

BIMUN XXIII



UNICEF A

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United Nations Children's Emergency Fund



## Table of Contents

### 1. Welcoming Words from the Presidents

- I. Words by President Barrios
- II. Words by President Becerra

### 2. General Information to the Committee

- I. The UNICEF Committee
- II. Purpose and Functions
- III. Powers

### 3. Topic A: "Strategies to Combat Clergy-Linked Pederasty and Safeguard Children's Development."

- I. Introduction to the Topic
- II. Historical Context
- III. Current Situation
- IV. Countries' Positions
- V. Difference Between Pederasty and Pedophilia
- VI. Useful Material
- VII. QARMAs and FAQs

### 4. Topic B: "Combating Childhood Psychoactive Substance Abuse: Focusing on Synthetic Drugs, Strategies for Prevention, Intervention, and Empowerment to Safeguard Children's Well-being and Future Worldwide."

- I. Introduction to the Topic
- II. Current Situation



- III. Countries' Positions
- IV. Most commonly Used Synthetic Drugs
- V. Useful Material
- VI. QARMAs and FAQs

## **5. Topic C: "Addressing the Crisis of Forced Displacement and Protecting the Rights of Refugee Children: Strategies for Well-being and Inclusion."**

- I. Introduction to the Topic
- II. Historical Context
- III. Current Situation
- IV. Countries' Positions
- V. Useful Material
- VI. QARMAs and FAQs

## **6. Resources**

- I. Glossary
- II. Delegations Present in the UNICEF Committee
- III. Research and Preparation
- IV. Bibliography



## 1. Welcoming Words from the Presidents

### I. Words by President Barrios

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

— Helen Keller

It is a pleasure to welcome you to a new edition of BIMUN XXIII. For me, Sharick Barrios, it is a privilege to be your UNICEF president, on a committee where we embark on an extraordinary journey towards creating a safer and more peaceful world. In UNICEF, we recognize the immense potential within each of you, the future leaders of our world. I understand that standing at the threshold of this journey may evoke a mixture of excitement and apprehension. But rest assured, once you step into that room and begin articulating your thoughts and ideas, any fear or doubt will dissipate. You are capable, and I have full confidence in your ability to excel.

Perhaps to some, this endeavor may initially appear routine, while to others, it may spark immediate enthusiasm. Yet, let me assure you, participating in BIMUN has been one of the most enriching experiences of my life. It has not only broadened my perspectives but also equipped me with invaluable skills. I sincerely hope it will have a similar impact on each of you.

As we commence this experience together, President Becerra and I expect nothing less than your best efforts. Remember, this responsibility entails upholding the values of respect, responsibility, and commitment at all times.

I am deeply grateful for the privilege of serving as your president. Together, let us embrace this opportunity and make the most of it. I am confident that this experience will be nothing short of amazing, and I hope you, too, will develop a profound affection for BIMUN, just as I have.

With warm regards, Sharick Barrios,

**President of UNICEF.**





## II. Words by President Becerra

Dear faculty advisors, sponsors, delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

"The future depends on what we do in the present."

-Mahatma Gandhi

It is an honor for me, Maria Cecilia Becerra, to present myself as your president of UNICEF in the twenty-third edition of BIMUN, together with my co-president Sharick Barrios, we will be guiding in this new journey of the Model United Nations, future leaders in society who will be prepared to make the best decisions and with the ability to solve any adversity that comes their way, knowing the most alarming problems that are happening in the world today.

Like you, I was also anxious and nervous for my first model, giving the best of me to defend the position of my country and I could not wait for the day of BIMUN, I know that all of you will do an excellent performance, creating new skills, expanding your knowledge and loving this great experience that will help you all in different areas of your life, counting with the best disposition and preparation for the days of debate.

Without anything else to add, I welcome you to UNICEF . My co-president and I will be ready to solve any doubt you may have and hope to see you soon to enjoy this great experience called BIMUN.

Maria Cecilia Becerra Araujo,  
**President of UNICEF A.**



## 2. General Information to the Committee

### I. The UNICEF Committee

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund was established in 1946, as a result of the tragic events of World War II and it has reached more than 191 countries ever since, changing children's lives from all around the world. It became a standing committee on the agenda of the United Nations in 1953. Later on, the Child Rights Convention was created, which would become the main reference of the committee, emphasizing that children have the same rights as adults and also taking into account that minors have not reached their full physical and mental development and therefore require special protection. The convention was signed on November 20, 1989 and entered into effect on September 2, 1990.



Before, during and after humanitarian emergencies, UNICEF is on the ground, bringing life-saving help and hope to children and families, always maintaining an impartial and non-political perspective. UNICEF is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to promote the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. Guided by the Convention of the Rights of the Child, UNICEF pursues to establish children's rights as enduring ethical principles and international standards of behavior towards children.

The committee's work has been carried out through a combination of program cooperation with national governments, project design and initiatives, rigorous research and in-depth analysis of the situation of minors in areas such as Child Protection and Inclusion, Child Survival, Education, Politics, Social, Gender and Innovation for Children. Always with a special



concern for the impact on children and the different social and economic policies that are applied in order to deal with the problems related to them.

## **II. Purpose and Functions**

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was established in 1946, in the aftermath of World War II. Our mandate was clear: to help children and young people whose lives and futures were at risk – no matter what role their country had played in the war. What mattered to UNICEF was reaching every child in need, protecting children's rights to survive, thrive, and reach their full potential. This is the DNA of UNICEF. From the ashes of war to the global challenges that affect millions today, our mandate has never wavered. UNICEF has consistently worked to protect the rights and well-being of all children. Whoever they are. Wherever they live.

UNICEF, as a specialized agency of the United Nations, operates within its own framework of rules, regulations, and mandates. Its operations, jurisdiction, and voting procedures are governed by its founding documents, such as the UNICEF Constitution, its governing body and relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations General Assembly and other UN bodies.

- Is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential.
- Mobilizes political will and material resources to help countries, particularly developing countries, ensure a "first call for children" and to build their capacity to form appropriate policies and deliver services for children and their families.
- Aims, through its country programs, to promote the equal rights of women and girls and to support their full participation in the political, social and economic development of their communities.



- Works with all its partners towards the attainment of the sustainable human development goals adopted by the world community and the realization of the vision of peace and social progress enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.
- Is committed to ensuring special protection for the most disadvantaged children – victims of war, disasters, extreme poverty, all forms of violence and exploitation, and those with disabilities.

### III. Powers

UNICEF is the primary agent for creating a world in which every child's fundamental rights are realized. With its extensive worldwide reach, the Agency has considerable control over decision-making procedures and cultivates a wide range of grassroots collaborations to bring creative ideas to life. Because of this unique ability, UNICEF is positioned as the leading worldwide organization, especially when it comes to youth welfare. Promotes the steadfast conviction that advancing humanity's agenda requires collaborative effort. By means of coordinated endeavors and cooperative partnerships, the organization is unwavering in its dedication to surpassing obstacles and cultivating a setting that supports each child's complete growth.



### 3. Topic A: "Strategies to Combat Clergy-Linked Pederasty and Safeguard Children's Development."

#### I. Introduction To The Topic

The Pederasty is the act in which an adult uses a child in an unbalanced relationship as a sexual object. The sexual abuse of minors by priests and members of the Church has been one of the biggest scandals worldwide. The Catholic Church has faced a long history of clergy sexual abuse of minors around the world. Abuse of



minors by Catholic priests and religion has been documented for centuries. Historically, the Church has failed to properly investigate and punish abusers, instead prioritizing clergy protection. This allowed many abusers to continue to abuse millions of children.

High Church officials, have been implicated in covering up abuse cases and protecting their abusers from justice. In Spain, more than 440,000 adults were sexually abused as children by Catholic clergy. The Church has been slow to recognize the magnitude of the problem and to provide adequate support and compensation to the abused.

Although the Church has taken some steps in recent decades to address abuse, such as initiating reporting procedures and expelling abusers, the Church is still being called upon to be more transparent, to cooperate fully with civil authorities, and to prioritize the needs of victims over the protection of the church. Clergy sexual abuse scandal has severely damaged the moral authority and public confidence.



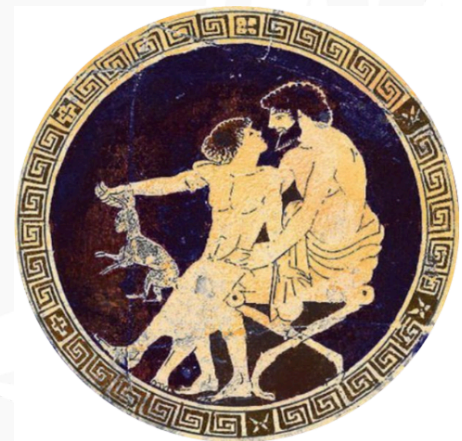


## II. Historical Context

Pederasty, as a form of sexual abuse of children, has been a practice that has been seen throughout history in different cultures and societies. In Ancient Greece, pederasty was considered a ritual that referred to the passage to adulthood of adolescents belonging to the upper social class. The pederast relationship required the consent of the adolescent's father, since a male child was the only hope for the survival of a family name. Greek pederasty was not a homogeneous practice and its development, diversity and meaning changed in different peoples of Ancient Greece. However, this practice was considered a form of friendship and education that prepared the adolescent for mature social life.



In Rome, pederasty was also a common practice, especially among the upper class. However, there were some legal and social restrictions, such as the prohibition of relations with underage slaves, and it was considered a Greek vice. Pederasty in the Ming dynasty was considered a sign of status. At the beginning of the 19th century pederasty began to be seen as a crime and a target of moral rejection, but in spite of this, some countries continue this practice clandestinely through the Catholic Church where cases of priests with pedophilia processes have been revealed as in the United States and in Spain, cases of pedophiles have been found in some cities since the reign of Alfonso XII. Currently, the Catholic Church has been involved in scandals of sexual abuse of minors, which has led to the demand to investigate and punish those responsible.





### III. Current Situation

Pederasty in the Catholic Church has been a topic of great controversy and concern throughout the world. In recent years, cases of sexual abuse of minors have been denounced and revealed in several churches in different countries, involving priests and clerics of the Church.

In Ireland, a horrible case of child abuse of two brothers who both suffered from disabilities was made public. William Gorry, the oldest at 10 years old, suffered from a severe visual impairment and his younger brother Thomas Gorry, at 6 years old, suffered from a disease called *osteogenesis imperfecta*, which is a weakness in the bones, had entered the industrial school of Mount Carlo de Carmelo in Moate, in the center of Ireland, after being abandoned by their mother. The industrial school where the Gorry brothers studied was run by the order of the Catholic Sisters of Mercy, and some nuns assaulted them with wooden objects. William was abused twice. The first abuse he suffered was during one Christmas, when he was asked to go to the room of one of the laymen to help him with the Christmas decorations. The man “accidentally” spilled water on him, which he was not aware of due to his visual impairment. He then asked him to remove the wet clothes and began to wash them, after which the groping began and finally he was abused.

The second abuse was during a first aid course that William participated in, which was run by priests. He always went through it when he was alone, once he fell, they tore his pants and took them off and abused him. When he tried to report what had happened, they forbade him to talk about it, saying that if he said anything he would regret it.



## IV. Countries' Positions

### Spain

The Catholic Church in Spain has faced several criticisms for its handling of abuse cases. A survey was conducted in which about 445,000 adults in Spain may have been sexually abused as children within the Catholic Church, of which 236,000 reported abuse by priests and religious personnel. These data were collected since 2018, which make clear an important problem within the Spanish Catholic Church, as in the country is facing a critical moment when it comes to solving the problem of pederasty, with an excessive number of reported cases, difficulties in recognizing the problem and a growing demand for accountability and support for victims.



### United States

The United States has been dealing with pederasty within the Catholic Church, with a gigantic number of reported cases, more than 20,000 cases have been reported of minors who claimed to be abused by members of the clergy of the Catholic Church between 1950–2018. In Pennsylvania, the grand jury revealed that 300 clergy sexually abused more than 1,000 minors over seven decades and the cover-up by the Church, sparking widespread outrage in society.







## Ireland

The Catholic Church in Ireland has faced pederasty scandals with thousands of cases of child abuse by religious, which led the Commission for the Investigation of Child Abuse (CICA) to determine that such sexual abuse was endemic in religious institutions, and also found that the Catholic Church had allowed the abusing priests to continue their work, knowing of their abusive behavior. The abuse revelations have had a major impact on Irish society, provoking a rejection of the moral authority of the Catholic Church.

### V. Difference between Pederasty and Pedophilia

Pederasty and pedophilia are both terms related to sexual attraction or behavior involving minors, but they have distinct meanings:

<b>PEDERASTY</b>	<b>PEDOPHILIA</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Pederasty refers to a sexual relationship or activity between an adult male and a male adolescent, typically in the context of ancient Greek or Roman societies.</li> <li>➤ Historically, pederasty involved an older man, known as the "erastes," who would mentor and engage in sexual relations with a younger male,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Pedophilia, on the other hand, is a psychiatric disorder characterized by a persistent sexual attraction to prepubescent children (typically aged 13 years or younger).</li> <li>➤ Pedophilia is considered a paraphilic disorder in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) and is classified as a mental</li> </ul>



<p>known as the "eromenos," usually in their teens.</p> <p>➤ Pederasty was often culturally sanctioned in certain historical contexts, although attitudes towards it have varied widely over time and across different cultures.</p>	<p>health condition.</p> <p>➤ Individuals with pedophilia may experience intense and recurrent sexual fantasies, urges, or behaviors involving children, and may be at risk of acting on these urges in harmful or illegal ways.</p>
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Pederasty and Pedophilia involve sexual attraction or behavior towards minors, they differ in terms of the specific age range of the individuals involved and the cultural or historical contexts in which they occur. Pederasty refers to relationships between adult men and adolescent boys, often in specific cultural or historical settings, whereas pedophilia refers to a psychiatric disorder characterized by sexual attraction to prepubescent children.

## VI. Useful Material

### Audiovisual Material:

- Pederasty in the church |

▶ PEDERASTIA IGLESIA: 445.389 PERSONAS han sido VÍCTIMAS de ABUSOS...

### PDFs and Website:

- [Difference Between Paedophilia and Child Sexual Abuse - Carla Monteiro & Asociados](#)
- [Guía para entender la pederastia o el abuso sexual infantil | Yo digo no más](#)
- [El mapa de las denuncias de abusos sexuales por parte de miembros de la Iglesia católica en el mundo | CNN](#)
- [Library : The Price Of Priestly Pederasty | Catholic Culture](#)



## VII. QARMAs and FAQs

1. What are the long term consequences caused to these children who have been affected by pederasty ?
2. Is your country's position on children involved in the pedophilia by the Catholic Church?
3. Is Pederasty frequent in your country?
4. How has the revelation of pederasty by the Church impacted your country?
5. How many cases have been seen in your country in the last few years?
6. What measures is your country taking to reduce the number of cases of pederasty by the clergy?
7. Which countries are taking appropriate measures to prevent the Pederasty in the clergy ?  
What kind of measures ?
8. Which countries have the most cases of Pederasty ?



## 4. Topic B: “Combating Childhood Psychoactive Substance Abuse: Focusing on Synthetic Drugs, Strategies for Prevention, Intervention, and Empowerment to Safeguard Children's Well-being and Future Worldwide.”

### I. Introduction

Synthetic drugs are a substance created artificially through the manipulation of chemicals. Synthetic drugs have been a major global concern, which has been characterized by their rapid evolution and proliferation. These drugs are created using artificial chemicals rather than natural ingredients. Many synthetic drugs are sold as designer drugs to appeal to young people. Their production is often driven by an interest in trying to make drugs more attractive to Children.



These drugs are created using artificial chemicals instead of natural ingredients, Many of the synthetic drugs are sold as designer drugs to appeal to young people. Their production is regularly driven by the interest of trying to avoid the legal restrictions imposed on traditional drugs, as these drugs are designed to mimic the effects of illegal substances, but with modifications that allow them to access the legal classification. In addition, most of these drugs provoke a series of psychoactive effects that suppress pain, alter visual and acoustic perceptions, and improve mood. However, one of the greatest risks of synthetic drugs is the lack of knowledge of their elaboration, since usually dubious chemicals are used, in which these psychoactive substances become extremely dangerous not knowing what is being consumed and the consequences that can cause their consumption, and is that, despite the “positive” effects



mentioned, the negative effects are many more than these and all of them very dangerous, both in the short and long term.

The production and distribution of synthetic drugs are often linked to organized crime and illegal drug trafficking.

## II. Current Situation

Synthetic drugs pose a serious threat to children and adolescents around the world. These substances, which are marketed as legal highs, are chemically mixed with illegal drugs to mimic the effects of marijuana, cocaine and other illicit drugs.

The most common synthetic drug supplements are Spice (fake weed), which can cause tachycardia and hallucinations; Molly (powdered MDMA), which can cause serious organ damage; Bath salts, which can cause serious heart problems and paranoia; Krokodil, a highly addictive heroin substitute with troubling side effects.



Synthetic drugs are very potent, and even small amounts can immediately get users high. In the United States, synthetic cannabinoids first appeared in 2008 and, in 2015, approximately 9% of students in a high school started using them. In 2021, fentanyl was responsible for 77% of drug-induced deaths in 14-18 year olds, mainly from counterfeit pills obtained through social media or at parties.

Synthetic drugs are often disguised as legal prescription pills and are easy to access online and through social media. Drug traffickers take advantage of these platforms to sell



counterfeit substances anonymously. Awareness and open communication with children about the dangers of synthetic drugs is crucial in order to prevent addiction and save lives.

Synthetic drugs, also known as new psychoactive substances (NPS), are human-made chemicals designed to mimic the effects of traditional illicit drugs like marijuana, cocaine, or ecstasy. They are often marketed as "legal highs" or "designer drugs" and can be sold online, in convenience stores, or on the streets.

The current situation of synthetic drug use in children can vary depending on factors such as geographical location, socioeconomic status, and access to information and prevention programs.

However, several trends and challenges are commonly observed:

- **Accessibility:** Synthetic drugs are often easily accessible to children and adolescents through online platforms, social media, or local retailers. They may be sold under various names and packaging, making it challenging for parents and authorities to recognize and regulate them effectively.
- **Rising Trends:** There has been a concerning increase in the use of synthetic cannabinoids (often referred to as "spice" or "K2") and synthetic cathinones (commonly known as "bath salts") among children and adolescents. These substances can have unpredictable effects on the central nervous system and pose significant health risks.
- **Health Risks:** Synthetic drugs can have severe and sometimes life-threatening health effects, including agitation, hallucinations, seizures, psychosis, and even death. Children and adolescents are particularly vulnerable to these risks due to their developing brains and bodies.
- **Lack of Awareness:** Many children and adolescents may be unaware of the dangers associated with synthetic drugs or may underestimate their potency and potential harm.



There is a need for increased education and awareness-raising efforts targeting young people, parents, educators, and healthcare professionals.

- **Prevention Strategies:** Governments, schools, community organizations, and healthcare providers play a crucial role in implementing prevention strategies to address synthetic drug use among children. These strategies may include school-based prevention programs, parental education initiatives, community outreach efforts, and stricter regulations on the sale and distribution of synthetic drugs.
- **Treatment and Support:** For children and adolescents who struggle with synthetic drug use, access to appropriate treatment and support services is essential. This may include counseling, substance abuse treatment programs, and mental health services tailored to the unique needs of young people.

### III. Countries' Position

#### United States

In the United States there is a large number of teenagers using synthetic drugs, many of these teenagers are exposed to these drugs, which can have serious effects. A study reveals that about 4.3% of high school students used synthetic drugs in the last few months, in the United States there are more than 300 new synthetic drugs.



#### Canada

Synthetic drug use among Canadian teenagers is a very serious issue, as it seriously affects the health and safety of the users. In Canada, the use of synthetic cannabinoids has increased among Canadian students in grades 7-12, showing an increase of 1% to 4% in the use of these substances,







making cannabinoids now the third most commonly used substance by Canadian students in this age group, after alcohol.

## United Kingdom

In recent years in the UK, there has been a large increase in the use of synthetic drugs in adolescents. Synthetic cannabinoids which are known as Spice have become very common in British teenagers, so much so that 12 year olds were supplied with vaporizers containing these substances. This substance such as synthetic cannabinoids and other new psychoactive substances (NPS), are manufactured in China and India, and supplied by organized crime groups in the UK.



## IV. Most Commonly Used Synthetic-Drugs

There are many drugs of this type on the market, thanks to the fact that different formulations are constantly being changed as the old drugs are made illegal:

### Ecstasy

Also known as MDMA, this drug is a phenethylamine which is consumed especially in concerts, festivals and discos, its main essence is that the power of the music and lights of these places, as an effect causes fever, acceleration of the heartbeat and breathing, when the effects of this drug begin to fade causes cramps in the muscles of the jaw.





## Synthetic Cocaine

This drug chemically mimics the kitchen, the only thing that changes is the design in different countries, which is legal. This is sold as a fertilizer product for plants, it contains stimulant effects so it can generate a high blood pressure and rapid heart rate.

## Synthetic Cannabinoids

This substance mimics the effects of marijuana, but the effects of synthetic cannabinoids are four times greater than those of marijuana. This drug produces confusion, agitation, nausea and dizziness, increasing the heart rate.

## Ketamine

This is normally used as a tranquilizer for animals and was discarded as a human analgesic due to its side effects of hallucination and agitation. The effects it causes when consumed include sedation and a disconnection from self-awareness and consciousness. If consumed constantly, it can cause permanent damage to the bladder.

## V. Useful Material

### Audiovisual Material

- Why Are Synthetic Drugs So Dangerous? | <https://youtu.be/83gIiBD365E?si=6siTocPkKdEmpJ9n>
- Fast Facts: Synthetic Drugs | <https://youtu.be/TnVqGDTKLLQ?si=Q1p7rglCu8SesAQQ>
- Why the toxic synthetic drug is so hard to fight | DW NEWS <https://youtu.be/Mkc0S-vP9BY?si=LqxKhUEwDlogPyAI>
- Teen Substance Use & Abuse (Alcohol, Tobacco, Vaping, Marijuana, and More) | [https://youtu.be/wQl\\_4kcE5nw?si=aaKUBmgs\\_PllowPL](https://youtu.be/wQl_4kcE5nw?si=aaKUBmgs_PllowPL)
- UNICEF: Treating drug addiction in the Maldives | <https://youtu.be/EcMfkZVB31Q?si=fOQ4QNOVzWWnXt9w>



## PDFs and websites

- Synthetic drug intoxication in children: recognition and management in the emergency department | <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29697923/>
- Synthetic and Other Drug Use Among High School Students: The Role of Perceived Prevalence, Access, and Harms | <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6136142/>
- The Child's Right to Protection from Drugs | <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5473055/>
- How to realize that the child uses or distributes drugs | <https://www.unicef.org/belarus/en/stories/how-realize-child-uses-or-distributes-drugs>

## VI. QARMAs and FAQs

1. What does your country propose to identify these drugs?
2. What is the most consumed drug by adolescents in your country, give a brief explanation of this drug?
3. How is the trade of this drug in your country?
4. How is the traffic of these drugs in the world?
5. In your country is there a large amount of traffic of these substances?
6. Is there any group which commercializes these drugs, or factories of these in your country ?
7. What measures is your delegation taking to control this problem that has affected the health of millions of children?
8. How many children have been affected by these substances in your country?



## 5. Topic C: "Addressing the Crisis of Forced Displacement and Protecting the Rights of Refugee Children: Strategies for Well-being and Inclusion."

### I. Introduction to the Topic

In today's complex global landscape, the issue of forced displacement looms large, affecting millions of individuals who are compelled to leave their homes due to various factors such as conflict, persecution, and environmental crises. Among those most profoundly impacted by this upheaval are refugee children, who not only endure the trauma of displacement but also face a myriad of challenges to their well-being and rights.



As the world witnesses unprecedented levels of displacement, the urgent need to address the plight of refugee children becomes increasingly evident.

The circumstances faced by refugee children are daunting. They often find themselves in unfamiliar environments, lacking access to basic necessities such as food, shelter, and healthcare. Moreover, they are confronted with emotional and psychological distress, stemming from the loss of home, family separation, and exposure to violence. In addition to these immediate challenges, refugee children are also vulnerable to exploitation, discrimination, and exclusion, both within host communities and in the broader socio-political context.

Amidst these adversities, it is imperative to adopt a comprehensive approach that goes beyond mere humanitarian assistance to address the holistic needs of refugee children. This entails not only ensuring their physical safety and material well-being but also attending to their emotional and psychosocial needs, as well as safeguarding their rights to education, protection,



and participation. Furthermore, it necessitates efforts to promote their inclusion and integration into host communities, fostering a sense of belonging and empowerment.

In BIMUN, we set out on an exploration of the multifaceted challenges facing refugee children and the strategies aimed at promoting their well-being and inclusion. Drawing upon a range of theoretical frameworks, empirical evidence, and practical examples, we seek to shed light on the complexities of this issue and identify pathways towards effective intervention and policy formulation. By examining innovative approaches and best practices from diverse contexts, we aim to generate insights that can inform and inspire stakeholders across various sectors to prioritize the protection and empowerment of refugee children.

## **II. Historical Context**

For the purposes of refugee status, determining the age of individuals has long been a matter of grave significance. In the 1930s, British authorities debated the age threshold for Basque refugees fleeing the forces of General Francisco Franco during the Spanish Civil War. On May 21, 1937, the luxury ocean liners *Habaña* and *Goizeka Izarra* departed from Bilbao to Southampton, carrying 3,889 Basque children.

These children were transported from the dock to a tented camp in North Stoneham, just outside Southampton. The classification of these Basque refugees as “children” held immense importance. Their designation as children enabled their entry into Britain, even as the government maintained a stance of neutrality and nonintervention. However, the definition of a “child” underwent changes during the conflict. Initially, Sir Wilfred Roberts, Secretary of the National Joint Committee for Spanish Relief, declared that no children under 9 years old would be permitted to enter Britain.



However, as civilian bombings intensified in Spain, new criteria for admission emerged. Some advocated for admitting children aged 6-12, while others argued for a broader definition of “child” ranging from 5 to 15.

Leah Manning, a Labour social reformer who accompanied the Basque children on their journey from Spain to Southampton, criticized these age restrictions. She contended that both younger children and older adolescents faced distinct dangers.

The government's criteria, she argued, undermined the principle of keeping families together. Manning raised concerns about the fate of young children left behind in a city threatened by enemy occupation, as well as the vulnerability of adolescent girls to sexual violence and the risk of male adolescents being targeted as political threats. Concerns about adolescent refugees centered on two main fears. Firstly, there were apprehensions about their sexual conduct.

Many camp leaders lamented their inability to control the movements of Basque teenagers within the camp, highlighting the challenges of providing adequate supervision in a chaotic environment. Secondly, there were concerns about the political ideologies of Basque teenagers, particularly males nearing military age. The Ministry of Health feared that these teenagers might be heavily influenced by political ideologies, posing potential security risks.

Some observers noted signs of political awareness even among the younger Basque children, such as decorating their tents with symbols of political parties. Journalist Yvonne Kapp recounted witnessing displays of political solidarity among Basque children, reflecting their engagement with political ideologies amidst their displacement.



### III. Current Situation

The current situation of this topic depends on various factors such as ongoing conflicts, geopolitical developments, changes in refugee policies of different countries, and international efforts to address humanitarian crises. Here are some general trends and considerations regarding the current situation:

- **Ongoing Conflicts and Displacement:** Conflicts and violence in regions such as Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan, South Sudan, and Myanmar continue to drive significant numbers of people from their homes, including many children. The humanitarian situation in these areas remains critical, with millions of people facing displacement, insecurity, and limited access to basic necessities.
- **Refugee Protection and Legal Frameworks:** While international legal frameworks exist to protect the rights of refugees, implementation and enforcement vary across countries. Some nations have adopted restrictive refugee policies, including tightening border controls and limiting access to asylum procedures. This has implications for the well-being and rights of refugee children, as they may face increased vulnerability and challenges in accessing protection and support services.
- **COVID-19 Pandemic:** The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the challenges faced by refugee children and their families. Measures such as lockdowns, border closures, and disruptions to essential services have disproportionately affected displaced populations, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities and limiting access to healthcare, education, and livelihood opportunities.
- **Education and Access to Services:** Access to education remains a critical issue for refugee children, with many facing barriers such as language barriers, discrimination, and lack of resources. Ensuring inclusive and quality education for refugee children is essential for their well-being, social integration, and long-term prospects.
- **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support:** Refugee children often experience trauma, loss, and stress due to displacement and exposure to violence. Access to mental health



and psychosocial support services is crucial for addressing the psychological impact of forced displacement and promoting resilience among refugee children and families.

- **Inclusion and Integration:** Promoting the inclusion and integration of refugee children into host communities is essential for their well-being and long-term prospects. Efforts to combat xenophobia, promote social cohesion, and facilitate opportunities for interaction and cultural exchange can contribute to fostering a supportive environment for refugee children and their families.

## IV. Countries' Position

### Germany

In recent years, Germany has emerged as one of the leading destinations for refugees, particularly during the peak of the Syrian refugee crisis. The country's response to the influx of refugees has been characterized by a combination of humanitarian assistance, legal frameworks, and social integration initiatives. Germany has a comprehensive legal



framework for asylum and refugee protection, guided by its commitment to international human rights principles and obligations.

The German Basic Law guarantees the right to asylum, and the country is a signatory to key international conventions, including the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. In response to the Syrian refugee crisis and other displacement crises, Germany implemented temporary protection measures and expedited asylum procedures to accommodate the influx of refugees. The country also introduced the "Welcome Culture" initiative, which aimed to promote social inclusion and integration of refugees into German society. Germany has welcomed a considerable number of refugee children, including unaccompanied minors, primarily from





conflict-affected countries in the Middle East and Africa. The German government provides support for refugee children's education, healthcare, and social integration.

## Uganda

Uganda, has been recognized for its progressive refugee policies and efforts to address the needs of refugee children amidst the crisis of forced displacement. Uganda hosts a significant refugee population, primarily from neighboring countries such as South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Burundi, and Somalia. Many of these refugees are children who



have fled conflict, persecution, and humanitarian crises in their home countries. Refugee children in Uganda have access to education through the country's inclusive education policy, which allows them to attend public schools alongside Ugandan children.

The government, with support from humanitarian agencies and NGOs, provides school infrastructure, materials, and teacher training to accommodate refugee children. Uganda's approach to addressing the needs of refugee children reflects its commitment to humanitarian principles, refugee rights, and sustainable solutions to forced displacement. Through collaboration with international partners and local communities, Uganda continues to uphold its tradition of hospitality and solidarity towards refugees, providing them with protection, opportunities, and hope for the future.





## Colombia

Colombia has been facing significant challenges in addressing forced displacement and protecting the rights of refugee children, particularly in recent years due to the political and humanitarian crisis in neighboring Venezuela. Colombia hosts a significant refugee population, primarily from Venezuela, who have fled economic instability, political repression, and humanitarian crises in their home country.



Many of these refugees are children who face specific challenges, including access to education, healthcare, and protection. The Colombian government, in collaboration with UN agencies, NGOs, and civil society organizations, provides support services for refugee children, including education, healthcare, psychosocial support, and child protection. Efforts are made to ensure that refugee children have access to these services, regardless of their legal status. Colombia continues to uphold its tradition of hospitality and compassion towards refugees, providing them with protection, support, and hope for the future.

## United States

The United States has a longstanding tradition of providing refuge to those fleeing persecution and violence, enshrined in its refugee resettlement program. The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) is administered by the Department of State in collaboration with other federal agencies, and it provides protection and assistance to refugees who are resettled in the United States.





In recent years, the U.S. has implemented measures to restrict asylum access, including the implementation of the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP), which require asylum seekers to remain in Mexico while their cases are processed. These policies have been criticized for their impact on vulnerable populations, including refugee children, and for limiting access to protection and due process.

## V. Useful Material

### Audiovisual Material

- Hiba's Story: Ten-Year-Old Syrian Refugee | UNICEF USA |  
▶ [Hiba's Story: Ten-Year-Old Syrian Refugee | UNICEF USA](#)
- Half of the world's refugees are children | UNICEF |  
▶ [Half of the world's refugees are children | UNICEF](#)
- Kids In Camps (Refugee Documentary) | Real Stories |  
[https://youtu.be/L9EZqw7dtdA?si=\\_Hrg00Ystd1rcDN8](https://youtu.be/L9EZqw7dtdA?si=_Hrg00Ystd1rcDN8)
- Refugee kids share struggles of coming to the U.S. |  
▶ [Refugee kids share struggles of coming to the U.S.](#)
- Meet One of the Syrian Refugee Children | UNICEF |  
▶ [Meet One of the Syrian Refugee Children | UNICEF](#)
- Refugee parents say their children are 'kidnapped' by Sweden's social services |  
▶ [Refugee parents say their children are 'kidnapped' by Sweden's social services](#)

### PDFs and Websites

- What Is a Refugee and Other Child Refugee FAQs | [Child Refugee Crisis: How to Help and Donate | Save The Children](#)
- Six actions for refugee children | [Six actions for refugee children | UNICEF](#)
- Protecting the rights of refugee children | [Protecting the rights of refugee children](#)
- Migrant and displaced children | [Migrant and displaced children | UNICEF](#)



- Refugee children's and Asylum seekers' rights | [Refugee children's and Asylum seekers' rights](#)

## VI. QARMA's and FAQs

1. What are the main challenges refugee children face in terms of accessing education, healthcare, and protection?
2. What legal frameworks exist to protect the rights of refugee children, and how are these enforced in practice?
3. What are the differences between refugee children, asylum seekers, and internally displaced children, and how are their needs addressed differently?
4. What are some key indicators of success in terms of promoting the well-being and inclusion of refugee children within host communities?
5. What is forced displacement, and why are refugee children particularly vulnerable in these situations?
6. How can individuals, communities, and governments collaborate more effectively to support refugee children and uphold their rights in the face of global displacement crises?
7. What are some common misconceptions about refugee children, and how are these challenged by different countries?
8. How do mental health and psychosocial well-being services for refugee children vary across different nations?



## 6. Resources

### I. Glossary

**Refugee:** A person who has been forced to flee their country because of persecution, war, or violence, and who is seeking refuge in another country.

**Asylum Seekers:** Individuals who have fled their home country and are seeking protection as refugees in another country, but whose refugee status has not yet been determined.

**Synthetic Drugs:** Substances produced chemically to mimic the effects of illegal drugs, often created in clandestine laboratories and posing significant health risks to users.

**Migrant:** A person who moves from one place to another, usually across national boundaries, for reasons such as seeking better economic opportunities, family reunification, or fleeing environmental disasters.

**Persecution:** The systematic mistreatment or harassment of individuals or groups based on their race, religion, nationality, political beliefs, or membership in a particular social group.

**Drug Trafficking:** The illegal trade or distribution of controlled substances, such as narcotics or illicit drugs, typically across international borders, often associated with organized crime and posing significant social and health risks.

**Pederasty:** Sexual activity between an adult male and a young boy, usually involving exploitation and abuse of power, and considered illegal and unethical in most societies.

**Church:** A religious institution or organization, typically associated with Christianity, that provides spiritual guidance, worship services, and community support to its members.



**Development:** The process of economic, social, and political progress aimed at improving the quality of life and well-being of individuals and communities, often through initiatives such as infrastructure projects, education, healthcare, and poverty reduction efforts.

**Cardinals:** Senior ecclesiastical leaders in the Roman Catholic Church, appointed by the Pope to serve as advisors, administrators, and leaders within the Church hierarchy. Cardinals play a significant role in the governance and decision-making of the Catholic Church, and they are often responsible for electing the Pope.

**Child Rights:** Fundamental human rights and protections afforded to children, typically individuals under the age of 18, based on the principle that children are entitled to special care, protection, and opportunities to ensure their wellness, dignity, and development.

## II. Delegations Present in the UNICEF Committee

1. Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
2. Canada
3. Commonwealth of Australia
4. Federal Republic of Germany
5. Federal Republic of Somalia
6. Federative Republic of Brazil
7. French Republic
8. Ireland
9. Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
10. Islamic Republic of Iran
11. Italian Republic
12. Kingdom of Spain
13. People's Republic of China



14. Republic of Colombia
15. Republic of Ecuador
16. Republic of India
17. Republic of South Sudan
18. Russian Federation
19. Syrian Arab Republic
20. Union of Burma
21. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
22. United Mexican States
23. United States of America
24. Vatican City

It is important to clarify that the representation of the Vatican City does not have the right to vote, because it is not a member of the United Nations, and thereby of the UNICEF Committee.

### III. Research and Preparation

It is fundamental, delegates, that each and every single one of you prepares and researches about your assigned country. In order to represent a country, delegates will need to understand their policies. This is important during the debates, when you will be able to show your knowledge and skills obtained from your research. Since this is the first time for many of you in a model United Nations, we have compiled a set of resources, including tips on debating, writing position papers, and public speaking.

- Introduction to Model United Nations (MUN) | [Introduction to Model United Nations \(MUN\)](#)
- 6 Tips for First Timers | [TOP 6 Tips for First Timers | MUN Academy | Eps 25](#)



➤ What are the universal human rights |

➤ [What are the universal human rights? - Benedetta Berti](#)

➤ What are child rights? | <https://youtu.be/V1BFLitBkco>

➤ What are children's rights? | [What are children's rights?](#)

➤ What is UNICEF? | [What is UNICEF?](#)

➤ MUN How to research | [MUN How to Research](#)

➤ Writing a position paper | [4 - Writing position paper](#)

➤ Introduction to debate | [Introduction to the Debate](#)

➤ Be a more confident public speaker | [Be a More Confident Public Speaker](#)

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