

Hilton 2020

New Delegate Committee

Committee Overview

This committee will be run Harvard Style, meaning that resolutions are not to be written until the date of the conference itself. Additionally, it is highly suggested that every delegate write at least one position paper on a topic, as doing so will be necessary to be considered for an award, which must be **emailed to the chairs two days prior to the start of committee.**

All delegates are expected to come to the conference with a working knowledge of all or most of the topics, as well as the policies of the countries that they represent. The New Delegate Committee is **only for new delegates who are unfamiliar with procedure** as the chairs will move at a slower pace and will explain committee procedure throughout committee. Above all, remember that Model UN is not a competition, so get to researching and try to have a little fun!

Committee Description

Climate Change's Impact on Indigenous Farming Practices

Addressing Adolescent Mental Health

Chairs

Emma Heubusch | emmaheubusch@gmail.com

Hey new delegates! My name is Emma Heubusch, and I'm currently a senior at Warsaw High School. This is my sixth year in MUN and is my first time chairing. I am also the president of my school's Model UN club. Outside of MUN, I am the student photographer for our school's yearbook, and I enjoy guitar, theatre, and working on cars in my spare time. My email is always open for any questions, so don't hesitate to ask! I'm looking forward to meeting all of you in committee.

Lucy Yang | yangl2021@gmail.com

Hello new delegates! I'm Lucy Yang, and I'm currently a senior at Pittsford Sutherland High School. This is my fifth year in MUN and my first time chairing. Outside of MUN, I'm an editor for our school's newspaper, and a contributor to our school's literary magazine. I'm involved in several volunteering organizations and enjoy reading and playing piano in my free time. Any questions are welcome, and I can't wait to see you at Hilton!

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Climate Change's Impact on Indigenous Farming Practices



Indigenous peoples around the world use natural indicators such as the locations of stars, the migration of birds, and the croaking of frogs to determine the times they should plant their crops. Up until the last twenty years these methods were reliable, but now climate change has upended their seasons and many of their crops did not yield at all during the previous agricultural

season.

For example, Hopi Tribesmen of Northern Arizona observe the success of plants native to their desert climate to gauge the rainfall of the season. While this knowledge has sustained their tribe for over a thousand years, 2018 was one of the first times their predictions failed.

Many indigenous tribes are unfamiliar with the concept of climate change, but they are fully aware that something is very wrong with the state of the environment. For many of these tribes, there are also close spiritual ties to their planting methods and their failure in recent years has taken a significant psychological toll on their populations. Additionally, many of the affected populations have extremely limited access to technology, which prevents them from being able to access weather forecasts and other resources that are now vital to successful farming practices in a changing climate.

How can the UN support indigenous farmers without infringing upon cultural practices? What can be done to combat the psychological toll climate change has placed upon indigenous peoples? How can indigenous practices and beliefs be implemented into the global fight against climate change?

Sources:

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/2019/10/climate-change-killing-thousands-of-years-indigenous-wisdom/>

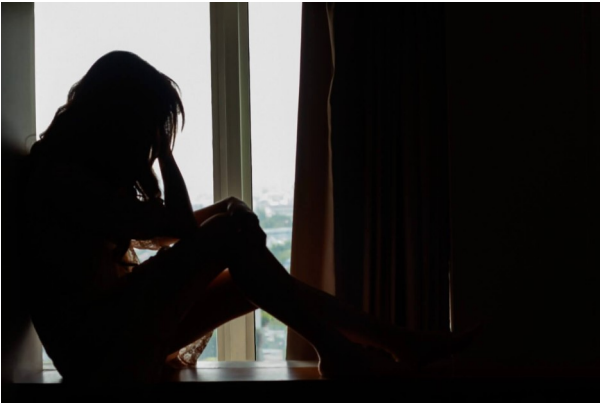
<https://ourworld.unu.edu/en/land-use-climate-change-adaptation-and-indigenous-peoples>

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-costa-rica-indigenous-climate-change/in-costa-rica-indigenous-farmers-change-along-with-the-climate-idUSKBN1W41UJ>

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Addressing Adolescent Mental Health



Mental health and well-being is a crucial part of adolescence, but it has unfortunately been overlooked when considering global health programming. One in five adolescents experience a mental disorder, and self-harm and depression are among the leading causes of death and disability among adolescents. Recently, suicide and depression rates have skyrocketed, and yet very few people recognize it as a public health crisis.

In the United States, suicide has become the second-most common cause of death among teenagers and young adults within the last decade. From 2007 to 2017, the number of people age 10 to 24 who committed suicide increased by 56%. Despite the astounding increase of mental health disorders and suicide, these are often viewed as a myth, and are overlooked.

In middle- and low-income nations, there is little data on adolescent mental health. It is also much harder for children in these nations to get the help they need due to a lack of trained professionals, cost constraints, stigma against mental health, and limited effective treatments. These obstacles all stem from insufficient or non-existent government policies.

While many nations recognize the importance of mental health, progress on policies and action has been slow. This is mainly due to the lack of data on mental health among adolescents in middle- and low-income nations.

There are many theories as to why teen suicides have increased so much. Some researchers believe it is because of social media and smartphones, while others believe it is because of bullying, less sleep, and a more competitive academic atmosphere. Either way, it is important that the topic is addressed in order to lower the number of preventable deaths among youth and to foster a healthy and productive transition to adulthood.

How can the UN increase awareness of mental health disorders? What can UNICEF do to lower the depression and suicide rates among adolescents? How can the UN combat the stigma against mental health disorders? How can UNICEF increase the amount of data and resources on mental health in middle- and low-income countries?

Sources:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/teen-suicides-increasing-at-alarms-pace-outstripping-all-other-age-groups/2019/10/16/e24194c6-f04a-11e9-8693-f487e46784aa_story.html

<https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-health/mental-health/>

<https://www.psychiatrytimes.com/view/global-child-mental-health>