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Update for the United Nations Children's Fund

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Committee Overview

Recent Developments

During the last months of 2016, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) continued promoting the rights of children all over the world, celebrating the 70th Anniversary of its creation on 11 December 2016.¹ This date gave UNICEF the chance to meditate on future goals, considering that more than 500 million children, the majority of whom live in Sub-Saharan Africa, still suffer from lack of food, healthcare, and education.² UNICEF's objectives are identified in the *Updated Road Map to and Outline of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018-2021*, which was addressed during the UNICEF Executive Board's second regular session in September 2016.³ On this occasion, UNICEF and the Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) Committee on UNICEF underlined the need for an increased cooperation with other United Nations (UN) agencies, as well as the importance of civil society's involvement in the development of the Strategic Plan, through the inclusion of the input provided by NGOs and the most marginalized children.⁴ The Strategic Plan recognizes inclusiveness and equity as its pillars and underlines the importance of community based and inter-sectoral approaches to the promotion of children's rights and to emergency preparedness, calling for an increase in public sector involvement and public investment.⁵ In February 2017, the UNICEF Executive Board will meet again for its first regular session of the year and, among other issues like budgeting and resource allocation, will discuss the updated road map to the Strategic Plan for the next four years.⁶

UNICEF partnered with the Council of Europe to organize "Carry Light for Children", a high-level event to emphasize displaced children's need of assistance before the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants, held on 19 September 2016. UNICEF also published the report *Uprooted: The Growing Crisis for Refugee and Migrant Children*, with relevant data and statistics on child migration at the global and regional level. The report finds that the number of child refugees has doubled in the last ten years and aims to fill the existing gap in data availability, providing comprehensive information on refugee and migrant children. During the 10th European Forum on the Rights of the Child, held in Brussels, in November, UNICEF signed a joint statement together with 77 other stakeholders, such as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Save the Children, to focus on children and migration. The document highlighted the importance of a rights-based approach to children protection and pinpointed seven priorities, among them the improvement of asylum laws and practices; increased availability and more efficient use of funds; as well as effective monitoring and disaggregated data collection. UNICEF was also one of the main partners of the UN World Data Forum, held from 15 to 18 January 2017 in the Republic of South Africa, which discussed the importance of data collection and statistics to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Development Goals (SDGs).

To promote a better environment for children, UNICEF issued a report titled *Clear the Air for Children* to assess the consequences of pollution on young people's lives and development in view of the 22nd session of the Conference of the Parties (COP22) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).¹³ The report identified four main objectives: the reduction of air pollution; a decreased exposure of children to such pollution; increased access to healthcare; and a more effective information collection to shape policies.¹⁴ Actions suggested by the report include monitoring children's environmental health through shared indicators, facilitating access to health care

¹ UNICEF, UNICEF Commemorates 70 Years of Tireless Work for the World's Most Vulnerable Children, 2016.

² UNICEF, Nearly a Quarter of the World's Children Live in Conflict or Disaster-Stricken Countries: UNICEF, 2016.

³ UN ECOSOC, Report on the First and Second Regular Sessions and Annual Session of 2016 (E/2016/34/Rev.1), 2016, p. 59. ⁴ Ibid

⁵ UNICEF, Updated Road Map to and Outline of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018-2021, 2017.

⁶ UNICEF, UNICEF Executive Board 2017 Programme of Work, 2016.

⁷ Council of Europe, Secretary General, in UN, Calls for Ensuring Basic Rights for All Migrant and Refugee Children, 2016.

⁸ UNICEF, Uprooted: The Growing Crisis for Refugee and Migrant Children, 2016.

⁹ Ibid., p. 15.

¹⁰ UNICEF, Children Cannot Wait: 7 Priority Actions to Protect All Refugee and Migrant Children, 2016.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² UN World Data Forum, *Partners*, 2017.

¹³ UNICEF, Pollution: 300 Million Children Breathing Toxic Air - UNICEF Report, 2016.

¹⁴ UNICEF, Clear the Air for Children, 2016.



services, and building educational and recreational facilities far from factories and other "major sources of air pollution." Concerning children's health, UNICEF recently published the report *From the First Hour of Life: Making the case for improved infant and young child feeding everywhere*, based on the premise that adequate infant nutrition is fundamental for children development, and *For Every Child, End AIDS: Seventh Stocktaking Report*, which provides guidelines to address HIV-related issues. On 10 January 2017, UNICEF also launched the campaign "Early Moments Matter" in partnership with the LEGO Foundation, highlighting the fundamental importance of early childhood development and inviting states to facilitate access to social services for both children and families. 17

In recent months, UNICEF has identified priority regions to continue promoting the rights of the most disadvantaged children. In Syria, where schools were attacked, UNICEF asked the parties involved in the conflict to stop violence against civilians and to allow international organizations to help people evacuate. UNICEF has also been active in Nigeria and Iraq, cooperating with the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization (WHO) to promote an immunization campaign to combat poliomyelitis. Furthermore, UNICEF advocated an increased protection for the huge number of migrants located in some European regions, where children are often not properly registered and therefore more likely to be exploited or live without sufficient nutrition and assistance. According to UNICEF, hosting countries should make children's "best interests" their priority. UNICEF also identified a group of actions to be undertaken in order to ameliorate the conditions of refugee children such as protection, the promotion of family unity and educational opportunities, and tackling racism and discriminatory behavior.

Annotated Bibliography

United Nations Children's Fund. (2016). *Clear the Air for Children* [Report]. Retrieved 2 January 2017 from: https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/UNICEF_Clear_the_Air_for_Children_30_Oct_2016.pdf

This report addresses the negative impact of pollution on children's health and development. The report identifies the causes of pollution, discusses its consequences on young people, and explains why children are particularly vulnerable. The document also provides data and guidelines for international actors that are working to combat pollution. Delegates will benefit from this source if they want to gain a better understanding of UNICEF's most pressing concerns and activities.

United Nations Children's Fund. (2016). For Every Child, End AIDS: Seventh Stocktaking Report . Retrieved 4 January 2017 from:

https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Children_and_AIDS_Seventh_Stocktaking_Report_2016_EN.pdf.pdf
This report by UNICEF focuses on AIDS, providing useful data and statistics. It also identifies the
most relevant healthcare and social services needed to combat HIV/AIDS and to assist mothers,
children, and adolescents. This source will be beneficial for delegates, as it provides an insight
into one of UNICEF's main fields of action.

United Nations Children's Fund. (2016). *Uprooted: The Growing Crisis for Refugee and Migrant Children* [Report]. Retrieved 4 January 2017 from:

https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Uprooted growing crisis for refugee and migrant children.pdf

¹⁶ UNICEF, From the First Hour of Life: Making the Case for Improved Infant and Young Child Feeding Everywhere, 2016; UNICEF, For Every Child, End AIDS: Seventh Stocktaking Report, 2016.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁷ UNICEF, 'Early Moments Matter' for Children's Brain Development, UNICEF, 2017.

¹⁸ UNICEF, Nearly a Quarter of the World's Children Live in Conflict or Disaster-Stricken Countries: UNICEF, 2016.

¹⁹ UNICEF, Statement Attributable to Hanaa Singer, UNICEF Representative In Syria, on Attack on a School in Daraa, 2016; UNICEF, Statement by UNICEF Regional Director Geert Cappelaere to the Security Council on the Situation of Children in Syria, 2016.

²⁰ UNICEF, Massive Immunization Campaign to Reach 41 Million Children in Nigeria and Region to Contain Polio Outbreak, 2016; UNICEF, Major Campaign Launched to Immunize 5.8 Million Iraqi Children Against Polio, 2016; UNICEF, 9,700 Children Displaced Since Start of Mosul Operation – UNICEF, 2016.

²¹ UNICEF, UNICEF Statement on Grave Risks to Children in Rakhine State, Myanmar, 2016.

²² UNICEF, Statement on Calais Camp Attributed to UNICEF Special Coordinator for the Refugee and Migrant Crisis in Europe Marie-Pierre Poirier, 2016.

²³ UNICEF, UNICEF Calls on European Council to Address Plight of Refugee and Migrant Children, 2016.



The report provides an overview of migration at the global and regional level, providing relevant data and figures. It also identifies UNICEF's objectives in promoting children's rights and in protecting the most disadvantaged young people. This source will be beneficial for delegates wanting to examine UNICEF's goals and findings, with a particular focus on the regional perspective.

United Nations Children's Fund. (2017). *Updated Road Map to and Outline of the UNICEF Strategic Plan*, 2018-2021. Retrieved 6 January 2017 from: https://www.unicef.org/about/execboard/files/2017-EB3-Road_Map-SP-2018-2021-3Jan2017.pdf

The document contains the proposed road map to the new Strategic Plan for the next four years. It will be discussed during the first regular session of UNICEF Executive Board and provides an overview of the Plan. This source is fundamental to understand what will be considered for discussion at UNICEF's formal sessions in 2017 and what UNICEF's priorities are.

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United Nations Children's Fund. (2016, October 11). *Massive Immunization Campaign to Reach 41 Million Children in Nigeria and Region to Contain Polio Outbreak* [Press Release]. Retrieved 3 January 2017 from: https://www.unicef.org/media/media_92905.html

United Nations Children's Fund. (2016, December 9). *Nearly a Quarter of the World's Children Live in Conflict or Disaster-Stricken Countries: UNICEF* [Press Release]. Retrieved 4 January 2017 from: https://www.unicef.org/media/media/93863.html

United Nations Children's Fund. (2016, October 31). *Pollution: 300 Million Children Breathing Toxic Air - UNICEF Report* [Press Release]. Retrieved 3 January 2017 from: https://www.unicef.org/media/media/92979.html

United Nations Children's Fund. (2016, October 12). *Statement Attributable to Hanaa Singer, UNICEF Representative in Syria, on Attack on a School in Daraa* [Press Release]. Retrieved 30 December 2016 from: https://www.unicef.org/media/media 92906.html



United Nations Children's Fund. (2016, November 30). *Statement by UNICEF Regional Director Geert Cappelaere to the Security Council on the Situation of Children in Syria* [Press Release]. Retrieved 3 January 2017 from: https://www.unicef.org/media/media 93536.html

United Nations Children's Fund. (2016, October 27). Statement on Calais Camp Attributed to UNICEF Special Coordinator for the Refugee and Migrant Crisis in Europe Marie-Pierre Poirier. Retrieved 4 January 2017 from: https://www.unicef.org/media/media 92973.html

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United Nations Children's Fund. (2016, November 6). *UNICEF Statement on Grave Risks to Children in Rakhine State, Myanmar*. Retrieved 4 January 2017 from: https://www.unicef.org/media/media 93062.html

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I. Promoting the Social Inclusion of Children

Recent Developments

In recognition of the 27th anniversary of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (CRC) (1989) on 20 November 2016, 2017 was marked as a year of social inclusion throughout the international community to ensure children have fair and equal access to education, food, and healthcare.²⁴ Many statements were made on 1 June 2016 in recognition of Universal Children's Day, and numerous United Nations (UN) child rights experts highlighted the progress that has been made since the inception of the CRC, including the reinforcement of the Optional Protocol to protect children from armed conflict, human trafficking, and child pornography.²⁵ In addition, a new in-depth initiative entitled "Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty" was introduced.²⁶ The Global Study will work to ensure no child is left behind in the work toward completing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).²⁷

In 2016, social media was highlighted as an important tool for the social inclusion of children, and several new media campaigns were released in an attempt to bring awareness to the social inclusion of children.²⁸ The Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization partnered with Global Citizen India to create the "Inclusive Education Journey," part of the Global Citizen India Festival, which was organized in November 2016 with the focus of bringing about change in the world.²⁹ This event sought to bring 80,000 youth and political leaders together.³⁰ As a result of the festival, UNESCO and MGIEP worked together to create a social media campaign advocating for children who learn differently and highlighted the need for universal screening tests and teachers trained in educating different learners.³¹ UNESCO also created a social media campaign in December 2016 called "Towards Social Inclusion" that encourages the use of the hashtag #supportcreativity.³² This campaign focused on the social inclusion of socially and economically marginalized groups by integrating them through the development of creative skills, reducing unemployment, and empowering artists.³³

The UN Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth spearheaded several media campaigns heading into 2017, including #ActOn2250 to celebrate the anniversary of UN Security Council resolution 2250 (2015), which calls on youth to speak up for peace.³⁴ As Member States work to implement Security Council resolution 2250, the UN Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth will follow the hashtag and highlight contributions to be used at Security Council meetings.³⁵ The Youth Envoy also launched a global campaign on 22 November 2016 to promote youth in public office called "Not too Young to Run," which was launched at the UN Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law taking place at the UN Headquarters in Geneva.³⁶ The #Acton2250 and "Not too Young to Run" campaigns also include the encompassing idea that young women and girls need to be empowered through social inclusion mechanisms.³⁷

The *Report on the World Social Situation 2016* was released on 30 November 2016 by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) highlighting the progress made by Member States in the movement toward the social inclusion of children.³⁸ The report focuses on making sure no one is left behind in working to achieve the 2030

²⁴ OHCHR, Statement by the UN Child Rights Experts for Universal Children's Day, 2016.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ UNESCO MGIEP, Close to 28,000 Global Citizens support MGIEP's campaign for inclusive education, 2016.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid.

³² UNESCO, Towards Social Inclusion, 2016.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ UN Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, #ActOn2250: First Anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 2250, 2016.

³⁵ Ibid

³⁶ UN Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, Launching Global Campaign Promoting Right of Young People to Run for Public Office, 2016.

³⁷ Ibid

³⁸ UN DESA, 2016 Report on the World Social Situation, 2016.



Agenda for Sustainable Development.³⁹ On 10 January 2017, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) noted that social inclusion starts with brain development in the first 1,000 days of life.⁴⁰ Several social media campaigns were launched by UNICEF in January 2017, such as #earlymomentsmatter and #eatplaylove to highlight the importance of the first 1,000 days, and UNICEF encourages families to make social interaction the forefront of those first days of life to encourage social inclusion throughout the child's life.⁴¹ As UNICEF reaches its 70th a lot remains to be addressed, including on-going violence as a major aspect that is preventing children from having a fair and equal opportunity at life, while limiting their social inclusion.⁴²

On 1 July 2016, the Human Rights Council (HRC) adopted a resolution on "Youth and Human Rights" which emphasized the importance of youth involvement in public office. ⁴³ Similarly, 21-22 November 2016 marked the first forum hosted by the UN Office in Geneva on "Democracy, Human Rights and the Rule of Law," which focused on the importance of youth involvement in public decision-making. ⁴⁴ To continue highlighting the international community's commitment to youth in 2017, Secretary-General António Guterres gave a powerful speech during his swearing-in ceremony on 12 December 2016 promising to continue to support and empower youth through inclusion and access to jobs and education, by continuing to implement the Youth Envoy, and promote the use of civil society organizations throughout the international community. ⁴⁵ However, there are still aspects of social inclusion that need to be addressed as the international community moves forward, including the consideration of children in the SDGs, and further encouraging the ratification of the CRC including its Optional Protocols. ⁴⁶

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This report provides a comprehensive look at social progress in the international community, while highlighting several issues surrounding youth. Delegates should utilize this report as a guide to specific social inclusion difficulties that affected youth throughout 2016. In accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, this report focuses on inclusiveness and prosperity in the achievement of the SDGs. Chapter 55 specifically will be helpful to delegates as it focuses on social protection, inequality and social justice.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development. (2016). *Close to 28,000 Global Citizens support MGIEP's campaign for inclusive education*. [Website]. Retrieved 16 January 2017 from: http://mgiep.unesco.org/about-28000-global-citizens-lend-their-support-to-mgieps-campaign-for-inclusive-education/

UNESCO and MGIEP partnered with Global Citizen India to bring over 27,000 youth together to sign a petition asking the ministers of education to include the needs of children who learn differently. It also took an international viewpoint by creating a unique aspect for SDG 4: Inclusive Education Journey to further promote youth who learn differently. They also started a campaign to get the attention of ministers of education called, #EducationMinistersofIndia. Delegates should consider the festival, petition, and campaign as a positive effort to bring attention to the needs of youth both locally and internationally. It also notes that children who learn differently have limited access to fair and equal education, and the consideration for different learning abilities is a critical aspect of social inclusion.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ UNICEF, 'Early Moments Matter' for children's brain development, UNICEF, 2017.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² UN DPI, Nearly 535children living in crisis-hit countries – UNICEF, 2016.

⁴³ UN Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, 2016 in Review: Youth Highlights at the United Nations, 2016.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ OHCHR, Statement by the UN Child Rights Experts for Universal Children's Day, 2016.



Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. (20 November 2016). *Statement by the UN Child Rights Experts for Universal Children's Day*. Retrieved 15 January 2017 from: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20907&LangID=E

This statement notes the significance of the anniversary of the CRC, the progress made since its creation, and elements to work on in the future. It also supports the universal adoption and ratification of the CRC and the Optional Protocol in order to ensure all youth have equal and fair access to education, sanitation, healthcare, and other necessities. It further highlights many requirements to continue moving forward on this topic such as liberty, sustainable development and, access to fair and equal education. Delegates should consider the tone of this statement when discussing ratification of the CRC in relation to social inclusion.

United Nations, Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth. (2016). #ActionOn2250: First Anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 2250 [Website]. Retrieved 15 January 2017 from: http://www.un.org/youthenvoy/2016/12/acton2250-first-anniversary-un-security-council-resolution-2250/

The #Acton2250 social media campaign celebrates the one year anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 2250 on "Youth, Peace, and Security." This campaign was promoted on 9 December 2016 to encourage youth to speak up for peace. This campaign was in congruence with the #Youth4Peace campaign to further progress on the implementation of resolution 2250. Delegates should consider how the future of this campaign can contribute to the UN Security Council's resolutions, and funding for youth in war-torn regions.

United Nations, Office of the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth. (2016). 2016 in Review: Youth Highlights at the United Nations [Website]. Retrieved 15 January 2017 from: http://www.un.org/youthenvoy/2016/12/2016-review-youth-highlights-united-nations/

The 2016 year-in review article provides a comprehensive look at the all of the outcomes, forums, and campaigns during 2016, focusing specifically on youth. It also highlights aspects of Secretary-General António Guterres' swearing in ceremony that highlight the protection of youth, the promotion of their rights, and hope for their futures. The Envoy on Youth is an excellent website that outlines goals and benchmarks for youth in the international community and specific needs within individual Member States. Delegates should use this article as a resource to note all of the different aspects considered under the Youth Envoy in 2016 and to gain a better understanding of areas of focus for 2017.

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United Nations, Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth. (2016). #ActionOn2250: First Anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 2250 [Website]. Retrieved 15 January 2017 from: http://www.un.org/youthenvoy/2016/12/acton2250-first-anniversary-un-security-council-resolution-2250/

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United Nations, Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth. (2016). *The Need to Empower Young Women and Adolescent Girls* [Website]. Retrieved 15 January 2017 from: http://www.un.org/youthenvoy/2016/11/need-empower-young-women-adolescent-girls/



II. Strengthening Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Youth Offenders

Recent Developments

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) continues to promote and protect children's rights by finding innovative ways to rehabilitate and reintegrate them as productive members of society.⁴⁷ In December 2016, UNICEF released an update on alternative measures outlined in the new *Juvenile Justice Code of Kosovo*, promoting rehabilitation and reintegration of minors as opposed to imprisonment.⁴⁸

The Hague's International Centre for Counter-Terrorism (ICCT) recently published a policy brief titled *Rehabilitating Juvenile Violent Extremist Offenders in Detention: Advancing a Juvenile Justice Approach*, to ensure juvenile violent extremist offenders (JVEOs) do not receive maltreatment due to societal bias, sensationalism, and exceptionalism.⁴⁹ The brief provides guidelines for authorities to implement effective rehabilitation and reintegration strategies, consistent with the protection of children's rights.⁵⁰ The rehabilitation process for JVEOs would start with a tailored program focusing on psychosocial and religious counseling, followed by educational programs and vocational training.⁵¹ Additionally, the policy brief promotes gender-sensitive strategies that fully take into account the status of women, who are often subordinate to men and more frequently subjected to maltreatment in detention facilities.⁵²

At the regional level, in November 2016, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) held its first ASEAN Conference on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (ACCPCJ).⁵³ The conference focused on multiple regional topics, including crime prevention strategies among children and youth in urbanized areas.⁵⁴ One of the main goals is finding ways to integrate Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 into the regional youth criminal justice system to establish peaceful and inclusive societies, access to justice for all, and effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.⁵⁵ As of 2016, Southeast Asia (SEA) represented 20% of the global population, and the young living in the region represented 20% of the workforce and 59% of the unemployed.⁵⁶ This directly correlates with high crime rates and poverty among youth because of inequality, exclusion, lack of opportunities, availability of guns and drugs, and a lack of access to capital.⁵⁷ SEA acts to fully integrate local authorities into regional task forces, create broad partnerships with government entities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), involve civil society, and foster inter-city cooperation.⁵⁸

At the end of 2016, the United Kingdom Ministry of Justice issued a report on the youth justice system in England and Wales, with information on Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) that focus on rehabilitation within the juvenile court system. ⁵⁹ YOTs are composed of educators, police, and members of the social services, probation, and health sectors. ⁶⁰ By using a combination of services from YOTs, the justice system allows for a more individualized approach and follow-ups with magistrates who have substantial experience working with juveniles. ⁶¹ Moreover, as of 2016, data by the South African National Planning Commission suggest the unemployment rate among youth (aged 15-24) in South Africa is around 50% and directly correlates to the recidivism rate among youth offenders,

⁴⁷ UNICEF, From Troubled Past to Bright Future: A New Start for Vulnerable Adolescents in Kosovo, 2016.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ International Centre for Counter-Terrorism, *Rehabilitating Juvenile Violent Extremist Offenders in Detention: Advancing a Juvenile Justice Approach*, 2016, p. 2.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Ibid., p. 4.

⁵² Ibid., p. 6.

⁵³ Thailand Institute of Justice, Enhancing Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Institutions for Sustainable Development of the ASEAN Community, 2016, p. 1.

⁵⁴ Ibid.; Biswas, Urbanization and Migration in Developing Asia, 2015.

⁵⁵ Thailand Institute of Justice, Enhancing Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Institutions for Sustainable Development of the ASEAN Community, 2016, p. 1.

⁵⁶ Homel, Preventing Youth Crime and Violence in South East Asia, 2016, p. 4.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ Ibid., p. 13.

⁵⁹ Taylor, Review of the Youth Justice System in England and Wales, 2016, p. 1.

⁶⁰ Ibid., p. 6.

⁶¹ Ibid.



hovering between 60-80%. ⁶² To combat this, the NGO Young in Prison in South Africa (YiPSA) has sought to use art therapy as a form of rehabilitation, giving offenders a new outlet for learning and critical thinking. ⁶³ YiPSA has reached around 2,500 youth, and has seen a 65% drop in youth recidivism among its program participants. ⁶⁴

In December 2016, in order to provide more tailored rehabilitation services, New Zealand announced changes to the law that, starting in 2019, will allow 17-year-olds to be charged through the youth court system as opposed to the adult court system, except for violent offenders. The government also highlighted that investing in juvenile justice would save money long term thanks to a more effective sentencing system. Recently, the United States has been looking at taking similar measures in restorative justice. At the state level, a study carried out in Cook County, Illinois, focused on young adults (aged 18-26) and healing relationships between victims and offenders in hopes of mending wounds and creating empathy. In 2016, five counties in California allowed 18-21 year olds to serve their time in juvenile correctional facilities with the aim of lowering recidivism among young adults. Furthermore, lawmakers in California will debate raising the jurisdiction of juveniles from 18 to 21 this spring. Lastly, over \$31 million in grants has been set aside by the federal government to reintegrate young adults back into society.

Annotated Bibliography

Barr, S. (2017, January 4). States Consider Options for Young Adults in Justice System. *Juvenile Justice Information Exchange*. Retrieved 10 January 2017 from: http://jjie.org/2017/01/04/states-consider-options-for-young-adults-in-justice-system/

This article outlines actions taken by US federal states to work on alternatives to sentencing adult youths. The aim is to see if including young offenders in the juvenile system as opposed to the adult justice system can yield positive results on recidivism rates. Delegates may find this document useful as a resource to think about measures to implement on a more global or regional scale.

International Centre for Counter-Terrorism. (2016). *Rehabilitating Juvenile Violent Extremist Offenders in Detention: Advancing a Juvenile Justice Approach*. Retrieved 10 January 2017 from: http://www.globalcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/16Dec6 JVEO Policy-Brief FINAL.pdf

This report provides an overview of the most up-to-date steps taken to rehabilitate youth who have been directly influenced by violent extremist ideologies. It also recommends alternative measures to imprisonment and confinement. This resource will serve delegates well in understanding strategies to rehabilitate young people associated with violent ideologies.

Jolly, L. (2016, November 1). Art Work as Therapy for Young Offenders. *Cape Times*. Retrieved 10 January 2017 from: http://www.iol.co.za/capetimes/art-work-as-therapy-for-young-offenders-2085508

This article lays out alternative methods of reintegration and restoration via art therapy. Among 2,500 participants involved in art therapy there has been a 65% drop in recidivism of first time offenders. This can serve as a valuable tool in highlighting how alternative methods of rehabilitation can yield dramatic results if implemented correctly.

Taylor, C. (2016). *Review of the Youth Justice System in England and Wales*. Ministry of Justice. Retrieved 10 January 2017 from: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/577103/youth-justice-review-final-report.pdf

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶² Jolly, Art Work as Therapy for Young Offenders, 2016.

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁵ New Zealand, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCROC), 2017; Robson, Govt Urged to Speed Up Youth Court Age Change, 2016.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ Barr, States Consider Options for Young Adults in Justice System, 2017.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Ibid.



This report lays out the current status of the juvenile system in the United Kingdom. It highlights the importance of education as a tool for lowering recidivism rates among first time offenders. Delegates will find this resource useful to better understand state level issues related to incarceration, and how states are taking steps to address the topic.

Thailand Institute of Justice. (2016). Enhancing Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Institutions for Sustainable Development of the ASEAN Community. Retrieved 10 January 2016 from: http://www.tijforum-accpcj.org/images/downloads/ACCPCJ%20%20Background%20Paper_FINAL.pdf

This regional background paper lays out initiatives ASEAN is taking to implement collective criminal justice reforms. While the report goes over several criminal justice initiatives, it pays special attention to countering youth criminality by implementing a cohesive regional plan of action. This will be helpful to delegates when needing to understand how regional bodies come together to implement positive criminal justice reforms.

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Robson, S. (2016, December 8). Govt Urged to Speed Up Youth Court Age Change. *Radio New Zealand*. Retrieved 10 January 2017 from: http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/319867/govt-urged-to-speed-up-youth-court-age-change

Taylor, C. (2016). *Review of the Youth Justice System in England and Wales*. Ministry of Justice. Retrieved 10 January 2017 from: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/577103/youth-justice-review-final-report.pdf

Thailand Institute of Justice. (2016). Enhancing Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Institutions for Sustainable Development of the ASEAN Community. Retrieved 10 January 2016 from: http://www.tijforum-accpcj.org/images/downloads/ACCPCJ%20%20Background%20Paper FINAL.pdf

United Nations Children's Fund. (2016). From Troubled Past to Bright Future: A New Start for Vulnerable Adolescents in Kosovo [Website]. Retrieved 10 January 2017 from: https://www.unicef.org/protection/57929_93158.html



III. Education in Emergencies

Recent Developments

Since September 2016, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has expanded its work to address humanitarian crises affecting children around the world. On 9 December 2016, UNICEF's Executive Director Anthony Lake announced that approximately 535 million children were still living in crisis-hit countries with inadequate resources. Among the 535 million, nearly one million children were still displaced in Nigeria and 10 million children had been impacted by the conflict in Yemen. In Syria alone, nearly 500,000 children have been living without access to humanitarian aid and adequate educational facilities. As these humanitarian crises continue, UNICEF and its partners have renewed their commitment to increasing funding, educational tools, and volunteers in order to address access to education for children in emergencies.

During the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2016, UNICEF and the International Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) spotlighted the current need for education in emergencies through a series of events and presentations.⁷⁷ These events facilitated conversations regarding programs, such as Education Cannot Wait, a new funding initiative sponsored by the Norwegian government.⁷⁸ During these events, the Education Commission Report, a report tasked with finding new ways of investing in education, and the Qatar Upholding Education for Syrian's Trust (QUEST) were launched.⁷⁹ The Qatari program seeks to help Syrian children and youth, whether in Syria or seeking refuge in Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan or Iraq, gain access to educational institutions.⁸⁰ Further, QUEST hopes to support youth in acquiring competitive job skills to compete in global job markets.⁸¹

On 20 November 2016, in line with the celebration of the 27th anniversary of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* (1989), United Nations (UN) Child Rights experts called on Member States to celebrate Universal Children's Day. ⁸² These experts highlighted the unprecedented and increasing refugee population of 65.3 million. ⁸³ They further noted that children make up more than half of the current refugee population and are still in need of intergovernmental organizations to uphold their universal rights to education. ⁸⁴ In Syria, 1.7 million children were still out of school as of October 2016. ⁸⁵ The Syrian children that remain in school risk their lives traversing war-torn towns despite the fact that over 4,000 schools have been attacked since 2011. ⁸⁶ Due to these risks, UNICEF anticipates that dropout rates will continue to grow, with 1.3 million Syrian children at risk of dropping out of school. ⁸⁷ For children that have sought refuge in neighboring Member States, UNICEF has witnessed increasing difficulties with keeping children in school due to their continuously unstable situation. ⁸⁸ With this in mind, UNICEF launched its back-to-learning campaign in September 2016, to provide 2.5 million children with school supplies, which included reaching 200,000 children living under siege. ⁸⁹ Overall, UNICEF outreach programs within

⁷² UNICEF, School "as vital as food and medicine" for children caught up in conflict and other emergencies: EU & UNICEF, 2016

⁷³ UN DPI, Nearly 535 million children living in crisis-hit countries—UNICEF, 2016.

⁷⁴ Ibid.

⁷⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁶ UNICEF, School "as vital as food and medicine" for children caught up in conflict and other emergencies: EU & UNICEF, 2016.

⁷⁷ INEE, UNGA 2016—Education Side Events, 2016.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ Ibid.

⁸⁰ Qatar News Agency, Qatar launches QUEST Initiative to Educate and Train 400,000 Syrian Refugees, 2016.

⁸¹ Ibid.

⁸² OHCHR, Statement by the UN Child Rights Experts for Universal Children's Day, 2016.

⁸³ Ibid.

⁸⁴ Ibid.

⁸⁵ UNICEF, Children in war-torn Syria risk their lives to go to school, 2016.

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ Ibid.

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ UNICEF, Children in war-torn Syria risk their lives to go to school, 2016.



Syria and neighboring Member States have successfully enrolled 680,000 children in to formal education. Similar to the Syrian crisis, children in Yemen face countless dangers attending school due to persistent violence in the nation since 2015. To date, 2,000 schools have been closed due to either being destroyed or being used for family shelter and military purposes.

In December 2016, the European Union-UNICEF program #Emergencylessons reported that their twitter campaign reached over 70 million people. ⁹³ #Emergencylessons strives to bring to light the extraordinary lengths refugee children are willing to go to attend school. ⁹⁴ In addition, the campaign urged twitter users to spread the word that education for refugees needs to be better funded and supported by the international community. ⁹⁵ The program concluded that education is as vital as food, shelter, and medicine for children living in humanitarian crises. ⁹⁶ On 23 January 2017, UNICEF released another multimedia campaign titled #ImagineaSchool just before the start of the Helsinki humanitarian forum on Syria. ⁹⁷ #ImagineaSchool is an interactive documentary that provides first-hand accounts of children living in Lebanon and their struggle to access education. ⁹⁸ Human Rights Watch has also been increasingly invested in ensuring all children living in emergency situations are provided with access to education by taking a closer look into the specific needs of individual Member States in these situations. ⁹⁹ In a 16 September 2016 article, Human Rights Watch emphasized the need to tear down institutional barriers in host countries. ¹⁰⁰ Current barriers that have been blocking children's access to schools include: the requirements for official identification to be enrolled; courses being taught in unfamiliar languages without reparations; and the lack of decent-work for their parents due to their residency status. ¹⁰¹ Human Rights Watch contends that if the barriers to education were addressed, then enrollment would increase and dropout rates would decrease within host countries.

Due to the efforts of the international community, and the growing response to the funding gap, UNICEF has seen the number of out-of-school children within Syria drop from 2.1 million in 2014/2015 to 1.7 million in 2015/2016. Moving forward, UNICEF plans to ensure disaster preparedness is a key element of their global education strategies. As crisis situations continue around the world, UNICEF is dedicated to further expanding its fight for children's universal right to education while living in war torn nations, disaster regions, and as refugees.

Annotated Bibliography

Education Cannot Wait. (2016). *Education Cannot Wait* [Website]. Retrieved 5 January 2017 from: http://www.educationcannotwait.org/

Education Cannot Wait is one of the newest international coalition programs to fund education for children in crisis. The website for this program provides delegates with a breakdown of the situation and highlights how the fund operates. It emphasizes the need for the international community to work collaboratively to ensure funds are streamlined to government education agencies and non-governmental organizations. Further, the program's twitter feed is highlighted on the front page and is a great tool for delegates to stay up-to-date on this topic before committee sessions commence.

⁹⁰ UNICEF, Syrian Refugees and other affected population in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey, 2017.

⁹¹ UNICEF, Statement attributable to Meritxell Relano, UNICEF Representative in Yemen on attacks near schools, 2017.

⁹² Ibid.

⁹³ UNNC, EU-UNICEF #EmergencyLessons campaign helps crisis-affected youth with schooling, 2016.

⁹⁴ Ibid.

⁹⁵ Ibid.

⁹⁶ UNICEF, School "as vital as food and medicine" for children caught up in conflict and other emergencies: EU & UNICEF, 2016

⁹⁷ UNICEF, UNICEF launches interactive glimpse into Syrian children's struggle for education, 2017.

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⁹⁹ Human Rights Watch, Education for Syrian Refugees: What Donors and Hosts Should Do, 2016.

¹⁰⁰ Ibid.

¹⁰¹ Ibid.

¹⁰² Ibid.

¹⁰³ UNICEF, Children in war-torn Syria risk their lives to go to school, 2016.

¹⁰⁴ ECOSOC, Final Results framework of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2014-2017 (E/ICEF/2014/8), 2014.



International Network for Education in Emergencies. (2016). *UNGA 2016—Education Side Events* [Website]. Retrieved 5 January 2017 from: http://www.ineesite.org/en/unga-2016-education-side-events

The International Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) is an integral part of the international effort to provide cohesive solutions to address the problem of limited accessibility to educational resources for refugees. While the overall website is helpful for delegates to explore, this specific page on the website will provide delegates with summaries of programs the INEE sees as vital in providing education to children in crisis. Particularly, these side events were part of the United Nations General Assembly opening week which can help delegates understand which programs UNICEF and INEE are focusing their attention on this year.

Human Rights Watch. (2016). *Education for Syrian Refugees: What Donors and Hosts Should Do* [Website]. Retrieved 5 January 2017 from: https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/09/16/education-syrian-refugee-children-what-donors-and-host-countries-should-do

Human Rights Watch is one of the foremost non-governmental organizations working for the rights of refugees around the world. This article provides valuable information regarding the fight for refugee children's right to education. The article explains the barriers children and parents face in accessing education as a refugee. Along with barrier descriptions, Human Rights Watch outlines why and how each barrier should be removed. Delegates should explore the Human Rights Watch website to find additional programs and current news involving children and education.

United Nations Children's Fund. (2016, October 21). *Children in war-torn Syria risk their lives to go to school* [News Article]. Retrieved 3 January 2017 from: https://www.unicef.org/media/media_92943.html

UNICEF press releases are a great tool for delegates to use to find out the current status of UNICEF programs and reports. This article provides a quick synopsis of the situation in Syria and the greater refugee crisis in regards to the number of children enrolling in school. Additionally, delegates are able to learn more about the various risks that children face going to school in war-torn areas.

United Nations Children's Fund. (2017). *Syrian refugees and other affected population in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey* [Website]. Retrieved 28 January 2017 from: https://www.unicef.org/appeals/syrianrefugees.html

When commencing research on any humanitarian issue, it is important to look at the Humanitarian Action for Children section of UNICEF's website. This section of the website provides detailed and up-to-date information regarded all of UNICEF's programs around the world. Each region and Member State page provides a synopsis of UNICEF's work during the previous year. More importantly, the website will give delegates insights into what UNICEF and its partners plan to achieve in 2017.

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