Committee: United Nations General Assembly: Special Session on Indigenous Affairs

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

Country: Iran

Delegate: Anna Kroner

School: Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School

Iran, or more commonly known as the Islamic Republic of Iran is a country in Asia that acknowledges the importance of providing Indigenous people of Iran the same treatment for mental health, illnesses such as tuberculosis and additionally, access to healthcare. Indigenous people all over the world are more likely to suffer from health problems such as mental illness’ and physical issues such as tuberculosis. This is due to the fact that many countries do not make healthcare available to the indigenous population. Partially because of this, the life expectancy for indigenous people is twenty years lower than that of non-indigenous counterparts. Iran’s healthcare system and the care of indigenous people has drastically improved since the Iranian Revolution even though there are still many noticeable health inequalities.

Iran has the 30th most effective healthcare system in the world before the United States according to Bloomberg News. Currently, ninety percent of iranians are covered by health insurance. Iran has made it a goal to make healthcare accessible and more universal to indigenous people by 2018. The Islamic Republic of Iran has already taken action to solve this problem. The Imam Khomeinei Relief Foundation makes sure that people who are living in poverty have health insurance. The Military Personnel Insurance Organization was created to ensure the health care coverage of Iranian soldiers. The health of many Iranians, specifically indigenous people has improved significantly over the past two decades even though it could always improve. The use of drugs and other substances is a major cause of mental disorders and burdens in Iran. Because of this, there has been a significant increase in harm reduction programs in Iran. Iran aims to make these programs more accessible to indigenous people. Tuberculosis, a disease that affects 2 to 3 percent of Iranians, a number that is significantly lower compared to other countries. This 2 to 3 percent of Iranians are among the indigenous people population. This is most likely due to the fact that they don’t have insurance but soon enough health insurance will be universal in Iran.

Iran believes that the best solution for this problem is making health insurance and healthcare more accessible. Iran proposes the creation of programs that are specifically aimed towards the Iranian indigenous population. These programs would not only educate the indigenous population about diseases but provide healthcare and medicine for illnesses that they may be suffering with. Inadequate healthcare and high mortality rates of indigenous people is a problem that many countries suffer from and with the help of the United Nations and the formation of programs geared toward helping these people, indigenous people will be able to live a better life.

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Committee: United Nations General Assembly: Special Session on Indigenous Affairs

Topic B: Indigenous Land Rights, Climate Change Impacts and Environmental Protection of Resources

Country: Iran

Delegate: Anna Kroner

School: Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School

Iran, or more commonly known as the Islamic Republic of Iran is a country in Asia that acknowledges the importance of helping its indigenous population adapt to climate change. The land which belongs to the indigenous population has been vastly affected by climate change which has resulted in people’s ability to sustain themselves using natural resources provided by their historic land. Climate change affects indigenous people’s ability to fish, hunt and grow produce for its community. Iran, similar to other countries is committed to preserving its indigenous population and its land rights.

31% of the Iranian population consists of indigenous nomadic people who are currently affected by climate change. These nomadic tribes have had their unique spiritual beliefs about different natural resources and typical practices that have been set in place for thousands of years. These practices and spiritual beliefs are no longer feasible because of the climate change in the world. Along with this, their way of life and sustaining themselves has become more of a challenge due to climate change. Iran is attempting to find solutions to this problem because it has made the land weaker and of less use to the indigenous population. Iranian social activists have been helping indigenous nomadic tribes in Iran. They have been researching the problems that are occurring with climate change and how it has a negative effect on the indigenous population. These social activists have been creating programs such as the Territory-Based Sustainable Range Management Programme, also known as the TBSRM. These programs create more effective ways of managing natural resources. These programs also give a say in the government to indigenous people because they allow them to directly be in touch with the government and discuss their issues.

Iran believes that creating more of these programs will allow indigenous people to claim more rights to land because of their direct connection to the government. This way the government can help the nomadic Iranians set up legal framework for a piece of land. These programs can also help better the environment because people will become more aware of the issue and start to manage natural resources more effectively.

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Committee: United Nations General Assembly: Special Session on Indigenous Affairs

Topic B: Indigenous Peoples, Poverty and Development

Country: Iran

Delegate: Anna Kroner

School: Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School

Iran, or more commonly known as the Islamic Republic of Iran is a country in Asia that acknowledges the importance of aiding the indigenous population to become less discriminated against and wealthier to be able to sustain themselves. Today, indigenous people are one of the people that are the most discriminated against in the world. The indigenous population makes up the poorest population in the world. This is hurting the development of the indigenous people. Iran, similar to other countries is committed to make sure that its indigenous population no longer lives in poverty and is more developed as a people.

Indigenous people suffer more from poverty in Iran than the average Iranian. Although 70 percent of Iranians are under the poverty line, Iran is facing many difficulties and poverty cannot be blamed on the government. Despite the large amount of oil trade in Iran, there are a number of people below the poverty line. This can only be blamed on the military instability of the countries of and surrounding Iran. The lives of so many people are at risk because of the poverty rates in Iran. Indigenous people in Iran also face some discrimination, but the issue has gained importance in Iranian government in the twentieth century. Women have begun to be considered equal to men. Although they are equal, the government is made up of mostly men. This is because indigenous women don’t want to participate in the government even though they are allowed to. Iranian indigenous people are allowed to practice their religion as long as it is within the limits of the law. Similar to other countries in the middle east, Iran is not discriminating against different people as much as it used to, but there is definitely still room for improvement.

Although there are already many steps that were being taken to resolve the poverty issue, such as NGO’s, they haven’t sufficiently solved the poverty and discrimination issue. Iran believes that creating a committee that supports impoverished indigenous people and aids them into getting out of their current state is imperative. This committee would provide indigenous people supplies to get them on their feet and help them get jobs.

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