LEGAL COMMITTEE

2019 TOPICS

Health Conditions of Refugee Camps
Rights of Children with Incarcerated Parents
**2019 TOPIC:**
**HEALTH CONDITIONS OF REFUGEE CAMPS**

**Why this is important?**
Refugees are coming to refugee camps in search of safety and more stability than the countries that they are fleeing from. They are often fleeing from political unrest and violence and religious persecution. When coming to these camps, the only thing that refugees are thinking of is a chance at survival and potentially finding resettlement in another country. Sadly these camps become a permanent home for some who then want to leave just as desperately as they wanted to leave their native country. The conditions in refugee camps are often missing running water and electricity, food is extremely lacking, and they often have infestations, contaminations and diseases that are rampant through the camps. The UNHCR also recently reported, in early 2018, that sexual assault is rampant in many camps. Not only does it affect their personal health, it is directly affecting refugees’ mental health.

**Topic Summary and Background:**
Plenty of countries have created refugee camps to house individuals who have fled their native countries due to war, political unrest, religious persecution, and lack of appropriate resources. These camps seem to be constantly underprepared for the amount of refugees who arrive and the condition in which they arrive in. Due to health issues that are often preexisting from their travel to the camp or from fleeing their native country, lack of food and water become even more detrimental to the state of the refugee camp. This also provides understanding for the spread of disease and infestations that become a part of normal structure inside of the refugee camps all over the world.

**Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:**
1. How can aid that is supplied be more effective for higher volumes of refugees?
2. What part can the United Nations play in providing assistance in the idea of creating more permanent settlements?
   a. Is this a practical solution and guide for future camps?
   b. How would it affect the current state of health inside the camps?
3. What solutions can be provided by the support of many countries to to contain illness, manage water and food supplies and create a sense of overall safety?
4. What punishment can be obtained for individuals who create and run unsafe refugee camps?
Resources
9 Maps and Charts that Explain the Global Refugee Crisis

Children 'Attempting Suicide' at Greek Refugee Camp

Rohingya Girls Face ‘Prison-like’ Conditions in Refugee Camps

No food, no medicine and little hope: The many challenges Rohingyas face
2019 TOPIC: 
RIGHTS OF CHILDREN WITH INCARCERATED PARENTS

Why this is important?
With over two million children in the United States experiencing parental incarceration, their rights and safety are of great importance. The children of our future need an appropriate and balanced understanding of the world to become great leaders and citizens of their respective nations. Parental incarceration has shown to be devastating to children’s mental health, behavior, homelessness and intergenerational inequalities. In most studies of the childhood experience, parental incarceration is often considered an adverse childhood experience. Studies have documented that difficulties include psychological distress, confused explanations given to child, immediate and drastic changes of childcare arrangements, difficulties in maintaining contact with parents as well as loss of family income and enormous stigma associated with parents being incarcerated. This often predicts home and school moves for the children. In every single one of these difficulties, none of them can be controlled by the child, so where do we find their rights? Do they have any?

Topic Summary and Background:
Often times political policies are crafted and aimed at reducing crime and eradicating issues such as gun violence and predatory offender registries. They are not seen being formulated around family well-being and child safety. While looking at many of the statistics surrounding incarceration, Oregon, US, has signed in a bill of rights for children with the aim of creating policy that helps children maintain contact with their incarcerated parents and reducing the negative effects and outcomes associated with having family incarcerated.

Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:
1. How can governments supply a better roadmap to communicating with parents through the process of their incarceration?
2. Should communities create family supporting projects that encourage contact with parents and children when separated?
3. How can the United Nations be involved in creating a more positive atmosphere for children who lack rights when their parents become incarcerated?
   a. Is there a solution where the UN is not directly involved, but can lead?
4. How do non-profit organizations and government fit into these situations and work together seamlessly?
Resources
Children of Incarcerated Parents in the US

Report Highlights Trauma that Thousands of Families Experience with Incarceration
https://www.texastribune.org/2018/12/07/family-incarceration-texas-prison-system/

End Children’s Trauma, Harm By Prioritizing Them When Parents Arrested, in Court
https://jjie.org/2018/12/05/end-childrens-trauma-harm-by-prioritizing-them-when-parents-arrested-in-court/