Zohara Lam

UN International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF): Welcome Paper

YUNMUN XXXVII

Esteemed Delegates of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund,

Welcome to YUNMUN XXXVVII! My name is Zohara Lam and I am so excited to serve as the chair of UNICEF at this year's conference!

I look forward to the customary icebreakers in February (start thinking of ideas NOW) but until then, here's a little bit about me: I am from Parkland, Florida and attended Katz Yeshiva High School before spending a year-and-a-half at MMY. Currently, I am a senior at Stern majoring in biology with the ultimate goal of becoming a physician. I served as the Administrative Assistant of MES last year and attended YUNMUN as a delegate of CTC in 2023. Besides YUNMUN, I am also on the Stern soccer team and a research fellow. My personal interests include learning fun facts, playing Anagrams, and talking about very tall buildings.

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) is an agency of the UN dedicated to protecting the rights and wellbeing of children all over the world. It was established in 1946 with the goal of ensuring that all children have access to essential services and necessities like education, healthcare, nutrition, clean water, and protection from violence and exploitation. It also supports children in adverse situations, such as those living in places plagued by war or natural disaster. UNICEF works to achieve this through collaborations with governments, communities, and other organizations.

At this year's conference we will deal with sensitive issues affecting some of the most vulnerable members of our society. First, we will confront the widespread issue of online abuse and exploitation of children. As more children gain unrestricted access to the internet at increasingly young ages, they are at risk of being taken advantage of, whether through exposure to harmful content, having their personal information compromised, or being targeted by online predators. At the same time, the internet can be a rich resource for education and positive socialization when used appropriately. Therefore, delegates must work together to find effective ways to protect children from online threats while balancing access to digital resources.

Second, we will tackle the issue of improving systems for the rehabilitation and reintegration of incarcerated youth. Formerly incarcerated children often face significant stigma when attempting to return to their communities, which limits their social, educational, and employment opportunities. Without support, these youth are at a high risk of reoffending and experiencing subsequent incarceration, perpetuating a vicious cycle in which limited resources prevent them from rebuilding their lives. Delegates will explore ways to improve rehabilitation, education, and mental health programs to ensure a successful reintegration of previously incarcerated youth into society.

I look forward to hearing you engage with your fellow delegates in thoughtful discussion and reach resolutions on these jam-packed topics! A few reminders as you prepare for the conference:

1) As a delegate, it is your job to represent <u>your country's</u> official stance on these issues as accurately as possible, not to your personal beliefs.
2) YUNMUN follows the YU Level UG1 AI policy: "[p]olish, with disclosure. You may use AI to check and correct the grammar, vocabulary, spelling, and mechanics of text you

have already written. AI may not generate, rewrite, or restructure your content." All papers will be run through AI detection software and those flagged for high AI usage will not be eligible to win awards. You can find the full AI policy guidelines in the Delegate Handbook.

If you have any questions, thoughts, concerns, want to say hi, or send me a fun riddle, feel free to reach me at zlam@mail.yu.edu or address a letter in the mail. Good luck and see you soon!

Best,

Zohara Lam

Chair, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

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