and crucial to serve the greater masses of the indigenous.

Argentina is party to joining and creating treaties with other countries that will allow a strict watch over what is being traded over seas and into and out of countries. Argentina would be party to working with countries with similar goals – Mexico, United States, Brazil, The Bahamas – because Argentina relies heavily on tourism as well as other countries that also suffer from drug abuse affecting the indigenous people. As a member of the world trade organization, Argentina would like to put these requests forward to other delegates and find a resolution that can benefit several issues. Argentina looks forward to joining forces and redirecting drug trade and discrimination from the indigenous people of the world and Argentina, which, in theory, will benefit the global community.

Works Cited

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