Elizabeth Dever

Botswana

**The Impact of Climate Change on Human Health**

Climate change is a very serious issue that is often overlooked in global politics. Climate change has a variety of effects that impact the environment, the atmosphere, and people. Human health is severely affected by climate change. Where ice caps melt, floods rise, and where weather warms, infectious diseases emerge. There is a large inequality between continents as some emmitt greenhouse gasses and others face the fatalities of their effects. Botswana, a small African country faces the health effects of climate change stronger than most countries. Being a country that emits little greenhouse gasses and does not contribute significantly to climate change, it is unsettling to see that they are a country affected by its consequences the most. Botswana would like to see action taken towards the reduction of climate change in order to further improve the health of its country and the countries surrounding in Africa.

**Climate Refugees**

Climate change has brought about a new wave of refugees. Climate refugees are the people socially impacted by the impacts of climate change. They are one of the larger consequences of climate change. Botswana, being in Africa has felt the effects of climate change and the impact they have on people and their refugee status. Many people have sought refuge outside of Botswana. The country faces health issues related to greenhouse gas emissions. Climate refugees must leave the country in order to find a safe haven and escape the large disastrous impacts of climate change.

**Steps to Enforce the Paris Agreement and Further Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

Great strides were made in 2015 at the United Nations Climate Change Conference. In Paris a consensus was made addressing the importance of the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. However, while countries came together on this agreement, there was no real identification of a way to enforce this agreement. Botswana believes that real actions must be taken to apply the agreement and to actually make a change in countries greenhouse gas emissions. Botswana believes that a carbon tax should be enforced to all counties. This will cause larger countries that emit a greater amount of greenhouse gasses to decrease their use. If they are charged a carbon tax, there will be less carbon emitted into the atmosphere and the world will be one step closer to decreasing the effects of climate change.