

Committee: GA3; Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Committee

Agenda Item: Socio-economic injustice towards immigrant children in host countries

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Introduction

The issue of socio-economic injustice towards immigrant children in host countries is an important topic in today's world globally. As migration increases, due to factors like conflict, economic instability, and environmental crises, children who cross borders face challenges that deny them equal opportunities and access to basic services. These children experience discrimination, and neglect in host countries, having to give up their rights to education, healthcare, and protection. This injustice creates long-term issues, not only having an immediate effect on involved children's wellness but also stopping them from achieving their potential as human beings.

As we go through with this discussion, our request for the delegates to approach the issue with empathy and a forward-thinking mindset, recognizing that the well-being of immigrant children is a significant humanitarian concern but also a critical factor in the goal of global togetherness. We all have an opportunity to advocate for the rights of these young people, empowering them to thrive and contribute to the societies that welcome them. Today, let us reflect on our responsibility to build a more just and equitable future for all.

Definition of Key Terms

Socio-Economic Injustice: Unfair distribution of wealth caused by factors outside their control.

Xenophobia: Discrimination against people from different nations or cultures.

Social Integration: The process where immigrants adapt into their host nation's social and cultural structure.

Exploitation: The unfair use of immigrant labor, which can lead to violations of workers rights.

Legal Status: The official recognition of an individual's right to live and work in a country.

Refugee: A person who has left their home country due to various types of conflicts in their homeland.

Economic Inequality: The variance in wealth and access to economic resources between different groups.

Social Exclusion: The marginalization of certain groups from full participation into society.

Migration Policy: Laws and regulations that identify the movement of people across borders.

Integration Programs: Adaptation programs in order to help in the new environment for the immigrants implemented by governmental organs or community-led enterprises

Major Actors Involved

United Nations (UN)

There are 193 member states that make up the United Nations, an international organization. The organization's main objectives are to promote global peace and security, improve social and economic development, and promote human rights.

European Union (EU)

The European Union is a political and economic union of 27 European countries, with a shared legal and policy regulation.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

IOM is an intergovernmental organization and is the leading global organization addressing migration. They work with both governments and non-governmental organizations to address the socio-economic challenges migrants face.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

UNHCR is the UN agency responsible for protecting refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons. They operate globally, often in coordination with the IOM, governments, and local organizations to support refugees and other individuals.

Human Rights Watch (HRW)

HRW is an international non-governmental organization that fulfills research and advocacy on human rights issues worldwide.

International Labour Organization (ILO)

A specialized agency of the United Nations, the ILO is dedicated to promoting social justice and fair labor standards.

United States

The U.S. has an essential role in global migration patterns, both as a major source of immigration and a destination for millions of immigrants.

Mexico

Mexico has an important role in the migration dynamics of North America, as both a source and a destination for migrants from Central America.

General Overview of the Issue

The issue of socio-economic injustice towards immigrants refers to the unfair treatment and limited opportunities faced by individuals who migrate from one country to another in search of better living conditions. Immigrants often experience discrimination and obstacles that prevent them from fitting into their societies. This reflects badly on their civil rights, leaving them in a vulnerable situation. Immigrants participate significantly in the economies of host countries, yet their socio-economic status often stays as dangerous caused by systemic barriers. As migration continues to increase, in response to various conflicts, this issue has become a priority for international governments.

Historically, migration has been supported by economic hardship, wars, with many immigrants coming from former zones suffering from poverty. Over time, these challenges have been announced through various international agreements, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Despite efforts by organizations like the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and International Organization for Migration (IOM) to provide support, however, the political climate causes some polarized aspects.

The rise of populist and nationalist movements has led to more limiting immigration policies, leaving them in a vulnerable state. This committee plays a crucial role in regulating policies that decrease socio-economic inequality and improves the living conditions of immigrants globally.

Timeline of Important Events

Date:	Event:
1948	Universal Declaration of Human rights (UDHR)
1951	1951 Refugee Convention
1989	Convention on the Rights of the

	Child (CRC)
1990	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
2001	UNHCR 'Global Strategy for Refugee Protection'
2006	UNICEF Report on Migrant Children
2015	The Refugee Crisis and European Migration
2016	UN General Assembly: New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants
2017	UNICEF Report: 'A Child is a Child'
2018	US Policy on Family Separation
2020	Covid-19 Pandemic ad Impact on Immigrant Children
2021	EU's Pact on Migration and Asylum
2022	UNICEF Global Report on Children in Migration
2023	Global Compact on Refugees Review

Related Documents

United Nations General Assembly Resolution (1989) - Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC): The CRC is one of the most specified legal regulations on the rights of children. It highlights the rights of all children, about basic human rights from discrimination.

UNICEF Annual Reports: UNICEF's reports include sections on immigrant and refugee children.

African Union (AU) - The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1990): The AU Charter, provides the rights of children in Africa, focusing on the protection of migrant children within African countries.

Human Rights Watch Reports on Migrant Children: HRW publishes reports on the rights and living conditions of migrant children. "Migrant Children: Not a Crime", which discusses the human rights violations related to migrant children.

Past Solution Attempts

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) – 1989

It is a global agreement for protecting the rights of all children. The CRC is a foundational document that guides governments and NGOs in improving the socio-economic conditions of immigrant children.

U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) & Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)

In the United States, the Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) program was established under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) to provide legal residency for immigrant children who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned.

Humanitarian Aid and NGO Interventions

Many non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international agencies have launched programs to help reduce the socio-economic challenges faced by immigrant children.

Possible Solutions

Strengthening Legal Protections for Immigrant Children

To protect immigrant children, we should propose creating “Children’s Protection Units” within immigration agencies to manage their well-being during asylum processes. These units could collaborate with child advocacy groups to prevent detention or harmful living conditions.

Reforming Education Systems for Immigrant Children

It should be advocated for “learning bridge programs” that could help immigrant children join the education system with extra academic support in their first year..

Expanding Access to Healthcare and Mental Health Support

Healthcare access for immigrant children must be expanded through “Mobile Health Clinics” that visit areas with high immigrant populations, offering medical services regardless of immigration status.

Useful Links

<https://www.unhcr.org>

<https://www.unicef.org/child-protection>

<https://www.iom.int>

<https://www.savethechildren.org>

<https://www.unicef.org/childmigrants>

<https://www.oecd.org/migration/>

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