United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund

Ensuring the Protection of Migrant Juveniles Traveling Without Adults

Director: Romina Delgado
Moderator: Regina Ortega
Secretary: Isabela Mendoza
Dear delegates, judges, and secretaries,

The Secretariat and I are extremely proud of hosting our 6th annual edition of BRILLAMUN. This year’s BRILLAMUN is more than ready to welcoming you to this remarkable event. Our great team and I have been making a continuous effort to get the best possible outcomes of our collective work. Each of our members have been assuming their responsibilities promptly, from training chairs towards excellence to mobilizing our resources and coordinating our staff and so on and so forth. Yet, regardless of the exhausting endeavors that take place, they all end up with once in a lifetime experiences that certainly pay off along.

During this 3-day event, you will be able to go through authentic debates that will certainly allow you to enhance essential 21st century skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, communication, collaboration, researching, and leadership. And in addition to these fundamental abilities, you will also get to represent delegations, judges, or secretaries, which will enable you to undertake challenging tasks, acquire cultural understanding, and further expand your global vision.

This process of legitimate involvement will surely be possible thanks to our wonderful team of prepared staff, supportive advisors, qualified chairs, and dedicated Secretariat who have worked collaboratively and effectively in order to let you, delegates, thrive in this distinctive simulation.

Participants, it is now your chance to awaken your inside strengths and exhibit what you are truly capable of.

We will be glad to have you participate and engaged in our far-reaching event!

Sincerely,
BRILLAMUN 2017 Secretary-General,
Roberto Guevara
I. Quorum

1. Afghanistan
2. Canada
3. Colombia
4. Dominican Republic
5. Ethiopia
6. Finland
7. France
8. Germany
9. Haiti
10. Honduras
11. Italy
12. Japan
13. Mali
14. Mauritania
15. Nepal
16. Niger
17. Pakistan
18. Russia
19. Slovakia
20. South Africa
21. South Sudan
22. Switzerland
23. United Kingdom
24. United States of America
25. Venezuela

II. Committee Background

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund was established on December 11, 1946. Its work is carried all around 192 countries. There are seven regional offices, and country offices worldwide, as well as a research center in Florence, a supply operation in Copenhagen and offices in Tokyo, Geneva and Brussels. UNICEF headquarters are established in New York. UNICEF’s main purpose is to support children’s rights. Including the protection of children from violence, and giving facilities for children that have disabilities. As well, it supports health care, and it supports education.

This committee has revolutionized throughout the years, the committee was created by the United Nations General Assembly on December 11, 1946, with the purpose to give urgent help to children in Europe and Asia damaged by World War II. Its help consisted of shelter, food, and medicine. The General Assembly gave the found a continuing authorization to help children in need in developing countries in 1953.
III. History of topic

Migration has always been a factor in the world, it is believed that migration has been going around for about 6,000 years. Early humans migrated because of many different factors. Some of them included, change in climate, landscape, and lack of food supplies.

In the Second World War the impact of evacuation of the children from their region depended on their social level. About 1.9 million children got together at rail stations in September not knowing their destination, or if they would be separated from their siblings who had gathered with them.

The Operation Pied Piper was a huge task. This was a way to relocate its children to locations where the risk of bombing where low. They relocated their children in Britain, Canada, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, and United States. In London there were 1,589 different destinations for children to get together before the moved. They were given a postcard to send it to their parents, so they could know the location of their child.

This operation moved over 3.5 million children in three days. Anglesey expected 625 children and they received 2,468. With these operation people throughout all the world got more ideas of their children having a better quality of life in a different country, and this way depending on their economy they would start to send their children alone throughout different countries.

Another common thing in the past was for orphan children to be moved to another region and they migrated these were a lot of cases mainly in the United States. One of the most famous movements was the orphan train movement.

Also in the United States, from 1960 to 1962 the government coordinated an operation called Operation Peter Pan, in this Cuban families who were in denial of Castro government sent nearly 14,000 children to Miami. Also in the United States funded Operation Babylift placed about 3,000 orphaned Vietnamese children with adoptive parents in the U.S and around the world.

IV. Topic Information

In the past decade the number of children under 18 years traveling from one region to another without their parents has grown considerably. About 50 million children are in the move today, but millions more have been very affected by migration.

All children migrate for many and different reasons. The main reasons are because they are in asylum fleeing war, or in persecution in their countries, while other children are victims of slavery or sex trafficking. Other children may also migrate in search of economic opportunities, or also to join their parents or family that are already living in that country. Also to escape from abusive situations in their home countries, for educational aspirations related to their gender or culture. Some of these
children migrate in search of better opportunities while others escape violence, exploitation, conflict or abuse.

However, there is one big difference between unaccompanied immigrant children and adult migrants. Unaccompanied immigrant children are way more vulnerable to violence and they are vulnerable to becoming victims of human rights violations, such as sexual and economic exploitation and trafficking. Their status has called into question whether some special exception to immigration procedures must be made for them. But yet a lot of migrant children are not recognized as migrants, because they are recognized as domestic workers, street children or foster children. Independent migrant children are affected by the absence of support and protection from their families.

Child migrants can be affected in many ways, one of them is their health. In the process of migration the transmission of diseases is very common. Children who are sick or have any diseases coming from their home country, normally pass this diseases to people in the country they are arriving. Also migration has a grave effect on the mental health of these children considering the process of migration, which causes stress because of the loss of siblings, friends, or habitual surrounding. Interrogation about their sense of belonging and identity, fear of deportation, and discrimination may cause problems that are taken into adulthood.

Children who migrate also have risks in the country they are migrating to, for example, they get picked up by other adults since they are alone without their parents. After these children are used in many forms violating their rights. When picked up by other adults or other people they can be trafficked, exploited and/or abused.

V. Current Issues:

United States of America
The number of minors crossing the U.S border without a parent or adult has increased about 90% in the past three years, most of them are originated from Mexico. By having more children into the U.S the government has to deal with their studies. This has been a problem to the U.S government since most of them cross the border illegally, without documents.

Italy
In the past year over 25,000 unaccompanied child migrants reached the Italian borders. Most of them are originated from Eritrea, Egypt, Gambia, and Nigeria, having most of these migrants to be boys in between the ages of 15 and 17.

Ethiopia
Ethiopia has been known as both a receiver and a sender of refugees, and its location makes it be one of the largest refugee-generating areas in Africa nowadays. In July 1 2016, the United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees reported about 741,000 refugees.
VI. UN Actions

The only solution that the general assembly has adopted is the resolution A/HRC/29/L.24 on "unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents and human rights" which promotes general welfare and the best interest of migrant children while attempting to protect their rights without discrimination, violence, and threats on a daily basis. This has not been yet more important than other global issues such as, environmental sustainability, armed conflicts and economic and social aspects. In comparison to other global issues, the United Nations has not yet reach a viable solution for the unaccompanied migrant children. Throughout the years, unaccompanied migrant children have increased drastically due to armed conflict, and will continue increasing before the United Nations has figured out a way that protects these children and their rights when migrating without their parents or adult supervision. Taking all this into consideration the issue of unaccompanied migrant children has not been endorsed by the United Nations other than the resolution A/HRC/29/L.24.

VII. Conclusion

Nowadays children all over the world are traveling and migrating to other countries most of the times without any legal document, and without parents or adult supervision. This not only affects the migrant children, but also the country of their destination. It affects the children since their health can be influenced by foreign factors. Also, children get affected by foreign abuse, exploitation, and trafficking. From the most developed country to the least developed of them all there are always unaccompanied migrant children trying to flee countries for different motives depending on the country. This may vary from armed conflicts such as terrorism to rejoining their families from other countries. In conclusion we can realize that this issue is a global concern that has not yet been solved.

VIII. Guiding Questions

About how many children migrants does your country receive?

Is your country doing anything to stop or increase the migration of children?

Is your country doing something to protect this juveniles migrating without their parents?

What are the laws concerning juvenile traveling in your delegation?

IX. Bibliography


