

**Cleveland Council on
WORLD AFFAIRS**



Cleveland-Autumn Conference 2020

Position Papers for:

United Nations International Children's Fund



Delegation from: The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Represented by: Beaumont School

Committee: UNICEF

Position Paper for the United Nations International Children's Fund

The UNICEF Committee will be addressing two topics of discussion today: The Issue of Child Migrants in Central America and the Ongoing Issues of Child Marriages. The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan hopes to come to an international, peaceful agreement on how to solve these issues.

I. Child Migrants in Central America

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is particularly familiar with the ongoing issue of child migrants in Central America. According to the United Nations, there are over 70.8 million refugees worldwide and 67% come from Afghanistan, Syria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Myanmar. Afghanistan is only second to Syria in migration rates. Additionally, out of the 30 million people in Afghanistan, half of them are under 18 years of age. Many Afghan refugees are being deported from many European countries, and with Afghanistan's challenging history, they are looking for a compromise on how to solve these issues that result in the safety of all people. The war Afghanistan is facing is also raising poverty rates to innumerable heights, forcing great numbers of people to flee and seek safety in other countries. In just the last decade, 2.7 million people in Afghanistan have fled looking for safety and hoping for a preferable life.

Empathizing with Central America, Afghanistan is committed to solving the dangerous situations involved with migrating children. As with Central America, Afghanistan is familiar with the awful circumstances that cause many families and children to uproot their lives in search for a better life. Probable cause for migrating involves violence and poverty, yet other problems become evident in crossing the border, a fear of exploitation, detention, and as of recently revised circumstances, a pandemic. Child migrants are at extreme risk of disease, malnutrition, and hunger. Unfortunately, the poverty rate for children has spiked to a 15% increase because of the economic strain a global pandemic has placed on the low to middle income countries. Overall, the dangerous circumstances that attack the most vulnerable in society, children, need to be repaired.

In accordance with the Law on the Protection of Child Rights decreed in 2019, Afghanistan clearly has outlined the natural rights of the child to survival and growth. The government must protect the children's rights to everything, ensuring that they retain the physical and mental growth they deserve. Although Afghanistan has suffered from a tragic past regarding unfair children's rights, they are dedicated to improving, starting with meetings convening every three months to discuss progress in this area. Afghanistan requests international help, not only for Central America, but for other refugee dangerous countries worldwide.

Out of Afghanistan's total population, around 36% live below the poverty line. To combat the issues contributing to the dangerous situations of child migrants, Afghanistan wants support on substantial materials to ensure children's safety in refugee camps through donations and finances. The cold months in Afghanistan are particularly substandard with inadequate clothing, food, and funding. Without running water and electricity, life becomes unlivable in the slums. The number of children migrants will continue to rise, unless change is made. Things will worsen and more death will proceed, without help from the United Nations and other willing countries.

II. The Ongoing Issues of Child Marriages

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is eager to end the ongoing issue of child marriages, worldwide. 1/3 of Afghan girls face marriage before their eighteenth birthday. That means that 35% of girls are married before they turn 18 and that 9% are married before their 15th birthday. Although child marriages are illegal in Afghanistan, the issue has not stopped. Young girls face childhood marriages, domestic abuse, honor killings, and sexual assault daily. Afghan boys face similar issues with sexual victimization as well. Afghanistan, according to UNICEF, has the 18th highest absolute number of child brides in the world. Inadequate protection systems for children are the root cause of this violence. Nearly 90% of Afghan women believe that a husband is justified beating his wife, so children are often witnessing and are often witnesses to this violence. The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is more than willing to enter into an agreement on how to deal with this issue, immediately.

One of the main factors contributing to this issue is a lack of education for young children. Statistics show that girls who have received an education, secondary and above, are three times less likely to marry before they turn 18, than girls who have not received an education. Coincidentally, when a girl is married off, their sister will take over all household duties and drop out of school, increasing their risk of being married off. Traditional customs also impact the longevity of child marriages. Marriages are used to strengthen relationships between rival families in order to settle long-lasting discord. Limited awareness in Afghanistan is a major risk factor for Afghan's. A report in 2017 found that the television and radio are encouraging families to consider hindering marriages until their daughters are older. But those relying on shuras, or community councils, and mosques predominantly support marrying young. Another risk, specific to Afghanistan, is that a daughter's fate is decided either before her birth or as young as two years old.

Committed to ending child marriages before the year 2030, Afghanistan with their plan target 5.3 with the Sustainable Development Goals hopes to move to a more modern future. Afghanistan hopes to eliminate the number of underage marriages to 10% by the year 2030. Afghanistan has contributed by ratifying the 1994 Convention on the Rights of the Child, setting the minimum age of marriage to 18 and has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in 2003, obligation free and full consent to marriage.

Afghanistan recently participated in the South Asian Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) from 2015-2018. Part of Afghanistan's commitment to the Kathmandu Call to Action to End Child Marriage in Asia in 2014 ensures access to legal remedies for child brides. In April of 2019, the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Ministry of Information and Culture launched a National plan to eliminate early and child marriages.

Afghanistan is dedicated to reforming the cultural implications that make uneducated Afghan women more at risk to early marriages, than educated women. The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan currently abides by a code, the Civil Code of the Republic of Afghanistan 1977, that when a woman is under the age of 16, a marriage can be concluded with a father's or judge's permission. Afghanistan wishes to reform this code to make 16 the minimum age of marriage with the required approval of the mother, father, and judge for a marriage to ensue. No marriages under 16 would be allowed regardless of the parents' approval. When girls reach 18 years of age, they can then be able to independently get married without approval. Gender equality and education requirements are necessary to move forward from the harsh history Afghanistan has faced.

Delegation from: Algeria

Represented by: Avon High School

United Nations International Children's Fund

Position Paper for the International Children's Fund

The issues before the United Nations International Children's Fund are: Child Migrants in Central America and The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages. Algeria is committed to cooperating with the other representatives of fellow nations in order to propose a resolution on the issues presented in order to protect the rights and lives of children all over the world put into tragic and unfortunate situations.

I. Child Migrants in Central America

Due to the ongoing relevance of gang violence, intimidation, and suppressing poverty, many families, including their children, make the decision to move in order to find safety and a brighter future. During the journey, they face many risks and challenges that more greatly affect children, as they are typically more vulnerable. The major risks include kidnapping, trafficking, rape, and murder.

UNICEF believes that every human is entitled to the same basic human rights regardless of where they are from or where they are going. In order to combat the issue, UNICEF is working to improve the lives of families and children in situations that force them to consider migrating, protecting and aiding migrants on their journey, and offering support to the migrants and programs that have the same values. UNICEF is working towards addressing the root issues of migration, safer journeys, and the struggles of reintegration.

Algeria has not stated their opinion on the topic, nor are they allies with any of the top countries in which the migrants often come from. Due to their other work and opinions refugees, migrants, etc., possible resolutions on behalf of the country include cooperating with the United Nations on supporting families in need of safer situations, and journeys.

II. The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages

Currently, it is estimated that 1 in 3 girls in developing countries is married before the age of 18, and 1 in 9 are married before the age of 15. With the global majority of child marriages happening in South Asia and sub-Saharan countries, the problem is physically very near and prevalent to Algeria. Although the country is one of the 5 countries excluded from the sub-Saharan countries, they are still affected by child marriages. In recent years about 3% of underage girls in Algeria have been married, the number has drastically decreased since 1973 but continues to be an ongoing issue globally. Child marriage is strongly compelled by the idea that men are superior to women and girls. Men can also avoid punishment for sexual assault by marrying their victim which contributes to child marriages, especially considering that Algeria is a polygamous country and each man can have up to 4 wives.

UNICEF firmly believes that “child marriage robs girls of their childhood and threatens their health and lives.” UNICEF also believes that the contributors to child marriages need to be recognized, more than the aforementioned being families marrying off their daughters due to financial burden, and many think their daughters are better off married, however that is usually not the case. In 2016, UNICEF partnered with UNFPA to launch The Global Program to End Child Marriages, the goal of the program was to empower adolescent girls who were at the risk of being married and to support and educate themselves in order to provide them with more and better opportunities for their futures.

In 1993, Algeria promulgated the Convention on the Rights of the Child which sets the minimum age of marriage at 19, the same as the legal age of adulthood. In 1996, the country added The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) this requires women to give full consent to marriage. In 2012, the CEDAW raised awareness that rural women in Algeria are affected by child marriage, they recommended that awareness-raising campaigns should be implemented to address this. The country ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the child which regards the prohibition of child marriage in 2003. Algeria has committed to stopping child, early, and forced marriages by the year 2030.

Algeria has co-sponsored the 2014 UN General Assembly Resolution and the 2013 Human Rights Council Resolution both on the topic of eliminating child, early, and forced marriages, as well as signing a joint statement at the UNHRC in regards to a resolution on child marriages.

40% of women in sub-Saharan Africa are married as children, Africa hold 15 of 20 countries with the highest child marriage rates of all others. The pressure to become a mother soon after marriage is high which can cause many health problems, child brides under the age of 15 are 5 times more likely to die in childbirth than a woman in her 20s. Education for girls in developing countries is already limited, but once a girl is married, the privilege of education is usually completely gone.

In order to accomplish the goal of eliminating child marriage by 2030, Algeria proposes the following ideas and urges other nations to consider and implement them as well. First, awareness needs to be raised within countries and specifically among parents and young girls who are at risk, especially including the sub-Saharan countries and south Asia. Strategies for further implementing women in social, political, economic, and cultural development in order to work towards reducing illiteracy, poverty, and inequality. Providing women with proper education and healthcare would also have an immense impact. By following through with these resolutions, the number of child marriages would decrease and the number of contributing, healthy, and happy girls would increase.

Delegation from: the Azerbaijani Republic

Represented by: the Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology

Position Paper for the United Nations International Children's Fund

The issues before the Children's Fund are: Child Migrants in Central America; and The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages. Azerbaijan understands the crises that many children around the world are experiencing and is committed to providing relief and assistance to those who are suffering while maintaining diplomatic alliances and respecting the foreign policies of other nations.

I. Child Migrants in Central America.

The Azerbaijani Republic has seen firsthand the effects upon its migrants and refugees, especially those who are children, and completely understands the state in which many Central American migrants are currently in. Many child migrants have been deported back to their origin countries, often unaccompanied, and have suffered conflict, violence, and poverty which they should have been protected from. However, many organizations and programs with a purpose of protecting migrants have failed to provide adequate care for migrating adolescents and their families. Therefore, the Azerbaijani Republic is dedicated to supporting Central America and its migrants in order to ensure that they are assisted every step of the way.

Many Central American children and families have experienced inhumane and cruel treatment during their migration, including violence, discrimination, and the refusal of assistance, and the current pandemic has further contributed to the dire situation. Azerbaijan believes that all children are entitled to the same rights during migration, such as the rights to protection, safety, and asylum. Therefore, Azerbaijan has supported several resolutions and treaties relating to the wellbeing of migrants and adolescents, such as A/HRC/RES/33/7. Additionally, Azerbaijan has strong diplomatic and political ties to Central American countries, has assisted those nations in migration processes and issues, and has supported them in resolutions and treaties. The Azerbaijani Republic has worked to prevent complications, conflict, and issues arising from migration, and continues to work towards a brighter future for migrants.

The Azerbaijani Republic firmly believes that it is crucial to provide adequate care and assistance to migrating families, as well as additional security for children who are unaccompanied, stranded from their families, or lacking necessities. In order to ensure this, organizations devoted to helping migrants and children must be held accountable if lack of support and protection is evident. Furthermore, if migrating families, especially those with adolescents, demonstrate the need of asylum, shelter, basic living necessities, or protection from conflict, the utmost care must be given to them; nationality, ethnicity, race, gender, or religion must be disregarded when assisting migrants, because every human deserves the same rights. The kidnapping and extortion of children, gang violence, and armed conflict are all too common especially in Central America. Therefore, Azerbaijan encourages the included countries to create protection programs and security for all children in need, including those who are experiencing trauma, as well as those who are still suffering from abuse or violence and need a way out. A final suggestion to take into consideration when accounting for the wellbeing of all child migrants in Central America is to set up government programs in which recent migrants are provided information and services on the welfare of their children, including the rates of crime, poverty, and abuse in the nation, as well as resources for suffering children, such as therapy, education, and care for mentally impacted adolescents. The Azerbaijani Republic understands that many children in Central America are struggling to find care, security, and asylum in their processes of migration. Azerbaijan strongly believes that all migrating children are entitled to basic human rights, and this must be demonstrated in the collective efforts to ensure that they are provided protection and aid to make their journeys easier.

II. The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages.

The Azerbaijani Republic firmly believes that child marriage must be abolished, as it puts the child in danger of domestic and sexual abuse or violence, while limiting education and career opportunities, as well as freedom, a basic human right. In Azerbaijan alone, 11% of girls are married before they have turned 18. This number is far too high, but it continues to decrease as Azerbaijan exercises increased protection and rights for current and future victims of forced or child marriage.

Azerbaijan is committed to protecting children from forced marriage and has supported numerous treaties and resolutions relating to addressing child marriage issues. Azerbaijan co-sponsored A/HRC/RES/35/16 in 2017, a resolution proposing solutions to the crisis of child, early, and forced marriages. Moreover, the Family Code was amended in 2015, in which the minimum age of marriage for girls was increased to 18, and the number of child marriages in Azerbaijan was consequently dramatically reduced. Additionally, Azerbaijan acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1992, as well as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in 1995. These conventions obligated that Azerbaijan set the minimum age of marriage to be 18, as well as ensure free and full consent to marriage, respectively. Therefore, the Azerbaijani Republic has taken several measures to ensure the safety and protection of young girls who have been forced into early marriage and continues to work towards improving conditions of children in these dire situations.

In order to ensure rights and protection for all girls and prevent forced marriage, several steps must be taken. Azerbaijan believes that the most important step of these is changing the legal age of marriage to 18 and ensuring full consent of marriage on both sides. This will protect young girls from being forced into marriage with older adults, and they will have the right to refuse if they do not agree to the marriage. Additionally, girls must be granted the right to education, proper schooling, and equal work opportunities, even if their husbands or families refuse. Doing so will educate those in less developed areas and promote woman empowerment around the globe by setting an example for other nations to follow. Furthermore, girls and women must be given access to services and resources which provide information about the rights and protection of victims of domestic, sexual, or physical abuse. This will certainly assist girls in child marriages as they are frequently assaulted and abused by their spouses, unfortunately. Knowing their rights and what they are entitled to will enable many to escape their situation and start living a better life. A final yet significant suggestion of the Azerbaijani Republic in treating past victims of early, forced marriages is giving these suffering girls access to therapy and counseling services. Many have endured unimaginable trauma and pain, and those who do typically go through mental issues, including depression and suicidal tendencies. Offering therapy and treatment for survivors will affect them significantly in a positive way, and they will be able to move on from the past and let go of their pain. The Azerbaijani Republic expresses its sympathy for young girls who have been forced into early child marriages and experienced trauma as an effect. Azerbaijan is completely devoted to providing women and girls the basic rights that they are entitled to, and will work towards resolving the issue of child marriage in order to advance the progress of gender equality not only in Azerbaijan, but in several countries around the world. The delegation of the Azerbaijani Republic looks forward to collaborating with other nations within UNICEF to finding solutions to these urgent issues.

Delegation from: Republic of Belarus

Represented by: Saint Joseph Academy

Position Paper for the United Nations International Children's Fund

The issues before The United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) include: Child Migrants in Central America and the Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages. The delegation of the Republic of Belarus is committed to the rehabilitation and reimplementation of migrants as well as stopping the practice of child matrimony.

I. Topic A: Child Migrants in Central America

Violence and poverty ensue in many parts of Central America, specifically in Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala, resulting in unsafe living conditions for the children who reside in these areas. To escape these conditions, families flee Central America; these countries of refuge most commonly being Mexico or America. Throughout the journey to a new homestead, small children in these fleeing families are at risk of being kidnapped, raped, trafficked, or killed. Between October 2018 and September 2019, 72,873 unaccompanied children were seized at the U.S. border. Almost as fast as they arrive, migrants are sent back, often with no place to return to. María Perceval, UNICEF Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, further elaborated on migrant departures, "Being returned to impossible situations makes it more likely they will migrate again." The United Nations International Children's Fund is working to intersperse violence in Central America, provide mental and physical support to children in conveyance, provide alternatives to immigration detention in destination countries, and the safe return of children back into their native communities.

The Republic of Belarus believes that child migrants should be given the best opportunities for success and rehabilitation once relocated to Belarus. Since the beginning of their relationship in 1994, Belarus has been in good standings with the International Organization for Migration (IOM). In 1999, the Republic of Belarus signed an agreement of cooperation between themselves and IOM, and in 2005, became a full-fledged member of the IOM. Since then, the Republic of Belarus has implemented many rehabilitation, reintegration, and medical assistance programs within the country for its migrants. IOM and Belarus have worked together thus far to combat the trafficking of migrants, manage their borders more closely, and have developed cross-border cooperation to help these migrants achieve success in life. In 2015 alone, Belarus boasted over 25,000 new migrants, with a total of over 1,000,000 migrants in the country.

The Republic of Belarus as a nation offers our support on this topic; unfortunately at this time though we are not able to do so, as we are experiencing political protests against the election of the current president Alexander Lukashenko. Our citizens are pushing for a democratic leadership and a reform of the economy. As such, we encourage neighboring countries to support the well being and growth of child migrants by funding rehabilitation centers and offering the necessary resources needed to reintegrate these children back into the community.

II. Topic B: The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages

Child marriage is defined as a spousal agreement that occurs between a child under the age of 18 and an adult of the age 18 or older. Females are more disproportionately affected by this practice, as differing religions and cultural practices implement this belief. The reasoning behind child marriages differs between most cultures and religions, but the most common belief is that the underage females in the relationship will be opened up to economic opportunities that they may not be exposed to while not under a formal union with an older male. Although many cultures and religions believe that these unions are beneficial between the two people, these marriages often result in violence and health problems for the females and restrict them from the support systems and social networks that they need to survive. The United Nations International Children's Fund is dedicated to ending child marriages and empowering young women outside of this deadly practice.

The Republic of Belarus strives for the execution of child marriage by 2030, referencing the Sustainable Development Goals. Studies have shown that 3% of Belarusian women are married before the age of 18, with these rates targeting girls coming from lower-income families and having lower educations. In 1981, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women was passed which requires full and free consent to marriage. Following in 1990, the Convention on the Rights of the Child was enacted, putting into force a minimum age of 18 for marriage. Both parties participating in the marriage must file an application with ZAGS (Office for Matrimonial Acts Registration). Having both parties involved file applications certifies their shared consent. These laws hope to prevent unwanted child marriage, raise education levels in girls, and lower the rates of poverty.

The Republic of Belarus hopes to achieve great successes during this conference, with the extinction of the practice of child matrimony. Belarus would like to emphasize, with zest, that this practice is deadly and not beneficial to the underage children who are being stripped of their childhood. Belarus would like to establish a universal law for all countries to adopt, which sets a minimum age for marriage at 18; this universal law would also require that full consent is given between both parties involved. In addition to this universal law, the Republic of Belarus also hopes to implement a multi-tiered program that helps children who have been subjected to the practice. The Republic of Belarus hopes to accomplish much during this conference, as child marriage must be stopped.

Belgium

United Nation's Children Fund (UNICEF)

North Olmsted High School

Child Migrants in Central America

We believe that the most practical way to approach the topic of child migrants is to address the issue at hand. Child migrants usually do not want to leave their parents and family or a land of what they already know behind. Many are too young to understand why they have to leave, the children do not know any better than what they were taught. The families of these children have to willingly send their child away to hopefully have a better life. These children are also now in a foreign country looking for asylum to get away from a horrible country to one that is hopefully better. These children are scared, they are not going to know what to do. We believe the way to address this is to spread awareness and instead of sending these children back, put them in adoption or the foster care system to provide them a better life than what they had before. We believe the following measures should be taken to ensure that the children are safe: wellness checks of the children to make sure they are not bringing a foreign disease to the country, if the children are caught to be put in adoption, and therapy. Countries do not want these children. We are aware of this, however these are kids and they need a stable form of environment.

We also believe in the importance of stressing that many of the places that these children are fleeing from, are places of heavy gang violence and drug rings. These children are exposed to that constantly, the families of these children want them to have a better life rather than exposed to that.

Bringing attention to why families choose to have their children migrate is essential to understand why there are so many migrants in safer countries.

The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages

We firmly believe that child marriage is a horrible problem, and while respectful observation of culture is important; it is more important to keep young children safe and away from this practice. Moreover, we wish to stress the importance of child marriage being both a female and male issue. We need more male driven campaigns and more campaigns stating that women are worth more than a tradition. We believe in the need to push for gender equality in topics such as this and allow for survivors, male and female, to be able to come out about their experience. In the past the UN has already campaigned to raise awareness of the dangers of child marriages around the world and in places where it is more prevalent like less developed countries. Children are suffering great mental trauma and many young girls are more likely to develop cancer, sexually transmitted diseases, death during childbirth and the children of these children are more likely to die because of how young these children are forced to become parents. We believe the following measures should be taken: more campaigns raising awareness of what child marriage can do, promote education on the effects of child marriage using speakers who have lived through child marriage especially in places where child marriage is legal, and create a place of asylum for those escaping child marriage.

We also believe in the importance of pushing to make child marriages illegal in the places where it is still culturally appropriate to do so. We are aware that it is part of the culture, however the effects are just too great of a risk to keep it going. As the UNFPA's executive director, Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, has said, "Choosing when and whom to marry is one of life's most important decisions. Child marriage denies millions of girls this choice each year." We want to stress the sheer amount of young children being forced into child marriage each year.

The awareness of these viewpoints is essential to helping put an end to child marriage.

Delegation From: Canada

Represented by: Western Reserve Academy

Position Paper for the United Nations International Children's Fund

The issues before the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) are Child Migrants in Central America and the Ongoing Issue of Children Marriages. Canada is devoted to establishing a more favorable environment for children and considered the best interest of children spontaneously

I. Child Migrants in Central America.

It is reported that approximately 294,000 Central American children refugees (particularly from Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador) are fleeing from extreme poverty, gang violence, sexual exploitation, kidnap, and murder that caused explainable trauma to children in need. Due to these factors, many children are forced to leave their home countries in search of opportunities and a better life. Their only path is to go north, mainly to attempting to cross the borders of Mexico or the US. In the name of fleeing home country and have a better life, however, while crossing the border, the US custody is treating immigrant children without adequate food, water, or medical care, and some even experienced sexual assault and other forms of physical or psychological violence. One of the intentions of leaving their home countries was to escape from violence, but ironically, they are facing further, or even more violence carried by US or Mexican soldiers and police while crossing the border. The United Nations International Children's Fund hopes to bring up an open discussion of this immigration issue and crisis for children refugees in Central America.

Canada has a long history of accepting refugees or other migrated groups in crossing our borders. It is estimated that, from 1982 to 1987, Canada welcomed around 16,000 refugees from Central American countries, and Canada will likely be continuing to be opened for these homeless children in search of better opportunities and lives. However, Canada did establish Safe Third Country Agreement (STCA) with the United States, which stated that refugee claimants are required to request refugee protection in the first safe country they arrive in unless they qualify for an exception to the Agreement. Federal Court of Canada's decision on creating STCA challenged migrated children to cross the borders as more legal evidence has to be provided, which most of the children are lack of. In order to save more child refugees, Canada is willing to amend this agreement, considering the best potential of future children lives. Nonetheless, even if Canada responds positively to allow migrated Central American children to cross its border, they still have to be able to get inside of Mexico and the US first before arriving in Canada. Thus, the United Nations International Children's Fund has to address the border crossing issues in Mexico and the US first, before going over to Canada.

To tackle the issues occurring during the process of migrated child refugees crossing borders, Canada would like to ask the United Nations, followed by world countries in power, to establish secure funding that can support and provide basic needs, such as food, water, and sanitary supplies. Additionally, sustainable financial aid could avoid the violence children faced during the monthly or yearly process of migration. Better living environment and more attainable refugee camps could also be constructed with the funding created by international forces. In terms of Central America countries that are facing extreme crises such as poverty and violence, it is essential to rebuild the cities or countries in the attempt to slow down the migration rate. More education opportunities, better health care, and less corrupt governance should be the next step that these countries are approaching, with the help of international funding. Canada is in full support of fulfilling the best interest of children and is willing to support child refugee migration from Central America.

II. The Ongoing Issue of Children Marriages.

Children marriages, defined by UNICEF as a formal marriage or informal union between a child under the age of 18 and an adult or another child, is one of the most prevalent children rights violation issues the world is currently facing. It is estimated that the total number of girls married in childhood stands at 12 million per year, and this number is still increasing, according to UNICEF. Globally, about one in six adolescent girls (aged 15 to 19) are currently married or in union. West and Central Africa has the highest proportion of married adolescents (27%), followed by Eastern and Southern Africa (20%) and the Middle East and North Africa (13%). Most children in early marriages experienced domestic and sexual violence such as female genital mutilation (FGM) and other forms of health issues such as lifelong bleeding, infection, infertility, and even death. It becomes crucial for UNICEF and world countries to tackle this issue, in hope of providing children globally with better lives and opportunities to reach their full potential.

Canada has recognized children marriages as a violation of human rights and is committed to eliminating children marriages by 2030, stated during the 2018 Voluntary National Review at the High Level Political Forum. More than that, Canada has signed all the UN treaties regarding children marriages as it co-sponsored the 2013, 2014, and 2016 UN General Assembly resolutions and the 2013, 2015, and 2017 Human Rights Council resolution, both were on child, early, and forced marriage, in the attempt to end children marriages. Canada also ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1991 and agreed to set a lawful minimum age of marriage of 18. Additionally, between 2011 and 2016, the federal government has supported the end of child marriage with sustainable funding of CAN \$80 million. Canada has always been one of the leading forces to advocate for the end of children marriages worldwide and is in full support of eliminating children marriages globally.

Canada suggests the United Nations International Children's Fund to address the root causes of children marriages, gender inequality, lack of opportunities, and poverty. Gender inequality is caused by the lack of opportunities for girls, both in the workplace and throughout education processes. The lack of opportunities leads to the inability to support themselves social insecurity, and thus results in poverty and the reliance on marriages in the early stages. Better education access should be provided to each girl in every corner of the world, so they will have the potential to support themselves, become financially and emotionally independent, and have the choice to not rely on marriages. Furthermore, law enforcement has to be consolidated by the federal and regional governments, in an attempt to decrease the percentage of children marriages. After creating the law, the government should also stress the consequences when laws are not followed, such raises awareness among citizens and many of them will abandon children marriages in the fear of facing legal violation issues. It is also essential to establish an organized civil marriage registration system to keep track of unlawful marriage information. This civil marriage registration system will also create difficulties for children marriages to occur, thus minimizing the possibility of its existence. Overall, Canada is in full support of laws or supports that help to avoid additional child marriage, domestic violence, and Canada is totally in favor to create better and more accessible physical and psychological services for young women.

Delegation from: Chile

Represented by: Beachwood High School

Committee Name: United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Position Paper for World Health Organization

The issues before the United Nations International Children's Fund are Child Migrants in Central America and the Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages. The delegation from Chile hopes to find resolutions for the problems at hand.

I. Child Migrants in Central America

In numerous regions of Central America, children are faced with violence, poverty and abuse. In areas where kidnapping and sexual assault are the norm, these kids struggle to access even the most basic necessities such as food and shelter. As a result, many families opt to migrate, choosing the threat of being caught and sent back over their current situation. In fact, in less than one year between 2018 and 2019, 72,873 unaccompanied children and 457,871 families were caught upon migrating to the southern border of the United States. While addressing the immigration problem directly at the border may temporarily deter immigrants from entering the United States, the negative impacts of such protocols include more dangerous immigration routes and puts both the immigrants through even more danger. Evidently, this problem must be addressed at its source: the conditions that cause immigration in the first place.

As one of South America's most stable countries, economically and politically, immigration to Chile is prevalent. Between 2010 and 2015, immigration to Chile grew at a rate faster than any other South American country. Arrivals of Haitians have increased significantly following the 2010 earthquake that leveled large swaths of Haiti, and Chilean police reported that more than 2,000 illegally-present immigrants were caught between 2000 and 2005. In the November 2017 election, candidates from political parties and coalitions called for more restrictive immigration policies for the first time in Chile's history. Only 35% of Chileans surveyed agreed that immigrants should have the same rights as natives, and the influx of immigrants has renewed calls to replace the Immigration Act of 1975. This act defined various immigrant categories, as well as the entrance, residence, control, and expulsion of foreigners. To remain in the country, foreigners need to have either a tourist, resident, or permanent visa, yet no category in this act has mention of "migrant" or "immigrant". Some argue the law facilitates illegal immigration by allowing foreigners to enter the country as tourists, overstay their permits, and then obtain a temporary visa—as is the case with many Haitians today. Between 2006 and 2010, President Bachelet worked to display Chile as open to immigration and nondiscriminatory by signing Presidential Directive No. 9, Chile's most progressive policy concerning immigrants at the time. Yet in 2010, the newly appointed **Pinera** administration attempted to attract only highly skilled immigrants, which was looked down upon and ultimately did not pass by congress. Upon reentering office, Bachelet proposed that Chile would take "an active role on humanitarian resettlement, legal residency, protection of human-trafficking victims, and development of immigrants."

Chile provides an all-encompassing plan to combat the issue of child immigration. The current administration, under Piñera, plans to impose limits on immigrant access to social services, while continuing to offer equal education to all children. This will in turn reduce immigration while still maintaining a balanced system for those who legally migrated. Further, non-discrimination

legislation should be implemented to discourage against negative stigmas. Lastly, Chile recommends that detailed legislation be passed regarding immigration laws, which will effectively separate the work visa and the employer so immigrants can experience labor mobility without enduring unauthorized status. Education opportunities should be increased, and programs developed that will increase political participation among immigrants. Such actions will help immigrants acclimate and live as Chilean citizens.

II. The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages

In so many countries around the world, child marriage persists as one of the most impactful, yet most silent issues. Each year, twelve million girls are married before the age of 18. These marriages are fueled by gender inequality, financial insecurity, and poverty, causing a traumatic effect on the girls' physical and mental health. These children often get trapped in a cycle of poverty while being deprived of their right to education and safety. Since child marriage easily consumes their time, many girls drop out of school and end up entrapped in a cycle of poverty. They are also faced with an increased risk of unwanted pregnancy that may lead to physical harm. More than half of the girls from the poorest families in developing nations are married as children, yet this issue is so widespread that as many as one in five girls are married before the age of 18 worldwide.

Chile's government does not provide data on child marriage within its borders. However, neighboring Latin American countries report a child marriage rate of as high as 30%. In Chile, child marriage is largely caused by gender inequality that is predominant in day to day life. In 1990, Chile set the minimum marriage age at 18, and at the 1989 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Chile obligated free and full consent to marriage. Yet the legal age for marriage has exceptions, as the Civil Marriage Law enacted in 2004 allows for children to get married as early as 16 years old with parental consent. So far, Chile has committed to eliminate child marriage by 2030 upon signing onto target 5.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals. Additionally, in 2013 and 2014, Chile co-sponsored the UN resolutions on child, early and forced marriage, as well as the Human Rights Council's resolution on child, early and forced marriage. Chile signed a joint statement at the Human Rights Council that called for a resolution on child marriage. In 2018, the CEDAW Committee raised concerns that Chile still permits marriages under the age of 18 in some cases, recommending that the government outlaw any of these exceptions.

In response to the ongoing problem of child marriages, Chile recommended a multi-pronged plan. First, Chile advocates for worldwide legalization of divorce in order to address forced child marriages that have already occurred. Further, Chile calls upon programs to increase and mandate education, specifically to address the low labor force participation of women. Finally, Chile encourages an increase in care programs for children who have lost their parents, as well as financial support for those living in poverty.

Delegation from: The People's Republic of China

Represented by: Lake Ridge Academy

Position Paper for the United Nations International Children's Fund

The issues of Child Migrants in Central America and the Ongoing Issue of Child Marriage have been brought before the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF). The People's Republic of China is committed to continue to address these issues within its borders and provide suggestions to other foreign nations, while giving said nations the space to address them as they see fit.

I. Migrants in Central America

The People's Republic of China recognizes the issue of child migration in Central America as a pressing issue that needs to be quickly and swiftly addressed. China agrees with UNICEF's assessment that the main causes of migration in Central America are poverty, violence and gang activity. China agrees that this limits children's access to adequate nutrition, healthcare, sanitation, and schooling. China also agrees that the journey migrants face is dangerous due to trafficking, criminals, gangs, and various security forces. The extremely high cost of migration will place economic hardships on migrants, as well as children facing stigma, psychological stress, and threats of violence if efforts to migrate fail.

China believes that the burden of protecting child migrants falls on the countries involved in the transit, destination, and return of said migrants, including, but not limited to Mexico, the United States, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. China condemns the United States response to the COVID-19 pandemic and believes that child migrants have been adversely impacted by the insufficient response of the US. Further, China believes that the use of detention centers in order to detain migrant children for a long period of time is unnecessary, cruel, and a violation of the child's rights. China would ask the United States to demonstrate its commitment to children by ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as it is the only country that has yet to do so.

With this being said, China has little to no involvement in Central American migration and, as a result, believes that its assistance is not necessary in this matter. However, if the United States, or any other country involved in the matter, finds that it is unable to sufficiently manage the problem, China's aide is available. China is succeeding at working within its borders to protect the rights of the child as it agreed to do when signing the Convention of the Rights of the Child in 1992. Although China uses centers as punishment for overstaying visas, the centers are used a last resort and, under law, can only be used for a period of five to fifteen days. Overall, China believes that the United States, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador are capable of addressing the issue of child migration within their respective borders without the assistance of China.

II. The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriage

The People's Republic of China recognizes the issue of Child Marriage and is committed to continue to protect children's and women's rights to freedom of marriage. China recognizes that children who are married before they are physically and psychologically ready for marriage and childbearing face many challenges. In areas where HIV is common, child brides face increased rates of infection; and their access to contraception is limited. Girls are often placed into households where they face increasing risks of violence due to economic dependence on their husbands, limited ability to distance themselves from their abusers, and limited social support networks. When children are married young, they are often removed from school, causing reduction in their employment options and environments outside the home. Job prospect reduction further exacerbates the factors that would cause them to be subjected to violence.

Without access to high paying jobs, children are forced into a cycle of poverty that they and their children cannot escape. In China, the main cause of child marriage is tradition. However, China has shown its commitment to ending the cycle of child marriage.

China has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. Overall, the People's Republic of China has and will continue to develop legislation to protect children's rights. Currently, the Chinese Constitution protects families, the right to marry, the right to marriage, and the right to gender equality. China encourages late marriage and childbirth by setting the legal age of marriage at twenty-two for men and twenty for women. Federal law requires that all births and marriages be registered and provides legislation on how registration is enforced. Forced marriage has been prohibited under Chinese law since 1980.

China is committed to providing guidance and aide for any country who wishes it. The People's Republic of China wishes to be an example of how countries should handle children's rights and the right to a free and uncoerced marriage.

Delegation from: Côte D'Ivoire

Represented by: Archbishop Hoban High School

Committee: United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Position Paper for United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF)

The topics of discussion are: Child migrants in Central America, and the ongoing issue of child marriage. Côte D'Ivoire is determined to find a solution beneficial to all nations to secure the rights and protections of children.

I. Child migrants in Central America

Each year tens of thousands of children make the difficult journey from Central America to the U.S. border—some with family members and some alone. Between 2011 and 2016 the US apprehended 178,825 children, but that does not account for the people undetected. It is suspected that most children left their home due to violence in their community. The second most reason is due to the economy such as high unemployment. Some migrant children introduce crime to the borders like smuggling drugs.

Côte d'Ivoire became an IOM Member State in June 2000. The IOM focuses on the understanding of migrant issues, encourages social and economic development through migration, upholds the human dignity of well-being of migrants, and assists in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration management.

The delegation of Côte D'Ivoire suggests rehabilitating the children into safe and stable locations. Côte D'Ivoire emphasizes that human rights should be secure in every step of the rehabilitation process. Providing secure, reliable and cost-effective services for the migrants play a crucial role to solve the issue of child migrants in Central America. This can be implemented by using inner governmental organizations.

II. The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriage

Child marriage is a pressing issue prevalent worldwide. According to a non governmental organization 1 in 4 women are married as children and children are more likely to be married young in impoverished countries because they are seen as potential wage earners. Currently, there are laws in most countries restricting marriage at a young age; however, they are rarely enforced or there are ways around it such as parental consent. There are an estimated 25 million people in the past 10 years married as children meaning it is urgent and should be a main topic of discussion when discussing children internationally.

Côte D'Ivoire condemns child marriage and is making significant efforts to eliminate it. The delegation believes it is a violation of human rights and will not be acceptable in most situations. As of 2017 Côte D'Ivoire only had 7% of children married by 15 and 27% married by 18. The delegation is improving its laws and awareness about child marriage. The efforts taken

include they co-sponsored the 2016 UN General Assembly resolution on child, early and forced marriage, and the 2013 Human Rights Council resolution on child, early and forced marriage. In 2014, Côte d'Ivoire signed a joint statement at the Human Rights Council calling for a resolution on child marriage. The consequences for child marriage include imprisonment and fines although it is rarely enforced. Instead, Côte D'Ivoire focuses on reestablishing the children using the "Centre Social," which works with families to identify solutions and manage cases.

Côte D'Ivoire suggests future efforts to exterminate child marriage while still maintaining the sovereignty of others. It includes, enforcing the child marriage laws, redefine the social norms so people marry later, and improve gender inequality so that women don't have to depend on men, and reestablish the victims of child marriage. All delegations must join together with their global support to combat this epidemic.

Delegation From: Ecuador

Represented By: Beaumont School

Committee: UNICEF

Position Paper for the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

The two concerning issues presented upon the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund include: Child Migrants in Central America and The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages. The delegation of Ecuador is ready and willing to discuss and work towards preventing these issues.

I. Child Migrants in Central America

With the rife issue of poverty, gang violence, and social and economic hardship, there has been a rise in migrating families across Central America. When children arrive in new countries they are depicted as illegal people crossing the border and not as young children desperately fleeing poor situations. The emotional and physical impact of migration on children is too often overlooked and not given the proper attention and aid. They not only risk being kidnapped or sex trafficked, but also many are denied entry into the countries they flee to. Many are exposed to the same dangers they were hoping to escape while crossing the border.

Ecuador has taken the initiative to put into action a new protocol that provides protection for migrating children. Managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility and the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion, the 'Protocol for the assistance of children, adolescents and their families in contexts of human mobility in Ecuador' institutes protection and stability procedures amongst migrant children. Collaborating apace with the Ecuadorian government, UNICEF has supported and administered their technical assistance for this protocol. The Ecuador Red Cross has also invoked 14 safe spaces in 11 provinces across the country that aid in migrant children's travel and arrival at destination points at the border by providing food and safe drinking water, clothing, education, and different humanitarian services to ensure the protection of the children.

Ecuador is hoping that by bringing light to the dangers of child migration and implementing helpful protocols, other countries will also begin to discuss the issues as well. With this discussion, Ecuador encourages other countries to minimize the negative effects migration has on children; as well as ensuring that their rights will be protected.

II. The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriage

Although the issue of child marriage has decreased across the world, the practice is still widespread in Ecuador. As defined by UNICEF, child marriage is any formal marriage or informal

union between a child under the age of 18 and an adult or another child. Often, there are several factors that place a child at risk of marriage. These factors include poverty, honoring the family, societal norms, protection, and several other factors. In Ecuador, child marriage is steered by gender inequality and the ideology that girls and women are lesser than men and boys.

Although child marriage is a violation of human rights, Ecuador's previous laws permitted the practice of marriage for girls over the age of 12 and boys over the age of 14. It is recorded that 22% of girls in Ecuador are married before their 18th birthday and 4% are married before the age of 15. However, efforts have been made to eliminate child marriage. Ecuador has devoted their efforts to eliminating child, early, and forced marriage by the year 2030 in line with target 5.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals. Ecuador has also sanctioned an improvement of the Civil Code and has raised the legal minimum age from 12 years of age for girls and 14 years of age for boys to 18 years for both with no omission. Despite their goal to eliminate child marriage by 2030, Ecuador did not report any data or advancement on the issue to the Voluntary National Review at the High Level Political Forum which is used by countries to report their progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ecuador would like to maintain an extensive approach to bring awareness to the minimum age of marriage stated at 18 years of age to society in order to ensure the laws are upheld. Ecuador is also creating and hosting programs that promote changes in the law to eliminate all exceptions to the minimum age of marriage.

Delegation From: Arab Republic of Egypt

Represented by: Lake Ridge Academy

Committee: United Nations International Children's Fund

Position Paper for United Nations International Children's Fund

The issues presented for the United Nations International Children's Fund is as follows: Child Migrants in Central America and the Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages. The Arab Republic of Egypt is determined to safely negotiate terms in respect to these children's well being.

I. Child Migrants in Central America.

During the Cold, the United States interfered with many Central American countries, specifically Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. The United States demolished the Guatemalan government, a democracy, in an attempt to retain American profit. Actions like these lead to corruption and chaos throughout Central America forcing many citizens to flee to neighboring countries such as the United States. Though close allies, Egypt believes the United States must aid these countries as the children and youths of tomorrow should not be in jeopardy due to potential profit.

Egypt firmly believes that these children should return to their home country. A child should not have to travel from their home country to find basic human rights and necessities. First, Egypt strongly believes in the *Children on the Move* organization due to its immense aid in Egypt. Second, Egypt rigidly believes that foreign aid, in an attempt to stabilize these countries, must also revolve around an economic reform. Most Central American countries rely on commodities, a detrimental economic plan, that has caused lack of growth within these countries. Egypt believes that through foreign aid revolving economic stimulation and an immigration recommendation that these children can truly call Central America their home once more.

Egypt strongly believes that only through the aid of *Children on the Move* and an improved economic plan will the children in Central America will prosper. The intervention of the *Children on the Move* organization will allow for safe and peaceful migration within these Central American countries. More importantly, Egypt strongly believes in an economic reform within these countries. The reliance on agricultural commodities, partially due to the interference of the United States of America, has ruined these economies. It is impossible for a country to aid its citizens during economic turmoil. In sum, only through the aid of *Children on the Move* and economic development, does Egypt believe that the children of Central America can be aided.

II. The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages.

The issue of child marriages has persisted throughout the existence of humans and into the modern world. Specifically in Egypt, there has been an abundance of under age child marriages mainly due to two reasons. The first, the culture in Egypt has promoted this traditional marriage, which is widely accepted in the community. The second is when an underage girl, usually in a poor area, marries into a very wealthy man which usually causes a divorce. This underage marriage is believed to be the problem in Egypt, due to the girl receiving a lack of aid after the divorce. One of, if not the largest, problem with underage child marriages in Egypt is the connection between

these marriages and female genital mutilation/cutting. Egypt believes that more distinct laws regarding underage marriage and its punishment must be made.

In the past years, Egypt has made great strides in attempting to reduce the number of marriages of underage children. In 2008, Egypt increased the age of legal marriage to 18 in attempts to discourage illegal marriage. The current president, Al-Sisi, announced 2017 as the year for Egyptian women, and he created the National Council for Women (NCW) that was designed to “enhance, develop and protect rights and freedoms of women by virtue of the constitution provisions, the agreements and international covenants ratified by Egypt.” These laws show great promise for women’s rights, specifically pertaining to underage marriage, in Egypt.

Egypt strongly believes in the protection of the rights of women as it showed in the past years. Egypt hopes that all countries will share its view on the natural rights of women in an attempt to create a more unified world between women and men. Egypt firmly believes that economic aid from the United Nations would help Egypt’s ability to help its women. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic Egypt has had economic difficulties and believes aid would greatly accelerate the unification of rights between men and women.

Delegation from: The Republic of El Salvador.
Represented by: Avon High School

Position Paper for the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF)

The two issues before the Human Rights Council are the regional problems centered around child migrants in Central America and the ongoing global issue of child marriages.

I. Child Migrants in Central America

The Republic of El Salvador strongly supports the work of state and non-state actors, including international NGOs (Non-government organizations), in the protection and assistance provided to civilians affected by international and domestic conflict. Available international Statistics, including WSP-(2020 edition of the World Statistics Pocketbook), indicates an enormous rise in movement of migrants throughout Central America during the last 5 years. The 2020 edition of the WSP reported that in 2015 there was a negligible level of refugees and others of concern to the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees). In contrast, the same publication reported that in 2019 that same level had increased to 75.3 per thousand refugees that were of concern to the UNHCR. That type of enormous increase of migration must clearly include the migration of families, including a large number of children. These are children migrating away from systemic social issues of health and safety in and around El Salvador.

The Republic of El Salvador is very committed to the issue of mitigating the safety and health concerns of the migration of large populations in Central America, especially the issues that specifically affect migrating children. It is widely known and reported, including in a recent publication by UNICEF¹, that entire families are routinely fleeing gang violence and poverty in many Central American countries. These migrating families include young children, and those children are particularly vulnerable to the abuses of human traffickers in and near El Salvador. Many of those migrating families/children leave or pass through our territory on their way to the United States, and risk being kidnapped, trafficked for sexual purposes, raped, and even killed. UNICEF reports that between January and August in 2019 alone, more than 32,000 children were returned from the United States and Mexico to various Latin American countries, including here in El Salvador. That represents a number more than twice the level reported just one year earlier. The fraud and manipulation of human/child traffickers is now exposing migrating families and their children to many of the same dangers they hoped to leave behind.

The El Salvadoran government is currently working with UNICEF to help alleviate all identifiable factors which are leading the current crisis and its consequences. El Salvador is also working with representatives of the United Nations (UNICEF) to alleviate the social factors which are contributing to the growing migration issue. These factors include gang related violence, violence and organized crime, poverty, and the lack of education and opportunity in Central American nations that drive children and their families to flee their home countries in the first place. It is vital that the international community supports El Salvador in its mission to alleviate the elements in their society that drive children and families to flee their homes and make El Salvador a safer place to decrease the growing child migration issue.

¹ <https://www.unicefusa.org/mission/emergencies/child-refugees-and-migrants/child-migrants-central-america-mexico-and-us>
<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publications/pocketbook/files/world-stats-pocketbook-2020.pdf>
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/es.html#field-anchor-people-and-society-mother-s-mean-age-at-first-birth>

II. The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages.

For several reasons, the Republic of El Salvador strongly supports the banning of child marriages. First is the simple fact that, by any modern judgement standard, the life-long commitment of people under the age of 18 is a form of oppression that is nearly impossible for young people to overcome later in life. Especially for those who attempt to begin to raise a family while still navigating the challenges of adolescence. Secondly, eliminating childhood wedlocks would, in many instances, help to protect children and adolescents from experiencing the type of violence that often comes with marriages at a young age. “Your Voice Matters” is the slogan of El Salvador, U- Report claims².

In August of 2017 The Family Code of El Salvador was revised. In its new law, it strictly prohibits the marriage of people under the age of 18. El Salvador enacted this strong ban because of how detrimental child marriages are to children. Child marriages tend to permanently disrupt the education process and lead to lower levels of child health and welfare when the married couples are too young to support themselves and their families. They often result in violence and abuse towards young girls. This revised law is a huge step forward in the protection of adolescents in El Salvador. International law enforcement entities are aware that many marriages of minors are the result of forced/arranged matrimonies, and in many cases can be the result of the international trafficking of minors³. Even though the law exists on paper, child marriages still occur because they are not being applied by officials. It is ingrained in the culture of El Salvador to allow these acts of violence and marriages of young adolescent girls, as sourced from UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund). Many families find the use of child marriages as a way to escape the ongoing poverty. The violence against children in under age marriages is very common and is another reason why the culture and laws needed to change here in El Salvador, as well as throughout all of Latin America⁴.

While it is obvious that El Salvador has taken steps to eliminate child marriage, it is imperative to recognize that the culture in El Salvador still supports and takes part in child marriages. The laws have to be more heavily enforced and the society’s culture must change. The Republic of El Salvador calls upon the help and attention of the United Nations to help enforce the child marriage ban and provide harsher punishments for people who allow underage marriages to happen, including the parents of the children. There also has to be more options provided for families to get out of poverty other than selling their kids off to child marriages and therefore exposing them to abuse and neglect.

² <https://www.unicef.org/innovation/U-Report/no-more-girl-wives-el-salvador>

³ <https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2018/G7-Ministers-endorse-INTERPOL-Global-Task-Force-on-Human-Trafficking>

⁴ https://lac.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UnionesTempranas_ENG_Web.pdf

Delegation From: The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Represented By: The Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology

Position Paper for the International Children's Fund

The issues presented before the International Children's Fund are: Child Migrants in Central America; and The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages. Ethiopia is consistently working to protect the rights of children, making sure that they are guaranteed safety and human rights.

I. Child Migrants in Central America

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is neutral and does not have a view on the specific issue of Child Migrants in Central America due to the fact that Ethiopia is located on the east coast of Africa and is not directly affected. However, Ethiopia believes that protection of migrants and refugees is a human right, and therefore child migrants should be protected every step of the way while they are migrating. They should be able to migrate safely and efficiently. Eric Dentor, UNICEF Ethiopia's Child Protection Specialist, is working on protecting children from situations of sexual exploitation and abuse. Dentor himself was a child refugee and he benefited from UNICEF and other UN agencies and programs. UNICEF is encouraging nations to implement policies that keep children who are forced out of their homes educated and healthy and fight against xenophobia. Ethiopia proposes that programs be passed to protect child migrants who are traveling in search of a better life. Ethiopia encourages the continuation of UNICEF's policies on uprooted children.

II. The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has been working to end the practice of child marriage. Due to the fact that 15 million child brides live in Ethiopia, the country has implemented programs with the goal of ending child marriage. Ethiopia has a goal of ending child marriage completely by 2030. Ethiopia has shown its position in many forms of legislation over the years.

In 1981, Ethiopia adopted the Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which gave women the right of free and full consent to marriage. The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia also accepted the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1991. This pushed the legal age of marriage to 18 years old. In 2016, UNICEF teamed with the United Nations Population Fund to create the Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage, which focuses on empowered girls and women worldwide by encouraging and providing resources for them to go to school and learn life-skills. The UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage was implemented in 12 countries, including Ethiopia. The 2017 United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) resolution was co-sponsored by Ethiopia. The resolution stated that child marriage needed to be viewed in a humanitarian point of view after being recognized as a violation to human rights in the 2015 UNHRC resolution. In 2019, Ethiopia's government passed a five-year plan to end child marriage and Female Genital Mutation/Cutting.

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has continuously promoted programs, resolutions, and treaties that work to end child marriage. Child marriage is a violation of human rights and therefore must be addressed immediately and effectively. In order to achieve Ethiopia's goal of ending child marriage by 2030, it is essential to empower young and adolescent girls, educate

families about changing gender norms, and improve justice, education, and health systems. It is important to promote programs that help achieve this goal fast. Ethiopia believes that the most important factor to ending child marriage is educating girls and their families about the harms of child marriage and the worth of the girl. Ethiopia also strongly believes that the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage should be renewed and adopted internationally. Ethiopia concludes that child marriage is a human rights violation and should be ended everywhere.

Delegation from: The French Republic

Represented by: Lake Ridge Academy

Position Paper for the United Nations Children's Fund

In the 2020 meeting of the United Nations Children's Fund, the committee will address the topic of child migrants in central America, as well as the ongoing issue of child marriages. France hopes to improve the conditions for child migrants in Central America, while also decreasing the total number of child migrants in Central America. Additionally, France seeks an immediate action against child marriage around the world, as this violates the UNCRC.

I. Child Migrants in Central America

Refugees are persons who are outside their country of origin for reasons of feared persecution, conflict, generalized violence, or other circumstances that have seriously disturbed public order and, as a result, require international protection.

Beginning with the 1980s refugee act of the United States of America, migrants from central America have been moving north to escape violence, poverty, famine and persecution experienced in their respective countries. Even today, Central America is represented by some of the poorest and most violent countries around the globe. Many children lose their parents or were send alone on their way to their northern destination. UNICEF reported 772,873 unaccompanied minors entering the United States from September 2018 until October 2019. Many more minors are trying to make their way into countries perceived as a safe heaven. Unfortunately, the numbers of unaccompanied minors being returned to their countries have extremely risen over the past years. France seeks to improve both conditions in the origin countries and along the route, as this is the strategy of the European Union, which France highly supports. These goals can only be reached through multilateral humanitarian-aid projects funding education and healthcare, while also combating corruption inside of central American governments to provide a socially sustainable and stable government in these regions.

France has an interest in a resolution of the child migrant crisis in Central America, as similar strategies can be implemented in Africa, which has been the biggest contributor to European immigrants in the last years and a controversial topic, dividing the European Union. As France seeks to unify the European Union again, a resolution to this issue could be critical. All international texts promoting and protecting children's rights, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the child, have been signed and ratified by the French government. France stands for an effective refugee policy, as it focuses on people who meet the criteria for refugee status. A refugee policy reform in 2018 included an acceleration of asylum processing, improving conditions for humans seeking help, more efficient deportation of illegal or rejected immigrants and integration help for valid refugees. France has also provided humanitarian aid to Syria and neighboring states in recent years to tackle the impacts of the Syrian civil war, improve conditions and try to combat the origins of immigration. 500 Million Euros of funds are allocated each year according to Frances humanitarian strategy from 2018-2022. This money is also used to protect children in armed conflicts and ensure human rights all over the world, but especially in Africa and the Middle East.

There is no time to be lost, as the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, threatens migrants and especially child migrants even more, as healthcare is needed more than ever and economies are crashing, which leads to less funding for humanitarian aid projects. The committee should address the issue both on short terms, considering the challenges the pandemic is causing and in the long haul, striving for peace and stability in central America. France would like to reach a multilateral treaty, which involves funding for regional NGO's which support migrants and build refugee camps, while also creating an organization similar to the OSZE for Central America, in order to address corruption and election fraud. Moreover, laws on the punishment of human trafficking have to be internationalized and strengthened.

II. The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages

Child marriage refers to any formal marriage or informal union between a child under the age of 18 and an adult or another child. While most countries around the world have set the legal marriage age to 18, there are still some developing countries, which have not been able to tackle this issue. In addition to “lawfully” held child marriages, illegal marriages are the most contributing factor to this issue. Child Marriage often stems from cultural morals, poverty, a life without perspective and the deprivation of education. While the issue affects both genders, females are disproportionately represented in child marriages, wherefore this issue itself brings along the issue of gender equality, which is one of the UN SDG’s for 2030. Looking at the numbers, this problem is still prevalent, as 21% of all girls around the globe are married before the age of 18, with most of these cases happening in Asia and Africa. Child marriage often leads to rape, domestic abuse, and deprivation of education for the woman. As the UN and France see this as a human rights violation, treaties and international laws have to be passed and funds have to be allocated to protect children even more and improve conditions in the developing countries, while respecting unique cultures around the world.

France’s efforts to eliminate child marriage around the world are driven by its creed of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. Children placed into child marriage are robbed of their liberty as they are now dependent of their often not chosen partner, while these children do not have equal opportunities, as studies show, that child marriages occur mostly, when a child has not any education. As a member of the UN and the EU, France is interested in preventing human rights violation, which in this case are represented by child marriages. The legal framework on the national level exists, as the legal age of marriage is set at 18. Furthermore, the EU, and by this France, has supported and financed an international partnership between UNICEF and the UNFPA, which helps combat child marriage in the 12-most prone countries. This program provides legal and sex education to children and raises national awareness upon this issue. By being one of the biggest donors to Bangladesh (50 Million € in 2013), France funds projects of water distribution and infrastructure. France is hereby improving conditions in country, where 65% of women under the age of 18 are married. While the funds are not directly into prevention measures, providing the country with infrastructure and nutrition especially in the rural countries, can help against poverty, which is one of the driving factors of child marriage. In addition to ratifying both the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, which ensures marital consent, France has co-sponsored the 2013 and 2014 UN General Assembly resolution against child and forced marriage. Those officially state that child marriages are to be treated as human rights violations and urgent action is needed. Especially the 2014 provides steps to achieve the goal of the elimination of child marriage. Those include the implementation of laws, the development of strategies against the issue and the protection of women’s rights. Similarly, France co-sponsored a Human Rights Council resolution in 2017, which calls again for direct action of States and NGO’s and acknowledging root causes of child marriage. It also provides a list of necessities for women in order for countries to address the issue properly. to be able to Aligned with the SDG’s of the UN France has set the deadline to eliminate this global issue for the year of 2030.

In order to succeed over the inhumane practice of child marriage, UNICEF 2020 has to address this topic as one of their top priorities. Even though the economies are struggling right now, no funds should be reallocated from humanitarian aid projects against child marriage, as the combating of root causes does not only help against child marriage, but also decreases poverty and increases the standard of living in developing countries, while empowering young women to become the leaders the world needs them to be. Policy outcomes favored by France include another resolution, which connects the issue of poverty to child marriage, wherefore projects can focus on a variety of issues that are caused by poverty. One can also not underestimate the impact of education on this issue, wherefore an international project, monitored by multilateral groups, to build schools and ensure that children attend the schools, needs to be funded. In addition, the symptoms of child marriage have to be addressed. As domestic abuse is the most common one, France hopes to allocate funds to NGO’s, which provide legal services for divorce and the prosecution of abusive husbands in affected countries and provide mental health support. Alongside all these policies, one always has to keep in mind the cultural diversity around the globe, which has to be protected. While cultural differences are no excuse for child marriage, different values have to be treated with respect. However, education on this topic in affected cultures is necessary and child marriage can no longer be an accepted practice in any country, no matter of the culture.

Delegation From: The Federal Republic of Germany

Represented By: Western Reserve Academy

Position Paper for United Nations International Children's Fund

The issues the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) are facing are: Child Migrants in Central America and The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages. The Federal Republic of Germany supports funding and care for child migrants and is against the notion of child marriage.

I. Child Migrants in Central America

Migrants are people who move from a certain place to another often in search for better working and living conditions, or education. One of the most popular areas to migrate from is Central America, in the Northern Triangle. An estimated 500,000 people attempt the journey across Mexico to better locations. Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador's gang warfare and murder rates make them some of the most dangerous countries in the world. Children often leave these countries unaccompanied and unknowingly make themselves targets for traffickers and other criminals.

Germany supports funding and programs for migrants seeking asylum. Although, Germany is over 5,000 miles away from Central America, we are committed to providing aid to those in need of assistance in any way we can. As result of the United States of America making it more challenging to cross their borders, the EU is becoming a more popular destination for asylum seekers. In 2018, nearly 7,800 people applied for asylum in the EU, with Spain being the most popular destination because of the shared language. Germany is just second in line for taking in the most immigrants. Germany recently acted and liberalized a citizenship law created during World War I. Previously, people who had been deprived of German citizenship or denied entrance to Germany between January 30th, 1933 and May 8th of 1945 could not gain German citizenship. This law has since been removed with Article 116 (2) of Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany. Germany does not hold much power in this situation (because of how far Germany is from Central America), but encourages those with power to use it to aid and protect child migrants.

Migrant children require assistance, Germany is not in a position where it can provide direct aid. However, Mexico and the United States of America are directly tied to this issue and should preferably be the ones to aid the countries in which the problems that cause migration are most prominent. Germany will provide financial assistance and strive to continue the acceptance of Central American migrants into Germany.

II. The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages

Child marriages are very common in poverty-stricken countries. Young girls marry in hope of a better future and to reduce the number of people their families must feed, clothe, and educate. Many parents believe it is in their daughters' best interest to marry, they believe it will ensure their safety in areas where harassment and sexual assault are common. Child marriage rates for males are lower because families often put more hope into their son's education and future. Mainly, child marriages exist as a coping mechanism for families suffering from poverty and violence.

Over recent years, Germany recorded over 1,000 child marriages. This is largely driven by the large amounts of migrants entering our country. We have committed to eliminating child and forced marriages by 2030 through the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2017, Germany also passed the so-called Law to Fight Child Marriage (Gesetz zur Bekämpfung von Kinderehen) raising the minimum legal age of marriage to 18. This law nullified all previous marriages in which at least one party was underage. The main goal of this legislation was to release underaged children who were married in a different country and then migrated to Germany, from any matrimonial duties.

The Federal Republic of Germany believes countries should follow our lead and create more restrictions on child marriage and the age at which people can marry. We see through the number of married children that come through our borders, that most child marriages occur in Asia where governments are unable to control this issue. We suggest that international help organizations provide aid to the countries who struggle with this most and share more information to parents on how to prevent underaged marriages. Another solution may include financial aid to families who need more funds to send their daughters to school. Germany supports UNICEF in its global goal to end child marriage.

Delegation from: State of Israel

Represented by: Mentor High School

Position Paper for the *United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund*

The issues being presented to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund are Child Migrants in Central America and the Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages. The State of Israel is committed to working with fellow delegates in order to solve these issues.

I. Child Migrants in Central America

The State of Israel promotes solutions to help end the need for child migrants to leave their home countries and plans to work in solidarity with delegations from other countries in helping to solve these crises. Issues such as gang violence, intimidation, and extreme poverty are the root of much migration from Central American countries such as Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala and the State of Israel considers it very important to work with other delegations in UNICEF to help solve these problems.

The State of Israel is a member of the International Organization for Migration(IOM) and has worked heavily in the past mainly in the Mediterranean region specifically in human trafficking, immigrant integration, migration & gender, and diaspora engagement. The State of Israel adopted UN Resolution 187 during the 69th Session which recognizes the issue of adolescent and child migrants internationally.

The State of Israel believes that with international intervention in poverty and crime struck areas of Central America, stronger punishments for violent criminals, and freer, more democratic elections, children and adolescents will no longer have to fear for their lives at home.

II. The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages

The State of Israel seeks to work with other delegations in order to end child marriage and give the opportunity of choice that many young boys or girls weren't given in the past due to the archaic practices of child marriage. The State of Israel supports the Sustainable Development Goals(SDG) and especially Goal 5, which is gender equality, as most child marriages affect young girls and young women.

The State of Israel is a member of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and is a supporter of Resolution 66/170, which established the International Day of the Girl with a special focus on ending child marriage as it affects 1 in 5 girls around the world. The State of Israel especially focuses on working with fellow countries in the Middle East to end the problem in the region.

The State of Israel believes that by working with other delegates to increase educational access to young and adolescent girls and helping to change cultural norms in regions where child marriage is common, we can give a whole generation opportunity that was not given to girls in the past.

Delegation from: Japan

Represented by: Beachwood High School

Committee: United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Position Paper for The United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF)

The issues at hand before United Nations International Children's Fund include Child Migrants in Central America and the Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages. The delegation from Japan is open to cooperation with all and hopes to find a solution to these issues.

I: Child Migrants in Central America

People have always been migrating. Whether it be because of differing political views, a need for more food or other conflicts humans have always been moving. The number of migrants today is about 258 million and in developing countries, about 86% are the forcibly displaced population. Hence In 1951, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) was established as the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration. Their main goal is to provide ethical and orderly migration. Additionally, in 2016 an agreement with the UN and the International Organization for Migration was made. Which created a specialized agency to help with migration even further. In the 1980's however a large amount of migrants were going to the US. But this became an issue as many were detained and sent back. Even though the Refugee Act of 1980 was made to help with this issue and to help provide for the effective resettlement of refugees. Therefore protecting Central American migrants is very important. This is why the Refugee Act, the IOM and many other organizations were created. Going off on that Migrant children face many problems in Central America. The central American Government as well has exploited these children and has barely said anything to help them. In just 2019 alone about 33 million international migrants were children. Because of this UNICEF began Child Alert to help bring awareness to these issues. Consequently, these issues must be resolved as soon as possible. Therefore, Japan is willing to work with anyone who can help come up with a formidable solution to these issues at hand.

Japan has always taken a noncommittal approach to migration. But in the Vietnam war for example Japan took over made sure to help those in need and open their doors. In times of great need Japan will open its doors and be there to help. Additionally, Japan is a member state of the International Organization for Migration. Since 2019 the number of refugees and asylum seekers has doubled which indicates that Japan has become more open in recent years. This displays that Japan has been attempting to help with this issue in any and all ways possible. Henceforth, we are open to cooperating with all who have ideas on this issue and hope to find a durable solution as soon as possible.

Japan is open to collaborating with any nation who is looking to find an effective resolution to this troubling topic of Child Migration in Central America. Japan at this time has a multi facede solution to the issue at hand. First we must ensure that these countries are more stable so that people don't want to migrant in the first place. Instead of creating sociopolitical etc. inequities abroad it would be much better to help make Central America a more peaceful place first.

Therefore, Japan calls on each nation to help solve this issue so that we may build a brighter future of prosperity and peace together.

II : The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages

By 2030 it is estimated that at least 120 million girls will marry before their 18th birthday. Around the world about 21% of girls are married before they are 28 years old. Additionally girls who marry before they are 18 are more likely to experience domestic violence and are as well more likely to drop out of school. Child brides as well can become pregnant much younger which is quite unhealthy and can increase complications during childbirth. During the past couple of years child marriages have been decreasing but it is still occurring at an exponential rate. In 2016 UNICEF paired up with UNFPA and launched the Global Programme to End Child Marriage. This helped younger women to engage in a dialogue about child marriages and helped to educate and reach over 7.9 million girls. The African Union in 2014 outside of the UN launched a campaign to help end child marriages. Their goal was to work towards a more flourishing Africa without child marriages. In the last decade at least 25,000,000 child marriages have been prevented thanks to the progress of UNICEF but more must be accomplished this is not enough. Child marriage is still a prevalent issue even today and Japan is willing to work with everyone to find a formidable long lasting solution to this horrid issue.

Japan is doing everything it can to tackle this issue head on. For example Japan has joined the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals on ending child marriage by 2030. Japan has as well worked with other countries in 2013 and 2014 at the UN General Assembly to help end child marriage. Therefore, Japan is committed to help end child marriage in any way possible. Accordingly, this indicates that Japan has especially in recent years been working nonstop to fight child marriages. Ergo, Japan is willing to work with any nation that has any feasible solution to the matter of contention at hand.

Japan hopes to solve this issue as soon as possible and is willing to work with any country who has a solution to the problem at hand. Therefore Japan has a multifaceted solution to help combat child marriages. First, we must educate everyone on the issues involving child marriages including as discussed above early pregnancy etc. Next, because many times people turn to child marriages to strengthen their economic issues we must turn to the root problem. Strengthening economic instability, for example government incentives like futuristic technologies, improved infrastructure like sewer, water etc. The money would come from those countries like Japan who wish to help those in need. This would then help with child marriages because people would not feel the need to seal their children through marriage to gain money any longer. Japan hopes to find a formidable solution to this issue and will work cooperatively with any and all who have ideas.

Delegation from: The Republic of Kenya

Represented by: Avon Lake High School

Position Paper for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

The issues that will be addressed by the United Nations Children's Fund throughout this committee's duration include: Child Migrants in Central America; and the Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages. The Republic of Kenya steadfastly believes in the necessity of protecting children in threatening situations within its borders as well as internationally, and desires to address these plaguing issues directly throughout the cooperation between member UN states in order to create a comprehensive plan of action to resolve these dilemmas.

I. Child Migrants in Central America.

As a nation with a large percentage of its population being those who have searched for asylum in surrounding countries in Africa where civil wars and other issues plague populations and cause a search for safety within other nations borders, the Republic of Kenya strongly supports efforts to allow for more available refuge for Central American children. Of the 650,000 citizens of the Republic of Kenya who reside there deriving from an effort to find sanctuary, one half of this figure is children. Child refugees make up .65% of the Republic of Kenya's population. The Republic of Kenya is eager to pass legislation as refugee-friendly as its own to allow for the furthered safety of child migrants in Central America.

In understanding the importance of the protection of all migrants seeking asylum from a problematic situation, the Refugee Law passed in 2006 and the 2009 Refugees Regulations, both implemented by the Kenyan government and strongly policed, the Republic of Kenya wishes to provide a haven for migrants. The Immigration Act, dating back to 1985, exhibits Kenya's dedication to assisting child migrants they determine as refugees fleeing out of fear of persecution due to nationality, race, religion, or political ideology are provided a haven by the Republic of Kenya. The implementation of the Kakuma and Kalobeyei refugee camps, with migrant populations of over 200,000, allow child migrants arriving in the Republic of Kenya to receive shelter as well as an encompassing education. The Republic of Kenya continues to implement further policy and grow refugee camps to accommodate more migrants, many of whom children, in order to provide a meaningful protection from the fears caused by various uncertainties present within surrounding African nations.

The Republic of Kenya, above all, wishes to exhort the passing of an encompassing policy protecting vulnerable children internationally, including and especially those of Central America. As unprotected children across the globe continue to fall victim to the terrors of extensive violence in their country of origin, starvation, crime, and other horrific situations, the Republic of Kenya believes the UN must strive to provide protection for children who subsist in perilous conditions. The issue of assisting child migrants in their endeavor to survive is one that must be addressed directly and swiftly in order to liberate the exposed adolescents from their precarious states of affair. The Republic of Kenya believes all nations should establish refugee camps, such as the Kalkuma and Kalobeyek camps, providing opportunities for children to have access to a complete education and be provided with their basic necessities. The Republic of Kenya

wholeheartedly supports the preservation of the futures of all children, heeding no partiality forged on one's nation of origin or its relationship to the nation providing asylum.

II. The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages.

The Republic of Kenya strongly believes that child marriages, in all forms, should be made illegal for the vast negativity in which they cause. The Republic of Kenya has made illegal all forms of marriage for those younger than 18, and believes that other countries should fall in suit in order to protect the children of their respective nations. Protection of the young women and men facing imposed marriages is a necessary gesture by the Republic of Kenya's national government in order to prevent exploitation of children. With the Republic of Kenya's current standing as having the 20th highest number of child marriages globally and the presence of tribal mass marriages, continued implementation of legislation to reduce this number has and will continue to be undertaken.

As the rights of women and girls within the Republic of Kenya are highly valued and necessary to protect, a number of legislation to protect young girls from unlawful and damaging marriage practices have been passed and continue to be enacted. From 1990 with the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the child restricting child marriages, the 2001 Children's Act preventing the marriage of children, the 2006 Sexual Offences Act, granting 15 years or more in jail time to those guilty of defilement (defined by age 18 of the victim), the Prohibition Of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Act of 2011, and the Marriage Act of 2014 preventing the marriage of any and all under the age of 18, the Republic of Kenya is a strong advocate for all forms of protection against the unlawful marriage of children. Unlawful marriage of children directly correlates to an exposure to sexual exploitations by other parties, and therefore the act of marriage by all those under the age of 18 is strictly prohibited. With FGM's status as a commonplace tactic to prepare young girls to be married off, enacting laws to protect the health and safety and prevent the felonious marriage of child brides is, in its entirety, vitally necessary. Along with the National Gender and Equality Commission, a variety of Kenyan government agencies and law enforcement agencies directly enforce laws categorized through the exploitation of children. The Republic of Kenya strongly enforces laws protecting the equality and safety of young girls and boys facing marriage, and encourages other nations to do similarly.

The Republic of Kenya would look enthusiastically upon the equal and encompassing protection of all children subjected to marriages, and hopes to bring its own specific issues of child marriages and FGMs to the world stage. The Kenyan delegation would strongly favor any and all acts aimed towards strengthening international safety and policing of child marriages along with all associated exploitations of children. Regardless of a nation's belief on child marriages, preventing against sexual violence and mutilations of young children is an issue necessary to discuss at an international level. The Kenyan delegation strongly suggests that all nations consider the implications of child marriage upon their own populations of children and support the Republic of Kenya's efforts to reduce the substantial figure of children impacted by criminal acts of marriage, individual or enforced tribal mass marriages, and subsequent sexual exploitation. In Kenya's efforts in solidarity with several other African nations to end child marriages by 2020, Kenya hopes necessary steps will be taken by the UN and its member states to definitively and effectively end the practice in its totality.

Delegation from: Kuwait

Represented by: Avon Lake High School

Position Paper for the United Nation International Children's Fund

The issues facing the United Nations International Children's Fund today are: Child Migrants in Central America and The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages. The Delegation of Kuwait is committed to international cooperation to defeat the pressing issues facing children across the globe.

I. Child Migrants in Central America

The Delegation of Kuwait is strongly in favor of the countless countries and NGOs that provide support for child migrants especially those concentrated in the region of Central America. Most of the migrants attempt to flee their own country to either the United States or Mexico. The majority of these migrants come from the nations of Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala which are some of the worst-off socially and economically leaving many families and children looking for a better life. Following the 1980 U.S. Refugee Act which opened asylum to a large number of people that had been previously unavailable to receive it. The number of refugees, including many children, almost tripled in this time and opened the door to a new opportunity for families fleeing their country. However, things have gotten much harder for these immigrants as the United States has been severely tightening their border security. For example, the Executive Order on Border Security increased the construction of detention facilities and limited access to asylum to many immigrants. This has been a large issue as now many families are being split up and children are being left without parents. On top of the tightening security of the United States border, the global pandemic has only made things worse for migrants. Kuwait believes drastic measures need to be taken to improve the lives of these children migrants and all migrants.

Kuwait reaffirms the importance of aid and good treatment of refugees. As a country made up of almost 70 percent migrants Kuwait understands the need for support of these child refugees. Kuwait has, over the years executed many actions toward bettering the lives of refugees and migrants. The Delegation of Kuwait has always stood by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for implementing many education and health programs for refugees. This organization is a major player in improving the migrant situation in Palestine. It provides education and relief for children as well as many benefits to adults. Along with this, in 2018, Kuwait pledged the equivalent of 430 million US dollars to the UNHCR. The UNHCR is one of the main organizations dealing with migrants and Kuwait has always supported this group. The Delegation of Kuwait stressed the need to look for international rules that could realize political solutions in order to save lives. Kuwait also believes that the stabilization of the counties these migrants are originating from is of the utmost importance.

As shown, Kuwait believes that the migrant problem, especially child migrants, is a major issue. The Delegation of Kuwait would like to see this committee address two major issues. That of a long term plan as to what is to be done regarding the origins of these refugees and the stability of their nations. The other issue is the short term plan as to what to do about migrants as we implement the long term plan mentioned above. In the short term, we believe that it is necessary to provide adequate care and aid to these children and families. Such aid includes proper food, water shelter, and other essential items. Along with aid children must be kept with their families and an end must be put to family separation and detention of children. Alternatives to detention should at the very least be looked at in the case of children. Communication and cooperation must be improved with neighboring nations regarding the safeguarding and movement of refugees along with policies ensuring protection, especially to children and families. Finally, children should be protected from racist, discrimination, and xenophobic actions and measures should be taken to eliminate these ideas altogether. In the long term, Kuwait believes it necessary to address the causes of migration. The major causes of migration are violence and poverty. Instead of providing national funds

toward border security and detention, countries such as the United States and Mexico would better use this money to help deter poverty and violence. Also, an increase in the quality in the child services and child protection agencies in the migrant's nations of origin would be of significant benefit to eliminate migration. As well as eliminating migration Kuwait believes equal opportunities such as education and employment are necessary.

II. The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages

The Delegation of Kuwait along with many other nations agrees about the tragedy of child marriage. Kuwait wishes to see child marriages removed from society however it does wish to respect each nation's national sovereignty and believes that is the most important issue. Child marriages are defined as any formal marriage or informal union between a child under the age of 18 and an adult or another child. These forms of union have been occurring forever but recently the effort to decrease them has grown. Child marriages are down from the last decade from one in four girls to one in five. This number is still tremendously high and shows just how widespread this practice is. Passed in 2015 the SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) is a plan for a better future with goal number five being gender equality. Target 5.3 of the SDG is about the plan to eliminate child marriage and other forced marriages. Then in 2016 UNICEF along with the UNFPA started the Global Programme to End Child Marriage. This program empowered girls at risk of child marriage or already in a marriage. It affected over 7.9 million girls with life-skills training and school attendance support. So far good strides have been taken to achieve this goal however much more work is needed to achieve what has been set in the SDG.

Recognizing the major issue that child marriage is Kuwait wishes to see the elimination of this practice and has taken multiple steps to complete this goal. Kuwait has committed to eliminating child and forced marriage by 2030 in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. This had led to many actions taken by Kuwait to ensure the abolition of child marriage. One example is the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in 1994 which obligates states to ensure free and full consent to marriage. Kuwait has also looked at and taken into consideration raising the legal age of marriage to 18. No action has yet been taken but it is something Kuwait is seriously considering. One issue Kuwait has is that certain actions that discourage child marriage go against the Kuwaiti Constitution. Kuwait also has to respect the Sharia, Islamic law, and certain restrictions would contradict the Sharia. The Delegation of Kuwait stresses the importance and respect of national sovereignty in this situation. While Kuwait does believe an end to child marriage is necessary, national sovereignty is more important.

The Delegation of Kuwait believes there is a plan that does not infringe on national sovereignty or religion and that plan falls under the jurisdiction of the UN. Instead of requiring nations to set a minimum age of marriage or laws against child marriage which may alienate some countries, Kuwait included, use the UN and NGOs to help end child marriage. The use of NGOs will allow girls to become more educated so they can decide for themselves. This along with existing UN programs such as the Global Programme to End Child Marriage will provide many opportunities for girls without infringing on national sovereignty. Another solution to the problem lies in education and the education situation many girls face. Girls with a proper education are 3 times less likely to be married early. This goes to show that providing proper education for girls and children, in general, is an excellent way to eliminate child marriages. Establishing funding for schools and increasing educational opportunities for young girls seems to be the best way of moving forward. The Delegation of Kuwait believes that the best solution to the problem of child marriages without infringing on a nation's national sovereignty is a mixture of continued support for UN programs, the use of certain NGOs, and the increase of education opportunities for young girls and children altogether.

Delegation from: Federal Republic of Nigeria

Represented by: Archbishop Hoban High School

Position Paper for the UNICEF Council

The issue presented before the UNICEF Council are: (1) Child Migrants in Central America and (2) The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages.

I. Child Migrants in Central America

Thousands of families and children from Central American countries migrate across the continent to attempt safety and a better life for themselves. In some circumstances Central Americans must make the choice between staying in their home country and dying or making the difficult trek to a safer country. UNICEF strongly believes that endangered children are entitled to their basic human rights and deserve a home and protection. Since the global pandemic arose, it has been made even more difficult for migrants to find refuge in other countries with some borders closed. The pandemic has hit impoverished countries even more and has impacted millions of lives economically, healthwise, and overall safety. Immigration is nothing new for these central american countries, they have always dealt with political, social, cultural conflicts and human rights have always been violated in all countries. The International Organization for Migration began to be involved with United Nations resolutions, in the hope for international cooperation on issues affecting migrants, in 2016. UNICEF has acknowledged the migration of children in central america as a major issue affecting thousands of young people a year. Nigeria receives a number of immigrants each year from its neighboring countries, legally and illegally. Plenty of Nigerians also migrate from their country to other local countries, Europe, or North America. The delegation of Nigeria would like to see a resolution that allows for a swift transition to safety for endangered children. That said transition would include immediate protection and safety from harm. This delegation would like to see free passage to a new country and over time gain legality, but in the meantime receive safety. This delegation would like the committee to confer about what a child should do if not accompanied and how they can find resources while still being protected.

2. The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages

Child marriages are a widespread custom that impact thousands of children a year. Young women are disproportionately affected by these nuptials that are often accompanied with domestic violence, difficulties during pregnancy and childbirth, and minimal options for education. The leading cause of child marriages is poverty; not possessing the means for a child to pursue a higher education or lack of educational options as a whole. Child marriages are also a cultural practice for some communities. It is in the best interest for young girls to end child marriage and instead focus on providing a stable education for young women. This issue of ongoing child marriage is an incredibly prevalent disparity for those under the age of eighteen in Nigeria. The legal age of marriage, established by the Marriage Act 1990, is twenty one, but with written consent from a parent or guardian a child can be married before their twenty first birthday. Within the Child Rights Act 2003 the legal age of marriage was moved to eighteen, for

those states involved in the Act. Those states not tied to the Act followed local laws, typically based in the Islamic faith, allowing the minimum age of marriage to be lowered to as young as twelve years old. As of 2017, UNICEF calculated that 18% of children in Nigeria are married by the age of fifteen and up to 44% of Nigerians are married by the age of eighteen. One of the main contributors to child marriage is the gender inequality between girls and boys, leading girls to have a lower level of education, 73% of Nigerian women have no formal education that were married before the age of eighteen. The lack of education is detrimental to female opportunities outside of the home. In 2016, the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development launched a strategy to reduce child marriage by 40% by 2020. Nigeria also committed to abolishing forced young child marriage by 2030. Nigeria launched the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa, in 2016. The delegation of Nigeria would like to see the committee abolish the legality of marriage under the age of eighteen. Allowing for the exception of religious practices but highly encouraging that those under the age of sixteen continue to pursue a higher education after they have been married. This delegation would also like to see an increase in funding for education and awareness in impoverished countries.

Delegation from: Poland

Represented by: Beaumont School

Position Paper for the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF)

The issues before the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) are child migrants from Central America and the ongoing issue of child marriages. In relations to child migration and migration of any sort, Poland will prioritize its citizens, ensuring national security and providing protection against uncontrolled migration. Poland recognizes that child, early, and forced marriage is a violation of human rights.

I. Child Migrants from Central America

Poland established the Law on Protection, which provides a legal representative to any unaccompanied child with no exceptions on the following proceedings: international protection, Dublin, social assistance, and voluntary return. The Border Guard reported that since December of 2017, they have a list of non-governmental organization (NGO) workers who are willing to represent a child. Unaccompanied children are currently placed in intervention facilities instead of a central institution. After appointing a representative, the unaccompanied minors can be placed in foster care facilities or foster families.

In 2019, there were 105 unaccompanied children that applied for international protection in Poland. Poland seeks to protect the security of its people and refuses to accept large amounts of migrants with a concern that they might vanish and their whereabouts and planned actions are completely unknown, as outside cultures differ from the constructed Polish culture.

Poland will not accept a resolution that will force it to compromise national security, jeopardize the safety of Polish citizens, and disrupt the traditional Polish Culture. However, as a resolution, we may consider allowing a limited amount of child migrants through a legal process and expanding education centers in which migrant children will be taught apart from the public schooling system so that they may be integrated into Polish culture. In expanding these education centers, any educational gaps in foreign schooling will be addressed in Poland so that the students may transfer to regular schooling in the future without any struggles.

II. The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages

Child marriage refers to marriage in which one individual is or both individuals are under the age of 18. Every year around the world, 12 million girls are married when they are under the age of 18, demonstrating that this is a global issue and not limited to a certain region or continent. Child, early, and forced marriages are influenced by gender inequality in which females are viewed as inferior to males, poverty, upholding a cultural or socially constructed tradition, and insecurity.

Poland recognizes that child, early, and forced marriage is a violation of human rights and has been very active in addressing this issue. From early on, Poland has exhibited its position and willingness to address this issue, especially through the ratification of the Convention on the

Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in 1980, which ensures that there is free and full consent to marriage, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1991, which sets the minimum age of marriage at 18. Poland co-sponsored the UN General Assembly resolution on child, early, and forced marriage in 2013 and 2014 as well as signed a joint statement in 2014 to call for a resolution on child marriage. Continuing its record, Poland co-sponsored the 2015 Human Rights Council resolution, which recognizes child, early, and forced marriage as a human rights violation, and the 2017 Human Rights Council resolution that recognizes the need to address child marriages in humanitarian contexts. In agreement with target 5.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals which aims to eliminate all harmful practices, Poland, alongside the 192 other countries in the UN, has committed to the aim of eliminating child, early, and forced marriage by 2030.

Poland will continue to support resolutions it deems beneficial to assisting in the achievement of the 5.3 Target of the Sustainable Development Goals which aims to eliminate child, early, and forced marriage by 2030. Poland will support resolutions including empowerment through education and safe space programs for women to reduce children forced into marriage.

Statement Regarding Topics:

The issues before the UNICEF Council are: Child Migrants in Central America and The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages; The Republic of Korea is devoted to the protection of the rights of all children, and expresses its hope for further advancement in cooperation between all sovereign states in the advocacy and advancement of these rights.

I: Child Migrants in Central America

The issue regarding the Child Migrants in Central America is something that has been happening for years. Due to restrictions in immigration for many of the countries that these children are trying to reach, children are sent back to their unstable homes that they were once trying to escape, or placed in immigration centers. The tumultuous journey and living conditions (at their destination) that these children face varies from exploitation, abuse, and lack of essential needs. As The Republic of Korea, we acknowledge this issue that is currently disrupting our world, and we believe the best possible solution is to take action for this cause.

Although we have had struggles with our own documentation of child migrants, currently our government is working to resolve these issues. As of 2015, The First Basic Plan for Child Policy was enacted, setting children under 18 years of age for the policy targets. In 2018, The Ministry of Justice announced that research about undocumented migrant children would be enacted. These may seem like small steps, as children not of Korean nationality have been previously neglected, but, nonetheless, steps like these lead to change. Regarding the struggle that refugees face when trying to report their children's birth to a governmental agency of their home country, we believe that entering the children's personal information into Korea's foreigner registration system will be adequate. Under our current Immigration Act, in Article 56-3, it states that, 'a person under 19 years of age' shall be provided with treatment adjusted to his/her specific needs⁵. This act refers to any children who are currently detained in immigration holding centers. Many of these actions that our government chooses to take, is based off of our current society, and the 'racial' prejudice it currently holds.

We believe there are many actions that need to take place with these issues. The current issue of child migrants in Central America is disheartening and protection clauses as well as UNICEF implementations need to take place. We stand in full support of cooperative sovereign nations working together to keep child migrants safe, and believe that precautions need to be taken with each of us in the United Nations, as well as Central America. The safety of child migrants once they reach their destination, is of utmost importance. Given our circumstances regarding our shared border with North Korea, we would like to request full support with North Korea, and assistance with Model Un in orchestrating a type of agreement where we can civilly solve the

⁵ https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CRC/Shared%20Documents/KOR/INT_CRC_NGO_KOR_33152_E.pdf

issue of North Korean migrants entering illegally. We need the UN assistance when dealing with our border, as this is where migrants enter. As a singular nation of South Korea, we will deal with our personal foreign affairs relating to the sea transport of migrants. The Republic of Korea is aware of international trafficking with Child migration, and is willing to assist in whatever means necessary to support Central America.

II: The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages

The ongoing issue of child marriages not only affects the children of South Korea but also children around the globe. Child marriage can be defined as a formal or informal marriage between someone under eight-teen and an adult or two people under the age of eight-teen. According to UNICEF child marriages around the world heavily affects girls more than boys. Child marriage ruins young girls' lives and robs them of their childhood. When a girl gets married as an adolescent, she is much more likely to leave school and experience domestic violence. In many cases, gender inequality, and the belief in some cultures that women are lesser than men, are the driving factor behind child marriages. In the 2016 High Level Political Forum, the South Korean government stated that girls who receive a quality education are more likely to delay marriage and birth, ultimately setting them up for a better future.

Here in South Korea, as in most developed nations, the legal age for a young woman to commit to a legal marriage is eighteen. However, in most cases, young people can be legally married as young as sixteen, with parental consent. Women getting married that early in life often leads to pregnancies by teenage mothers, which in turn often lead to many medical complications, including in some cases, death to the baby or mother. Forced and dangerous child marriage is an issue that we in South Korea are trying to manage, and hopefully someday put an end to.

In South Korea, we know well exactly how dangerous child marriage can be, and we are doing everything possible to eliminate it. In a 2018 publication in Korea times, victims of childhood marriage were interviewed about their experiences, and the consequences of their matrimony at perilously young ages. Many of the girls stated⁶, "My life is destroyed". Recently we announced that the South Korean government will be putting forth all possible efforts and funds to completely eliminate child marriage by 2030. We are not only planning to eradicate child marriages in South Korea but also in Bangladesh as well. According to the Korean Times⁷, South Korean government gave Bangladesh \$48 million dollars to aid in education and health programs. South Korea has the funds to help Bangladesh and many other countries around the world.

South Korea is aware of how important it is to end child marriage and is going to help every country they can to do so. There is a lot of components that go into child marriage but a lot of them start from trafficking of young girls from countries all around the world. We have a strong central government that is willing to do whatever it takes to transform the world into a safer place for children.

⁶ <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/child-marriage/south-korea/>

⁷ <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/child-marriage/south-korea/>

Delegation From: Russian Federation
Represented By: Western Reserve Academy
Committee: UNICEF

Position Paper for the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

The two issues introduced in the UNICEF Committee are the following: Child Migrants in Central America and The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages. The Russian Federation is pleased to partake in coming up with a resolution to these ongoing issues.

I. Child Migrants in Central America

This issue has been brought up by UNICEF due to the U.S.'s lack of ability to protect migrating children from Central America. Due to a rapid influx of immigrants entering the U.S. in the 1980s, the U.S. passed the U.S. Refugee Act. This passage stated that anyone was eligible as long as one "suffered persecution or had a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion." However, this act did not prevent border control in the U.S. from leaking out racism or xenophobia. Especially in 2020, these matters have become increasingly threatening to the human rights of Latin American children. Most Latin American children migrate due to poverty, gang violence, or terrorism. These children usually originate from Honduras, El Salvador, or Guatemala. Due to life-threatening cases of violence in their respective countries, many children decide to take the risk of migrating elsewhere. This journey of migration itself contains danger due to the children's extreme lack of protection, especially due to COVID-19. At the end of the process, however, most children are sent back to their home countries due to border control or Homeland Security. Even if they do make it in, most children have to enter detention centers unaccompanied and usually face repeated abuse and exploitation. The U.S.'s management and execution of border control violate human rights, which every child should be entitled to.

The Russian Federation naturally acknowledges the importance of children's rights due to its own problems regarding child protection. The Russian Constitution, accepted in 1983, states that all children are secured rights, which includes protection from abuse, exploitation, and education. This should apply universally. The Russian Federation can see the evident violations of human rights throughout the U.S. border control and is entirely against the protocol that inherently allows the repeated instances of abuse, violence, and exploitation. The Russian Federation believes that this is a shameful example underlying the U.S.

The Russian Federation's delegation proposes to UNICEF the overseeing of a strict annual re-evaluation of U.S. border control. In addition, the delegation proposes that a new policy is to be made to combat human rights violations in U.S. border control if deemed necessary. Regarding COVID-19, the delegation also proposes to change current border control protocols in order to allow children migrants safety and protection from the virus. This will help eliminate the presence of human rights violations in the future and guarantee safety to child migrants without the use of excessive resources.

II. The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages

This issue has been brought up by UNICEF due to the presence of child marriages around the world and how some examples violate human rights and promote gender discrimination. Child marriages have been a prevalent part of cultures around the world, especially for developing countries. In these cultural norms, young girls involved in child marriages usually have fewer life opportunities, have less access to education, or face poverty. UNICEF has borne witness to the inherent violations of human rights that take place in child marriages, as well as its effects on gender discrimination. Young girls involved in child marriages have a high probability of facing domestic violence, inadequate resources in education, or pregnancy problems. Due to these evident violations of children's rights, UNICEF has decided to take action. One case was in 2016 when UNICEF partnered with the United Nations Population Fund, aiming to end child marriage—partially fixing this problem in a way that both respects cultural norms and enhances the quality of the involved children's lives. Doing so will thoroughly solve the issue of respecting cultural norms while preserving the involved children's rights.

Although child marriage is a tradition in some regions, child marriage ultimately violates human rights. Religious and cultural norms, however, should still be respected. The Russian Federation views that both cultural norms and human rights both need to be considered. The Russian Federation partially agrees with the bill accepted in 1979, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination of Women. The bill states that both partners need to have full consent on their marriage, and both need to be above the age of 18. This bill, however, goes against many cultural norms in places like the Caucasus regions. The Caucasus regions hold traditions and norms against human rights, commonly accepting occurrences such as bride kidnappings or child marriage. The Russian Federation also does not fully support this. The Russian Federation believes in preserving a middle way between not violating the children's human rights and preserving their cultural traditions.

The Russian Federation's delegation proposes that UNICEF preserve cultural or religious practices that allow child marriages, but they should also allow children involved in these practices the legal option to deny marriage. The delegation also proposes that children in these religions are required to learn about the effects of marriage in school or other types of education and strictly deny any underage marriage outside of cultural or religious norms. Unless the child or children agree to the marriage and the marriage is taking place directly due to their religious or cultural norms, any other instances of child marriage will be a strict violation of human rights, therefore, need to be denied.

Position Paper for United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF)

The issues presented to UNICEF are: Child Migrants in Central America, and The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages. Saudi Arabia is devoted to protecting the rights and safety of the children, within the limits that ensure that the laws and mindset of the country are still being enforced.

I. Child Migrants in Central America

Saudi Arabia believes that children should be protected, but if a child's family is entering a country illegally, it is right for them to properly hold the illegal immigrant in a detention center until a resolution is figured out. Central American parents and their children migrate to the US in search for a better, safer, life. The problem with this situation is that the families are illegally migrating, causing each country to hold them in detention centers until a resolution on what to do with them is figured out. Covid is worsening the treatment of illegal immigrants and the detention centers. Children and families being forced to leave their homes because of violence and danger have the right to do so, as long as they are doing it legally.

Saudi Arabia feels for both the US and immigrants when it comes to the topic of illegal immigration and how to deal with it. Saudi Arabia deals with illegal immigration itself with immigrants coming from Ethiopia, Syria, and other war drawn countries in their region. Saudi Arabia deals with their illegal immigrants like other countries, holding them in detention centers until they are either deported or given permission to complete their migration journey. Covid changed the system of the detention centers, immigrants coming from outside countries are where the majority of Saudi Arabia's Covid cases are coming from. The risk of exposing their people to Covid has made it more difficult for families to get the opportunity to stay in Saudi Arabia as a member of society and easier for the country to deport them, exposing the children to danger of going home after running away and Covid.

Despite the similarities on the issue of immigration between both Saudi Arabia and the US, they believe that the US should be more lenient to children and their families in the centers. They believe that children should stay intact with their families, being that family is one's source of sanity. Being in a new country, hearing a new language, eating new foods, and adjusting to new cultures can be hard for anyone. It is even more difficult for children who are alone, which is why it is important that the children should stay intact with their families. The detention centers are mandatory in order to regulate the people coming in and out of the country, especially at times like these with Covid, and to ensure the safety of the people and citizens already in the country. But that doesn't mean that the detention centers should be so harsh on the children. Saudi Arabia believes that America not only should reunite the children with their families, but also ensure that the children transition from their native country to the US easily. Showing the children, a connection between the two countries through programs will help the process of transitioning to a different country easier. The programs should include classes that teach children English, food from both their native country and the US, etc. Saudi Arabia's idea of resolution is to place children back with their families and for UNICEF to continue what they are doing, providing counseling and ensuring that the return home safely, but adding a sense of connection from the children's country and America even if the child isn't staging in America, they will still feel safe while in the centers.

II. The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages

Child marriages are the starting point of many problems in society. Problems like domestic violence, health complications, and limited educational opportunities. Children, young girls, are allowed to get married as young as 15-18 years old around the world. The age limits of child marriage are what causes many families to force their daughter to get married. The age limit also provides girls with the opportunity and guarantee of future stability because she will not need to rely on herself for adulthood, instead she can rely on her husband. Many cultures around the world continue to have the old mindset of believing that it is best for a girl to get married young. These belief systems carry throughout generations and do not, nor will it, end until it is politically enacted. In order to understand as to why families choose to send their daughter away so early, we must understand the root. The root of majority of cultures is that families want to ensure their daughter with future stability and because they believed that girls are unable to handle themselves in the workplace.

Saudi Arabia is one of the most popular countries to discuss when it comes to talking about Child Marriages. Saudi Arabia runs off of Shaira law, which basically states that the male figures of a girl are the ones who have to consent for marriage, travel, and work. When Sharia law was first enacted, the males were looking out for the best interest of their girl relative. With today's society, the male figures are worried about everything but the interest of the girl relative. In order for Saudi Arabia's government to adapt to society and life nowadays they changed the age requirement of married to 18 years old. Before the adoption, there was no age requirement enacted because they figured that the males were looking out for the best interest of the girl. Saudi Arabia is trying their best to adapt and adjust to the new belief system that child marriage is unrightful and violates basic human rights. Saudi Arabia doesn't necessarily believe that child marriage is oppressive to females and although they are not actively supporting the movement of child marriage laws, they have been taking baby steps to fixing that problem. Baby steps are huge when it comes to a topic like this for a governmental system like that.

In order an issue as big as child marriage in Saudi Arabia, the country must make changes to their basic principles. The only way to make sure that the basic human rights of females and males is to change their Sharia laws a tad. The resolution to this topic is that Saudi Arabia uses Sharia law, in the context of males making decisions for the females, only when the female is 16. If a child wants to get married at 16, their family must consent to it in front of court. If a child wants to get married at 18, the child is encouraged to have family support which will help later on when wanting to buy a house as a married couple, or even get a divorce. But they do not need to have family consent to get married at 18. This helps ensure that nobody, female, is getting forced to do anything they don't want to. Another resolution to this situation in Saudi Arabia comes back to the basic principle of needing to truly understand the root as to why families want their children, daughters, to get married so young. The biggest motive is that families fear that their daughter will not be able to handle herself in a workplace. To change this Saudi Arabia will be more lenient about letting females out and getting jobs on their own, this will give them experience and gain the families confidence in them. This resolution will also help with the root of families wanting to provide their daughter with future stability. That being said, males still have the final word when it comes to travel, work, and marriage because they have more experience and knowledge, but it gives females the opportunity of a little freedom.

Delegation From: South Sudan

Represented by: Beaumont School

Position Paper for the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

I. Child Migrants in Central America

According to UNICEF, from January to August 2019 alone, more than 32,000 children were returned from the United States and Mexico to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. These numbers are double the numbers for the same period the year before. Under U.S. pressure to secure its own borders, Mexico under President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has escalated migrant apprehensions. Detentions of Central American children rose 130 percent in the first half of 2019 compared to the same period in 2018. The implementation of the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) in January 2019 and new asylum cooperation agreements have stranded thousands of migrant children, sometimes for months, in Mexican border cities while they wait for their asylum cases to move through the U.S. court system. South Sudan recognizes the plight of the child migrants fleeing from Central America and calls upon leaders of other nations to aid in the assistance of these children and the countries which the refugees are fleeing.

South Sudan recognizes and is grateful for the aid which comes into our country to assist with the refugees coming to South Sudan and those who flee. While we know the importance of assistance based on our own first-hand experience, we are not in a position to offer any resources or monetary assistance to Central America, or countries accepting refugees, at this time due to our ongoing issue with migrants. Currently, citizens in our country are faced with the effects of devastating floods and limited shelters. 63% of all South Sudanese refugees are children. We ask that other nations be aware of the plight facing our own citizens when discussing the issue of child migrants in Central America. South Sudan asks countries to remember the Convention on the Rights of the Child accord from 1989 where several UN agreements outline countries' responsibilities to child migrants. This accord affirms that countries should not separate families and should detain children "only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time." The United States is a signatory, but it is the only country worldwide that has not ratified the convention and is thus not legally bound by it. Our country's government understands that like the possible strain on Sudan, Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo who are receiving refugees from South Sudan, there is a strain placed on countries accepting child refugees from Central America. While South Sudan recognizes the possible difficulties of incoming child migrants from Central America we continue to ask the receiving countries to be open to working towards a solution to providing these children with access to essential needs, education, and relief from the dangerous situations they currently face.

To help alleviate the root causes of the crisis, UNICEF is working with governments in Central America and Mexico to address the forces of poverty, violence, crime, and lack of education and opportunity that drive children and their families to flee. South Sudan calls upon the United States to ratify the Convention of the Rights of the Child and follow the guidelines and regulations put forth by this accord. South Sudan hopes to aid in creating global awareness of the

child migrants from Central America and provide any knowledge based on our country's experience.

I. The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages

South Sudan recognizes that child marriages in our country is an important issue. According to the UN children's agency (UNICEF), South Sudan has the seventh-highest prevalence rate of child marriage in the world. About fifty-two percent of girls in South Sudan are married before their eighteenth birthday and nine percent marry before turning fifteen years old. Issues such as poverty, armed conflict resulting in marriage being the only way for a young girl to survive, a need to create stricter legal framework against child marriage, family honor, and gender norms contribute to the ongoing issue of child marriages. Girls and women who have disabilities are at a higher risk of being married off at an early age. South Sudan is committed to ending child marriage in our country and working to aid in ending this issue in other countries.

South Sudan is grateful for the work by UNICEF in our country to work on the ongoing issue of child marriages. In 2019, UNICEF launched two Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) studies that will be essential to create holistic, cross-sectoral, and gender-focused programs. The study on child marriages worked to identify key drivers, attitudes, and practices, explored promising approaches and the fundamental power dynamics that define traditional gender norms and relationships in South Sudan. Through the findings of these studies, work will be done to galvanize stronger program action, political support, and resources towards girls' education and lowering the rate of child marriage in South Sudan. South Sudan co-sponsored the 2013 and 2014 UN General Assembly resolutions on child, early and forced marriage, and the 2013 Human Rights Council resolution on child, early and forced marriage. In 2014, South Sudan signed a joint statement at the Human Rights Council calling for a resolution on child marriage. South Sudan acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2015, which sets a minimum age of marriage of 18, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 2015, which obligates states to ensure free and full consent to marriage. South Sudan recently collaborated with UNICEF further to begin implementing the National Strategic Action Plan (2017-2030) with the goal of ending child marriage by 2030 in our country. South Sudan also recognizes that child marriage is deeply rooted in gender inequality and harmful social norms. For our country, the issue remains as a deeply entrenched cultural practice that is further fuelled by poverty. The campaign with UNICEF emphasizes the slogan, "some things are not fit for children, marriage is one of them". South Sudan recognizes how child marriage is often damaging to girls' education, development, and their futures.

South Sudan is committed to following through with our end of the campaign and working to end child marriage in our country by 2030. South Sudan hopes to be an example towards other countries with the issue of child marriage and to be a guide of how these countries can work towards similar goals. South Sudan calls upon this committee to focus on the devastating impacts for young girls who are married off. South Sudan encourages other countries with child marriage issues to establish similar plans to ours and work to end child marriage.

Delegation from: the Republic of South Africa

Represented by: Beachwood High School

Position Paper for the United Nations International Children's Fund

The issues laid before the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) are the following: Child Migrants in Latin America, and the Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages. The delegation from the Republic of South Africa seeks to engage in constructive debate and cooperative resolution-writing to produce a solution that is favorable to the international community.

I. Child Migrants in Central America

In a ghoulis parallel to the 19th century pattern of child displacement, exodus, and danger amid transition, as condensed by the roving armies of the infant South American nationalist governments, we are once again seeing families (ipso facto, children) making their way across in the continent in constant peril. South America, plunged into social stratification and slavery under the *castas* and *encomienda* of the Spanish Hapsburgs of old continues to bear the brunt of Western Imperialism,. South America's most recent injury at imperialism's hands are the Cold War-era barrage of CIA coups and rigged elections conducted by NATO and its allies, and the resulting proliferation of authoritarian right-wing dictatorships—falling victim to its relative geography, fatefully traded in the realpolitik of mutually-assured destruction. Under these Western fascist states, consistent patterns have emerged. Draconian systems of law enforcement have led predictably to the rise of organized crime and the empowerment of career criminals. In such a climate, gang violence (as well as state-sanctioned violence) becomes a normalized reality of everyday life. And in this climate, this pattern — children fleeing their homes for any imaginable sort of refuge — emerges.

The delegation from South Africa has a unique insight on the realities of this crisis. The Republic of South Africa is a hub for child migrants. At least 642,000 child migrants reside in South Africa, according to a report UNICEF released in January of this year. This makes South Africa the topmost destination for child migrants — be they the victims of trafficking, refugees of the unaccompanied or the family-adjacent variety, or asylum-seekers. This figure was arrived at after a rigorous census was conducted, owing to cooperation between UNICEF and the South African Red Cross. Because a non-governmental organization undertook this project, there was no risk of deportation (or other judicial action) for participants, and the government was able to learn about the extent of this pattern by delegating the authority to conduct this research to the NGOs in question. From there, government officials worked in tandem with UNICEF and the Red Cross to provide migrant children with the bare necessities — food, clothing, shelter and healthcare.

A similar deal must be brokered with the governments of Central America. The authority to find, track, and record the whereabouts of migrant children must be delegated to UNICEF, or to some NGO working with UNICEF. From there, a fair compromise must be made between the governments and the NGOs possessing this information. As long as governments seek to give aid, and not pursue punitive action against migrant children, their numbers and whereabouts will be disclosed (on a case-by-case) basis to officials — and UNICEF will help fund efforts to bring aid to these children. The requisite bear essentials will be thus provided. In conjunction, a global database must be created (hidden from bad actors in the international community) tracking the trajectory of migrant children, to detect patterns in migration and make sure children are accounted for when they make the leap across the border.

II. The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriage

Child marriage has been defined as a union, legal or informal, between a person under the age of eighteen and an adult (or a child).

South Africa has had a complicated relationship with the ongoing issue of child marriage for the past few centuries. The tradition of *ukuthwala*, practiced among the Xhosa and Zulu people, is a form of bride abduction, in which a young man physically abducts a woman, and the two elope. Some scholars regard this tradition as an early way to bypass the rigid standards of tribal marriages, de-emphasizing the bride's family in the decision to wed and allowing young, consenting women to escape their families and be with someone they genuinely love. This narrative, however can easily be called into question, as where there exists non-consensual marriage, there exists rape (in fact, the distinction between the two is semantic). Regardless of this anthropological debate, recent patterns of *ukuthwala* have been as transparently misogynistic as they have been universally condemned. In the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, there has been a rise in the *ukuthwala*-abductions of underaged girls, carried out by wealthier rural families in an act of economic sabotage against their less-fortunate counterparts. In 2009, London Metropolitan University found that twenty students have to drop out of school every month due to *ukuthwala* in South Africa.

South Africa invites other member states to join its pledge to end child marriage by 2030. South Africa invites all nations to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child (setting the age of marriage at 18), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Woman (ensuring free and full consent to marriage). We invite all African nations to ratify Article 21 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. South Africa has had to push back its deadline from 2020 to 2030 owing to two main factors. The first is legislative flaccidity, owing to an abundance of contradictions, loopholes, and undersights in existing anti-*ukuthwala* legislation. The second is the inability to notice, prosecute, or reverse such child marriages. To solve the first issue, an international board of legal experts must be created to be consultants for lawyers and legislators around the world, lubricating the effort to eliminate loopholes that allow child marriage, and rapidly pass legislation to end child marriage. Simultaneously, an international database must be created to take regular, in-depth censuses of rural communities in nations struggling with child marriage, and allow the government to follow up on sudden disappearances of family members, or the unexplained presence of young children in families without evidence of recent childbirth. With this international bureaucratic infrastructure in place, all nations — including South Africa — can end child marriage by 2030.

Delegation from: Spain

Represented by: Avon High School

Position Paper for the United Nations Children's Fund

The issues before the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) are Child Migrants in Central America and Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages. Spain is committed to ensuring the human rights of child migrants and ending child marriages.

I. Child Migrants in Central America

In Central America, violence and crime is on the rise, causing many to leave and seek asylum in other countries. This has led to an increase in child migrants from Central America, who attempt dangerous escapes in hopes of a better life. Child migrant's health is now threatened due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Spain hopes child migrants' rights and health can be protected by UNICEF.

Spain provides shelter to child migrants from Morocco and other countries. Spain shelters over 13,000 registered unaccompanied migrant children. Spain has policies in place to ensure child migrants' human rights are protected in Spain. Spain provides centers for child migrants where they receive care and protection. If child migrants reside in Spain for 2 years before they turn 18, they will receive Spanish nationality. Spain will not deport children whose families cannot be located in their native country. Spain gives child migrants the same rights as Spanish children, giving them education, healthcare, and temporary residence. Spain believes the child migrants of Central America deserve these same protections and rights in whatever country they migrate to, like the United States. Spain has co-authored a resolution on the rights of a child, and believes all children, including migrants are entitled to human rights.

Spain hopes UNICEF can pass legislation to protect the rights of child migrants. Spain believes children have a right to education, healthcare, and temporary residence. The child migrants of Central America should have their basic human rights provided to them. Migrants should also be provided aid for the COVID-19 pandemic. Spain wishes to provide relief and aid to ensure the human rights and good health during the pandemic for the child migrants of Central America.

II. The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages

Child marriage is the marriage of a child under the age 18 with someone over the age of 18 or another child. Child marriages prevent young girls from seeking or finishing their education, and often leads down a path of abuse with their partner. Child marriages disproportionately affect women, and leaves them with a lack of opportunities. Spain stands against child marriages.

In Spain, at age 18 one can get legally married. One can get married at 16 with court approval, however this is rare. Spain is committed to end child or forced marriages by 2030, in accordance with target 5.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, Spain has co-sponsored a Human Rights Council resolution that points to the need to recognize and end child marriages. Progress has been made, as internationally child marriages used to occur in approximately one in four girls, but now occurs in approximately one in five girls. However, this is not enough. Child marriages are linked to extreme poverty, so addressing poverty can help prevent future child

marriages. Child marriages are often underreported, and Spain hopes to address this. Addressing these problems can further lower the rate of child marriages.

Spain acknowledges child marriages are a violation of human rights. Spain hopes to pass a resolution that addresses that child marriages are harmful and an abuse of human rights. Spain hopes to reiterate the Sustainable Development Goals that point to the ending of child marriages due to their harmful effects on children and women. Child marriage needs to end to prevent potential victims from facing violence and discrimination.

Delegation From: Syrian Arab Republic

Represented by: The Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology

Position Paper for the United Nations International Children's Fund

The issues presented before the United Nations International Children's Fund are Child Migrants in Central America and The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages. Syria advocates for the rights and safety of all children.

I. Child Migrants in Central America

The Syrian Arab Republic understands that children in migration face a lot of challenges. The Syrian Civil War has left several children separated from their families and in immediate danger. The Syrian Arab Republic relates to Central American countries since they have also faced similar challenges regarding acts of terrorism and rebels. These acts of violence are the root cause, and eliminating terrorism would result in fewer child migrants looking for opportunities in the North. Establishing stable governments and leaders would lead to fewer issues regarding child migrants. The Syrian Arab Republic is looking forward to discussing the solutions regarding child migrants in Central America with the committee.

II. The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages

The Syrian Arab Republic is making changes to lower the percent of child marriages occurring in Syria. Syria's Sustainable Development Goals (5.1) are progressing towards abolishing child marriages by 2030. Child marriages are harmful to both male and female citizens and are an issue in Syria. The percent of children under the age of 18 getting married in Syria is decreasing. To further decline the percent of child marriages, the Syrian government is striving to reduce poverty and violence. The Civil War in Syria has left several citizens unemployed and in poverty. Citizens are turning towards child marriages for financial support, and improving the economy would help abolish this issue. The Syrian Arab Republic supports equal opportunities for all children and provides girls and boys equal education. Article 33 of the Arab Constitution, the Syrian government, presents equal opportunities for everyone, which allows women to make decisions for themselves. By improving the economy, the number of child marriages would decrease, and the literacy rate would increase a full education. The Syrian Arab Republic is looking forward to discussing the issue of child marriages with the committee.

Delegation from: Republic of Yemen

Represented by: The Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology

Position Paper for the United Nations International Children's Fund

The two topics currently being presented to the United Nations International Children's Fund are Child Migrants in Central America and The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages. The delegation of the Republic of Yemen is determined and committed to finding a solution to these issues, which involves completely supporting these children.

I. Child Migrants in Central America

The Republic of Yemen understands the ongoing issue of child migrants throughout the world. The Yemeni Civil War and conflicts in other neighboring countries have left thousands of child migrants alone in Yemen. Similarly, countries in Central America have large numbers of child migrants due to the acts of terrorism and other forms of conflict, which are separating families in this area. Yemen has also faced several attacks from groups such as the Al-Qaeda, which have all had a similar impact on the countries. Finding ways to eradicate a majority of the terrorist threats and attacks can help diminish the number of child migrants. Another way to help reduce these numbers is to establish a stable government, which Yemen and other countries can help Central American countries with. The delegation of the Republic of Yemen strongly believes in discussing and working towards a solution to this problem, with the help of other countries.

II. The Ongoing Issue of Child Marriages

The Republic of Yemen acknowledges the severity of the issue of child and forced marriage and the horrendous situations that many young women are often put in. Therefore, we are working to annihilate child marriage by the year 2030, as mentioned in Yemen's Sustainable Development Goals (5.3). Child marriage across the globe is typically caused by gender inequality, armed conflict or civil unrest, lack of sufficient amounts of education, and force. The Republic of Yemen has been under extreme crisis involving economic instability, cholera outbreaks, poverty, lack of healthcare and resources, etc., and the Civil War has even furthered the situation within our country. With increasing conflict, the percentage of children being married under the age of 18 is constantly increasing. When the citizens are under such a crisis, they turn to child marriage as a simple solution, as they are able to receive a payment in exchange. To cause a decline in these child marriage numbers we have been constantly raising awareness of this through forms of workshops such as the Girl's Summit Charter 2014. Events such as these summits are providing further educational opportunities for young girls, ensuring that they are truly seen as equals to boys and men. A regulation under Article 15 of the Personal Status Law protects young children from being involved in sexual activity until they have reached the age of puberty. On the other hand, the Republic of Yemen does not believe in placing an age restriction on marriage, as there have been several religious arguments against this, involving the Islamic faith. Supporting and improving the overall economy of the Republic of Yemen is also a large step in leading to the decline in child marriage rates. The delegation of the Republic of Yemen strongly believes in discussing and working towards a solution to this problem, with the help of other countries.