

LOUISIANA MODEL
UNITED NATIONS



YMCA OF THE CAPITAL AREA

Model United Nations Schedule

THURSDAY	GA White	GA Blue	GA Gold	Eco/Soc	Security
3:00 - 4:30	State Board Meeting Conference Office				
3:00 - 4:30	Registration/Check-In Hotel Lobby				
4:30 - 5:00	Candidate Meeting Sedona				
5:15 - 5:45	Opening Session Sedona				
5:45 - 9:30	Sedona I	Sedona III	Mesa I	Mesa II	Sierra I & II
8:00 - 8:30	Advisor Meeting Landing				
9:30 - 10:15	Cultural Showcase/Devotion Sedona				
10:15	Pizza Pick Up Hotel Lobby				

FRIDAY	GA White	GA Blue	GA Gold	Eco/Soc	Security
7:03 - 8:00	State Board Meeting Conference Office				
8:00 - 8:30	General Session - Press Conference Sedona				
8:30 - 9:00	Candidate Meeting Landing				
8:30 - 2:30	Sedona I	Sedona III	Mesa I	Mesa II	Sierra I & II
11:30 - 12:05	Debate Landing				
12:00 - 12:35	GA White & Blue Lunch Landing				
2:30 - 3:00	GA Gold, Eco/Soc & Security Lunch Sedona				
3:00 - 5:30	Sedona I	Sedona III	Mesa I	Mesa II	Sierra I & II
5:30 - 6:00	Crisis Resolution Writing & Debate Sedona				
6:00 - 7:30	Candidate Speeches/Elections in Councils Rooms				
6:54 - 7:31	Get Ready for Banquet Sierra I & II				
7:30 - 8:30	State Board Meeting Sedona				
8:30 - 9:00	Banquet Rooms				
9:00 - 10:30	Change for Dance & Trivia Dance - Sedona Trivia - Mesa II				
10:30 - 10:45	Devotion Sedona				
10:45 - 12:00	State Board Meeting Conference Office				

SATURDAY	GA White	GA Blue	GA Gold	Eco/Soc	Security
7:13-8:00	State Board Meeting Conference Office				
8:00 -10:30	Plenary Session Sedona				
10:30-11:15	Hotel Checkout Rooms				
10:30-11:15	State Board Meeting Conference Office				
11:15-12:15	Closing Session/Adjournment (casual dress) Sedona				

MUN 2024 Community Norms & Social Conduct

Model United Nations is an excellent opportunity for students of all backgrounds and personalities to come together to debate on resolutions addressing pressing issues we face as global citizens and as future public servants. MUN is a community, and in order to protect this community, we need to establish guidelines of respect and social conduct for how we treat fellow delegates and our advisors. Your state board team and MUN senior advisors devised a list of norms that will help the conference run smoothly and without unfortunate instances such as miscommunications and avoidable conflict. As a MUN participant, we expect each delegate to...

1. Separate the delegate from the country
 - You may not agree with the domestic or foreign policy of a certain nation, but do not take out your frustrations on the delegate of that nation.
2. Meet someone new that you haven't spoken to yet
 - We're here to learn from each other and make lifelong friendships, take the time to meet someone new!
3. Treat everyone with respect regardless of school
 - No one school is better than the other, leave your assumptions at the door!
4. Include newer delegates in the conference activities
 - MUN is a learning experience, whether you are new or a returning delegate. If you feel that someone is being left out of conference activities, include them in a manner that makes them feel comfortable!
5. Respect people's time, be present, and be mindful
 - MUN can only be a success if you are respectful of the conference schedule, the state board team, fellow delegates, physical spaces, and advisors
6. Leadership team should be available and helpful
 - The state board team is here to help delegates every step of the way during the conference! If you need help, ask for help!

Important Information and QR Codes

Technology Policy

While technology may be used in chambers, delegates must act with respect toward speakers. Computers and other devices are encouraged for use during resolution writing and research, but other than being briefly used for research purposes or for reading your prepared statements, phones and computers must remain away from debate.

Maintaining Respect

The YMCA's core values are caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility. All delegates must remain respectful of other delegates and strive to exemplify these values.

Thursday Evening

On the first night of Model UN, delegates do not engage in traditional debate, but instead write resolutions and determine which resolutions would be best to debate during chamber the following day. Ranking Thursday night should not be determined by whether a delegate agrees with a resolution, but instead on five criteria: Feasibility, Speaker Knowledge/Presentation, Originality, Debatability, and Relevance to the Topic. All resolutions shall be ranked on a scale of 1-5 for each criterion with 1 being the best ranking and 5 being the worst ranking.

Resolution Ranking Form Here:



Remember!

1 = Best

5 = Worst

Dockets

After a resolution has passed or failed in its council, the resolution author will bring their resolution to the resolution tracking table outside of their chamber.

Find Resolution dockets here:



Outstanding Resolutions and Delegates

At the end of the conference, each delegate will be asked to vote for what they consider to be the “Outstanding Resolution” from their chamber. These resolutions will be recognized in the closing ceremony.

Outstanding delegates will also be recognized at the end of conference for their engagement and decorum throughout the conference.

Outstanding Delegates and Resolution Voting Form Here:



Access to voting for Outstanding Delegates and Resolutions will open on Friday night.

MUN RANKING SHEET (FOR YOUR PURPOSES ONLY)



ORDER	RES #	RESOLUTION AUTHORS	PRESENTATION (1-5)	FEASIBILITY (1-5)	ORIGINALITY (1-5)	RELEVANCE TO THE TOPIC (1-5)	DEBATABILITY (1-5)	NOTES
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								
17								
18								
19								
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MUNual



LOUISIANA YOUTH & GOVERNMENT

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

State Board

Model United Nations is a student-led conference. If you have any questions, please remember that your state officers are always ready to serve you. Below is a listing of this year's officers, their school, and contact information.

Office	Name	School	Email address
Secretary General	Unmesh Chakravarty	Haynes	Unmeshchak70@gmail.com
Security Council PO	Holden T Martin	LSU Lab	hmart43@uhighlsu.com
Security Council PO	Ramsey Claire Greene	Episcopal BR	greener24@ehsbr.org
Eco/Soc PO	Andi Hayes	St. Joseph's Academy	2025381@sjabr.org
Eco/Soc PO	Vaishnavi Kumbala	Haynes	vsaikumbala@gmail.com
General Assembly PO	Avishka Fernando	Haynes	avishkafernando087@gmail.com
General Assembly PO	Ben So	Haynes	coolbenso06@gmail.com
General Assembly PO	Mariana Cuadra	St. Joseph's Academy	2025198@sjabr.org
General Assembly PO	Neal Tandon	Haynes	nealtandon.nt@gmail.com
General Assembly PO	Shiv Banga	Lafayette High	shivbanga0516@gmail.com
General Assembly PO	Sophie Yeon	Haynes	sophiey898@gmail.com

Program Staff

Model United Nations is supported by the Y&G Program Staff, who are all alumni of the program. You may contact the following volunteers with questions.

Position	Name	Email address
Program Director	Jeremy Miller	la.youthandgovernment@gmail.com
Academic Director	Isha Matta	
MUN Program Director	Julia James	
MUN Senior Advisors	Revathi Menon Lailah Williams	

COUNCILS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly is the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations.

1. Summits will consist of represented countries compromising on issues for resolutions for approval.
2. At the beginning of the session, all countries who wish to present a one-minute position statement on their country's views of the topic presented in each General Assembly will be allowed to do so. These countries must notify the General Assembly Presiding Officers of their intent to deliver the policy statement.
3. Resolutions in the General Assembly may have up to **three author countries**.
4. Method of Voting: The General Assembly will vote on many substantive questions by roll call, others will be by voice vote. Roll calls will be taken in the English alphabetical order of members. When the name of a member is called, its delegate must reply either "aye", "nay", "abstain", or "pass". A "pass" reply means that the country will be referred back to after all others have voted. A delegate may pass only once during a roll call vote. Abstentions do not count as votes.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

The Economic and Social Council studies problems that concern the way we live. It deals with such problems as economic development, human rights, international trade, narcotics, population, refugees, and transportation.

1. At the beginning of the session, all countries requesting to present a one-minute position statement on their country's views of the topic presented in the Eco/Soc Council will be allowed to do so. These countries must notify the Eco/Soc Presiding Officers of their intent to deliver the policy statement.
2. Resolutions in ECO/SOC may have up to **three author countries**.
3. Method of Voting: ECO/SOC will vote on many substantive questions by roll call, others will be by voice vote. Roll calls will be taken in the English alphabetical order of members. When the name of a member is called, its delegate must reply either "aye", "nay", "abstain", or "pass". A "pass" reply means that the country will be referred back to after all others have voted. A delegate may pass only once during a roll call vote. Abstentions do not count as votes.

SECURITY COUNCIL

The duties of the Security Council are to maintain international peace and security and oversee the international regulation of armaments.

1. The Security Council will consist of delegates from Russia, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, China, and delegates from other nations assigned to the Security Council.
2. At the beginning of the session, all countries requesting to present a one-minute position statement on their country's views of the topic presented in the Security

Council will be allowed to do so. These countries must notify the Security Council Presiding Officers of their intent to deliver the policy statement.

3. Resolutions in Security Council may have up to **two author countries**.
4. Method of voting: The Security Council will vote on all motions or resolutions by roll call. The roll call will be taken in the English alphabetical order of members. The name of each member will be called in any roll call, and its delegate shall reply "yes", "no", "abstain", or "pass". A "pass" reply means that the country will be referred back to after all others have voted. A delegate may pass only once during a roll call vote. Abstentions do not count as votes.
5. The Russian Federation, China, U.S., U.K., and France are the five permanent members of the Security Council and have veto powers. If any one of them votes NO on a resolution, it is killed. If the member does not wish to fail the resolution or vote yes, the member must abstain. *All vetoes must be presented with valid reasoning.

COUNCIL PROCEDURES

RESOLUTION WRITING

- I. **Roll Call** – Presiding Officer
- II. **Topic Presentation** – Presiding Officer
- III. **Questions on the Topic** [4 minutes] – Delegates
- IV. **Position Statement Presentations** [1 minute per country] – Delegates
- V. **Idea Sharing and General Discussion** [10 minutes] – Delegates
- VI. **Collaboration and Resolution Writing** [22 minutes] – Delegates
- VII. **Resolution Presentation** [1 minute per Resolution] – Resolution Author
- VIII. **Resolution Ranking** [1 minute] – Delegates

(resolution writing process is repeated for each topic)

GENERAL DEBATE

- I. **Presentation of Docket** – Presiding Officer
- II. **Resolution Debate**
 - a. **Read Resolution** – Presiding Officer
 - b. **Opening Statement** [3 minutes] – Resolution Author
 - c. **Technical Questions** [3 minutes]
 - d. **Debate Round** [12 minutes]- AMENDMENTS ARE IN ORDER FROM AFTER THE FIRST SPEAKER UNTIL THE LAST ROUND OF PROPOSITION
 - i. Alternates between
 1. Opposition [2 minutes]
 2. Proposition [2 minutes]

Amendment Process (only if deemed hostile)

- I. Amendment Presentation [2 minutes] – Author
- II. Technical Questions [1 minute]
- III. Debate Round [4 minute]
 - a. Alternates between
 - Opposition [1 minute]
 - Proposition [1 minute]
- IV. Comments [1 minute] – Proposal Author
- V. Amendment Summary [1 minute] – Amendment Author

- e. **Closing Statement** [2 minutes] – Resolution Author
- f. **Country Caucus** [1 minute]
- g. **Country Vote** (Aye, Nay, Pass, Abstain) -- One representative per country

COUNCIL PROCEDURES

RESOLUTION WRITING

- I. In council meetings the Presiding Officer will present the topic of debate.
 - II. There will be 4 minutes for questions on the topic.
 - III. Each country will be given the opportunity to present their country's position on the topic. Presentations will be 1 minute each. Countries are not required to present positions, but this is recommended for partnership with other countries in writing proposals. Delegates will use position statements to develop a Resolution on specific topics. This will be the only guaranteed time for a country to speak.
 - IV. The Presiding Officer will facilitate the sharing of general ideas on the topic with the entire council for 10 minutes.
 - V. There will be 22 minutes for countries with similar ideas to collaborate to write proposal on the assigned topic. The proposed Resolution must have 4 country signatories before being submitted to the Chair. Signatories show support for a resolution but are not required to have contributed to its writing.
 - VI. After Resolutions have been written, the Resolution Author(s) will have 1 minute for a brief Resolution summary.
 - VII. Each country will then rank the Resolutions for that topic. (Around 1 minute)
 - VIII. Top-ranked resolutions for each topic will advance to the Docket for General Debate session on Friday. Dockets will be posted Friday morning.
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GENERAL DEBATE

- I. On Friday, each council will go into General Debate for all Resolutions on the Docket.
 - a. During debate of Resolutions, an Amendment may be submitted. Amendment procedures are to be followed.
 - b. Voting – The Presiding Officer will allow up to 1 minute for countries to “caucus,” or decide how the country will vote. Each country gets ONE vote.
 - Note: For Security Council, the Russian Federation, China, U.S., U.K., and France may veto any Resolution they come across.

COUNCIL OVERVIEW

Resolution Writing:

- Presiding Officer: calls roll
- Presiding Officer: presents topic
- Questions on Topic 4 minutes
- Country Position Statements 1 minute per country
- Idea Sharing on Possible Resolutions 10 minutes
- Country collaboration for proposal writing 22 minutes
- Resolution Authors Summary Presentation 1 minute per Resolution
- Ranking on the Resolutions 1 minute

General Debate:

- Presiding Officers will post the Docket for General Debate based off Resolution rankings
- Docket will comprise of Resolutions from all topics
- Debate per Resolution ≈ 26 minutes
- All passed resolutions are certified as official policy of the United Nations by the Secretary General.

GENERAL DEBATE PROCEDURES

If the council the Resolution was referred to ranks it favorably, and if the Presiding Officer places it on the Docket, the Sponsor(s) shall present the Resolution to the appropriate council.

PROCEDURES FOR RESOLUTION CONSIDERATION ON THE FLOOR

RESOLUTION SPONSOR'S OPENING STATEMENT

3 MINUTES

- Sponsor may use all three (3) minutes.
- Sponsor may use part and yield rest to technical questions, closing statements, or the Chair.

TECHNICAL QUESTIONS

3 MINUTES

- The Presiding Officer will open the floor to Technical Questions (non-debatable, yes, no, or fact-based questions). The Presiding Officer will recognize members of the body to question the Resolution Sponsor(s) on any matter relating to the content of the Resolution in question, until time expires.
- The Presiding Officer has the authority to deem questions germane (relevant to the Resolution) or not germane.
- In the event the delegate wishes to ask more than one technical question, he/she will say the following: "Will the Author(s) yield to a series of questions?" The Sponsor(s) may refuse. Speaking after is not allowed in this round.

DEBATE

12 MINUTES

- The Presiding Officer will open the floor to General Debate on the Resolution in which members of the body may express their opinions on the Resolution.
- Each delegate may speak for a maximum of two (2) minutes.
- In the event a delegate does not use all two (2) minutes, they may yield to another delegate to speak or to the Sponsor's closing statements (the latter option is only available during propositional rounds). Time can only be yielded to another speaker once before it must be yielded back to the chair.
- The Presiding Officer will alternate between speakers in opposition and speakers in proposition of the Resolution. The first speaker recognized should be in opposition to the Resolution, and then the Presiding Officer will call for a propositional speaker until 3 rounds of opp/prop debate (12 minutes) have expired.
- The speaker may ask the Resolution Sponsor(s) a question or a series of questions upon being recognized by saying "Will the Author(s) yield to a question/series of questions?" The speaker may engage in debate before and/or after the question(s).
- Members of the body may also propose Amendments upon being recognized by the Chair. In the event an Amendment is deemed hostile, or not accepted, by the Resolution Sponsor(s), the following procedure will take place:

AMENDMENT DEBATE AND VOTE

9 MINUTES

Amendment Sponsor's Opening Statement	2 minutes
Technical Questions on the Amendment	1 minute
General Debate on the Amendment	4 minutes
Original Resolution Sponsor's Statements	1 minute
Amendment Sponsor's Closing Statements	1 minute

- For a full explanation of the Amendment process, see “Explanations of Parliamentary Motions and Points” below.

RESOLUTION SPONSOR CLOSING STATEMENT

2 MINUTES

- Once debate has closed on the Resolution, the Presiding Officer will recognize the Resolution Sponsor(s) to deliver their Closing Statement, or present their arguments for final passage, for the last time.
- In the event the Sponsor(s) have unused, yielded time from their Opening Statement, or a delegate, the total time available to the Sponsor(s) will be two (2) minutes plus the yielded time.

FINAL READING OF RESOLUTION AND VOTE

- The Presiding Officer will convene a vote for final action on the Resolution
- The Resolution will be read by title only for the final time by the Clerk.
- There will be a 1-minute country caucus to confer with countrymen to render a vote.
- The Presiding Officer will ask countries for a voice vote indicating an Aye, Nay, Abstain, or Pass towards the vote on the Resolution. Pass votes will be returned to after the initial roll call is complete. Voting is conducted by country roll call. Each country may only vote once. Votes may not be changed once they are given. A simple majority (1/2) is required for passage.

PLENARY COUNCIL PROCEDURES

1. The top-ranked resolutions from each council will make up the Plenary docket. The Presiding Officers and Secretary General will order the Plenary Docket.
2. Debate will proceed based on the order of the Docket.

Note: Amendments may not be submitted during the Plenary Session.

PLENARY SESSION OVERVIEW

- Presiding Officer calls roll
- Presiding Officer presents Docket
- Debate ≈ 26 minutes per Resolution

EXPLANATIONS OF MOTIONS

Only the following motions and points are allowed during debate.

For all motions, save motions to amend legislation, the following procedure will be used:

- A delegate may seek recognition from the Presiding Officer by rising and saying, “Sir/Mister/Madame Chair I move to...”
- If the Presiding Officer deems the motion appropriate, he/she will call for a second.
- If a second is given, the Presiding Officer will then ask for objections.
 - If there are no objections, the motion is immediately adopted.
 - If there is an objection or multiple objections, the Presiding Officer will convene a vote.
 - The required majority varies for each motion.

1. Amendments to Resolutions

- Motions to amend Resolutions are allowed at any point during the opp/prob debate portion, except before the second speaker and after the second-to-last speaker. They may not interrupt speakers.
- These motions change the language or purpose of Resolutions.
- When a delegate has an amendment for consideration, they must first bring the amendment form to the Presiding Officers desk, followed by raising their red card between speakers. After the Presiding Officer recognizes a delegate to speak, he/she will move to amend the Resolution. “I move to amend the Resolution” or “Madame/Sir Chair, I believe there is an amendment on the floor,” in order to recognize the amendment.
- The Presiding Officer is empowered to deem Amendments germane (relevant) or not germane to the Resolutions in question. If it is not germane, the Amendment will not progress.
- The Presiding Officer will then ask the Resolution Sponsor(s) whether they deem the Amendment friendly or hostile to the Resolution.
 - In the event the Resolution Sponsor(s) deem the Amendment friendly, the amendment text will be immediately added to the Resolution without debate or a vote.
 - In the event the Resolution Sponsor(s) deem the Amendment hostile, the Presiding Officer will open debate on the Amendment.
 - The Amendment Sponsor will deliver an opening statement on the Amendment for a maximum of two (2) minutes.
 - The Presiding Officer will open the floor to technical questions from the floor for a maximum of one (1) minute.
 - The Presiding Officer will open the floor to Debate. Each recognized speaker may speak for a maximum of one (1) minute. Upon the conclusion of each speaker’s speech, the Chair will immediately take back the floor in order to recognize another speaker. The total time for Debate shall not exceed four (4) minutes.

- The Presiding Officer will then recognize the Resolution Sponsor(s) to deliver comments on the Amendment for a maximum of one (1) minute.
 - The presiding officer will then recognize the Amendment Sponsor for a Closing Statement for a maximum of one (1) minute.
 - The Presiding Officer will then convene a voice vote on the Amendment.
 - A simple majority (1/2) is required for passage.
- If a hostile amendment is approved by the body, the Presiding Officer will resume General Debate on the Resolution as amended.
 - In the event a delegate wishes to amend the Amendment, the above process will take place with the secondary Amendment. Tertiary amendments are not allowed.
- All debate must remain relevant to the question at hand, whether it be the Resolution, an Amendment, or a secondary Amendment.

2. Point of Information

- Points of Information are allowed at any point during convened sessions of the councils. They may interrupt speakers.
- A Point of Information is a statement to correct or add a fact or statistic, clarify misinformation on the floor, or to provide additional insight relevant to the debate. It is not to make an additional argument for or against the instrument at hand.
- Any delegate may rise and say, "Point of Information!" The Presiding Officer will acknowledge the point by saying, "Rise and state your point."
- After the point of information has concluded, the recognized speaker may continue their remarks.

3. Point of Order

- Points of Order are allowed at any point during convened sessions of the councils. They may interrupt speakers.
- A Point of Order is used to alert the Presiding Officer of a perceived error in parliamentary procedure.
- Any delegate may rise and say, "Point of Order!" The Presiding Officer will acknowledge the point by saying, "Rise and state your point."
- Upon hearing the Point of Order, the Presiding Officer will either correct the action in question or explain to the delegate how the action in question was in order.

4. Point of Parliamentary Inquiry

- Points of Parliamentary Inquiry are allowed at any point during convened sessions of the councils. They may interrupt speakers.
- A Point of Parliamentary Inquiry is used to ask the Presiding Officer for clarification on any portion of parliamentary procedure that causes confusion.
- Any delegate may rise and say, "Point of Parliamentary Inquiry!" The Presiding Officer will acknowledge the point by saying, "Rise and state your point."
- Upon hearing the Point of Parliamentary Inquiry, the Presiding Officer will explain the point in question to the delegate.

5. Point of Personal Privilege

- Points of Personal Privilege are allowed at any point convened sessions of the councils, but may not interrupt speakers.
- A Point of Personal Privilege is used to make a personal request during debate, including permission to vacate the chamber for a brief time.
- Any delegate may rise and say, "Point of Personal Privilege!"
- Upon hearing the Point of Personal Privilege, the Presiding Officer will either grant or deny it.

6. The Previous Question

- Motions for the previous question are allowed at any point during General Debate of Resolutions or Amendments. They may not interrupt speakers.
- Moving the previous question cuts off Debate and moves straight to the Closing Statement.
- In the event this motion comes during debate on an Amendment, the delegate must specify which question to move:
 - "I move the previous question on the Amendment."
This motion cuts off debate on the Amendment and moves straight into the comments from the Resolution Sponsor(s).
 - "I move the previous question on the Resolution."
This motion cuts off debate on both the Amendment and the Resolution and moves straight into the Resolution Sponsor's Closing Statement on the Resolution.
- The Presiding Officer will then call for a voice vote. A two-thirds (2/3) majority is required for passage.

7. Table/Remove from the Table

- Motions to table legislation are allowed at any point during convened sessions of debate. They may not interrupt speakers.
- Moving to table legislation defers consideration of the instrument (i.e. Resolution or Amendment).
- There are three (3) possible options with motions to table:
 - General Motion to Table: This motion simply lays the instrument on the table and may be removed from the table at any point.
 - "I move to table [insert Resolution name]."
 - An instrument laid on the table may be removed from the table with a corresponding motion.
 - "I move to remove [insert Resolution name] from the table."
 - The instrument will be returned to its original place on the Docket. If the chamber has moved beyond that point on the Docket, a motion to suspend the rules and rearrange the Docket may be used.
 - Motion to table for a specified amount of time: This motion defers consideration of legislation until a specified time.

- “I move to table [insert Resolution name] for X minutes/hours.”
 - Motion to table indefinitely: This motion effectively kills the instrument.
 - “I move to table [insert Resolution name] indefinitely.”
- A simple majority (1/2) vote is required for passage.

8. Suspension of Rules

- Motions to suspend the rules are allowed at any point during convened sessions of debate. They may not interrupt speakers.
- These motions have the effect of adjusting rules in this handbook to satisfy the needs of the floor to properly execute debate.
- The Presiding Officer is empowered to initially deem these motions appropriate and admissible, or inappropriate and inadmissible.
- The following are common motions to suspend the rules:
 - Extend time: Delegates may use this motion to extend time for questioning or debate.
 - The motion must include a specific amount of time for extension.
 - These motions may only extend the general time for questions or debate; they may not extend times for individual speakers’ speeches or subsequent questioning.
 - “I move to suspend the rules and extend the time for questioning by two minutes.”
 - “I move to suspend the rules and extend the time for debate by two minutes.”
 - Rearrange the Docket: Delegates may use this motion to adjust the order of consideration of Resolutions on the Docket.
 - These motions may move a single Resolution, move multiple Resolutions, or force immediate consideration of a particular Resolution.
 - “I move to suspend the rules and rearrange the Docket so that [insert Resolution number(s)] appear(s) before [insert Resolution number].”
 - “I move to suspend the rules and immediately consider [insert Resolution number].”
- All motions to suspend the rules require a majority for passage.

9. Recess

- Motions to recess are allowed at any point during either committee hearings or convened sessions of the councils. They may not interrupt speakers.
- These motions dismiss the session of a council for a specific duration of time, including a lunch break.
- The Committee Chair or Presiding Officer is empowered to not recognize a motion to recess should he/she feel it unnecessary.
- A specific length of time is required in the motion.

- "I move to recess for X min/hours."
- A simple majority (1/2) is required for passage.

10. Adjournment

- Motions to adjourn are allowed at any point during sessions of the councils. They may not interrupt speakers.
- These motions end a session of the councils.
- The Presiding Officer is empowered to not recognize a motion to adjourn should he/she feel it unnecessary.
- "I motion to adjourn."
- A simple majority (1/2) is required for passage.

DEBATE CHEAT SHEET

Motion	Vote	Debatable	Interrupting
To Amend	Majority	Yes	No
Point of Information	Chair	No	Yes
Point of Order	Chair	No	Yes
Point of Parliamentary Inquiry	Chair	No	Yes
Point of Personal Privilege	Chair	No	No
Previous Question	2/3	No	No
Suspend the Rules			
a. Withdraw a Motion	a. Majority	a. No	a. No
b. Table or Extend Debate	b. Majority	b. No	b. No
c. Change Calendar	c. Majority	c. No	c. No
To Recess	Majority	Yes	No
To Adjourn	Majority	Yes	No

MUN FLOOR DEBATE

PART A: RESOLUTION WRITING

PRESIDING OFFICER: "The topic for Resolution is _____."
(Provide a brief summary of the topic)
"There will be 4 minutes for questions on this topic."

PRESIDING OFFICER: "We will now move into position statements on the topic. Delegates will have up to 1 minute to share their position. Are there any countries that wish to present?"
(Write down a list of countries that wish to present. After the list is made, begin by calling on the first country and then continue down the list until all willing countries have had a chance to present. It should be noted that this is the only guaranteed time for a country to speak.)

DELEGATE: The delegate begins presentation by stating name, delegation, and country before proceeding to explain their country's position on the topic.

PRESIDING OFFICER: "We will move into idea sharing for proposals to address this issue. We will allow 10 minutes for this process. Are there any countries that wish to share their resolution ideas?"
(Write down country ideas on board/screen.)

PRESIDING OFFICER: "We will now have 22 minutes for resolution writing to allow countries with similar views to collaborate. The proposed Resolution must have 4 country signatories before being submitted. Signatories show support for a resolution but are not required to have contributed to its writing."

PRESIDING OFFICER: "Each resolution author will now have 1 minute to present their resolution to the council for ranking. We complete ranking for each resolution after its presentation."

DELEGATE: The resolution authors will summarize the purpose, actions, funding, and penalties of their resolution. Delegates will use the QR code at the front of their binder to rank the resolution. Authors may rank their own resolutions.

PART B: GENERAL DEBATE PART I

- PRESIDING OFFICER: "Will the CLERK please read the Resolution by title only?"
(The Resolution Sponsors will go to the front of the council.)
- CLERK: Reads the Resolution by title only.
- PRESIDING OFFICER: "Author, you now have three minutes for your opening statements, please begin when ready."
- AUTHOR/CO-AUTHOR: Begins presentation of Resolution by stating name, delegation, and country. The Author may share the floor with up to two co-authors, but not anyone else.
When the opening statement is finished, the Sponsor may yield their time to: 1) closing arguments, 2) technical questions, or 3) the Chair.
- PRESIDING OFFICER: "Technical questions are now in order. The Chair recognizes (country)."
- DELEGATE: States name, delegation, and country from seat and immediately address technical question to the Sponsor.

After the Author/Co-Author's reply, the Chair continues to recognize delegates until time is called (3 minutes).
- PRESIDING OFFICER: "We will now move into 12 minutes of opp/prop debate, beginning with opposition. Once recognized, speakers will have 2 minutes for their argument. Is there anyone who wishes to speak in opposition to this Resolution?"
(The Presiding Officer recognizes a delegate. The 2-minute rounds will alternate between speakers in opposition and proposition).
- DELEGATE: Rise and state name, delegation, and country. Within the 2-minute time limit, the delegate can:
1. Use all the time for their argument.
 2. As the Author a question by saying "Does the author yield to a series of questions?"
 3. Use part of the time and yield the remaining time to another delegate by stating "I yield my time to (delegate)."

(Time during each round may be yielded no more than once. If time is yielded to a second speaker, the second speaker must yield to the Chair. The first speaker in a propositional round may also yield their time to the Author's closing statements.)

After the 1st speaker, the Presiding Officer announces AMENDMENTS ARE NOW IN ORDER.

The process continues until 12 minutes have elapsed. Debate takes place on an alternating basis (opponent/ proponent/ opponent), with 2 minutes for each round. Debate will always start with an opposition speaker, and end with an opposition speaker, if possible.

PRESIDING OFFICER: "The time for debate has elapsed. The Resolution Author now has 2 minutes (plus any yielded time) for their closing statements."

RESOLUTION AUTHOR: States name, delegation, and country and gives closing statements.
Time may be yielded only to Co-Sponsor or the Chair; no questions allowed.

PRESIDING OFFICER: "The Clerk will now read the Resolution by title only and any added Amendments in their entirety."

CLERK: Reads the Resolution by title, noting any Amendments passed and added to Resolution.

PRESIDING OFFICER: "We will now move to a 1-minute country caucus."
(Following the caucus.)
"We will now move to a country roll call vote on this Resolution. Each country will select 1 representative to vote for their country. We will vote by alphabetical country roll call. Please indicate your country's vote as Aye, Nay, Abstain, or Pass as your nation is called out. If you Abstain you will have no vote, and if you Pass we will return to you after all other countries votes have been recorded."
(Calls out each country in council and marks their vote to be tallied for the final outcome.)

PRESIDING OFFICER: Raps gavel and announces outcome of vote. "By a vote of XX, this resolution does pass/fail."

Note: Celebration is allowed when a Resolution has passed,

but not when it has failed. Division is not recognized since it is a roll call vote.

HOW TO SUBMIT A FLOOR AMENDMENT:

While the debate described in Part B is underway, an Amendment may be submitted by following this procedure:

1. Locate the amendment form in the conference binder.
2. Complete the amendment form.
3. Have the Amendment recognized by the PRESIDING OFFICER.
 - This must be accomplished after the time that the Chair has declared that "Amendments are in order,"(after the first speaker in debate), and before the second to last speaker of debate (around 10 minutes in).
 - This is done by and turning the amendment form in to the Chair, raising your red placard, and being recognized by the Presiding Officer.

HOW AMENDMENTS ARE SELECTED FOR DEBATE:

1. Presiding Officers determine the appropriateness and relevance of Amendments.
2. The number of Amendments debated will ultimately be determined by the Presiding Officer based on relevance and time constraints.
3. After an Amendment is recognized, the Presiding Officer must ask the Resolution Author(s) if the Amendment is hostile or friendly.
 - If friendly, no debate ensues, and the Amendment is immediately added to the Resolution.
 - If hostile, the council must follow Amendment debate procedure:

PRESIDING OFFICER: Reads the Amendment in its entirety.
(Amendment Sponsor goes to the front of the Council.)

PRESIDING OFFICER: "The Amendment Sponsor has 2 minutes to present the Amendment, you may begin when ready."

AMENDMENT AUTHOR: States name, delegation, and country and gives presentation on Amendment.
When the opening statement is finished, Amendment Sponsor may yield their time to: 1) closing arguments, 2) technical questions, or 3) the Chair.

PRESIDING OFFICER: "We will now move into technical questions on the amendment. Are there any questions on the floor?"

DELEGATE: States name, delegation, and country from seat and immediately addresses the technical question to the Amendment Author. After the Amendment Author's reply, the Chair continues to recognize other delegates until time is called (1 minute).

PRESIDING OFFICER: "We will now move into 4 minutes of opp/prop debate. Once recognized, speakers will have 1 minute for their argument. Is there anyone who wishes to speak in opposition to this Amendment?"
(Refer to debate in Part A. The same order of events takes place for an Amendment, except the word "Amendment " is substituted for "Resolution" and each speaker only has 1 minute for their argument).

Following the last proponent's remarks, the Presiding Officer continues...

PRESIDING OFFICER: "The Resolution Author has 1 minute for their remarks on the Amendment."
(Sponsor moves to front.)

RESOLUTION AUTHOR: States name, delegation, and country and presents position on the Amendment.

PRESIDING OFFICER: "The Amendment Author has 1 minute for closing remarks."
(Sponsor moves to front of chamber.)

AMENDMENT AUTHOR: States name, delegation, and country and makes closing remarks.

PRESIDING OFFICER: "Will the CLERK please read the Amendment in its entirety?"

CLERK: Reads the Amendment.

PRESIDING OFFICER: "We will now move to a voice vote on the Amendment. A reminder there is only one vote per country. All countries in favor of this Amendment please signify by saying "Aye." (Pauses for voice vote.) "All those opposed please signify by saying "Nay". (Pauses for voice vote.)
Raps gavel and announces outcome of Amendment vote.

**YMCA MODEL UNITED NATIONS
DEBATE WORKSHEET**

RESOLUTION # _____

TOPIC: _____

ACTIVITY	TIME ALLOWED	TIME USED	TIME LEFT & WHERE APPLIED
Read Resolution			
Opening Statement	3 minutes		
Technical Questions	3 minutes		
DEBATE (ALTERNATE OPP/PROP UNTIL TIME ELAPSES)			
AMENDMENTS IN ORDER FROM AFTER FIRST SPEAKER TO BEFORE LAST SPEAKER			
General Debate	12 minutes total		
Opposition	(2 minutes)		
Proposition	(2 minutes)		
Opposition	(2 minutes)		
Proposition	(2 minutes)		
Opposition	(2 minutes)		
Proposition	(2 minutes)		
Opposition	(2 minutes)		
Proposition	(2 minutes)		
Opposition	(2 minutes)		
Proposition	(2 minutes)		
Opposition	(2 minutes)		
Author Closing	2 minutes		
Country Caucus	60 seconds		
Vote	Pass – Fail (circle one)		

<p>Amendment Process Amendment Author..... 2 minutes Questions..... 1 minute Debate..... 4 minutes Resolution Author..... 1 minute Amendment Author..... 1 minute</p>

Amendment (if applicable): Pass - Fail (circle one)

ELECTIONS & STATE BOARD

ELECTIONS

- All candidates wishing to enter an election must have participated in Model United Nations for at least one year prior to this year. Candidates for Secretary General must fill out an Intent-to-Run form, which is due at Pre-MUN. Forms can be found and submitted on the MUN page at layouthandgovernment.org. Candidates interested in all other positions may declare the Thursday evening of the conference.
- All candidates running for office will meet with a Program Staff Member designated in the conference schedule. We will then review the duties of the office and answer any questions about the qualifications and regulations in the Model United Nations program. The elected officers are responsible for planning and implementing the Model United Nations program for the following year.
- Each school can run candidates for a maximum of four leadership positions. Should there be positions sought by no candidate, students to fill those positions may be appointed by the State Director. Amendments to these rules can be made at the discretion of Program Staff.

ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD FOR THESE POSITIONS:

- Secretary General* (one representative per district)
 - Two candidates are allowed in districts where there are six or more schools participating in MUN in the district.
- General Assembly Presiding Officers
- ECO/SOC Presiding Officers
- Security Council Presiding Officers

***Election of Secretary General**

- All candidates for the position of Secretary General are encouraged to produce a campaign video no longer than one minute in length to be played on their behalf at a General Session. Candidates should use this video as an opportunity to creatively reinforce their platform as outlined in the various speeches they will give throughout the conference. Successful candidates will not only demonstrate a seriousness of purpose that befits the position of Secretary General by demonstrating their knowledge and opinions of campaign issues, and will also reveal the charms of their personality through wit, feats of skill, or both. No endorsements from current State Board members of either conference are allowed in the video. Videos must be received prior to the conference.
- One student per district will be elected at Pre-MUN to represent their district as the candidate for Secretary General of the United Nations at the conference. (unless there are six or more schools in a district, in which case two candidates are allowed)
 - To be elected to represent their district, the candidate(s) must give a speech to their district about why they wish to run and why they are the best candidate to represent their district.

- Once all speeches are complete, each school will have 2 votes to elect who they wish to represent their district as the Secretary General candidate. Votes will be counted by alumni.
- The Secretary General selection at conference will be elected by the delegation council and a majority vote from the delegates. Both processes are outlined below:
 - The delegation council is comprised of one representative from each school. The council will meet with each candidate on Friday afternoon for an interview. After said interviews, the representatives will submit one name on a written ballot for secretary general. A candidate must receive 50% +1 votes to win the delegation council vote.
 - All other delegates will vote by ranking the candidates in order of preference.
 - If a candidate surpasses 50% of the delegates' first-choice votes, he/she will be the winner of this portion of the general election and account for 75% of the total vote.
 - If no candidate surpasses 50% of the delegates first choice votes, another round of voting analysis occurs:
 - The candidate with fewest first choice votes will be eliminated with her/his votes redistributed to the other candidates based on voters' second choice votes.
 - If a candidate surpasses 50% of the new vote tally, he/she will be declared winner of this portion of the general election and account for 75% of the total vote.
 - If no candidate surpasses 50% of the new vote tally, the process repeats.
- Both results will be combined to determine the elected candidate. Each vote is weighted as follows: the delegation council represents 25% of the vote; the conference-wide vote represents 75%.

STATE BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

ALL ELECTED OFFICERS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND THE STATE OFFICER TRAINING. All elected officers will be notified when the date is set, and the date will be posted on the YMCA Louisiana Youth & Government website (www.layouthandgovernment.org). Elected officers are also required to attend conference planning meetings in Baton Rouge.

ALL OFFICERS SHALL:

1. Attend the State Board Officer Training and **all** State Board meetings.
2. Attend Pre-MUN in the home district.
3. Facilitate debate at MUN.
4. Ensure the observation of rules set forth in this book.

Secretary General

The Secretary General is the Chief Executive of the conference. The delegates participating in the conference elect the Secretary General one year in advance. The Secretary

General position requires a highly motivated candidate who demonstrates strong leadership characteristics and has a desire to empower and lead other delegates. The position requires dedication and the ability to plan and manage multiple tasks.

The Secretary General is responsible for:

- Presiding over Plenary Session
- Evaluate and set docket for Plenary Session, based on Presiding Officers recommendations
- Coordinating the efforts of the elected officers
- Mediating any and all international disputes
- Additional duties as necessary

Presiding Officers for all councils

1. Research and understand all topics. Also have a general understanding of Member Countries' political views of the topics.
2. Understand and be able to implement parliamentary procedure for all sessions.
3. Understand and be able to implement the resolution writing session for all sessions.
4. Ensure that all passed proposals (including amendments) are submitted to Secretary General for review.
5. Create debate dockets
6. Read resolutions to the council
7. Take roll call
8. Keep accurate records of all amendments and announce results
9. Keep time



LOUISIANA YOUTH & GOVERNMENT

Louisiana Model United Nations 2024 Topics

General Assembly Topics

General Assembly Topic 1

Natural Disaster and Emergency Relief

Natural disasters are becoming an increasing issue due to their severity and frequency across the globe. The definition of a natural disaster can include floods or wildfires as a result of other events. They can be disasters of geological origin such as volcanic eruptions, landslides, and earthquakes. Finally, they can be disasters of climatic or meteorological origin such as droughts, avalanches, cyclones, hurricanes, and tsunamis. These disasters will vary from country to country due to climate, infrastructure, structural preparedness, and emergency relief. However, all the disasters related to a weather, climate, or water hazard in the past 50 years have killed 115 people and caused US\$ 202 million in losses daily, according to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). From 1970 to 2019, these hazards accounted for 50% of all disasters, 45% reported deaths and 74% reported economic losses. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) oversees various departments and is committed to providing food, shelter, medical care, and other essential supplies.

Disaster risk prevention management and warning systems will play the greatest role in mitigating natural disasters and properly preparing for emergency relief. It is estimated that for every dollar spent reducing disaster risk, seven dollars are saved from cleanup and recovery losses. 96% of the world's Official Development Assistance (ODA) allocated to disaster-related activities is for post-disaster, while only 4% is allocated to risk reduction. After the Fukushima earthquake of 2011, Japan experienced severe damages of US\$ 8.8 billion. An issue with their warning systems was communication itself, so they invested in tsunami alerts and an announcement system using drones to urge people to evacuate. These methods were created to eliminate the risk from future disasters instead of after the event.

The economies of countries can be severely affected by natural disasters as well. Economic damage can vary, but infrastructure and assets such as housing, schools, factories, roads, dams, and bridges can be lost. A country's natural resources may also be affected; for example, hurricanes can destroy forests and droughts can harm soil fertility. Farmers may also invest less in drought-prone areas for fear of losing money. The destructive effects of natural disasters have drastic effects on the different economic areas of a country, including imports and exports, production and utilization of raw materials, and damage to methods of transportation. The 2022 drought in China's Sichuan province resulted in US\$ 7.6 billion in economic losses and decreased hydroelectricity output, forcing major industries like metal and electronics assemblers to power ration. A prolonged drought would have exponentially larger impacts across global grain, energy, and industrial markets due to supply chain disruptions within China. The worst effects of natural disasters are the invisible ramifications that ripple throughout the globe.

Natural disasters can have a profound effect on the development and education of children, uprooting their curriculum and lives. After the 2005 Hurricane Katrina, over 100 out of 128 New

Orleans public school buildings were destroyed, with the first elementary in New Orleans reopening three months after the storm. Many teachers were displaced and decided not to return, leading many schools to temporarily close. Delayed school openings can have repercussions on students' consistent learning and ability to perform well with the gap between their educational years. Monsoons in rural India are shown to have a drastic effect on performance, with students who experience droughts early in life scoring lower on tests and are less likely to be enrolled in school. A disproportionate amount of children affected by these natural disasters – especially those with low socio-economic status – have lost proper education, stability, and safety.

Healthcare systems often become overwhelmed during natural disasters. Healthcare workers face tremendous pressure, and there are shortages of critical supplies, leading to the difficult task of prioritizing patients based on needs. A 2015 earthquake in Nepal caused wide-spread damage, so it took more than three days after the disaster for international field hospitals to begin treating patients. Critical injury victims who required emergency surgeries had to rely solely on the resources of one hospital. Communication and transportation facilities were disrupted as a result of the earthquake as well, making it difficult to coordinate patient transfers to other hospitals. As a result of natural disasters, many hospitals must become self-reliant on depleted healthcare workers and medical supplies. This creates increased stress, an overload for workers, and longer waiting times for treatment.

As the effects of natural disasters cause more lives to be lost and damage all the resources of a country, it becomes necessary to address these issues before they start. Developing technology and working alongside countries with similar issues can allow the UN to streamline effective solutions. By creating governmental organizations to handle management or providing funding to education or healthcare systems, adequate emergency relief can truly be attained.

Some Questions to Consider: What is the rate of natural disasters in your country? What types of natural disasters affect your country? How severe are your country's natural disasters? What are current emergency relief policies that protect citizen's safety? What measures does your country take to alleviate natural disasters and how quick is the response time? What resources does your country have for vulnerable, high-risk groups? What role can the UN play in natural disaster relief with funding and policy?

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General Assembly Topic 2 Affordable Housing and Sustainable Infrastructure

Homelessness is an urgent issue; 1.8 billion people throughout the world have inadequate housing. This is defined by when people don't have a stable place to live, leading them to sleep on the streets, in shelters, or with other temporary accommodations. Nearly 15 million people are "forcefully evicted every year," according to un.org. Homelessness continues to be a worsening problem as approximately 3 billion people are projected to be homeless by 2030.

Countries with the largest homeless population:

1. United States: The United States has a substantial homeless population, with estimates varying widely but often exceeding half a million people.
2. India: India also has a significant homeless population. In some urban areas, homelessness was a significant issue driving away tourists.
3. Russia: Russia faced homelessness challenges in its major cities, with estimates of several hundred thousand homeless individuals.
4. Brazil: Brazil's larger cities have a large homeless population.
5. China: China's rapid urbanization and income inequality have led to homelessness issues, especially in major metropolitan areas.

According to data from the World Economic Forum, approximately 150 million people are confirmed to be homeless. This number has been growing recently due to poor health care and immigration. The main reasons for homelessness are the increase in layoffs, wage decrease, and the reduction of work hours. According to a study at the University of Southern California, 46% of the homeless population of Los Angeles, California are in this situation because of employment reasons.

Natural disasters are also affecting housing; the effects of natural disasters can be seen more greatly in areas without proper funding towards their infrastructure and preparedness towards the disasters. In 2010 there were severe earthquakes in both Haiti and Chile, but while Haiti's was less severe in magnitude, the damage was much greater. Port Au Prince, Haiti had over 300,000 people injured and 1.5 million rendered homeless, while Chile had 521 deaths and less widespread catastrophe and displacement. This can be attributed to Chile's more developed infrastructure and far greater funding into buildings or bridges made to withstand earthquakes. The World Meteorological Organization said that it was urgent to adapt infrastructure to withstand prolonged high temperatures and to raise vulnerable people's awareness of the risks.

Affordable housing can increase tourism and morale among citizens, allowing tourists to feel safer and residents to feel comfortable in their city. The less people are worried about homes and their health, the more they can focus on working and helping economies. Japan, for example, has the lowest rate of homelessness and the third highest Gross Domestic Product (GDP) according to investopedia.com. This can't be a coincidence. Japan also has one of the highest life expectancies, proving that the less their citizens have to worry about housing and health, the more they can focus on their economy. The United States' Low-Income Housing Tax

Credits Program of 1986 has helped over 45,000 housing projects. In 2020, the UN passed the first resolution to reduce homelessness which pushed states to gather more information on the homeless population and implement programs. The UN-Habitat and the Institute of Global Homelessness have partnered together to spread awareness and collect data on homelessness in hopes to find a solution.

Addressing homelessness requires a combination of efforts: affordable housing initiatives, support for mental health and addiction services, and policies that aim to reduce poverty and inequality. It's an urgent problem that affects millions of lives and needs our collective attention and action.

Some Questions to Consider: What is the homeless population in your country? Is the majority of the homeless population immigrants? How can countries help other countries fund infrastructure Acts? How can homeless people access essential services like healthcare, education, and job training? How can countries collaborate on a global scale to address homelessness and related issues? How can we improve data collection and monitoring of homelessness to develop evidence-based policies? What are the root causes of homelessness in your country?

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General Assembly Topic 3 Healthcare and Education for People with Disabilities

The United Nations recommends that countries work towards complete rights for people with disabilities to have access to equal healthcare and education. Under the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), disabilities are defined as long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments that may hinder one's full and equal participation in society. The CRPD states that states must ensure and promote all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all people with disabilities without any kind of discrimination on the basis of disability, including the right to education and healthcare.

The United Nations reports that an estimated 15% of the world's population lives with disabilities, and not every nation can accommodate them equally. For example, in Germany, those who can not work more than three hours a day are eligible for a pension as long as they have contributed to social security for the past five years. In France, there are housing benefits and support for disabled persons and households with disabled children. Additionally, workplaces with more than 20 employees must have at least six percent of their workforce made up of people with disabilities. Disabled people are also given government compensation, with thirty percent for those who work part-time, and fifty percent for those who are unable to work. The rates are determined by average salaries over ten-year spans. These examples demonstrate how support for disabled persons is possible and can provide higher and more equal standards in both healthcare and education. However, many nations do not have standards for healthcare or education in place.

People with disabilities' right to education without discrimination is recognized in Article 24 of the CRPD, adopted by the UN in 2006. The CRPD establishes that all people have the right to equal opportunity, and full participation in society, and reserves the right to education without discrimination based on disability. State parties who have ratified the CRPD must ensure people with disabilities have access to an inclusive and accommodating lifelong education system. To achieve this, countries should ensure people and children with disabilities are not excluded from the general education system and provide reasonable accommodations to achieve effective education, maximize social development, and maximize personality development. Taking appropriate measures to employ and train teachers qualified to help people with disabilities, such as being fluent in sign language or braille, at all levels of education.

The CRPD also reserves the right to healthcare without discrimination based on disability. Article 25 of the CRPD recognizes that people with disabilities have the right to the highest attainable standard of health without discrimination based on disability. Countries should take all appropriate measures to ensure access to health services to those with disabilities. Efforts must be made to provide the same quality and standard of free or affordable health care as provided to those without disabilities, as well as specific services needed because of a person's disability. Ensuring that facilities for services are as close as possible to a person's community is especially important for many disabilities as it is required of health professionals in these facilities to give the same quality and information (informed consent, dignity, autonomy) as

given to people without disabilities. Any form of discrimination in health or life insurance as well as denial of healthcare services based on discrimination of disabilities should be prohibited and laws put in place to prevent.

Disability inequality and poverty often have correlations, as countries with lower GDPs and higher poverty rates lack accommodations or standards for equality for those with disabilities. For example, the region with the most standards in place for people with disabilities is Europe, while Western Africa has the least legislation to regulate disability equality. Still, countries with high rates of poverty have shown legislative improvement, such as in Niger. As of 2021, Niger has a poverty rate of 41.8% but has shown new legislation to prevent discrimination. These laws include consequences, such as fines and potential jail time for offending corporations in cases of workplace discrimination. Countries within the United Nations, especially those who have ratified the CRPD, must take action to combat the discrimination in education and healthcare against people with disabilities. Ensuring equal access to education, providing necessary healthcare, and preventing disability-based discrimination are just a few ways countries can begin to achieve this goal.

Some Questions to Consider: Are there any current policies in place to assist people with disabilities with their access to education? Is the necessary healthcare accessible for each person's specific disability? Do those with disabilities have access to education that allows them to fulfill their potential? What barriers prevent your country from assisting disabled people from receiving a full education? What is your country's approach to giving disabled children access to education?

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Eco/Soc Topics

Eco/Soc Topic 1

Hazardous waste management is the collection, storage, processing and disposal of dangerous waste. Waste management isn't limited to hazardous waste, but encompasses issues such as: management of electronic waste (e-waste) from electronics that are disposed of, solid waste management, and recycling. Waste management issues, whether they relate to processing, disposal, or treatment, have many effects on the planet, such as air and water pollution, decreased biodiversity, and exacerbating negative effects of climate change. Improper handling of e-waste can also lead to a plethora of detrimental impacts. According to the United Nations Environment Programme, poor e-waste management can lead to the spread of disease through contaminated drinking water from open landfill runoff, "which puts a strain on the health of urban dwellers and the environment." Countries on all sides of the socioeconomic spectrum face the issue of hazardous waste management and must mitigate negative public health and environmental impacts on the planet.

According to data from The World Bank, "the world generates 2.01 billion tons of municipal solid waste annually, with at least 33% of that not managed in an environmentally safe manner," and global waste is projected to grow 70% in the next 30 years. Hazardous practices include not properly separating household waste from hazardous waste, unrestricted waste dumping, mishandling of landfills and their operations, and utilization of open-air incinerators (Abubakar et. al.). Waste management solutions vary. One possible model that can be used by countries, given by the World Bank, is investment in solid waste management projects by providing financial sustainability for governments regarding cost-effective waste management solutions, educating the public regarding reusing, recycling, and waste reduction, developing public health solutions, creating stronger waste management infrastructure and policy solutions, and reducing the negative impacts of climate change.

Another issue relevant to waste management is E-waste. A United Nations report states in India, e-waste is often sold and metals are extracted from it, and "the residues which contain heavy metals and toxic organic traces are often dumped in the open." Additionally, there is evidence that poor e-waste management is having a negative impact on women and children's health. A report from the World Health Organization (WHO) indicates that around 18 million children and 12.9 million women are "working in the informal waste sector, which potentially exposes them to toxic e-waste and puts them and their unborn children at risk." Children are especially at risk, since their bodies aren't able to rid toxic substances as quickly, and exposure to e-waste has been linked to ADHD, increased risk for cancer and lung diseases, and negative birth outcomes. Data shows that e-waste is only growing, and this will become a bigger problem in the coming years. The European Union, Rwanda, Chile, and many other nations have developed legislation regarding e-waste, but many policies have only scratched the surface of the problem.

Questions to consider: Does your country have existing legislation regarding e-waste management? If so, how comprehensive and impactful is this legislation, and does it protect women and children from the harmful effects of e-waste? What are your country's policies and regulations on waste management? Do any regulations exist on technology manufacturers in relation to e-waste? How can sustainability be incorporated into waste management? How might the state of current waste management be contributing to climate change and ecosystems in your country? What are the public health implications improper waste management may be having on your country? How should education and information regarding waste management be made available in your country?

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Eco/Soc Topic 2 Gender Inequality

Gender Inequality is the biased treatment of people based on gender, which results in different freedoms (in terms of legal or social barriers) for different genders. Gender is not limited to sex assigned at birth. The Human Rights Campaign defines gender as “one's innermost concept of self as male, female, a blend of both or neither – how individuals perceive themselves and what they call themselves.” Just as gender exists on a wide spectrum, so too does gender inequality. The United Nations Development Reports utilizes the Gender Inequality Index (GII), which is used to measure gender disparities in populations based on the reproductive rights, empowerment, and labor market force of both men and women. They use indicators such as maternal mortality ratio, adolescent birth rate, secondary education, seats in the government, and labor force participation to determine overall inequality. Denmark has the lowest score of 0.013, which indicates low inequality and overall positive progress, while Yemen has the highest score of 0.820, which indicates high inequality and low progress. Countries vary widely on this index, though the general trend for the world has not improved since the 1990s. The lack of progress is concerning, as gender inequality globally can foster environments of abuse and hinder overall social mobility.

Besides this index, there are many other ways gender inequality reveals itself, including gender based wage gaps, lack of opportunity in both the workforce and in education, sexual assault, etc. Worldwide, women make 77 cents for every dollar a man makes, regardless of position, education, or any other factors. Women and girls make up the majority of hungry and impoverished people. Overall, women are more likely to be illiterate and uneducated compared to their male counterparts. They consistently hold less powerful positions in government and business. Women are also more susceptible to domestic abuse and sexual violence than men. These figures only take into account traditional gender roles and fail to recognize those who do not fit into the binary. The United Nations, in reference to Vulnerable Groups like the LGBTQI+ community, described how LGBTQI+ people are mistreated in their workplace, school, hospitals, and families. They also explain how they are frequently singled out for physical attack. Despite receiving some of the worst treatment and discrimination, queer individuals are excluded from most traditional measurements of gender inequality. Queer groups, though they have their own statistics regarding their treatment, are usually separating and ignored when discussing the idea of gender discrimination.

The treatment of individuals based on gender is a complex topic with economic and social factors affecting countries in different ways. Historical context of gender, religious perceptions of queer identities and the community, and the role gender has played in cultural hierarchies, play major roles and vary widely from country to country. It is important to take into account that the issue is a highly individualized one for each country, as there are many different perspectives and influences at play.

Some Questions to Consider: What is the GII of your country? Is it trending in a positive or negative direction?? Why is gender inequality a global issue? How does this affect your

country's workforce, student body, or general society? How does your country view gender socially? Is this affected by religion or other outside factors? What barriers exist in advancing gender equality? What is your country's stance/actions concerning the LGBTQI+ community?

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Eco/Soc Topic 3 Labor Rights

The United Nations International Labor Organization published the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work in 1998. It outlines the tenets of labor rights across the world such as: the right to collective bargaining, elimination of compulsory labor, abolition of child labor, end of discrimination in employment, and establishment of safe working environments. Many countries exclude different groups of workers from labor laws, and three quarters deny workers their right to strike or collective bargaining, which is the right to unionize with your fellow laborers and work as a collective to better your workplace or pay.

Unemployment increased globally after COVID-19 pandemic and has yet to fully recover. The average global unemployment rate is between 5-10%, which is still well above the pre-COVID-19 rates of 3.5. Employment is the most important factor in the upwards economic mobility of a country and is affected by factors both specific and general.

A job alone does not guarantee a decent living nor labor rights. Wages vary greatly across the world and are dependent upon many factors. Not all countries have a livable minimum wage, and many have significant and disproportionate wage gaps across class and gender. Working conditions also impact workers in important ways. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), the amount of time spent at work should account for adequate rest, paid annual leave, maternity/paternity leave, part time work, and reasonable overtime. The environment should be free of dangerous occupational accidents and ensure the worker's physical and mental safety.

According to ILO, unions are "organizations of workers formed for the purpose of advancing its members' interests in respect to wages, benefits, and working conditions." They exist for nearly every type of work and in nearly every country. Unions ensure laborers' right to collective bargaining, discussion of wages, and protection from employer abuse. Union membership is directly correlated to improved working conditions and fairer wages. Many countries view unions as anti-capitalist and place heavy restrictions on their power as well as barriers to union recruitment. In some countries, such as Bangladesh and Mexico, unionists have been killed and subjected to extreme violence. While other countries, like the US, do not approach the issue with violence, lobbyists spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to suppress and lessen the powers of unions. The ability to freely discuss wages is both a social and policy issue. In some places it is seen as taboo, but in many others, it is illegal or even met with violence.

Some Questions to Consider: What is your country's unemployment rate? What is your country's inflation rate? What is the minimum wage in your country? What are the current labor disputes your country is experiencing? What rights do laborers in your countries have? Are there any barriers to forming unions? How is discussing wages and collective bargaining

viewed in your country socially and legally? What are the general working conditions in your country?

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Security Topics

Security Topic 1

Nagorno-Karabakh

In 1921, Joseph Stalin established Artsakh (later known as Nagorno-Karabakh) from Armenian land and gave Soviet Azerbaijanis jurisdiction over the state. Throughout the next 70 years, the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh lived under this authority and experienced brutal policies of ethnic cleansing from the Azerbaijani government that sought to dissolve the state. In the late 1980s, 99% of Nagorno-Karabakh voters chose to restore Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenian authority (Armenian National Committee of America) with support from the United States. After the fall of the Soviet Union, the region, which was home to a 95% ethnically Armenian population, declared its intent to Join Armenia, but Azerbaijan did not want to lose the area. On January 6, 1992, Nagorno-Karabakh formally declared its independence from Azerbaijan following the fall of the Soviet Union, resulting in two separate wars. Roughly 30,000 lost their lives in the first war, and Armenians established territory outside Karabakh, linking it to Armenia. A few years into the first war, both states began to make attempts at peace. Over the next twenty years, diplomats and authorities held peace talks and drafted agreements across the world. The countries could rarely reach a consensus on these agreements and one party always wound up breaking them when they did sign them. While the two never officially came to an agreement, extreme violence and outrage eventually dissipated.

Towards the end of last year, however, Azerbaijan began to put pressure on Nagorno-Karabakh again by imposing a blockade that prevented people from receiving fuel and food. Soon after, Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh resorted to strictly rationing food and were unable to use cars. On September 20, 2023, Azerbaijan launched a military attack on Nagorno-Karabakh, reigniting the conflict. Azerbaijan began shelling Nagorno-Karabakh, causing its citizens to flee to Armenia. So far, several thousand soldiers and civilians from both sides have died, and hundreds more are critically wounded. Ultimately, Azerbaijan reclaimed Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has led to numerous conflicts and tensions in the region. Resolving this complex and deeply rooted issue requires careful diplomacy, compromise, and the willingness of all parties involved to engage in peaceful negotiations. Diplomatic efforts, facilitated by international mediators such as the OSCE Minsk Group, have been underway for years. Addressing the rights and concerns of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) is crucial for any lasting solution.

It's important to note that resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict requires a genuine commitment from all parties involved, as well as the international community, to find a peaceful and just solution that respects the rights and aspirations of all affected populations. The process will likely be challenging, but sustained efforts, dialogue, and cooperation are key to achieving lasting peace.

Some Questions to Consider: Does your country have an alliance with either Armenia or Azerbaijan? If not, what would your country's involvement with one side or the other mean for your relationship with them? Does your country have alliances with any countries in the region that have been affected by the conflict? Has your country ever been accused of ethnic cleansing? What's your country's typical response to human rights violations? Do they get involved? Do they stay removed?

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Security Topic 2

Syrian Crisis

The multifaceted and ongoing Syrian conflict began in 2011 when the Syrian National Army (SNA) rebelled against the government of Syria, as part of the wider wave of the Arab Spring uprisings in which several Arab countries revolted against their government. After the rebellion, Syrians initially attempted to design democratic reforms and begin the release of prisoners, but the situation deteriorated quickly. The situation escalated into a civil war due to the government's brutal crackdown on protesters and the rise of various armed opposition groups. International involvement further complicates the conflict, with different countries supporting different factions. Turkey shares its southern border with Syria, placing many of its civilians in harm's way, and there have been hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees flooding into Turkey and Greece. Turkey has backed the Syrian National Army by supplying them with ammunition, weapons, and vehicles. Other countries like the United States have also pledged support for the Syrian National Army (SNA), and sent non-lethal supplies like food, water, and medical supplies. Countries like Iran and Iraq have been sending supplies to help the Syrian government.

The crisis led to a severe humanitarian catastrophe, with millions of people displaced both within Syria and neighboring countries, and put a significant strain on regional stability. Human rights violations, including the use of chemical weapons and the targeting of Syrian civilians, have been widely reported. Efforts towards a political resolution and humanitarian aid have been ongoing, but finding a lasting solution remains a significant challenge amid the complex web of regional and international interests.

The war recently ended with the surrender of the Syrian National Army and the government taking back control from the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and the SNA. The SNA had a large amount of land, but as a result of a few large-scale battles, ISIS took hundreds of miles of land from the SNA; however, . ISIS was mostly driven out by Syrian forces. The main problem now is providing aid to the people affected by the war in the region.

In late 2023, Syria, Turkey, and surrounding regions were racked with two massive earthquakes. Over 55,000 people were killed and thousands more wounded. Both sides of this conflict lost massive numbers of civilians and military personnel alike. It is likely that casualties from the earthquakes were worsened due to the Syrian war slowing humanitarian efforts. Adding to this, refugee camps were decimated and thousands of people were displaced during the earthquakes.

Now that war has almost come to a stop, a new problem has arisen: millions of Syrians lack access to basic resources and shelter. Humanitarian groups have been trying for years to aid the Syrian people, but the current government has not been receptive to these efforts and the humanitarian groups have been stretched thin by also sending aid to countries like Ukraine. This lack of access has hindered efforts to alleviate the food crisis for many Syrians. Syria has also experienced severe droughts, which scientists believe are exacerbated by climate change.

Droughts have had a devastating impact on agricultural production, leading to crop failures and food shortages. International humanitarian organizations, including the United Nations and various other humanitarian groups, have been providing aid to the people of Syria; however, the scale of the crisis and the challenges of delivering aid to a country that is not receptive to the aid make it difficult to meet the needs of everyone affected.

The conflict has also taken a severe toll on the Syrian economy, marked by hyperinflation and economic instability. This has resulted in widespread difficulty for many people in affording basic necessities, particularly food. The situation is exacerbated by high unemployment rates and a scarcity of economic opportunities. Consequently, millions of Syrians have been internally displaced or sought refuge in other countries like Turkey and Greece. This displacement has created additional challenges, especially for families struggling to secure a consistent food supply. Both within Syria and in neighboring countries, refugee camps encounter difficulties in providing adequate food to the displaced populations.

Some Questions to Consider: Has the war in Syria affected your country? (Consider trade relations, military capacity, and immigration among others) How is your country addressing the war in Syria? (Consider political relations and humanitarian issues) Has your country provided aid to either side of the war? What resources does your country have that it could contribute to humanitarian aid?

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Security Topic 3 Artificial Intelligence

AI, or artificial intelligence, is created and trained by human programmers using data and algorithms. AI systems are tools designed to process information, recognize patterns, and make decisions based on the data they have been trained to use.

AI developers load statistics into their program, and the algorithm writes information based on the question the user inputs. The system will then restate the question in order to start this chain reaction of prediction. Once it has rewritten the question, it repeatedly uses statistics to analyze what it's already written and then determine what it should write next. Some governments have already begun passing legislation to regulate the use of AI in the work sphere. Many countries have published ethical guidelines and principles to guide the development and use of AI. These documents often emphasize transparency, accountability, fairness, and human rights. For example, the European Commission has developed guidelines for trustworthy AI. The United States has begun considering AI conflicts in the hiring process such as concerns that artificial intelligence may soon be able to fill the role an applicant seeks. China has also implemented temporary measures to prevent companies from releasing AI products without first screening them for security issues. Some applications of AI include its use in chatbots, self-driving cars, smart food delivery, fraud prevention, and personalized learning. AI's quick evolution has caused experts to voice concerns regarding misuse, fraud, and scamming. Tech giants such as Elon Musk and Bill Gates, who could gain much from these developments, have spoken out about the dangers AI poses to personal security, while organizations such as the Government Accountability Office warn that failure on the United States' part to implement AI systems into the Department of Defense could set national defenses behind those of the rest of the world.

A major problem with how AI systems work is that they do not have ethics in the same way humans do. They do what they're told without question. They don't possess feelings, beliefs, or consciousness. This model has proven harmful in experiments such as Stanley Milgram's 1961 Shock Experiment and the 1971 Stanford Prison Experiment. These systems process data and make decisions based on mathematical algorithms and patterns without any inherent moral understanding. However, AI ethical concerns arise in how it is used and the decisions it makes. Because AI systems lack consciousness, they don't have an understanding of right and wrong or good and bad. They can give biased information if there is an imbalance in opinion on an issue on the internet. For example, if someone asks an AI chatbot a question about an issue, it may give an answer that corresponds with the group who has published more articles for their argument, as there is more information supporting that specific view.

While AI itself doesn't have ethics, the ethical considerations in AI technology pertain to how it is developed, implemented, and regulated by humans. Ethical AI practices involve ensuring that the data used to train AI systems is unbiased, that the technology is used responsibly, and that decisions made by AI align with human values and societal norms. Ethical guidelines and

regulations are crucial to ensuring that AI is developed and used to benefit society and minimize harm. Data protection and privacy laws are crucial for regulating AI, especially concerning the collection and use of personal data.

Some Questions to Consider: What does limiting use of AI look like? Does your country's constitution/laws already outline provisions for technology? How do the concerns raised above relate to existing legislation in your country regarding human rights, cybersecurity, and technology use? Does your country practice censorship? Could AI pose a threat to this measure of control over media in your country? Does your country regulate private entities such as AI companies? Would it make exceptions for this unprecedented development?

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the  **Country
Profiles**

Albania

Delegation: St. Joseph's Academy

Capital City: Tirana **Location:** Southeastern Europe **Population:** 2740000

Country's Leader: Prime minister Edi Rama, President Bajram Begaj

Form of Government: Unitary multiparty republic

Official Language: shqipe **Other Languages:** N/A

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Abby Eldredge, Caroline Roussel

Percent Population with Disabilities: 9% of Albania's population is disabled. About 3.7% of the population has mobility restrictions, about 2.1% of the population has mental disabilities, and about 3.2% of the population has hearing and communication disabilities.

Types of Natural Disasters: Floods, storms, sea level rise, earthquakes

Percent Population Homeless: 3.7% of Albania's population is homeless.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: People with disabilities in Albania are given equal rights and freedoms as those who don't have disabilities. The Constitution of Albania states that the government must act in favor of disabled people, including services such as health rehabilitation, special education, and living conditions. The anti-discrimination laws prevent discrimination against disabled people, whether it be direct or indirect, such as appearance, gender characteristics, and sexual harassment. This law covers work, politics, education, access to goods and services, and advertising. Though there are many things that are accessible to disabled people, the public transportation is widely inaccessible. Transportation is inaccessible because the buses that are accessible get overcrowded. Some buses are wheelchair accessible, but the buses are too overcrowded for them to be of any use. The healthcare and education are not as widely accessible to disabled people. There are some hospitals that care for disabled people, but there are many more that don't. In 2019, the Albanian parliament approved a New Employment Promotion law, which helped to get jobs for disabled people. This law helped the less privileged disabled people have the money to pay for any medical bills they might have.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Albanian government adopted a National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and Action Plan (2023-2030). This plan, although in its early stages, will establish early warning systems, strengthen emergency response and recovery systems, and prevent and respond to disasters. This National DRR will help prevent disaster and strengthen disaster risk management in Albania. We have no current information on the effectiveness of this strategy and Action Plan, seeing as it is in the new stages of its progression.

Affordable Housing Programs: In comparison to neighboring countries, Albania has an affordable housing market. The NHA – National Housing Agency of Albania, provides help to get homes running and paid for throughout Albania. The average cost of living in Albania is \$2,200 for a family of four and roughly \$620 per a single person. A typical home costs about \$1,171 which is ironic because roughly 25% of Albania's population is homeless. Albania is setting up informal settlements around the country to help with this issue but the percentage remains the same.

Andorra

Delegation: Metairie Park Country Day

Capital City: Andorra la vella **Location:** Southwestern europe, pyrenees mountains, border between france and spain **Population:** 85468

Country's Leader: Xavier espot zamora

Form of Government: Parliamentary democracy

Official Language: catalan **Other Languages:** French, and spanish

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Field Barba, Peyton Katz

Percent Population with Disabilities: around 7.2%

Types of Natural Disasters: One of the biggest natural disasters affecting andorra is avalanches, since most of the country is in the Pyrenees mountains

Percent Population Homeless: Under 5% of the population in Andorra is unemployed, having a very low homelessness rate

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: In the country of Andorra, there is no discrimination against people with disabilities. They have access to all healthcare, and education that everybody else gets.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: The country of Andorra is not often affected by natural disasters, so they don't have any specific systems in place. There are no systems in place, so they do not address it efficiently.

Affordable Housing Programs: There is slim to none affordable housing, for those below the poverty line.

Arab Republic of Egypt

Delegation: St. Joseph's Academy

Capital City: Cairo **Location:** Northern Africa, bordering the Mediterranean Sea between Libia and the Gaza Strip **Population:** 105129000

Country's Leader: Head of State: President Abdelattah Elsihi Head of Government: Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly

Form of Government: Presidential Republic

Official Language: Arabic **Other Languages:** English, French

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Claire Ann Chustz, Victoria Dekeyzer

Percent Population with Disabilities: The 2006 Egyptian census estimates that 1.4 million Egyptians live with disabilities, but the UN reports show different numbers. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) reports an estimation of 12 million (approximately 11% of) people in Egypt hav

Types of Natural Disasters: Egypt is affected by natural disasters such as flash floods, dust storms, epidemics, earthquakes, storms, dry mass movements, and extreme temperatures. Floodings result from the heavy rains Egypt receives and the coastlines are also susceptible to coastal

Percent Population Homeless: Egypt has the second-highest number of homeless people compared to the other countries in Africa with an approximate 12 million people being homeless. The homeless rate is 11.6%.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Egypt has recently put laws in place to better the quality of life for people with disabilities. These laws include Article 81 of Egypt's 2014 constitution which explains that the state must guarantee the health and educational rights of individuals with disabilities. We are aware that even with these laws, Egypt's rate of illiteracy and unemployment among people with disabilities is high, especially among females. According to a 2022 study, only 0.19% of the students enrolled in schools have disabilities, despite that approximately 12 million people have disabilities in Egypt showing that we have failed to implement this law. Article 81 of Egypt's 2014 constitution also states that public facilities should be adapted to help those with disabilities. Despite the new laws, we understand that Egypt has failed to create accommodations, and many of our spaces and public transportation systems are not easily accessible to disabled people. These conditions were only worsened after the rise of covid-19, and living in Egypt is difficult for people with sight, physical, and hearing impairments.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Egypt created the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2030 (NSDRR 2030) in 2016 in order to handle the natural disasters that affect Egypt. The NSDRR aims to incorporate the concept of the disaster risk reduction into all phases of natural disasters. Disaster risk reduction and management will be integrated into sectoral development plans. This program is fairly new therefore not much data is collected on its efficiency at handling natural disasters. Following the 1992 earthquake, Egypt developed and enforced strict building codes and specifications. The reforms in the building codes were affective in preventing further damage from natural disasters. We recognize that we do not have many natural disaster programs set in place and we plan to improve on that.

Affordable Housing Programs: Egypt launched a program in 2011 called the Social Housing Program for housing due to rapid population growth and rural-urban migration. The program's objective is to provide affordable housing with close to construction cost for low-income Egyptians. The interest on the houses are supposed to be low and paid off using long-term subsidized loans. In 2014, Law No. 33 for Social Housing was issued, and the program now includes all Egyptians, not just the one's with low income. The outcome of this programs is that 435,600 housing units were constructed by the fiscal year 2020-2021, falling short of the one million target. The overall number of households that benefited from this program is 401,769 as of March 2022. Of those that benefited, 49% belong to the bottom 20% of the income distribution. We understand we fell short of the goals set by the Social Housing Program, but the program is still ongoing and has new goals for the future.

Security

Student Ambassadors: Hannah Champagne, Kearra Grisby

Alliances with Middle Eastern Countries: Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), members of the Arab League

Relationship with Syria: The Civil War in Syria was inspired by the Arab Spring uprising in Egypt. Egypt has close political, social, and cultural ties with Syria, however diplomatic ties were severed in 2011. President Abdel Fattah al Sisi has affirmed his strong stance in support

Percent Pop Internet Access: Egypt is ranked second in Africa with the second largest online population, with 8.80 million people having access to the internet (about 72% of the population). 17 million households have access to the internet, typically people living in urban areas. Eg

Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict, Human Rights Violations: Although Egypt has close historical ties with the country of Armenia, the Egyptian president has held meeting with both Armenian leaders and Azerbaijan leaders in a display of neutrality. We understand the dangers of ethnic cleansing and the importance of a ceasefire, however we have chosen to remain neutral in this conflict. While there have been prior concerns to violations of human rights in Egypt, we are continuing to work with other countries to improve our resources. Most of the violations occur due to our crumbling economy which has caused major economic inequality, however the situation has been improving post Covid-19, and is projected to continue its steady improvement.

Syrian Civil War Aid, Humanitarian Aid History: Egypt has accepted over 153 thousand refugees from Syria, putting us 5th globally for accepted Syrian refugees. The influx of Syrian refugees has positively impacted the Egyptian economy, with many refugees partnering with Egyptian business to explore entrepreneurial routes. Syrian refugees have contributed an estimated \$800 million to the economy. While Egypt has not sent direct military or humanitarian aid to Syria during the Civil War, Egypt has sent humanitarian aid to the Syria after the February 2023 earthquakes. While Egypt does have resources such as gas and oil to supply, there is a finite amount of monetary support to be distributed due to our currently poor economic status.

Internet Censorship, AI Ethics: A top priority of the Egyptian government is to embrace AI as a part of the changing world. Currently Microsoft has an AI program called 'AI for Good' to bridge the gap between AI. The program contributes to the Egyptian labor market by recruiting local scientist and researchers and creates more job opportunities. There are no current restrictions on AI as it is not available to the public, but we do closely monitor citizens activity and information that is broadcasted to the public. There are laws that prohibit the processing of personal data without public consent, allows the restriction of data access, and informs individuals about cases of data breaches. While AI, could pose a threat to current media laws, this can easily be combatted by closer monitorization of AI, and limiting public access to it.

Argentina

Delegation: Mandeville High School

Capital City: Buenos Aires **Location:** South America **Population:** 45810000

Country's Leader: President Javier Milei

Form of Government: Presidential Representative Democratic Republic.

Official Language: Spanish **Other Languages:** English and Italian

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Kevin Drane ,

Percent Population with Disabilities: 10.2%

Types of Natural Disasters: Flooding, heat waves, and extreme precipitation.

Percent Population Homeless: 10%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: The ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities reallocated funding towards ensuring that people with disabilities are provided with vocational training and other educational programs for providing jobs. With support from the World Bank, the Argentinian government can provide a toll-free hotline where people can report discriminatory practices against those with disabilities in the education system. While they are guaranteed equal opportunity in the education system, people with disabilities are routinely discriminated against. Subsequently, the Ministry of Education has organized 35 events and workshops focused on providing educators with the tools to set those with disabilities up to succeed. The National Disability Agency has spearheaded the efforts to garner funding for those with disabilities to receive healthcare services. However, the historic lack of funding has fostered an environment in which most people with disabilities are not able to obtain healthcare services. Newer efforts currently have snowballed into creating powerful legislation that has provided those with disabilities better access.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: The Government of Argentina has the National Disaster Preparedness Baseline Assessment and the Pacific Disaster Center has been created to deal with natural disasters such as floods, wildfires, droughts, earthquakes, and volcanos. It brings together national leaders, disaster management practitioners, university and geospatial experts, and nongovernmental organizations from across the country. It has been very productive in dealing with natural disasters.

Affordable Housing Programs: Argentina is Latin America's third-largest economy with a GDP of over (USD) \$600 billion. However, the economy has frequent downturns, including periods of high inflation and unemployment. The Inter-American Development Bank has approved a \$150 million loan to enhance social integration and housing conditions in Argentina. The program will benefit more than 8,000 vulnerable households. As it exists now, there are not many programs that support affordable housing for most people.

Armenia

Delegation: Episcopal High School of Baton Rouge

Capital City: Yerevan **Location:** Caucasus **Population:** 2989091

Country's Leader: Vahagn Khachaturyan

Form of Government: Parliamentary Democracy

Official Language: Armenian **Other Languages:** Kurdish (Kurmanji) and Russian

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Jackson Ezell, Rainier deGravelles

Percent Population with Disabilities: 6.7%

Types of Natural Disasters: Sometimes severe earthquakes or droughts can affect the country

Percent Population Homeless: 0.87%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Armenia has made much progress within the past decade in terms of developing policies that would benefit people with disabilities and recently has become a very pressing issue. In 2014, a law was passed that provides funding to students with disabilities to attend reputable public schools, and hopes to achieve better educational conditions for students with disabilities are set to be met by 2025. Secondary schools in Armenia have been required to admit people with disabilities into their curriculum since 2015. Recently in 2021, a law has been passed that provides protection for people with disabilities in Armenia against discrimination by the law or by corporations and businesses. This law was adopted due to the increased amount of Armenians returning from the war with Azerbaijan with disabilities as well as from pressure from human rights interest groups, and although it provides much-needed protection for disabled Armenians, it does not address a few key issues. For one, it does not state how the law should be implemented and is ultimately up to more local lawmakers to enforce it, but guaranteeing equality to all Armenian citizens with disabilities is a major step in creating a more inclusive and equal society.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: In addition to high poverty rates, natural disasters are extremely prevalent. This combined with close living quarters makes natural disasters such as earthquakes, which occur from time to time, much more impactful and dangerous. Armenia's economic growth has been so impacted by natural disasters that it lost a value equivalent to over one billion US dollars to natural disasters from the early nineties to the mid-2010s. To add even more fuel to the potential fire, Armenia has re-opened the Metsamor nuclear power plant, which is located in an area prone to earthquakes. However, recently groups such as the World Bank, the Asian Disaster Reduction Center, and in partnership with nations like the United States, Russia, Germany, Japan, Kazakhstan, and many more nations, have been working with the Armenian government and have significantly improved its warning systems for these disasters and its response plans. Last year in 2023, Armenia simulated a disaster response drill to a level eight magnitude earthquake in Kotayk, where humanitarian corporations in association with the European Union helped in the code-named HOPE exercise. While Armenia still has a long way to go in terms of disaster relief, it is currently addressing these issues in cooperation with both Western and Eastern powers, ensuring that by the time a full policy is developed it will be multifaceted and effective.

Affordable Housing Programs: About half of Armenians live in collective housing structures. However, these houses often lack basic amenities and infrastructure. About 40% of the Armenian population live in rural areas, which have even less. The country's economy is mostly industrial. Private sectors could provide affordable housing for the workers and their families. The country already has many housing complexes that simply need to be updated. Updating these complexes could be beneficial to both the government and the residents as the buildings are extremely energy inefficient. Government funds not used on energy can be used for more housing. Armenia has also maintained relatively good diplomatic relations with the rest of Europe and could ask for support from other Western countries.

Security

Student Ambassadors: Ahebwa Muhumuza, Ryder Bond

Alliances with Middle Eastern Countries: Armenia is allied with Iran and Syria.

Relationship with Syria: Armenia established diplomatic ties with Syria upon its independence. Armenia has allied with Syria as it has supported Armenia in the face of its enemies, recognizing the Armenian genocides and condemning Turkey for aiding Azerbaijan in the conflict.

Percent Pop Internet Access: 96%

Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict, Human Rights Violations: Armenia is a direct actor in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. We sided with Artsakh, a majority ethnically Armenian enclave that has its origins in the Soviet Union controlled by Azerbaijan. We believe in its independence and support the protection of it. Armenia, being a target of one of the largest genocides in the world, believes that human rights violations should be condemned at all costs. However, Armenia also typically doesn't respond to more citizen related human rights violations such as those concerning LGBTQ people and police brutality cases.

Syrian Civil War Aid, Humanitarian Aid History: During the Syrian civil war, Armenia has supported Bashar al-Assad's regime, by sending troops and humanitarian aid. Our motivations in doing so were to protect the large Armenian population inside Syria, which Assad historically has protected, and support our allies Syria and Russia (who has supported Syria in the war). Armenia has helped Armenians in Syria by sending doctors and nurses to treat them free of charge and helping clear public areas of mines. In addition, we have sent multiple peacekeeping forces to Mali, Afghanistan, and other nations.

Internet Censorship, AI Ethics: Just as recently as 2020, Armenian internet freedom has declined significantly due to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Many news stories related to the conflict are censored and deemed "harmful to the state". Social media accounts of known Turkish supporters and influencers were also attacked and forcefully hidden from the public. Websites having Turkish or Azerbaijani domains have also been hidden from the public. Public comments criticizing government corruption are also often hidden on websites and social media sites. Armenia would certainly be against AI altogether deeming it too powerful to be used by the public. They would impose heavy limits on its use due to its ability to bypass many restrictions on information Armenia has in its internet access.

Australia

Delegation: Mandeville High

Capital City: Canberra **Location:** Between the Pacific and Indian oceans in the Southern Hemisphere.

Population: 26461166

Country's Leader: Prime Minister Anthony Albanese

Form of Government: Constitutional monarchy

Official Language: No official language **Other Languages:** English (primary language)

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Cooper Finney, Spencer Rhode

Percent Population with Disabilities: 18%

Types of Natural Disasters: Bushfires, floods, earthquakes, and cyclones

Percent Population Homeless: 0.48%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Australian citizens with disabilities have access to equal education and healthcare services. Australia mandates that all education providers must make reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities, with specific accommodations being determined by both teacher and student. However, the distribution of resources for students with disabilities is unequal, and those living in more isolated areas may struggle to find proper support. According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), 89% of school-aged children with a disability attend school, a rate equal to that of school-age children without disabilities. The majority of these children attend mainstream schools; only 12% of students with disabilities attend specialized schools. The AIHW further reports that, in 2018, 92% of Australians with disabilities saw a general practitioner at least once. In fact, citizens with disabilities accessed healthcare services at consistently higher rates than those who do not have a disability. It should be noted, however, that one in four citizens with disabilities who saw a general practitioner reported waiting longer than they considered acceptable for an appointment, and that healthcare is significantly less accessible to those with disabilities living in remote areas.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Australia's National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), established in 2022 from the merging of two separate disaster agencies, manages any necessary national-level emergency responses. NEMA works with individual states and communities to coordinate relief efforts. The agency monitors potential hazards, provides relief to affected communities, and funds programs relating to disaster relief. In addition to the country's official emergency relief agency, Australia hosts a prominent volunteer relief program, Disaster Relief Australia (DRA). In tandem, the two organizations are able to effectively address emergency relief, although the increasing severity of natural disasters due to climate change will likely necessitate expansion.

Affordable Housing Programs: Australia is currently in the midst of a housing crisis driven by inflated costs and an increasing population. The OECD reported a 78% increase in the price to income ratio index from 1980 to 2015, and the household debt-to-income ratio is 211%, as of 2023. Housing prices have begun to deflate in the last year, but the market is still unideal. In 2012, the National Housing Supply Council reported a deficit of approximately 539,000 affordable rental properties for low-income renters. The government offers numerous affordable housing programs, managed by the National Housing Supply and Affordability Council. The national budget includes significant dedications towards improving affordable housing, such as the Housing Australia Future Fund, which was established with an initial \$10 billion to fund increased housing supply. To expand available housing, the government encourages older citizens to downsize their homes and is currently exempting home sale proceeds from pension asset testing. Existing efforts are not effective enough to adequately offset housing price inflation.

Eco/Soc

Student Ambassadors: Henry L'Hoste, Sophia LeBlanc

Regulations on Waste Management, Electronic Waste: National greenhouse and energy reporting act 2007, ACT Waste Management Strategy 2011-2025, Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2007

Percent Population Male, Female, LGBTQ+: Male: 49.79% Female: 50.21% LGBTQ+: 11%

Labor Rights, Unions Regulations: Fair Work Commission, Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission, Child employment act of 2003.

Waste Management, Climate, Public Health: Energy production is the largest contributor to their carbon emissions. While Australia is trying to manage their waste the plastic is still ending up in the ocean where fish and other live animals are consuming it. The plastic the sea-life are consuming are ending up in citizens' food. The marine environment is constantly being affected by the waste entering the water which is later affecting the consumers of fish.

Social, Economical, Political Gender Divisions: In terms of work genders are not treated equally, in fact Australia is highly gender-segregated when it comes to job occupations. For salary, women have a 21.7% gender pay gap. Women have the same rights as men and women's gender equality has a tendency to be supported more. Most people in Australia do believe that women do not have the same capabilities as men in politics. In Australia most queer people experience harassment and discrimination throughout the workplace and politics.

State of Labor Rights: The Fair work act of 2009 has 10 national employment standards which include: fair pay, overtime, paid parental leave, public holidays, ect. All employees are free to join or not join a union but it is illegal to try and pressure someone to join a union.

Unions play an important role to help solve workplace issues and be a voice for employees. Employees have the right to share or not share their pay. After December 7th 2022, pay secrecy contracts included in employment contracts have no effect and cannot be enforced.

Austria

Delegation: Lafayette High School

Capital City: Vienna **Location:** Central Europe **Population:** 8956000

Country's Leader: Alexander Van der Bellen

Form of Government: Federal parliamentary republic

Official Language: German **Other Languages:** Croatian, Slovenian, and Hungarian

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Sophia Kryszewski, Ava Voss

Percent Population with Disabilities: 18.4%

Types of Natural Disasters: Extreme, long-lasting floods

Percent Population Homeless: 0.25%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: The Federal Disability Equality Act, passed in 2006, requires the federal government to ensure that measures are taken to facilitate "barrier-free access" for disabled people to participate in society. Educational services are included in this provision, and are not to be restricted to those with disabilities. Due to the Federal Disability Equality Act, discrimination against people with disabilities in everyday life is illegal.

Austria has socialist healthcare policies (healthcare is universal for residents of Austria and the EU), so adequate and affordable healthcare is available to those with disabilities.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Are there systems in place to prepare for natural disasters in your country? Do these systems address emergency relief efficiently?

There have been constructed river regulation structures, flood protection dams, and retention basins, however flooding is inevitable. These measures reduce fatalities, but damage to infrastructure is unavoidable. The national budget includes a "catastrophe fund" which both finances protective infrastructure and compensates for private households that are damaged by flooding.

Affordable Housing Programs: Since the early 20th century, Austria's capital city of Vienna has prioritized affordable housing for working class citizens. The "social housing" program combines both government ownership and private collaboration. The city government controls over 220,000 housing units and controls the development of them, evaluating proposals based on four criteria: architectural quality, environmental performance, social sustainability, and economic parameters such as proposed rent levels and costs. Incentives, such as affordable land prices and favorable loans, are offered to private developers. To ensure affordability, rent on social housing is regulated to be no more than 2-25% of household income of residents, promoting social integration by allocating half of new units to lower-income residents. This program continues to expand as about 5,000 units are being added annually, preventing class-based enclaves and making Vienna a livable city.

Azerbaijan

Delegation: Captain Shreve High School

Capital City: Baku **Location:** bounded by the Caspian Sea and Caucasus Mountains, which span Asia and Europe **Population:** 10140000

Country's Leader: Incumbent Ilham Aliyev

Form of Government: Unitary Semi-Presidential Republic

Official Language: Azerbaijani **Other Languages:** Lezgian, Talysh, Avar, Russian, and Tat

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: An'Tanaya Antwine, Emma Patty

Percent Population with Disabilities: 5.6%

Types of Natural Disasters: earthquakes, drought, and flooding

Percent Population Homeless: Roughly 12%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: The law "On the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" was passed by their government in 2018 which detailed rules for reasonable accommodation of facilities, created procedures that make sure these people are registered as disabled, and gave workplace standards to make sure they were up to par. This law was later amended to include things for education like the recognition of sign language.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: The "Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan" was established in 1920 and is the largest humanitarian organization in the country. The society's "Strategic Plan 2021-2025" defines its strategic aims in terms of disaster preparedness and response to healthcare.

Affordable Housing Programs: Azerbaijan has a high economy because of their oil exports, but it's hard for Azerbaijanis to afford housing. In 2017, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan approved the "Affordable Housing" system. The country has a State Housing Development Agency that mitigates the imbalance between what Azerbaijanis earn and the costs of real estate.

Security

Student Ambassadors: Emma Grace McInnis, Teresa Franks

Alliances with Middle Eastern Countries: Azerbaijan is a member of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and has alliances with Turkey, Iran, and Saudi Arabia.

Relationship with Syria: The Syrian Crisis has caused many tensions between Azerbaijan and Syria. Syria has sent aid to Azerbaijan's arch rival, Armenia, and this has caused many issues. The crisis is causing religious tensions and territorial tension with Syria.

Percent Pop Internet Access: 86%

Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict, Human Rights Violations: As of September 20, 2023, Azerbaijan gained control back of Nagorno-Karabakh. Azerbaijan has detained thousands of people from leaving, and have been restricting the movement of goods and services as well.

Syrian Civil War Aid, Humanitarian Aid History: Azerbaijan has not provided any aid or military support in the Syrian Civil War because Syria provided aid to an enemy of theirs. Azerbaijan has provided food, medical supplies, clothes, shelter, etc. to help displaced people with the help of USAID.

Internet Censorship, AI Ethics: Azerbaijan has censored many parts of the internet from its citizens. This includes social media platforms and media outlet websites. The country wouldn't interfere with the private sector when it comes to AI ethics as it could create many more jobs.

Bahamas

Delegation: Metairie Park Country Day School

Capital City: Nassau **Location:** Caribbean **Population:** 397000

Country's Leader: Philip Davis

Form of Government: Parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy; a Commonwealth realm

Official Language: English **Other Languages:** Creole (among Haitian immigrants)

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Manish Jain, Lance Moore

Percent Population with Disabilities: 2.88

Types of Natural Disasters: Hurricanes

Percent Population Homeless: 7

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Yes, people with disabilities have access to equal education under the Persons with Disabilities Act (Equal Opportunities) Act of 2014. This guarantees that people with disabilities have the same rights as other Bahamian citizens and residents under the law.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: There are systems in place, but there is always more needed especially due to climate change and the growing strength of hurricanes. The Bahamas is improving early warning systems and styles of communication for natural disasters. These systems will help let the public know what to before the hurricane arrives, improving the response.

Affordable Housing Programs: There are viable options for affordable housing because of space, the economy may limit the options, but it is definitely possible. The department of housing provides affordable housing to low and middle income families along with senior citizens. On the islands of New Providence and the Family Islands, low and middle income families and senior citizens are eligible for the Government Guaranteed Mortgage Loan Program.

Bangladesh

Delegation: Haynes Academy

Capital City: Dhaka **Location:** Southeast Asia **Population:** 166663000
Country's Leader: Sheikh Hasina Wazed **Form of Government:** Unitary Republic
Official Language: Bengali **Other Languages:** There are 38 total languages spoken, such as Arakanese, Assamese, Bishnupriya, Burmese, Chak and Chakma

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Ujesh Chakravarty, Dulnith Fernando

Percent Population with Disabilities: 2.8%

Types of Natural Disasters: Bangladesh suffers from floods, cyclones, storm surge, river bank erosion, earthquake, drought, salinity intrusion, fire and tsunami.

Percent Population Homeless: ~3%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: It is common for people with disabilities in South Asia to have difficulties having equal access to many facilities, notable ones such as healthcare and education. Bangladesh is no surprise. Even though there are policies which state “good health and well-being for all” under Sustainable Development Goal-3, there is lacking evidence to show “[4]that Bangladesh provides adequate and equal healthcare to the disabled. Also, there is no current action in Bangladesh for disabled people to easily access equal healthcare. In terms of equal education, Bangladesh also struggles with this. In Bangladesh, “only about 41 percent of children with disabilities of primary-school-going age (6-10 years) are enrolled in schools”. This seems to be a major problem, but an even more major problem is the percentage of disabled children dropping out in school. “The rate is lower than the national average of 97 percent, and enrolment sharply drops to 24 percent for the 11-16 age group.” 24% is despicable in a country where there are almost 200 million people in the country with 5 million of them being disabled. Because of this, we believe that the Bangladeshi government should provide more accommodations to the disabled. This would definitely fix one of its major problems.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Bangladesh, with its relatively flat surface and next to a vast ocean, is very prone to natural disasters. “More than 80 percent of the population is potentially exposed to floods, earthquakes and droughts, and more than 70 percent to cyclones.” This means that Bangladesh needs to protect itself from any harm unless things could get very bad quickly. However, Bangladesh has many programs to do just this, and it has proved to be very effective. Bangladesh is actually now known as a global leader in protecting lives from natural disasters. The ECRRP is the most notable system to help Bangladeshis from any disaster. Funded by the USA, this program was initially designed for recovering Bangladesh from Cyclones Sidr and Aila in 2007 and 2009, but is now currently in effect for future disasters. “Building upon ECRRP’s rehabilitation work, the Bank enhanced the Government’s coastal resilience efforts through the \$400 million Coastal Embankment Improvement Project (CEIP).” This is also effective in making coastal storms less impactful in Bangladesh. Also, a \$375 million Multipurpose Disaster Shelter Project (MDSP) has been effective since 2015. “MDSP, was designed to support the development of emergency response plans and cyclone shelters and emergency response plans to protect coastal residents and their livelihoods.” This also protects coastal storms from the people, mostly targeting coastal residents. DRM (Disaster Risk Management) is an example of protecting lives in the poor. We can confidently say that these systems do effectively address emergency relief.

Affordable Housing Programs: Bangladesh is the 8th most populous country in the world. There is only one notable city there, which is Dhaka. Other than that, Bangladesh is mostly rural. Even in Bangladesh’s cities, “about 80 percent of people living in Bangladesh’s cities live in rented properties all their lives, simply because most can’t access affordable mortgage finance.” The mortgage costs in Bangladesh are extremely high, which relates to the large majority of people living in rented properties. Also, “the size of the overall housing loan portfolio in Bangladesh remains relatively small at only BDT 838 billion (approximately \$9.86 billion)”, because Bangladesh’s housing sector doesn’t get much attention from banks who are willing to lend. Because of this, housing is a major issue in Bangladesh. We believe that there should be more housing in Bangladesh and funding to help people afford these houses. However, there are housing programs that try to get people off the streets. One example is Habitat for Humanity Bangladesh. This program works with volunteers and other low-income families to provide decent housing and sanitation. In the end, there aren’t many programs to help people off the streets, and we believe that Bangladesh’s government needs to fix this issue in short.

Barbados

Delegation: St. Josephs Academy

Capital City: Bridgetown **Location:** Southeastern Caribbean Sea **Population:** 260300
Country's Leader: Prime Minister: Mia Mottley President: Dame Sandra Mason
Form of Government: Parliamentary republic with two legislative houses (senate, house of assembly)
Official Language: English **Other Languages:** Local Bajan

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Raygan Irvin, Mary Savoy

Percent Population with Disabilities: 1/24 people have a disability in Barbados.

Types of Natural Disasters: Barbados experiences flash floods, droughts, small-scale landslide, earthquakes, and fires. The country's disaster and emergency management legislation are strong, but the implementation of policy and deployment of data resources are still lacking.

Percent Population Homeless: Reported in 2021 over 2.5% (approximately 7,000 people) of Barbados population are experiencing homelessness. In response to this issue, Prime Minister Mia Mottley introduced a comprehensive Barbados Economic and Recovery Transformation (BERT) plan in 201

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: -Though the Constitution of Barbados contains anti-discrimination provisions, there are no laws in Barbados that specifically prohibit discrimination against people with disabilities in employment, education, or the provision of State services. Barbados, Trinidad, and Tobago have signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, while Jamaica is the only country out of the three that has ratified the Convention. It is also the only country that has signed the OAS Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities.

-The policy established guidelines regarding the equalization of opportunities for people with disabilities, strengthened the government's capacity to address disability issues as well as to assist agencies working with disability issues and provided a context for the National Disabilities Act.

-In Barbados, the National Disabilities Unit (NDU) of the Ministry of Social Care responsible for providing services to persons with disabilities. Services provided by the NDU include community-based rehabilitation services, summer camps for children with disabilities, sign language courses, accessible transportation services and accessible computer facilities with adapted technologies. The Unit also regularly hosts a variety of workshops and seminars for persons with disabilities and their caretakers, including financial management workshops, disaster preparedness seminars and employment fairs.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Barbados created a National Climate Change Policy in 2012. This policy outlines plans to further institutional, administrative, and legislative work in both climate adaptation and mitigation in Barbados. The Green Economy Scoping Study and Coastal Risk Assessment and Management Program, among other programs, were developed to help achieve this goal.

Affordable Housing Programs:-Social and public housing schemes remain a viable option, offering housing at submarket prices to support lower-income households. Such housing options should reinforce efficient urban densification and regeneration, which reduce housing costs and their environmental impact.

Belgium

Delegation: Captain Shreve High School

Capital City: Bursels **Location:** West of Europe **Population:** 11670000

Country's Leader: Alexander De Croo

Form of Government: Belgium has a Federal Parliamentary Democracy under a Constitutional Monarchy.

Official Language: French, Dutch, and German **Other Languages:** Luxembourgish

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Anna-Claire Debroeck, Kyli Bryant

Percent Population with Disabilities: Belgium has a 6% rate of long-term severe limitations in daily life.

Types of Natural Disasters: The types of natural disasters that occur in Belgium are: floods, earthquakes, extreme temperatures, and storms.

Percent Population Homeless: There has been an increase in the number of homeless people in Belgium over the years. 58.3% of these people have experienced this for over a year.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: The people with disabilities in Belgium have a lower rate of education, 48% have a lower secondary education diploma and 14% have higher education.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Belgium does have systems in place to prepare for natural disasters. The way they address emergency relief is efficiently because they prepare well, and their task is divided into 5 different disciplines.

Affordable Housing Programs: Belgium has resources to help those in need, they have programs that have proved to have positive effects. One that proved to be very beneficial and helped people with different needs was the Housing First Projects, which helped those with mental illness, disabilities, homelessness, and addiction.

Eco/Soc

Student Ambassadors: Madison Pate, Emily Edgell

Regulations on Waste Management, Electronic Waste: Belgium has policies in place to create smaller public associations that manage waste, strict regulations on not allowing household waste to be landfilled, and have policies to make incineration and composting some of the main methods of disposing waste.

Percent Population Male, Female, LGBTQ+: In Belgium, 49% is male, 50.6% is female, and 10% is LGBTQ+.

Labor Rights, Unions Regulations: Three policies or regulations Belgium has include the Gender Mainstreaming Law, the Gender Act, and the General Anti-Discrimination Federal Act.

Waste Management, Climate, Public Health: The current state of waste management in Belgium might be contributing to climate change or harming ecosystems by not having fully given up the use of fossil fuels. Public health implications that improper waste management may be having on Belgium are pollution in the air, water, and soil. This can lead to people's health declining and the death rate going up. Pollution can also make living conditions considerably worse, making people not feel safe living in their home country.

Social, Economical, Political Gender Divisions: Belgium has many extensive laws in place to make genders equal in their country. They encourage equality, equal pay, equal opportunity, etc.

State of Labor Rights: Belgium has very extensive protective labor laws. Belgium has no laws that prevent or do not allow the joining or forming of unions. Belgium has many policies in place to decrease wage gaps between genders, races, etc. Belgium is known for giving more rights and protection to workers than most countries.

Benin

Delegation: Captain Shreve

Capital City: Porto-Novo **Location:** West Africa **Population:** 13000000
Country's Leader: Patrice Guillaume Athanase Talon
Form of Government: Executive Republic
Official Language: French, Fon, Yom, Yoruba **Other Languages:** Baatonum, Borgu Fulfulde

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Crosby Dawson,
Percent Population with Disabilities: 0.007%
Types of Natural Disasters: The natural disasters that affect Benin are flooding, strong winds, coastal erosion, and forest fires.
Percent Population Homeless: 38.5%
Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Yes
Natural Disaster Preparedness: The people of Benin have early weather warnings, mainly put in place to warn about incoming floods. They warn people in advance, so they are able to prepare for the incoming disaster.
Affordable Housing Programs: The government of Benin has launched a program to build 20,000 social and low cost housing units.

Eco/Soc

Student Ambassadors: Owen Johnson, Bella Tucker
Regulations on Waste Management, Electronic Waste: Benin has given the responsibility of waste management to the following four state agencies; The Ministry of Life and Sustainable Development, The Ministry of Environment, Housing and Urban Planning, The Ministry of Public Health, and The Ministry of the
Percent Population Male, Female, LGBTQ+: 4%
Labor Rights, Unions Regulations: The minimum wage in Benin is 40,000 CFA francs per month. Employees are entitled to paid sick leave for at least 6 months. Female employees are given 14 weeks of maternity leave.
Waste Management, Climate, Public Health: Benin produces 120.96 kt of plastic waste annually. This plastic waste can harm the surrounding environment, as well as the possibility of this waste filling the ocean and harming the environments there.
Social, Economical, Political Gender Divisions: Women have limited land rights and do not have access to contraceptives without their husband's consent. Women are able to hold a political office. Most women work informal jobs. Queer people are not socially accepted in this country.
State of Labor Rights: Workers are allowed to form labor unions with few restrictions.

Bhutan

Delegation: Haynes Academy

Capital City: Thimphu **Location:** South Asia **Population:** 727145

Country's Leader: Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck

Form of Government: Executive monarchy

Official Language: Dzongkha **Other Languages:** English, Bantawa, Nepali

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Anurup Bhakta, Stephen Bloom

Percent Population with Disabilities: 2.1% or 15,567

Types of Natural Disasters: Landslides, earthquakes, and floods

Percent Population Homeless: 0%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Since 1970, universal free healthcare has been provided, including disabled people. Each district has multiple health facilities and at least 1 hospital with the exception of Gasa. The Bhutan Education Blueprint 2014-2024 addresses education for the disabled. Access to inclusive schools with special education programs has significantly increased since 2010, although a gender difference has been shown. SEN/IE programs have increasingly tried to be equipped with accessible facilities, learning materials, and support services coordinated between communities and teachers. Accessibility still lags behind with not enough data acquired.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Prior to 2006, there were no policies regarding natural disasters. In 2006, the Royal Government of Bhutan adopted the National Disaster Risk Management Framework (NDRMF). Since then, an increasing rate of natural disasters led to the enactment of the Disaster Management System of Bhutan 2013 on 18 March 2013.

Affordable Housing Programs: As the country continues rapidly urbanizing, fueled by rural migration, more affordable housing is needed in the cities. The NHDCL, a state-owned enterprise, has been providing housing units below market prices, focusing on lower-income households. Challenges for housing in rural areas would be limited space due to mountainous terrain, lack of access to finance, and environment concerns. Options are viable for the growing urban cities. An option for relieving the housing shortage is to support the NHDCL in building hundreds of housing units, along with service centers and recycling facilities. This would immediately relieve the shortage and benefit lower-income workers.

Bolivia

Delegation: Baton Rouge High School

Capital City: La Paz, Sucre **Location:** Western central South America **Population:** 12800000

Country's Leader: President Luis Arce

Form of Government: Unitary presidential republic

Official Language: Castilian (Spanish), Aymara, Araona, Baure, Bésiro (Chiquitano), Canichana, Cavineño, Cayubaba, Chácobo, Chimán, Ese Ejja, Guaraní, Guarasu'we, Guarayu, Itonama, Leco, Machajuyai-Kallawayá, Machineri, Maropa, Mojeño-Ignaciano, Mojeño-Trinitario, Moré, Mos **Other Languages:** Joaquiniano, Kumsa, Paunaka

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Abigail Qi, Karmen Cheng

Percent Population with Disabilities: 15% disability

Types of Natural Disasters: Droughts, floods, forest fires, landslides, earthquake, frost

Percent Population Homeless: 75% homeless or poor housing, 11.1% extreme poverty

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Only 38% of disabled children go to school in Bolivia because there are not a lot of specially trained teachers and families knowing how to care for disabled children, making the children have less access to education and healthcare services (Doran). The General Law for Persons with Disabilities (2012) 223 in Bolivia aims to allow people with disabilities to have equal access to education; however, even with this law the education and healthcare services are still unequal. In healthcare facilities, people with disabilities are also four times more likely to be treated badly by medical staff than non-disabled people and are mostly denied or cannot afford treatment (Bolivians without disabilities).

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Bolivia implemented the Emergency Recovery and Disaster Management Project (PREGD) for a \$9.5 million USD project helping more than 400,000 people from five regions around Bolivia when horrible natural disasters hit in the past years (World Bank). The project also includes infrastructure to prepare for future natural disasters such as bridges and river flood walls. Law No. 602 of Risks Management of 2014 was another system established for prevention and resilience to natural disasters. The implemented systems help with preventing and preparing the people and buildings for the natural disasters giving some sense of relief to the people. Although the recent plan may not give people full relief, more plans are being implemented.

Affordable Housing Programs: Bolivia's economy is most reliant on their mining industry, but recently over the years there has been a decrease in natural gas production limiting the government to improve their infrastructure (World Bank). In spite of the decrease in Bolivia's main source of exports there are also non-profit charity groups such as "Love & Hope Bolivia" that include programs including housing. Another housing program is called "Habitat for Humanity" which focuses on helping with the growing population in urban areas by reaching out to other housing programs to create changes to the accessibility of houses. The program also helps with the self-construction of new homes and repairs to aid families with different needs (Habitat). These organizations also accept donations and volunteering which would contribute to the housing process.

Bosnia & Herzegovina

Delegation: Lafayette High School

Capital City: Sarajevo **Location:** Balkans **Population:** 3271000

Country's Leader: Denis Becirovic, Zeljka Cvijanovic, Zeljko Komsic

Form of Government: Tri-Presidential Parliamentary Republic

Official Language: Bosnian, Serbian, Croatian **Other Languages:** N/A

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Nathan Crouch, Adam Long

Percent Population with Disabilities: It's estimated that about 10% of the population of BiH have some form of disability.

Types of Natural Disasters: Major natural disasters that have affected and continue to affect BiH include landslides, earthquakes, floods, and droughts, destroying key infrastructure and hammering the Bosnian economy.

Percent Population Homeless: Figures on the size of BiH's homeless population are hard to find and not up to date, as only one census has been completed after the Bosnian War had ended. Due to this, and issues of corruption within BiH, it has been very hard for the Bosnian government

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Education and health services to disabled peoples within Bosnia are almost nonexistent, and the ones that are in place are hard to access, due in most to the country's massive stigma and social discrimination of people with disabilities. This is not helped by the gradual economic and population decline BiH has been facing for years, as a result of 'brain-drain' and difficulty to reconstruct infrastructure from the Bosnian War and natural disasters. Additionally BiH has become famous within Europe for its massive amounts of landmines and unexploded ordnance, which themselves can cause death or disability for anyone who strays too close to them.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Due to the decentralized nature of the Bosnian government, most of the logistics of natural disaster relief is carried out on the Municipal or Cantonal level, with equipment and equipment funding provided by the national government. Because of this, the natural disaster response effectiveness of the country varies heavily on where it happens. The UN is currently working with BiH to help develop more natural disaster readiness and response programs, specifically at the local level.

Affordable Housing Programs: BiH currently has a few housing programs within the country. Under the Dayton Peace Accords, residents of BiH, Croatia, Serbia, and Montenegro that were displaced by the Yugoslav wars are eligible for housing programs, but government bureaucracy has made access to those programs very difficult. There are currently some externally funded programs however, that are providing affordable housing to the homeless within BiH.

Brazil

Delegation: Central High School

Capital City: Brasília **Location:** East of South America **Population:** 214300000

Country's Leader: Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva

Form of Government: presidential system/federal republic

Official Language: Portuguese **Other Languages:** German

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Christina Cotton, Samantha Vaughan

Percent Population with Disabilities: 8.9%, or 18.6 million people

Types of Natural Disasters: flash floods, landslides, and prolonged drought.

Percent Population Homeless: 9%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Brazilian law states that children with disabilities have the right to be integrated into educational services. However, many people argue that disabilities are overlooked and that people are simply "locked away in institutions" instead of being provided services. There is room for improvement. The Brazilian Inclusion Law (or BIL) established in 2015 outlines the main objectives; the identification of barriers that impede or hinder access and permanence of children and adolescents with disabilities in school and the development of intersectoral actions, involving policies of social assistance, education, health and human rights.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: (SINDEC) The Disaster Information System in Brazil (SINDESB) is implemented to alert citizens of a natural emergency. It is up to Sinpdec to implement the established doctrine in the National Policy for Civil Protection (PNPDEC). The Sinpdec encompasses Federal Systems, States, and Municipalities. They regulate the development side of residential land and commercial use land to help mitigate flooding. Through Urban Planning, people are not allowed to build and reside in possible landslide areas. Better communication is possibly needed. FEMA's international affairs also helps to contribute to emergency relief efforts. Some preparation includes a contingency Plan ("Plancon") Registration and communication of warnings and alerts Damages and losses reports (FIDE) Emergency situation declaration Post-disaster needs report Federal Recognition of an emergency situation Response and Rehabilitation request form Work Plan for infrastructure Reconstruction. The relief/version of the National Guard could be improved to be more responsive, but overall SINDEC is highly effective.

Affordable Housing Programs: There are programs in place to help combat homelessness and make affordable housing more prevalent, but they can be improved upon. The number of homes being built for families making \$550 or less has decreased by 500,000 units. As of 2009, the Brazilian government began a housing program for low-income Brazilians. This program, called Minha Casa, Minha Vida (My House, My Life), helped over 10 million people find reasonably low housing offers over a seven-year time frame. In 2016, however, the government made production cuts to the program. Brazil does have one of the largest economies in South America, so better housing programs could be implemented.

Eco/Soc

Student Ambassadors: Josiah Kepper, Clark Truett

Regulations on Waste Management, Electronic Waste: law No. 11.043, law No. 12305, Law No. 11284

Percent Population Male, Female, LGBTQ+: 49.11 % male, 50.89% female, 8.35% LGBTQ+

Labor Rights, Unions Regulations: Protection against Discrimination, Protection against dismissal, Protection in case of business transfer.

Waste Management, Climate, Public Health: In April 2022, the Brazilian Government enacted the National Solid Waste Plan (Decree No. 11.043), establishing goals and mechanisms to modernize solid waste management in Brazil over the next 20 years. This should in turn minimize the waste management of Brazil substantially. The successful waste treatment to tons of trash being removed. However with the remaining waste being left out it has lead to many diseases.

Social, Economical, Political Gender Divisions: Data shows an average gender gap of approximately 27 percent. This means that women are 27 percent less likely to have the same opportunities as men. However queer individuals are by law supposed to have the same opportunities as non-queer individuals.

State of Labor Rights: Until recently, union memberships were required to become employed, but now they are optional. In order to join a union, one must pay an annual fee that is equal to one full day's wage. Employees are free to choose any union and are protected against union discrimination.

Bulgaria

Delegation: Lafayette High School

Capital City: Sofia **Location:** Southeast Europe **Population:** 6650000

Country's Leader: Rumen Radev

Form of Government: Parliamentary Republic

Official Language: Bulgarian **Other Languages:** Russian, Turkish, & Romani

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Marianna Harris, Calleigh Suir

Percent Population with Disabilities: 14.6%

Types of Natural Disasters: Floods, droughts, forest fires, earthquakes, landslides.

Percent Population Homeless: While the definition of homelessness in Bulgaria is rather vague and poorly documented, roughly 12.9% of the population suffers from severe housing deprivation.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Bulgaria fully promotes the rights of people with disabilities and takes priority in tackling discrimination and hate speech toward disabled individuals. Our issue here, however, is the poor quality of life that disabled Bulgarians have, despite these efforts.

Regardless of the promotion that Bulgaria has done as a nation supporting those with disabilities, a large percentage of disabled citizens are found subjected to less than adequate education, healthcare, and job stability. Bulgaria has implemented several acts and laws expanding the support and services provided to children with disabilities, but still, 1 in 5 disabled people do not finish their schooling due to a variety of issues including poor accommodations and discrimination. There are also poor living conditions and physical neglect in social care homes, which creates emotional and financial instability for those growing up disabled.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Several systems and organizations have been put into place in response to the severity of natural disasters and risks that Bulgaria faces daily. Southeast Europe is a region particularly vulnerable to climate change, thus actions must be taken to mitigate its effects immediately. The Civil Defense of Bulgaria has built an automated system to notify the population in times of natural or industrial disasters within three minutes, informing the nation and promoting safety. The Bulgarian Red Cross is also working toward recovery efforts, providing aid to those affected by catastrophes such as floods. These systems address emergency relief efficiently, but more attention is needed toward slowing climate change, as these emergencies often spring up due to Bulgaria's fluctuating temperatures and precipitation.

Affordable Housing Programs: Bulgaria struggles with homelessness and poverty, as 23.8% of the population lives below the national poverty line. This parallels the slowing economy, due to political issues the last 4 years and the ongoing war in Ukraine which has created food insecurity and job loss. The UN's "Regions in Growth" Program is the main program tackling housing issues in Bulgaria. The target of the program was to reduce poverty and segregation. The program provided some utilities and access to social and educational infrastructure to improve the overall environment. Despite these efforts, because of how many Bulgarians are living under the poverty line, housing updates and renovations are extremely difficult due to the lack of financial resources in individual households and overall. Three-fifths of households are not connected to a sewer system and four-fifths have no inside bathroom. A new updated regional program will take place between 2021-2027 in which the goals will include improving capacity, better funding resources, tackle challenges in maintenance, and to engage more with the local community.

Burundi

Delegation: Episcopal School of Acadiana

Capital City: Gitega and Bujumbura **Location:** African **Population:** 12550000

Country's Leader: Évariste Ndayishimiye

Form of Government: Republic

Official Language: French, English, Kirundi **Other Languages:**

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Ivy Anseman, Matthew Mejjaz

Percent Population with Disabilities: 15 percent of the population in Burundi is disabled.

Types of Natural Disasters: Burundi faces floods, landslides, and droughts; as well as, natural hazards like cholera and malaria stem from the poor sanitation and the environment in the nation.

Percent Population Homeless: There is no accurate data on the estimated percentage of homeless people in Burundi, but 70 percent of the population lives in severe poverty.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: The UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children indicates that individuals with disabilities in Burundi have restricted access to healthcare and education. The report identifies issues on equal services for individuals with disabilities, including inadequate infrastructure, a shortage of trained personnel, and insufficient resources. Also, it notes that lack of specialized services and physical accessibility problems make it difficult for kids with disabilities to get an education. Burundi also fails to address its lack of education for all children, and clearly, there is more work that needs to be done restructuring the educational system: as well as, financing infrastructure. Healthcare as a whole nationwide is poor due to Burundi having one of the lowest GDP per capita in the world and one of the highest corruption. The lack of monetary aid and misappropriation of funds is the root cause of this.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: The International Organization for Migration report describes Burundi's emergency relief operations and readiness for natural disasters between 2018 and 2022 as poor. The report notes that Burundi frequently experiences droughts, landslides, and floods. These disasters have displaced many over the years. With a lack of available resources, damage from disasters has been amplified.

However, Burundi does possess some mechanisms in place for natural disasters, as demonstrated by the government's efforts to set up response coordination structures and early warning systems. These systems are futile due to the lack of funding. These difficulties the pre-existing warning systems have is a lack of resources, a deficient infrastructure, and logistical limitations. The efficiency of Burundi's disaster response initiatives could be increased by investing in capacity-building programs, fortifying infrastructure, and improving funding mechanisms.

Affordable Housing Programs: In Burundi, more than 70% of people live in poverty. An estimated 60% of urban dwellers who live in informal settlements could receive financial assistance from the government, or could collaborate with private businesses to construct affordable housing. Along with cooperating on housing projects, communities could offer loans or other assistance to people looking to upgrade their houses. Given that almost 80% of informal settlements lack basic amenities like water and sanitary facilities, improving the infrastructure there may also be beneficial. Although no specific programs are mentioned, these suggestions provide viable ways to improve housing accessibility for all Burundians.

Cambodia

Delegation: St. Joseph's Academy

Capital City: Phnom Penh **Location:** Southeast Asia **Population:** 16940000

Country's Leader: King: Norodom SIHAMONI Prime minister: HUN MANET

Form of Government: Constitutional Monarchy

Official Language: Khmer **Other Languages:** Vietnamese, Lao, Chinese, Thai, and English

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Mary Ellis Beach, Emery Zeringue

Percent Population with Disabilities: The percent of disabled persons in Cambodia ranges from 2% to 9.5%, compared to the rate of disability of the world at large, which the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates to be 15%. The variance in the percentages is largely due to differences in

Types of Natural Disasters: Cambodia is one of the more disaster-prone countries in Southeast Asia, affected by floods and droughts on a seasonal basis.

Percent Population Homeless: With 37% of the population living below the poverty line, two out of three Cambodians need decent, affordable housing. One study found more than 4,000 children were homeless in seven of Cambodia's cities.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: The disabled in Cambodia face inequality and discrimination in access to education, healthcare, employment, social protection, justice, and public transport. The disabled are particularly vulnerable to violence and violation of their basic human rights. Women and girls with disabilities face additional discrimination. The United Nations in collaboration with the Disability Action Council and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities conducted a national situational analysis and assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on the rights and wellbeing of persons with disabilities, as well as a three-year recovery plan. As a result, 59,000 persons with disabilities gained access to the national cash transfer program during the pandemic. In the COVID-19 response and recovery plan, United Nations and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS) accommodated children with disabilities for their access to continuous learning, including online learning platforms, integrating sign language translation into video clips for learning, providing inclusive materials and adaptive remedial learning packages. The United Nations supported the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY) on the creation of the National Disability Identification System that identifies all those with disabilities to improve their access to social protection, social care, and livelihood opportunities. More than 60,000 persons with disabilities were identified. Through its multiple sector programs with other Ministries, including MoSVY and MOI, the United Nations alongside NGO partners, have worked with local administrative authorities and community structures to facilitate equitable access of COVID-19 vaccination to specific vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities. 80% (1,322 out of 1,646) of communes collected data on persons with disabilities for arranging COVID-19 vaccination. 125,217 persons with disabilities identified 86,479 persons (69%) were voluntary vaccinated. 17,434 out of 86,479 persons with disabilities were fully vaccinated.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: In the 2021 World Risk Report, Cambodia was ranked as one of the top 15 most disaster-prone countries globally. According to a study by the Ministry of Environment following the 2010 floods, 36% of Cambodians did not receive any information about the risk, and 72% of Cambodians who received delayed warnings. In 2013, flooding affected more than 1.8 million people across 20 provinces, catalyzing Cambodia to develop a better means of communicating impending disasters. Since its development in 2013, EWS1294, a free mobile phone service developed by non-governmental People in Need, has proven itself by successfully disseminating 774,000 alerts to at-risk EWS1294 subscribers. Over the past 9 years, the expansion of EWS1294 to the whole of Cambodia and the ability of national disaster risk management authorities to command the system demonstrates its functionality, adaptability, and replicability. In addition, People in Need has now developed an automated flood sensor named Tepmachcha, a solar-powered, GSM-enabled, sonar-based stream gauge, built on open-source technology, designed by the DAI Maker Lab with funding from USAID's Development Innovations project. If a concerning level of water is detected, the system issues a mobile alert message via People in Need's EWS1294. Not only can this information be used to warn registered families of an impending flood, but the data is also providing long term insight into patterns of water levels in Cambodia, supporting the National Flood Forecasting Centre.

Affordable Housing Programs: The 2014 National Housing Policy became the first legal framework adopted in Cambodia which attempted to define 'affordable housing.' The 2017 Policy on the Incentives and Establishment of National Program for Development of Affordable Housing established incentives for developers to build dwellings priced between 15,000 USD and 30,000 USD. These incentives include tax

exemptions and waived costs of infrastructure, such as water, sewage, and electricity. To be eligible, developers must offer a minimum of 100 housing units in the set price range, located less than 20 kilometers away from the city center and offer green and communal spaces. They are also responsible for developing and connecting all networks to the local grids. To this day, only one developer, the Worldbridge Homes Serei Mongkul development in Takmao, Kandal province, has met these requirements and has been awarded by the Ministry of Finance the tax abatements. Because housing in Phnom Penh has been developed through the private sector, upgrading projects in urban poor communities have resulted in MFI debts without adequate solutions.

Canada

Delegation: Dutchtown high school

Capital City: Ottawa **Location:** North America **Population:** 38,250,000

Country's Leader: Justin Trudeau

Form of Government: Constitutional Monarchy

Official Language: English and French **Other Languages:** N/A

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Michael Malone, Amelia Caillouet

Percent Population with Disabilities: As of 2022, 27% of Canadians, 8 million people, over 15 the age of had a disability. This number has been increasing at a rate of 5% (6.2 million people) since 2017.

Types of Natural Disasters: Earthquakes, floods, hail, icebergs, sea ice, fog, landslides, snow avalanches, tornadoes, tsunamis, storm surges, volcanic eruptions, and winter storms are the most common and most dangerous natural disasters that affect Canada.

Percent Population Homeless: There are approximately 0.061% of Canada's population that is currently facing a form of homelessness. This is an estimated number due to the number of those experiencing hidden homelessness.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: People with disabilities in Canada have no less treatment when it comes to education and healthcare than any other person in the country. Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms ensures that all people in Canada, no matter their race, sex, origin, or physical/mental, are treated the same and offered the same opportunities by the government. Along with the equality of people with disabilities, this Charter allows for the creation of laws to improve the situation for people with disabilities. Canada ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2010, after consultations with the provinces and territories, Aboriginal self-government, and Canadians – particularly those from the disability community. With ratification, Canada committed to apply the rights found in the Convention; it is also bound by the Convention under international law.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Public Safety Canada is an official government agency that is designed to detect and prevent disasters all over the country. This agency is constantly surveying and keeping track of almost every location, making sure business is running as usual. In the event of a large-scale disaster, the Government of Canada provides financial assistance through the DFAA program to provinces and territories, at their request, for eligible disaster response and recovery expenses that have been submitted by the province or territory and that exceed what they could reasonably be expected to bear on their own. Canada does have a very active emergency response team that can treat all of the most frequent disasters such as floods, earthquakes, and hurricanes. Almost all small-scale issues such as floods are handled on the municipal level, unless it is a major threat when then the national government is involved. To fund the support for these issues

Affordable Housing Programs: There are viable affordable housing options currently available in Canada for many different situations and groups of people. Specifically, Canada implemented policies for indigenous housing, which were multiple funding opportunities that supported housing centers, renovations, and other housing services. Canada has also provided many opportunities that make purchasing a home much more affordable and accessible to the general population, such as incentives for first-time homeowners, financial help when a person with disabilities purchases a home, tax credits for newly renovated homes, and subsidized housing.

Security

Student Ambassadors: Andrew Morrill

Alliances with Middle Eastern Countries: The Gulf Cooperation Council, the Global coalition against Daesh, La Francophonie, and the international Syrians support group are the Middle Eastern alliances that Canada is in. Canada is directly aligned with

Relationship with Syria: Canada has committed more than 4.7 billion in funding for the region to help aid humanitarian development and stabilization. As well they participated in the seventh conference in Brussels Belgium to help support Syria.

Percent Pop Internet Access: Approximately 93.5% of Canada has access to high-speed internet. However, by 2030, 100% of Canada is expected to have high-speed internet access.

Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict, Human Rights Violations: In general Canada's response to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is that they will not make any decisions about the current conflict. Also, they are worried about the humanitarian impact of both countries and are open to helping other countries to create a peaceful solution. Also, call on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to refrain from actions that would pose a risk to the safety and welfare of the civilians.

Syrian Civil War Aid, Humanitarian Aid History: Canada does not have a direct effect on the Syrian civil war. This is because the money it gives goes towards helping the people and the refugees as well as helping improve the safety and welfare of the civilians to avoid lives being lost. They also have given over 1 billion dollars in humanitarian aid (to what countries of you know?).

Internet Censorship, AI Ethics: My country does not censor certain parts of the internet from public access. They believe that humans have the right to access anything they would like to learn about. As well they only try to censor copyright to protect original pieces of work. Canada does not use or create any specific policies for the use of AI in the private sector.

Central African Republic

Delegation: Catholic High School

Capital City: Bangui **Location:** Central Africa **Population:** 5552228

Country's Leader: Faustin-Archange Touadéra

Form of Government: Unitary Presidential Republic

Official Language: Sango and French **Other Languages:** Ngbandi and other small tribal languages

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Charlie Jeansonne, Luke Duval

Percent Population with Disabilities: 4%-11%

Types of Natural Disasters: Floods, droughts, and storms.

Percent Population Homeless: 20%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: People with disabilities do not have equal education and healthcare services. With a high mortality rate for average people, disabled people have a very low chance of living much less having equal opportunities. Only 15% of the population are above 45 due to very little medicine and healthcare. The distribution of this medicine is also extremely difficult given the inadequate transportation system. There happens to only be one major hospital in the entire country, located in the capital city.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: There seems to be no large-scale system in place to protect against natural disasters. Floods continue to be the most frequent disaster that takes place in CAR, taking huge tolls on the country with its human and economic losses.

Affordable Housing Programs: The country's economy is severely crippled due to the lowering prices of agricultural products in the world market, the smuggling of diamonds, inflated import prices, political unrest, etc. Many of the "citizens" do not have housing or money to pay for one. With the entire country being relatively poor, there is little possibility for an affordable housing program.

Croatia

Delegation: Lafayette High School

Capital City: Zagreb **Location:** Central Europe **Population:** 3995689

Country's Leader: Zoran Milanović

Form of Government: Parliamentary republic

Official Language: Croatian **Other Languages:** Serbian

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Purba Das, Gabrielle Damico

Percent Population with Disabilities: 30.8%

Types of Natural Disasters: Earthquakes, floods, landslides, droughts, and fires

Percent Population Homeless: 0.06%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Children with serious disabilities in Croatia can access free education until they are 21. Schools provide the necessary accommodations for all children to attend. The Mandatory Health Insurance Act requires that all persons with permanent residence in Croatia must obtain health insurance. The UN also passed a resolution declaring that Croatia must take all appropriate measures to ensure that disabled people have access to healthcare and rehabilitation services.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: The Croatian Disaster Risk Reduction Platform is used to coordinate disaster risk reduction. Croatia also uses many early warning systems such as EFFIS to address fires, EFAS to address floods, and ECURIE to address nuclear threats. The Civil Protection Headquarter oversees and coordinates emergency relief. There are 21 headquarters in the country with one in Zagreb. Their past efforts have been effective.

Affordable Housing Programs: The Croatian government has multiple options for affordable housing such as housing allowances to assist low-income individuals and families with rent and housing expenses. Cheaper social housing units managed by the government are available to low-income households. Developers also receive incentives to construct affordable housing units in designated areas.

Cuba

Delegation: Catholic High School

Capital City: Havana **Location:** Central America **Population:** 11260000

Country's Leader: Miguel Diaz-Canal

Form of Government: Unitary Marxist–Leninist one-party socialist republic

Official Language: Spanish **Other Languages:** Haitian Creole, English, Lucumí, Galician, and Corsican

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Mason Christensen, Keegan Johnson

Percent Population with Disabilities: 3.2%

Types of Natural Disasters: Flooding, Earthquakes, Hurricanes, Droughts.

Percent Population Homeless: <1%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: The country's constitution prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability and recognizes the right of people with disabilities to participate fully in all aspects of society. Additionally, Cuba has a strong culture of solidarity, which often extends to people with disabilities. Cuba places emphasis on community-based services, primary care, family involvement and increased access to mainstream jobs and resources.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: weather information is broadcast on state-run television and radio continuously, including vital hurricane information in preparing citizens well in advance. In addition, all adults in Cuba must undergo a civilian defense training program, designed to educate adults on how to assist in evacuation procedures and streamline an intricate evacuation process involving the military, government, provinces and local neighborhood groups. Every May, Cuban citizens are required to participate in a mandatory hurricane drill, in which evacuation procedures are simulated and government officials are able to better identify vulnerable citizens, an important component of hurricane preparation in Cuba.

Affordable Housing Programs: Housing provision received a relatively high priority in the immediate post-Revolutionary period. Early in the 1960s, legislation was passed to provide security of tenure, to reduce rents and to transform many tenants into owners. Today, many Cubans still have a great deal of security in their housing and pay relatively little for it. Many own outright or pay only around 10% of incomes towards their homes (more like hire purchase than a mortgage). It is illegal to buy and sell housing for profit in Cuba, though residents have rights to exchange housing.

Czech Republic

Delegation: Lafayette High School

Capital City: Prague **Location:** Central Europe bordering Germany, Austria, Poland, and Slovakia

Population: 10500464

Country's Leader: Petr Pavel

Form of Government: unitary parliamentary republic

Official Language: Czech **Other Languages:** Slovak, Polish, German

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Roan Menard, Spencer Croft

Percent Population with Disabilities: About 10.2% of Czechia's population has a disability.

Types of Natural Disasters: Floods are the most common natural disasters that affect Czechia.

Percent Population Homeless: About 0.22% of Czechia's population is currently homeless.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: There are some provisions that allow people with disabilities to have access to equal education in Czechia. This includes the Sign Language Act of 1998, which guarantees free education in sign language for all deaf students. However, it lacks implementation provisions and funding is unclear, so it is up to the school to arrange funding for deaf children. The Education Act of 1984 integrates children with disabilities at regular schools and there are special schools in case the disability hinders integration. Health insurance is also protected in the Health Insurance Act of 1997, which guarantees health insurance for people with disabilities and covers some technical and medical equipment for disabled people. Health care is also freely provided for all citizens paid from taxes and health insurance.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: The Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic replaced the Czech National Committee for Natural Disaster Reduction in 2013. This ministry contains the Czech National Committee for Disaster Risk Reduction, which focuses on both natural disasters and human made disasters such as black outs. It aims to prevent and mitigate these issues through the use and development of early warning systems and increased coordination between levels of government and the private sector. They additionally educate both leaders and citizens to help further mitigate the issues. It commonly holds workshops about drought and flood relief, and closely works with the UNDRR (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction).

Affordable Housing Programs: House prices have sharply risen in the past, and many households are struggling to afford housing. It has gotten so bad that some of the population had to resort to substandard housing. The people who cannot afford housing, though, are provided with a housing allowance that allows them to be able to afford some level of housing. These people are provided with at max \$900 USD while rent prices are about \$600 USD. They have this program through the European Commission.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Delegation: Jesuit High School

Capital City: Pyongyang **Location:** Asia: Bordering China on the Korean Peninsula **Population:** 25970000

Country's Leader: Kim Jong Un. **Form of Government:** Dictatorship

Official Language: Korean **Other Languages:** Chinese, Russian

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Bradley Eschmann, Charlie Pullen

Percent Population with Disabilities: 3.4%

Types of Natural Disasters: Floods, Storms

Percent Population Homeless: 0%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Most people with disabilities do not receive access to equal education and healthcare services. Necessary accommodations are provided to veterans with disabilities.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: In 2019 North Korea adopted a new disaster management policy. The policy involves getting help from other countries and organizations. It addresses relief less efficiently than desired.

Affordable Housing Programs: North Korea does allocate housing to its citizens. It allocates available housing based on need. The homeless population consists of criminals, enemies of the state, and other outcast people.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Delegation: Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

Capital City: Kinshasa **Location:** Africa **Population:** 102263000

Country's Leader: Félix Tshisekedi

Form of Government: Unitary semi-presidential republic

Official Language: French **Other Languages:** Kituba, Lingala, Swahili, Tshiluba

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Julia Brinker,

Percent Population with Disabilities: 15%

Types of Natural Disasters: Flooding, Landslides, Volcanic eruptions, Earthquakes, Epidemics and disease outbreaks, Desertification and deforestation

Percent Population Homeless: >5 million

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Equal education opportunities for individuals with disabilities remain limited. Many schools lack the necessary infrastructure and resources that are needed to accommodate students with disabilities, which results in a form of exclusion from formal education. Additionally, negative societal attitudes and stigma towards disability are often a cause to this exclusion in mainstream educational settings. Healthcare services for people with disabilities do not meet their specific needs. Access to specialized medical professionals, assistive devices, and rehabilitation services is a myriad of times inadequate or inaccessible, particularly in rural areas of the country. As a result, a lot of individuals with such disabilities do not receive the appropriate healthcare interventions and support they are deserving of. Necessary accommodations for people with disabilities lack across various sectors. Public buildings, transportation systems, and public spaces usually don't have accessibility features such as ramps or elevators, which makes it challenging for individuals with physical disabilities to move around independently.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Although there are already a good number of systems in place that help prepare for natural disasters, they are often limited and face a number challenges. DRC's government, with the help of international organizations and NGOs, has established early warning systems and have in place disaster management plans to lessen the impact of these events. However, these systems do face a significant amount of limitations due to a lack of resources, infrastructure, and capacity. These emergency relief efforts in the DRC don't address natural disasters with efficacy. The limited funding available obstructs the country's ability to provide assistance to affected populations in time, which often causes delays in response and recovery efforts. Also, the conflicts and ongoing humanitarian crises in some regions of the country only serve to complicate the disaster preparedness and responses. Insecurity restricts access to affected areas, which makes it challenging for aid agencies to deliver relief supplies promptly.

Affordable Housing Programs: Congo has been struggling with political instability and ongoing conflicts, which have caused slow and unsuccessful economic development and infrastructure growth. As a result, fair and affordable housing continues to be one of the many significant issues for Congolese citizens. Although imperfect, some initiatives are already in place to address this problem. One such program is the National Housing Fund, which aims to facilitate access to housing finance by supplying loans at reduced interest rates. Further, NGOs like Habitat for Humanity are operating towards enhancing living conditions by building low-cost houses and upgrading existing informal settlements. The government has also enforced social housing projects that are in partnership with global organizations so that they can provide affordable accommodations for vulnerable groups. These initiatives focus on constructing apartment buildings or small houses with basic comforts at subsidized rates.

Denmark

Delegation: Haynes Academy

Capital City: Copenhagen **Location:** Northern Europe **Population:** 5900000

Country's Leader: Mette Frederiksen

Form of Government: Parliamentary Democracy

Official Language: Danish **Other Languages:** Greenlandic, German, English, Swedish

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Eva Carpenter, Keren He

Percent Population with Disabilities: 13%

Types of Natural Disasters: Coastal flooding, Earthquakes, and Tsunamis

Percent Population Homeless: 0.1%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Individuals with disabilities in Denmark have very different forms of accommodations and accessibility; however, there have been laws set in place to prohibit discrimination against people with physical or mental disabilities. "The Danish Act on Prohibition against Differential Treatment on the Labour Market" has forbidden any indirect or direct differential treatment against disabled peoples. The federal law also mandates equal access to education, buildings, communications, or any other state services. Under the terms of the act, it clearly states that the employer is obligated to take expedient measures to allow the said person to be able to participate in the workplace and have the same success rate as someone without disabilities. Even outside of regular employment and education, there are many forms of public transportation accommodating for people with disabilities. Medical or healthcare services are widely available for residents in Denmark; emergency medical treatment is free of charge. Healthcare is equally accessible for people with disabilities due to the convenience of many modern, fully equipped hospitals all throughout the country. To enforce these legislations, a parliamentary ombudsman monitors the equal treatment of disabled persons each and every year.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: There is an organization called the Denmark Emergency Management Agency which controls the planning for continuation of functions in society in the event of emergencies and disasters. There also must be emergency plans drawn up for each municipality and regional council based on their own local risks and conditions. The Minister of Defence is in charge of supporting the preparation that goes into these emergency plans by advising authorities, coordinating guidelines, and supervising any type of rescue services needed. In fact, almost all of Denmark's municipalities have created flood-risk maps specifying which areas need to more effectively prepare in the event of coastal flooding. Flood-warning systems are being consistently developed in order to respond and reduce flood impacts, to ensure extra time to adjust infrastructure such as levees and reservoirs. Some other effective systems in place to protect the physical condition of the country include the Danish Broadcasting System, Danish Meteorological Institute, and the Coasting Inspectorate; each of which are used to mitigate any long-lasting effects on Denmark. All of these systems directly and rapidly work to alleviate any effects any accidents could have on people. As a matter of fact, Denmark has allocated 25 million to address their challenges with climate change due to the rising sea levels over the years.

Affordable Housing Programs: Housing programs are available to everyone with low income households, and social housing which is open to everyone. The affordable housing sector is the largest single sector in the Danish building industry. Twenty percent of the housing stock is affordable housing; being inhabited by 1 million people out of the overall population 5.8 million people. The funds supporting the building and renovation of homes has increased over the years which has in turn created more money and jobs in the construction industry especially. Over a century ago, the nation created a national public social housing system to house everyone, not just people with low income. The main types of housing provided include: owner-occupied housing, co-operative housing, and rented housing. Owner-occupied housing allows you to own your own property with the help of a mortgage, whereas co-operative housing is operated by an association.

Djibouti

Delegation: Dutchtown High School

Capital City: Djibouti City **Location:** The Horn of Africa **Population:** 1152329
Country's Leader: Ismail Omar Guelleh
Form of Government: Unitary Presidential Republic
Official Language: Arabic **Other Languages:** French, Somali

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Isabel Apodaca, Elizabeth Monier

Percent Population with Disabilities: Around 8.4% of Djibouti's population is disabled.

Types of Natural Disasters: Volcanoes, earthquakes, flashfloods, droughts all affect Djibouti.

Percent Population Homeless: Over 35 percent of Djibouti's citizens live in poverty with about 21 percent living in extreme poverty.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: A decree was formed in May, 2011 saying that education should and will be accessible for every citizen, but it exempts parents and children who are unable to follow mainstream curriculum due to disabilities. There are also special classes provided by certain schools for deaf and blind children. Djibouti created a National Social Protection Act that gave 1.12 Million USD to individuals with disabilities per year to provide healthcare for people with disabilities. Over 6,000 disabled people were able to benefit from the health insurance that this act provides.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Djibouti underwent a National Disaster Preparedness Baseline Assessment (NDPBA) in 2022. This also created a sustainable system for understanding, accessing, and applying critical-risk information in decision making for natural disasters. The NDPBA provides Djibouti with tools and data that are essential for risk monitoring and preparing for disasters. The systems put in place effective and helpful systems for Djibouti citizens. The United States of America plays a big role in funding these programs and assessments, as well as providing aid after disasters.

Affordable Housing Programs: The International Finance Corporation (IFC) partnered with the Government of the Republic of Djibouti to implement an affordable housing option program. The organizations will select an experienced private real estate developer to create affordable small scale as well as medium-standing housing units. Then, the government has to allocate the units to beneficiaries that will be selected according to certain criteria as well as data showing the payment of monthly rents over a period of defined time. The estimated start date for this project was July, 2022 and the estimated end date is December, 2024

Dominican Republic

Delegation: St. Josephs Academy

Capital City: Santo Domingo **Location:** Caribbean **Population:** 11380000
Country's Leader: President Luis Abinader
Form of Government: Democratic Republic
Official Language: Spanish **Other Languages:** English

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Averi Truitt,

Percent Population with Disabilities: 14.45% of the population has a functional disability.

Types of Natural Disasters: Droughts, earthquakes, flooding, hurricanes, landslides, heat waves, tropical storms and tsunamis are the most prevalent natural disasters.

Percent Population Homeless: About 22.8% of the population live in poverty.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: In 2009 a new law was passed that would implement a system to add accessibility to buildings. This also added to providing access to the labor market and to "cultural, recreational, and religious activities for persons with disabilities, but the law was not consistently enforced." (State.gov) The CDMP or the Caribbean Disaster Mitigation Project has achieved lasting impacts for vulnerable communities during natural disasters, along with the Comité Dominicana para la Mitigación de Desastres (CDMD), which now offers Disaster Administration courses and continues to respond in natural disasters.

Natural Disaster Preparedness:

The DRRO (Dominican Republic Relief Organization) was founded in 2000 through charitable services to those in need of assistance in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. In 2022, The Dominican Republic received \$913,081 from a Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund of the United Nations (Joint SGD Fund), which was used to focus on people's quality of life. The DRM (disaster risk management) was developed in 2002 as a National System for Disaster, Prevention, Mitigation, and Response. This includes safety building codes, regulations, zoning laws for education and health infrastructure, and development support during disaster impacts. In 2010, The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction assessed the country's efforts with the DRM, and was given recommendations by the UN ISDR. Many committees have been made and laws have been passed to support the DRM. The UN should help integrate the HFA Priorities recommended by the UN ISDR and also implant a National Development Strategy under a National System for Disaster Prevention.

Affordable Housing Programs: Dominican Republic housing costs \$1,200, to \$3,000 for one or two bedrooms except for amenities and area. Although housing is cheap, a quarter of the population is in poverty or a form of it. Low labor wages are connected to construction costs, that way lower labor costs lower real estate prices. But in 2022, the World Bank approved a \$1.8 billion to raise the number of high-quality jobs, increase climate resilience, and improve basic public services. (Worldbank). Infrastructure has increased, and over 100,000 people in have a reduced chance of electricity losses with the help of 600 km of power lines. Direct benefits to the poorest citizens which include more than 27,000 people who have received training to enter the labor market, and a little under 9,000 mud floors have been cemented over in the 14 poorest provinces of the country. (Worldbank)

Eritrea

Delegation: Baton Rouge Magnet High School

Capital City: Asmara **Location:** North Eastern Africa **Population:** 3745000

Country's Leader: Isaias Afwerki

Form of Government: Authoritarian

Official Language: Tigrinya, Arabic, and English **Other Languages:** Tigre, Kunama, Bilen, Nara, Saho, Afar, and Beja

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Bethiel Weldeghiorghis, Josephine Robert

Percent Population with Disabilities: 4.736%

Types of Natural Disasters: Flooding, Earthquakes, Volcanic Activity, Desert Locust Infestations, Droughts

Percent Population Homeless: 2.4%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Eritrea is currently working to promote equal education and healthcare services to its disabled population. One such initiative is the 'Donkeys to School' project tasked with providing transportation for children with mobility disabilities. The Keren School for the Deaf is one of three schools in Eritrea with formal education for disabled students and recently expanded to include a boarding facility so that deaf children from lower income areas also have access to education. In 2022 Eritrea doubled its annual target of children with disabilities who were given access to education. Eritrea is also working to better healthcare to all citizens by improving sanitation across the country. 344 more villages attained an Open Defecation Free (ODF) status since 2021 allowing over 11,000 people with disabilities access to safe and appropriate sanitation facilities.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Disaster response, management, and preparation is all conducted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. Emergency relief is conducted on local levels through the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Land, Water, and Environment in conjunction with UNICEF. Despite these organizations, there is no national, formal sector of systems in place and Eritrea remains very vulnerable to droughts and water insecurity because of economic vulnerability and insufficient international aid.

Affordable Housing Programs: Despite economic troubles, the Eritrean government is making attempts to build more residential units throughout the country. In 2019 Eritrea built 50,000 new residential units but the high poverty rates nationwide leave the majority of Eritreans still with little purchasing power and no access to affordable housing.

Estonia

Delegation: LSU Lab School

Capital City: Tallinn **Location:** N. Europe **Population:** 1331000

Country's Leader: Alar Karris

Form of Government: Parliamentary system

Official Language: Estonian **Other Languages:** Russian and Ukranian

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Richelle Le, Annalise Day

Percent Population with Disabilities: 9.1%

Types of Natural Disasters: floods in densely populated areas extensive forest and landscape fires

Percent Population Homeless: 1.5%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: In Estonia, efforts have been made to ensure equal access to education and healthcare services for people with disabilities. The Education Act and the Social Welfare Act aim to promote inclusive education, allowing students with disabilities to attend regular schools with necessary support. Healthcare services are provided through the Health Insurance Fund, covering essential medical needs for everyone, including those with disabilities. Additionally, the Estonian government has implemented measures to improve accessibility in public spaces and transportation. However, challenges still exist, and further steps are needed to enhance inclusivity fully.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Estonia has established systems to prepare for natural disasters and respond to emergencies. The Rescue Act outlines the responsibilities of the Rescue Board, which plays a crucial role in coordinating disaster response efforts. The country's emergency preparedness focuses on various scenarios, including natural disasters, through training, public awareness campaigns, and infrastructure improvements. The Rescue Board collaborates with other agencies to ensure a swift and effective response to crises. While Estonia is not highly prone to frequent natural disasters, such as earthquakes or hurricanes, the systems in place aim to address emergency relief efficiently.

Affordable Housing Programs: Over the past decade, Estonia has undergone a significant housing reform, serving as a noteworthy model for Eastern European nations. With almost 60% of the population being part of housing associations, the majority are homeowners, reflecting Estonia's unique approach. This reform began with the privatization of apartments, a response to the populace's rejection of collective behavior from the communist era. The subsequent establishment of apartment associations has proven to be an effective means of organizing residential structures. The Estonian Union of Co-Operative Housing Associations, formed in 1996, has played a pivotal role in advocating for and professionalizing the housing industry, representing over 1400 members. As the country looks ahead, ensuring affordable housing remains a priority. Currently, social rental housing constitutes only about 1% of the total housing stock, and the rental sector is relatively small. To address this, ongoing efforts and creative strategies are essential, including comprehensive training programs by organizations such as the Estonian Union of Co-Operative Housing Associations, aiming to enhance the sector's knowledge base and support the growing need for affordable housing.

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Federal Republic of Germany

Delegation: Jesuit High School

Capital City: Berlin **Location:** Europe **Population:** 83200000

Country's Leader: Frank-Walter Steinmeier

Form of Government: Democratic and Federal Parliamentary Republic

Official Language: German **Other Languages:** Danish, Serbian, Turkish

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Kacey Cognevich,

Percent Population with Disabilities: 9.4%

Types of Natural Disasters: Storms, Floods, Earthquakes, and Extreme Temperatures.

Percent Population Homeless: According to Statista, 256,000 people are homeless in Germany. In 2022, Statistisches Bundesamt documented that 178,000 are temporarily accommodated.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: In Germany, regulations are in place to ensure equal access to education and healthcare for people with disabilities. The General Equal Treatment Act prohibits discrimination based on disabilities in the workplace and for education and medical care. Public schools in Germany are required to provide accommodations, such as accessible facilities, for students with disabilities. Similarly, healthcare providers, under Article 3 of the German Basic Law, may not discriminate on the grounds of disability.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Germany has several systems in place prepared to handle any natural disaster. First, local-level officers are assigned to gauge the severity of the disaster and begin clean-up/rescue operations. On the Federal level, the Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance and the Federal Agency for Technical Relief may assign military personnel and trained volunteers to assist. The mobile alert system "NINA" is also used to notify citizens of potential threats to safety.

Affordable Housing Programs: Germany has various options for affordable housing programs. Social housing assistance supports those who would not otherwise be able to afford housing, such as low-income households and families with the elderly or disabled. The German government, to promote rental options, fixes maximum rents and sets occupancy requirements. Additionally, as of 2022, the German government and the Alliance for Affordable Housing have agreed upon nearly 200 measures to build a goal of 400,000 new flats per year, 100,000 of which will be subsidized through social funding.

Eco/Soc

Student Ambassadors: James Redmann, Aidan Wang

Regulations on Waste Management, Electronic Waste: Mandatory Municipal Recycling, Deposit Refund Scheme, and Banning Plastic Bags and Single-Use Plastics

Percent Population Male, Female, LGBTQ+: 49.34% Male, 50.66 Female, 11% Non-Heterosexual

Labor Rights, Unions Regulations: Federal Data Protection Act, Paid Parental Leave Act, All Trade Unions are Allowed

Waste Management, Climate, Public Health: While Germany is one of the best countries in the EU when it comes to recycling, it still has its problems. One of these is the amount of plastic waste in Germany has actually been growing in the last 5 years, whereas in the rest of the EU the amount of plastic waste has declined. Plastic waste is dangerous to ecosystems so Germany as a country must work to cut down the amount of plastic waste we create. Currently, Germany is one of the healthiest countries in the world and improper waste management has not had much of an effect if it all in Germany.

Social, Economical, Political Gender Divisions: Women and men make very similar amounts of money in Germany. In fact, it is one of the most equal countries in the entire EU. Politically, Germany's government is still made up of a majority of men just recently Angela Merkel, a woman, stepped down as chancellor of Germany. Queer individuals are accepted by 36% of people in Germany, which is 10% below the EU average. While Germany does have some queer members of government, it is still not a large number. Queer individuals have all the same rights economically as men and women.

State of Labor Rights: Germany is one of the greatest countries in the world for labor rights and unions. Germany has many great labor rights, such as paid maternity and paternity leave, data protection, high minimum wage. and many other benefits. All trade unions are allowed in Germany and there are no restrictions on trade unions. A new law (EntgTranspG) was just passed in Germany assuring that all men and women's wages were equal and there are no legal protections or barriers to sharing wages.

Federal Republic of Somalia

Delegation: Catholic High School

Capital City: Mogadishu **Location:** Africa **Population:** 12693796

Country's Leader: Hassan Sheikh Mohamud

Form of Government: Federal parliamentary constitutional republic

Official Language: Arabic, Somali **Other Languages:** English, other small tribal languages

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: DJ Sterling Jr., Maverick Arvel

Percent Population with Disabilities: 5%

Types of Natural Disasters: Floods, Droughts, Famine, and Typhoons.

Percent Population Homeless: 29.6%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: No, as it stands the Somalian government limits and in some cases takes away the ability to learn and receive healthcare for the disabled. Mainly due to a low GDP and high poverty.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Yes, the SoDMA or the Somali Disaster Management Agency will help respond to a crisis or help citizens prepare for a natural disaster.

Affordable Housing Programs: No, the Somali economy is in absolute shambles no such program could exist with Somalia's current economy and its stagnant state.

Eco/Soc

Student Ambassadors: Jonathan Mekari, Graham Waguespack

Regulations on Waste Management, Electronic Waste: Waste is mainly collected in dumping holes dug outside the towns and cities. There are rules and regulations that forbid dumping of used motor oil in to the sea or near the ports. In general Somalia does not have a recycling program in place.

Percent Population Male, Female, LGBTQ+: Male – 52.2%, Female – 48.8%, LGBTQ – N/A (outlawed)

Labor Rights, Unions Regulations: Somalia has none so N/A

Waste Management, Climate, Public Health: Lack of recycling and law enforcement results in more pollution, especially when it comes to trash in the Arab/Red Seas. Food poisoning from fishing in polluted water/less available wildlife from land pollution. Somalia has no laws currently on the climate meaning cars will still be pumping chemicals into the air. Same with chemical plants and other harmful production centers. All of these factors raise cancer rates in our country and make life very difficult.

Social, Economical, Political Gender Divisions: According to Georgetown, Somalia, ranks 169/177 countries for the women peace and security index. Their score is .417/1 which very bad. Being LGBTQ is illegal and discrimination against LGBTQ members is unrestricted. LGTQ members are also culturally discouraged.

State of Labor Rights: Workers can be forced to work overtime, not have their healthcare paid by their employer, and be dismissed without noticed, all of which are legal. Labor rights are very limited (which is what caused the biggest Somali union). Also, child labor runs rampant and is not prohibited Sexual trafficking and forcing children to fight in wars is also included. 40% of Somali children are in child labor.

Federated States of Micronesia

Delegation: Woodlawn High School

Capital City: Palikir **Location:** Oceania **Population:** 113131

Country's Leader: Wesley Simina

Form of Government: A federal republic with a president and parliament

Official Language: English **Other Languages:** Chuukese, Pohnpeian, Yapese, and Kosraean

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Taylor Albert, Trenen Prater

Percent Population with Disabilities: 15% of Micronesia's population has a disability.

Types of Natural Disasters: Micronesia is prone to various natural disasters, including typhoons, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and tsunamis.

Percent Population Homeless: 15% of micronesians population is homeless but there are no shelters so they move out to places like Hawaii to get homelessness benefits.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: There are implementations in place that Micronesia is supposed to follow but we do not follow the rules all the way through. There is no providing special education and related services for children with disabilities. Micronesia has gotten in many legal issues with not providing this for their students and they get funding for it. Necessary accommodations provided to allow these programs to exist are there, but Micronesia does not do this. Disabled people are given the same opportunity the same as others but they do not receive any accommodations as they are supposed to under IDEA and through the funding given to them by IDEA. Micronesia does not have any reported hate crimes on disabled people.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Yes Micronesia has a system for emergency relief if a natural disaster were to take place. This system is called the USAID/BHA help with life-saving activities in response to natural disasters. The thing about USAID and BHA is they are not based in Micronesia. USAID and BHA are located in the United States. So if there were a natural disaster that were to happen it would take a while to relieve those who live out there. When a natural disaster comes Micronesia depends heavily on the United States to help them prepare and restart after a natural disaster. So Micronesia is not the most prepared country when it comes to natural disasters.

Affordable Housing Programs: Micronesia's economy is limited to only commercial fishing and that is it. We get all of our money from commercial fishing. With 41.2% of Micronesia's population living under the poverty line and only depending on commercial fishing to make all the money there is no money to go around. The average income for one person is \$3,950 per person and there has been no growth in the past 10 years. The average family is 6-10 kids per two parents. This island is heavily dependent on child labor from their kids and these kids work young with barely any time for school. There are affordable housing programs in place in Guam only but not the rest of Micronesia.

Fiji

Delegation: Dutchtown Highschool

Capital City: Suva **Location:** South Pacific Ocean **Population:** 924610
Country's Leader: Wiliame Katonivere
Form of Government: Parliamentary Democracy
Official Language: Fijian, Fiji Hindi, and English **Other Languages:** N/A

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Kaia Bourgeois, Vivian Piestrzynski

Percent Population with Disabilities: According to The Government of Republic of Fiji's Mid Term Review of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population Development 13.7% of Fiji's population is disabled which is around 113,595 people.

Types of Natural Disasters: Natural disasters that affect the country Fiji are rising sea levels, floods, and landslides, tropical cyclones and tsunamis.

Percent Population Homeless: One in every ten is homeless in Fiji and 31% of the population is under the poverty line.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: People with disabilities in Fiji do have access to equal education and healthcare services this was not always the case but recently efforts have been made to be inclusive to all people. Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons (FNCDP) Act. The primary functions of FNCDP are to serve as a coordinating mechanism on disability matters, formulate national disability policies, develop plans, procure funds to support disability services, conduct relevant seminars/workshops, raise better community awareness on disability issues, mainstream disability concerns into government activities, and promote disability prevention measures. Fiji has ramps, handles, accessible toilets, automatic opening doors, and telephones at convenient heights for disabled persons. There are also educated disability care workers, special education teachers, and traditional healers.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Fiji has systems in place to prepare for natural disasters. They have a National Disaster Awareness Week where they prepare and educate everyone about the disaster and the cyclone season. These systems can help prepare the country for disasters and their responses. As little as 10-20 days post-disaster, the government can secure an agreed amount of funds and quickly allocate resources to priority areas for relief and recovery measures.

Affordable Housing Programs: Fiji has a high human development index, contributing to its rather strong economy. There are viable options for affordable housing programs including the First Home Ownership Initiative in 2014. The First Home Ownership Initiative has assisted close to 3760 Fijian households. To apply for affordable housing you need to be a Fiji citizen, above 18, and never previously purchased or owned a home in Fiji. Anyone with a total household income of \$100,000 or less may apply.

Finland

Delegation: Dutchtown High School

Capital City: Helsinki **Location:** Finland is part of Scandinavia, a region in Northern Europe.

Population: 5549886

Country's Leader: Sauli Niinistö

Form of Government: Parliamentary Republic and Unitary State

Official Language: Finnish and Swedish **Other Languages:** English

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Makenzie King, Allie Nichols

Percent Population with Disabilities: According to Statistics Finland, 12.9 percent of all persons aged 16 or over belonging to the household population experienced severe activity limitations in 2022. There were around 580,000 persons with severe activity limitations.

Types of Natural Disasters: Major natural disasters such as tornados and typhoons are practically non-existent, but the country has not always been immune to disasters triggered by weather and climate. Finland is prone to some natural hazards such as snowstorms, heavy rainfall, and

Percent Population Homeless: The number of homeless people in Finland has continuously decreased over the past three decades from over 16,000 in 1989 to around 4,000. Finland was determined to have the 10th lowest rate of homelessness in Europe, with a rate of homelessness at 0.08% o

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: According to the Social Insurance Institution of Finland, "disabled person means a person who, due to an injury or illness, has long-term special difficulties in performing normal life activities (Disability Services and Support Act)". In addition to benefits, also services are provided to all citizens or residents on an equal basis. Special services tailored to the needs of persons with disabilities are provided per the Act on Services and Support for the Disabled and the Special Care Act for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities. Finland has many special services for people with disabilities. Such services include, for example, transport services, assistive devices, or personal assistants. The aim is to facilitate participation in society and life with a disability. "In Finland, as in many member states of the European Union, the number of persons in the labor market has been decreasing through trade cycles as well as through demographic changes... there will be a growing need for the input of persons with disabilities in the labor market in the future". Finland is working on creating a state-owned company, Work Channel, to aid the employment of disabled people and people who are disadvantaged. It is set to start operations in 2022. The Finnish government is set to establish a Work Ability Program that aims to focus on disability groups and help them find employment to increase the employment rate in Finland to 75% by 2025.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: In Finland, Rescue Services operate under the Rescue Act (379/2011) and other similar acts. The Department for Rescue Services at the Ministry of the Interior is in charge of the organization of rescue services at a national level, guides and directs rescue services, and coordinates the activities of various ministries and sectors in the field of rescue services and their development. The Department also makes decisions about international assistance. There are 22 independent regional rescue departments in Finland that provide urgent help in the event of an accident or natural hazard. Annually, the rescue services carry out approximately 100,000 rescue missions. Volunteer fire brigades, contracted with regional rescue departments, play an important role in the rescue services system. They contribute to firefighting and rescue operations and participate in approximately 60% of annual rescue service operations. In addition, 53 different voluntary organizations support the national rescue services authorities in Finland. Finland's main early warning system in the field of natural disasters, The LUOVA system, is a service for authorities that provides natural disaster warnings both in Finland and abroad. Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI) works as LUOVA's main information provider and produces real-time situation awareness pictures with comprehensive information on dangerous weather, floods, and earthquakes among other things.

Affordable Housing Programs: In Finland, affordable social housing is mainly provided by municipality-owned companies and a few nationwide non-profit organizations. The production is financed through interest subsidy loans granted by a commercial bank or other financial institutions. Finland is known across the world for its work to end homelessness via its Housing First policy. The country's 0.08% rate of homelessness has been in the news for some time. The biggest cities in Finland have for a long time had a principle of ensuring that 25% of new homes are affordable social housing apartments.

Eco/Soc

Student Ambassadors: Alexa Odell, Sarah Degruise

Regulations on Waste Management, Electronic Waste: Finland's major policies or regulations on waste management and electronic waste include the Waste Act, the Environment Protection Act, and the Waste Decree.

Percent Population Male, Female, LGBTQ+: Finland's population is 49% male and 51% female. 10-20% of the total population is part of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Labor Rights, Unions Regulations: Finland's major policies or regulations on labor rights and unions include allowing employers to employ workers for a long time yet pay only for the number of hours worked in a week, looking after their members' interests and promoting the interests of em

Waste Management, Climate, Public Health: Current waste management in Finland may be contributing to climate change or harming ecosystems through greenhouse gas emissions each year slowly increasing in amount. According to the SGI network, greenhouse gas emissions grew by 2% from the previous year to a total of about 56.5 million tons of carbon dioxide being emitted from Finland each year despite the Waste Act, the Environment Protection Act, and the Waste Decree. Furthermore, improper waste management affects public health in Finland at a minimum and has very little impact on the community but this may change in the future. To conclude, Finland has very little improper waste management resulting in a minimum of health implications.

Social, Economical, Political Gender Divisions: Throughout Finland women and men are equally represented socially and politically. However, economically, there is a 16% pay gap. This means that men are paid more than women in the average workplace. Although the pay gap is concerning Finland is a prime example of equality for most countries. Additionally, queer individuals are currently treated with equality and have been legal throughout the country since 1971. Overall, the LGBTQIA+ community in Finland maintains social, economic, and political rights despite who they are. Overall, the citizens of Finland are treated with equality regardless of gender or sexuality.

State of Labor Rights: Labor rights throughout Finland consist of remuneration following the collective agreement and other minimum purvey. Therefore, the payments throughout Finland are always fair and deserving towards workers when it comes to race, sexuality, and several other aspects. Finland began this in 2020 when the Hours of Work Act was passed. This creates the maximum number of hours working 8 hours a day and 40 a week to ensure every citizen is well-rested regardless. To conclude, citizens in Finland are treated fairly and correctly in the workplace.

France

Delegation: Mandeville High

Capital City: Paris **Location:** Western Europe **Population:** 67750000
Country's Leader: Emmanuel Macron
Form of Government: Parliamentary Democracy
Official Language: French **Other Languages:** English, Spanish, German, Italian

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Chloe Brackett, Camille Christopher

Percent Population with Disabilities: 5.95% of the population are disabled

Types of Natural Disasters: Floods, landslides and storms are common natural disasters, summer also brings heatwaves, forest fires, and droughts. Southern France experiences earthquakes and volcanic activity.

Percent Population Homeless: .5% of french people are homeless, a number that has more that doubled since 2020.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Disabled people can claim up to 13000 euros a month with no age limit on the person receiving the funds. French law sets an employment obligation quota of 6% of disabled workers for any employer with at least 20 employees.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: There are systems in place for natural disasters. French policy on managing major hazards aims to make persons and property less exposed and less vulnerable aims to prevent damages, reduce impact, and make an easier aide in helping recover damages. These systems do address emergency relief in an efficient manner and do not run a fiscal risk.

Affordable Housing Programs: Yes there are affordable programs. You can apply to rent a home known as a social housing or "logement social" also known as an "HLM". This is rent-controlled housing that is usually much more affordable than private housing. In France, social housing, or housing permanently guaranteed: testing to be affordable for families with low and moderate incomes, is managed by local government authorities, nonprofit organizations, or private-public partnerships. The SRU originally required that most urban municipalities ensure at least 20 percent of their overall housing stock was social housing by 2020. In a 2013 reform, this requirement was increased to 25 percent by 2025 by communities in which more than half of the French population lives.

Eco/Soc

Student Ambassadors: Bailey Finnan, Brayden Pursell

Regulations on Waste Management, Electronic Waste: France is one of the world's leaders in terms of effectively limiting electronic waste within its community, recently passing a bill which enforces a reparability index. This gives consumers a color coded system by which they can see how difficult it woul

Percent Population Male, Female, LGBTQ+: France has a ratio of 93 males to 100 females. The male population accounts for 48.33% and the female population accounts for 51.67%. The LGBTQ+ community accounts for roughly 11% of the population.

Labor Rights, Unions Regulations: France has passed an Anti-Discrimination Law in which, much like the United States, there is an active protection against discrimination upon an individual based on their individual sex life, sexual orientation, age, family situation, non-membership of an

Waste Management, Climate, Public Health: The current state of waste management in France shows that there has been an advancement in reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 13%, and pollution from industrial facilities and urban-wastewater treatment plants has declined; however, diffuse sources like agriculture and transport have not improved as of late. As a result of this, soils are subject to severe pressures resulting in erosion, a decline in biodiversity, and the country as a whole being highly exposed to natural and technological hazards that are being exacerbated by climate change. From these waste management issues, many public health organizations have formed to help prevent any serious issues such as the The National Institute for Research and Safety and the National Institution for the Industrial Environment and Risks.

Social, Economical, Political Gender Divisions: Socially: There is a lot of oppression amongst French women due to policies enforced by the Prime Minister, Gabriel Attal.

Economically: nearly all French women participate in paid labor. This is leading to more dual career families.

Women generally earn less than men and hold more insecure jobs as of late, subsequently employment for women at 19% which is much higher than men.

Politically: About 41% of women made up the national assembly back in 2016. This number has dropped to 37.8 percent as of 2022. Just this year France just had their first openly gay man to serve as prime minister.

State of Labor Rights: The labor laws in France are really strong and Healthy making it very hard to terminate employees. Compared to other countries, France has one of the strongest in the world.

The vast majority of French employees are protected by collective bargaining agreements—even if they don't belong to a trade union. Collective bargaining agreements are one of the most important aspects of the French labor code. France also has a specific trade union section that focuses on the trade union to make sure that the people are protected

Security

Student Ambassadors: Krista Miller, Jamari Rothe

Alliances with Middle Eastern Countries: France has strong alliances with Palestine and Israel, as they were one of the first countries to recognize Israel as a new state and establish diplomatic relationships in the 1940s. They also have a challenging, but strong, partnership with the United Arab Emirates.

Relationship with Syria: France does not currently have a strong relationship in Syria, as since 2012 they have ceased official contact with authorities and closed their embassy in Syria as well.

Percent Pop Internet Access: 92.6% of France has access to the internet.

Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict, Human Rights Violations: France has been publicly allocating funds to the Armenian cause and people since 2013, openly showcasing their support for their rebellion, and bringing financial support to refugees and for humanitarian needs. Foreign ministry has publicly stated the claim that "France calls on Azerbaijan to immediately cease its offensive and return to respect for international law," as well as the fact that "It will hold Azerbaijan solely responsible for the fate of the civilian populations of Nagorno-Karabakh." They have very publicly sided with Armenia in this conflict, which is a direct reflection of their typical response to human right's violations: to protect and provide support for those violated. They repetitively provide financial and humanitarian assistance to those harmed by other foreign powers, while also aiming to maintain peace and stability internationally.

Syrian Civil War Aid, Humanitarian Aid History: France announced financial contributions to the Syrian conflict at the Brussels III Conference in 2019, which would provide aid for countries hosting Syrian refugees, help the refugees, and overall respond to the humanitarian crisis in Syria. They do this through the framework of the European Union and stand alongside the Union as they also provide financial support to allow for transportation of humanitarian assistance. France has a commitment to providing humanitarian aid to foreign countries, and in 2018 entered into a plan that would triple the amount of financial aid they were providing to outside conflicts, whether they were directly involved or not, to induce a feeling of peace and stability. They were also heavily involved in the conflict with Ukraine, providing emergency funding to respond to the emergency, yet never sending military aid.

Internet Censorship, AI Ethics: "Freedom on the Net" consistently declares France as a country with internet freedom, and the only thing regularly censored is pornography and websites that promote terrorism. They currently have no sanctions for the use of AI, but instead agree with other foreign nations to regulate the application and not the existence of AI technology, feeling it the responsibility of the department it is being used in to regulate its own code of conduct. The France strategy for AI is titled "AI for Humanity," in character for this country, and includes an ethical framework for the use of AI, an open data policy, and improved AI education. This strategy creates a National Digital Ethics Committee to oversee AI usage and verify its moral and ethic values, therefore implying that France will interfere with the private sector when it comes to AI ethics as this committee has plans to extend its reach and oversight in further sectors than it currently oversees.

Guatemala

Delegation: Lafayette High School

Capital City: Guatemala City **Location:** Central America **Population:** 17.11

Country's Leader: Bernardo Arévalo

Form of Government: Constitutional Republic

Official Language: Spanish **Other Languages:** N/A

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Lu Islam, Mya Mouton

Percent Population with Disabilities: 10.2% of Guatemala's population have disabilities.

Types of Natural Disasters: Natural disasters that affect Guatemala include earthquakes, volcanic eruptions (and their associated hazards such as ash, lava flows, etc.), landslides, floods, tsunamis, tropical storms and hurricanes, and forest fires.

Percent Population Homeless: 43.8% (7.5 million) of the country's population is currently homeless. 50.2% of the population live under the poverty line.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: After identifying that only 10% of kids with disabilities finished elementary school, Guatemala had adopted policies on inclusive education and resources for kids with disabilities. Guatemala shifted their focus in schools, in order to focus on inclusivity in schools. The country created special education centers and many inclusive schools were opened up. After Guatemala realized this great disparity they passed the Law on Care for People with Disabilities (1996). The purpose of this act was to grant those with disabilities equal opportunities specifically in education, health and work. Guatemala sought to establish equality but also setting up a National system for social information that included regular health check up on children under 5 and making sure children under 15 were attending schools. These programs had a focus on children with special needs, ensuring equality from the beginning. More recently Guatemala passed the Ministerial Agreement 2815 of September 2019. This act also sought to encourage equality but with a focus on teacher training, care for parents, and helping kids with special education needs whether they were disabled or not. This program also created resources centers for all inclusive education and promoted inclusive education nationally.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: To address the issue of natural disasters, Guatemala adopted the National Program for Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (NPDPM). The World Bank Group (designed to reduce poverty by lending money to poorer members/countries) approved the Guatemala Disaster Risk Management Development Policy Loan to increase Guatemala's ability to quickly obtain resources needed before and after a natural disaster. This was designed to support the implementation of Guatemala's disaster prevention program. The loan also includes a Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Option (CAT DDO), which offers immediate financial resources that helps manage the crisis before it happens, as well as the aftermath. This mechanism gave the Guatemalan Government access to 85 million dollars to respond to the impacts. This system allowed the government to aid those who were struggling after a catastrophic event and to implement strategies that prevented damage from disaster. After the Pacaya Volcano Eruption and Tropical Storm Agatha, the loan given by the World Bank Group helped to attend to the needs of more than 910,000 citizens who had been affected by these events.

Affordable Housing Programs: Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit organization that builds safe and affordable homes for families to live in. They do this through the use of volunteers, efficient building methods, modest size houses, and no profit loans. In November, they marked a major milestone of building 75,000 homes in Guatemala. Guatemala's gross domestic product is around 85.99 billion dollars and 1.3 million dollars of government spending is allocated to infrastructure. Because an average house costs \$90,000, Guatemala's economy would not be able to sustain affordable housing programs unless more money was allocated to infrastructure.

Eco/Soc

Student Ambassadors: Jacelyn Vaughan, Avery Deaville

Regulations on Waste Management, Electronic Waste: Guatemala has the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN), "Hidroeléctrica Río Las Vacas" that generates 100% clean energy from the Las Vacas River, and a non-profit called "E-Waste de Guatemala" that collects e-waste to be recycled abroad.

Percent Population Male, Female, LGBTQ+: Guatemala is composed of 49.28% male to 50.72% female. There are currently no statistics on the number of LGBTQ+ people in Guatemala, as many will face extreme challenges, both from the public and the government, for identifying as LGBTQ+.

Labor Rights, Unions Regulations: There are laws in Guatemala protecting against women being fired for becoming pregnant, laws to protect people who join unions, and laws to secure a minimum wage. However, many of these laws are ignored by companies and the courts.

Waste Management, Climate, Public Health: While Guatemala is currently taking steps with MARN to enforce higher standards of a clean country, this is a very new program, only started in 2021. There is very little education about e-waste and electronic pollution, with no national programs to help education or stop it. This leads to lots of people improperly getting rid of electronics in bodies of water or in the streets, exposing the people to toxic chemicals that many of them are not aware of. Guatemala is currently the most polluted country in North America and the 16th most polluted country in the world. Pollution is very dangerous, and it takes an average of 2.4 years off of the life of citizens, making pollution the #3 threat to life expectancy of Guatemalan residents.

Social, Economical, Political Gender Divisions: The gender gap in the country of Guatemala is displayed in many areas of the government, society and economy. Women run fewer businesses, own less property and have a harder time getting education and employment. Statistically, only “37 percent of women participate in the formal labor market (as opposed to 85 percent of men), 27 percent own their own business, and 28 percent have access to financial markets (as opposed to 66 percent of men)” Women also suffer societal injustices that are specific to their gender. According to the Public Ministry, “violence against women is the most commonly reported crime in Guatemala with 51,906 complaints filed in 2018.” Women and members of the LGBTQ+ community are also at greater risk of sex trafficking and violence. Specific discrimination is faced by members of the LGBTQ+ community as well, with no protections being put in place to stop it as well as gender change being illegal and transgender people being banned from military enlistment.

State of Labor Rights: While there are some formal labor laws on the books in Guatemala, they are very rarely enforced. The Guatemalan minimum wage is Q52 a day, or about \$6.27 USD per day, \$180 USD per month. The basic cost of living in Guatemala is an average of \$389 USD per month, far above the minimum wage. Over 40% of citizens are paid below the minimum wage, despite this being promised to them. Women are paid 24% less for the same work on average as men, and are commonly fired for becoming pregnant, even though it should be a protected right. Employers will also routinely give forced pregnancy tests to women. Citizens are told that they should have the right to join a union, but many are blacklisted, intimidated, threatened, and flat-out fired if their employers learn of their involvement. Employers are able to immediately dismiss any employees who participate in a strike, violating the right to association. There have been over 40 labor activists murdered since 2006, and many of their deaths were never properly investigated. Guatemala is currently the 2nd most dangerous country in Latin America for trade unionists.

Iceland

Delegation: Haynes Academy

Capital City: Reykjavík **Location:** Europe **Population:** 372520

Country's Leader: Guðni Thorlacius Jóhannesson

Form of Government: parliamentary democracy

Official Language: Icelandic **Other Languages:** English, German, Danish, French, and Spanish

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Riya Reddy, Ryan Pham

Percent Population with Disabilities: 10%

Types of Natural Disasters: Storms, floods, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides and avalanches

Percent Population Homeless: 0.09%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Yes, people with disabilities are given access to equal education and healthcare. Upper secondary levels in schools are required to give students with disabilities or difficulties with socialization or emotion any needed special instruction, study support, assistance, or facilities. There are no separate upper secondary schools for the disabled, but there are separate pre-primary schools for children between 0-5 years of age. The State Diagnostic and Counselling Centre, Icelandic Association of the Visually Impaired, the National Hearing and Speech Centre, and the Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Unit of the National Hospital work together to ensure that each student with disabilities receives proper diagnosis, treatment, and support.

In Icelandic law, it is prohibited to discriminate against people with disabilities, and this applies to healthcare as well. Hospitals must include elevators and/or ramps. Treatment, unless otherwise necessary, is to be the same for all patients regardless of disability.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Iceland has many different systems in place to prepare for natural disasters and is known for having one of the best hazard prevention systems in the world. For starters, Iceland's infrastructure is built to withstand catastrophic events including earthquakes, landslides, and volcanic eruptions. Iceland's emergency response teams are also highly skilled and able to rescue people during floods and storms. There are also evacuation centers built out of very sturdy materials to house people during severe emergencies. Iceland's public warning system is made to message people through text based on their locations to see if they are affected by the hazard approaching. Avalanche nets are also used to stop severe avalanches similar to how levees protect Louisiana from hurricanes.

Affordable Housing Programs: There are many viable affordable housing programs available, especially for those with disabilities or who need financial aid. Offices, such as the Organisation of the Disabled in Iceland and the Social Insurance Administration help provide housing for those with disabilities as well settling residency and housing matters. Since June 2017, The Affordable Housing Project for Young Adults and First-Time Buyers has been part of Reykjavik's Housing Act. In this project, eight companies work to create affordable building lot allocations. These eight companies are selected via an open competitive process. Other projects that work to provide affordable housing to those across the country include the Village EcoCompany in Gufunes, Vaxtarhus on the Seamen's College Lot, Investis in Kjalarnes, and HOOS in Skerjafjordur. Combined, these projects will create up to 339 new units as well as 5 apartment buildings and multistory buildings with 52 apartments each.

India

Delegation: Haynes Academy

Capital City: New Delhi **Location:** South Asia **Population:** 1436483005

Country's Leader: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

Form of Government: Parliamentary democracy

Official Language: Hindi and English **Other Languages:** Bengali, Marathi, Urdu, etc.

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Rahul Mavadia , Anashe Gaseller

Percent Population with Disabilities: Approximately 2.2% of India's population is affected by disabilities.

Types of Natural Disasters: India's major natural disasters consist of: cyclones, droughts, floods, earthquakes, fires, landslides, and avalanches.

Percent Population Homeless: The homeless population of India is 0.15%.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: India recognizes that people with disabilities are often at a disadvantage considering 45% of disabled people in India are also illiterate. However, in the past decade India has been pushing to improve the situation and aid citizens with disabilities in gaining equal access to education and healthcare services by creating acts and laws such as: the Right of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016, the National Education Policy (2020), and the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) program. Yet some areas lack the proper infrastructure and adequately trained professionals required to accommodate and assist disabled people in receiving these services.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: As India is one of most disaster prone countries in the world, being victim to floods, earthquakes, droughts etc. India has placed much importance on disaster preparedness and recovery not only within India, but also of the entire region as India has provided a substantial amount of foreign disaster relief. There are many systems in place for a multitude of natural disasters that can occur in India. The two major departments in place to prepare for natural disasters are the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), the world's largest rapid reaction force dedicated to disaster response. As these two departments do work hard to prepare for emergencies and emergency relief, some problems do arise because of miscommunication and poor infrastructure.

Affordable Housing Programs: As India is one of the most densely populated nations in the world, there have always been housing issues especially for economically low-income households. In 2018, there was a 54% in urban housing shortages since 2012. However, due to India's fast growing economy new programs and acts have been put into place to create affordable housing. A major focus on affordable housing is Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), a slum redevelopment program seeking to provide better housing conditions for slum dwellers and integrate redeveloped slums into regular housing complexes.

Eco/Soc

Student Ambassadors: Aima Shahid, Kaci Cook

Regulations on Waste Management, Electronic Waste: Three of India's major policies regarding waste management and electronic waste are Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, the Environmental Protection Act of 1986, and the E-Waste Management rules.

Percent Population Male, Female, LGBTQ+: India's male population is 51.59% as of 2022 compared to their female population of 48.41%. About 10% of India's population is constituted by the LGBTQ+ community.

Labor Rights, Unions Regulations: The Employees Liability Act 1938, Unorganized Workers Social Security Act 2008, and Trade Unions Act 1926 are some of India's major policies regarding labor rights and unions.

Waste Management, Climate, Public Health: Currently, India generates 62 million tons of waste annually with an expectation of solid urban waste to increase to 165 tons by 2023; however, only about 70% of this waste is collected, 30% is sorted correctly, and 12 million tons of waste are treated resulting in 31 millions tons of waste, recyclable plastics, and aluminum to ultimately be directed to landfills. In 2025, it is estimated that waste generation in urban areas will be 0.7 kilograms per person per day which is approximately 4 to 6 times greater than in 1999. Leading causes for inadequacy in waste management include rapid urbanization and a lack of proficient garbage collectors, which are estimated at about 21 million in comparison to 700 million garbage collectors in China. Flaws in the waste supervision catalyze improper disposal, unfitting water disposal, haphazard dumping, and limited recycling resulting in environmental and health risks.

Inadequate waste collection, transport, treatment, and disposal have created environmental challenges and public health risks including air pollution and water pollution. In 2018, out of the world's most air polluted cities 22/30 were located in India; a study further determined that air that is greater than 10 times over the World Health Organization safe limit is being breathed by at least 140 million people in India. Additionally, only a third of wastewater in India is being treated ensuing in "saw sewage" polluting groundwater by flowing into rivers, lakes, and ponds and producing 70% of India's water to be contaminated contributing to 20% of India's disease troubles. However, India continues to work to combat these. Through Swachh Bharat Abhiyan households are encouraged to engage in waste segregation by sorting waste into wet (biodegradable) and dry (not biodegradable) categories, which works toward sustainable development and access to sanitation by promoting key alterations in building intention, support, role modeling, and discouraging littering. India's Environmental Protection Act enacted in 1986, prohibits the act of any operations from emitting environmental pollutants in excess; it further establishes guidelines for accidental environmental damage affirming that the duty falls upon the being response to inform authorities and provide assistance. In 2016 the E-Waste Management Rules were introduced concerning businesses generating great amounts of electronic waste items, requiring them to safely dispose of electronic waste. The Extended Producer Responsibility Plan was brought in to assist in waste separation to ensure businesses recycle a minimum percentage of manufactured items.

Social, Economical, Political Gender Divisions: Gender inequality is a large issue throughout India; while many Indian adults argue it is important for women to have equal rights alongside men, patriarchy plays a role in men receiving preferential treatment. Growing up adolescence is experienced differently by boys and girls; boys have substantial freedom in comparison to girls facing limitations in decisions, relationships, work, and education. While girls generally have elevated survival and developmental rates, India is the only highly populated nation where girls are more likely to die than boys and to also forsake their education. India's history with poverty contributes to gender inequality within education as many families prefer to send their sons to school rather than their daughters, creating a huge gender barrier expanding into the formal workplace where only a quarter of adult women are seen. Prevalent patriarchal culture, social norms, and traditions in India that view women as subservient furthers the lack of awareness in Indian women regarding rights and equality directly contributing to the disparity of literacy rates between men and women. Politically, Indian women are widely accepted as leaders considering India's history of women holding political power. Queer individuals in India are one of the twelve groups least represented within research regarding health equity and are impacted by exclusion and prejudice leading to being shunned, early school abandonment, leaving family, unawareness of rights, lack or regular employment, and moving to new locations.

State of Labor Rights: Labor rights in India are well protected through a number of policies and regulations. Beginning with the Employees Liability Act 1938 which declares that specific defenses aren't to be taken in result of suits for damages, in which the worker shouldn't have taken any risks unless the employer explained the situation thoroughly and the worker was at a complete understanding. The Unorganized Workers Social Security Act of 2008 issues for welfare and social security for unorganized workers and related matters including: life and disability coverage, old age protection, and health and maternity benefits. Under the current Industrial Relations Code, a grievance redressal committee is required in companies with 20 or more employees to deal with workplace disputes and aggrieved workers. Presence of the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code outlines the responsibility of employers to provide a safe work environment for various industries and specializations of workers. The Sexual Harassment of Women in the Workplace Act creates an anti-sexual harassment policy and safe workplace for women by mandating an Internal Complaints Committee in offices with 10 or more employees to tackle sexual misconduct. Indian employees are entitled to statutory benefits outlined by: the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act that essentially provides workers with social security payments upon retirement; the Employees State Insurance Act that focuses on bestowing health care, maternity leave, disability leave, sick leave, and funeral expense subsidies for employees; and the Payment of Gratuity Act ensuring employees in (at minimum) their fifth year of continuous service are eligible for gratuity payments if they are unable to work due to accident or illness, retire, or resign. Beyond these policies, consent is required of employers prior to collecting, processing, and storing personal information of employees while they retain the right to access copies of any personal information. Minimum wage varies throughout India based on jobs, housing costs, and inflation trends; however, there is no pay transparency which is incredibly disadvantageous.

India's Trade Union Act of 1926 protects registered trade unions and defines law relating to registered unions allowing employees to use trade unions for bargaining in employment related relationships. Refusing to bargain with registered trade unions is prohibited, protecting their right to negotiate employment and from criminal conspiracy.

Security

Student Ambassadors: Alissa Julien, Shelby Irwin

Alliances with Middle Eastern Countries: India has alliances with the United Arab Emirates, Israel, Bahrain, and Iran.

Relationship with Syria: India has historically good relations with Syria, and as of 2023 approximately 7 million Indians work in Syria. However, they have remained neutral and refrained from voting in the UN on a ceasefire.

Percent Pop Internet Access: As of January 2023 48.7% of the country's population has internet access. This is approximately 693 million people.

Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict, Human Rights Violations: In regards to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the only public statement made by India has been one of neutrality. India has encouraged peaceful resolutions between Armenia and Azerbaijan, stating that these must be achieved through diplomatic negotiations and a cease of hostilities. As for human rights, India has chosen to not play any major part in promoting human rights, both internally and externally. The issue of human rights has been deemed by India an "internal affair" between each country involved. India is unwilling to promote human rights publicly due to concern of risking bilateral relationships. Internally, India faces numerous human rights violations such as unlawful and arbitrary killings, harsh and life-threatening prison conditions, sexual violence, etc. These violations are typically overlooked by the Indian government due to the overburdened courts and lack of trained police officers.

Syrian Civil War Aid, Humanitarian Aid History: India typically does not engage with countries that are still ousted by the majority. However, after larger players begin interfering, India will intervene, as seen by India now opting to aid Syria. India has begun sending some humanitarian aid to Syria, as well as offering scholarships for Syrian students, however they are not intervening to oust the Assad regime. India values its relationship with Syria and is taking actions that will help invest in Syria's infrastructure development. India is still trying to foster bilateral relations and infrastructure development will take time, so India is beginning with Humanitarian aid. On the global sphere India recognizes its role as a growing power, and what that means for its responses to the crisis. India still maintains their habit of helping immediately post conflict with aid and rebuilding efforts. They also provide aid after natural disasters and were involved in the COVID 19 relief efforts.

Internet Censorship, AI Ethics: Citizens of India have internet access, however big tech and social media companies are limited within India. They are considered a partly censored country. Large tech companies are under government regulation when it comes to posting content deemed unlawful. This includes things that are "defamatory, obscene, invasive of someone else's privacy, encouraging of gambling, harmful to a child or "patently false or misleading". These larger tech companies are also required to hire staff to respond to complaints by citizens or the government and are required to take down unlawful posts within 36 hours or face criminal charges. In response to AI India wants to be a "global AI Hub" while still protecting users. India has begun to slightly regulate AI through the "Digital Personal Data Protection Act" and is willing to interfere with the private sector to minimize user harm. However, minimal interference is still being pursued in order to foster innovation and economic growth.

Indonesia

Delegation: The Central High School

Capital City: Jakarta **Location:** Southeast Asia **Population:** 274000000

Country's Leader: Joko Widodo

Form of Government: Presidential Republic

Official Language: Bahasa Indonesian **Other Languages:** Javanese, Sundanese, Dutch, Arabic

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Keller Roberson, Leviticus Briley

Percent Population with Disabilities: 9 percent

Types of Natural Disasters: Volcanic eruptions, floods, earthquakes, and tsunamis

Percent Population Homeless: 1.1 percent

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: On paper disabled people have access to an equal education and necessary healthcare accommodations, but in reality they may not receive these. There is a profound lack of funding for people with disabilities preventing them from receiving necessary care. In addition, this lack of funding can spread a lack of awareness which enflames social stigmas. If people with disabilities are discriminated against they are less likely able and willing to seek necessary care.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: There are adequate systems that allow natural disasters to be detected ahead of time. There is a partnership between Australian and Indonesian scientists to develop better disaster detection systems. When disasters do hit they can be severe however with relief being unevenly distributed throughout the country. The budget is minimal for disaster mitigation and cannot help all areas of the country equally. It is specifically more remote and poor areas with worse transportation that suffers the most. It is hard to evacuate and provide relief to these areas. There is also a problem with a lack of awareness and education to individuals about natural disasters. Much of the disaster apparatus is disjointed and at times uneducated, but this is being improved by the creation of a comprehensive central disaster preparedness administration that aims to coordinate these mitigation plans more efficiently. Many regional governments are forced to rely on themselves to help their constituents.

Affordable Housing Programs: There are over three million homeless people in all of Indonesia. This is caused by a combination of poverty and natural disasters. Indonesia is striving to provide affordable housing through grants and relief programs. Countries throughout the world have contributed to housing in Indonesia. The homelessness rate has been decreasing over time.

Iran

Delegation: Jesuit High School of New Orleans

Capital City: Tehran **Location:** Middle East **Population:** 87920000

Country's Leader: Ali Khamenei

Form of Government: Theocracy

Official Language: Persian **Other Languages:** Azerbaijani, Kurdish, and Luri

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: West Warren, Gregory Lane

Percent Population with Disabilities: 1.35%

Types of Natural Disasters: Earthquake, flood, storm, landslide and drought

Percent Population Homeless: 24%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Children with disabilities face discrimination and barriers to inclusive education. There is a shortage of educated teachers, especially for children with autism. Lack of transportation makes it difficult for families to send their children to school.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Yes there are, they are somewhat reliable as well. They are pretty efficient.

Affordable Housing Programs:No, and the ones that are aren't very effective.

Iraq

Delegation: Jesuit High School of New Orleans

Capital City: Baghdad **Location:** Middle East **Population:** 45000000

Country's Leader: President – Abdula Latif Rashid, Prime Minister – Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani

Form of Government: Federal Parliamentary Republic

Official Language: Arabic, Kurdish **Other Languages:** Turkmen, Assyrian, Armenian

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: James Denning, Everett Kramer

Percent Population with Disabilities: Approximately 15% of the population is living with a disability (over 6 million)

Types of Natural Disasters: Earthquakes, droughts, floods, and sandstorms.

Percent Population Homeless: The data is sparse, but just about 16% of the population (1,224,000) is homeless.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: People with disabilities in Iraq face challenges in accessing equal education and healthcare services. There is some accommodation but not nearly enough. Many schools and healthcare facilities may not be equipped to meet the needs of people with disabilities.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Iraq has disaster management plans and emergency alert systems within the country to somewhat prepare for natural disasters. The effectiveness of these systems varies depending on many factors.

Affordable Housing Programs: Iraq's economy has suffered heavily and affordable housing, especially for vulnerable groups, is a major issue in the country. The government has attempted to put in various programs, but the effectiveness and outreach of these programs are unknown.

Eco/Soc

Student Ambassadors: Kamron Darkshani '24, Matthew Poyner '24

Regulations on Waste Management, Electronic Waste: Law no.21 of 2001 on the Environment. Besides this, there are plans to address the growing electronic waste problem.

Percent Population Male, Female, LGBTQ+: Males comprise about %50.2 of the population (22,806,385). Females comprise about %49.8 of the population (22,638,409). The LGBTQ+ population is unknown.

Labor Rights, Unions Regulations: Labor Law No.71 of 1987. There is not much official litigation outside of this to expand upon. (Iraq recognizes the rights of workers to form unions)

Waste Management, Climate, Public Health: The state of the current waste management in my country is contributing to climate change in multiple ways due to the burning of waste and open dumping that is rapid across the country.

The spread of disease, air and water pollution, and contamination of food sources may be present from improper waste management.

Social, Economical, Political Gender Divisions: Traditional gender roles often dictate the social, economic, and political divisions within the country. Specifically, men typically hold power and influence in these spheres. On the other hand, women face various barriers when it comes to any sort social, economic, or political area of interest in the country. Additionally, LGBTQ+ individuals may face high amounts of discrimination and persecution due to societal stigmatization and other driving forces. This discrimination leads many to cover up their sexual identity as a form of protection (in many cases just to keep their life).

State of Labor Rights: Iraq has various laws in place to protect the rights of workers, including regulations on working conditions, wages, unions, etc... Yet, there is difficulty in enforcing these regulations, to which workers may face challenges in exercising their rights.

Ireland

Delegation: St. Josephs Academy

Capital City: Dublin **Location:** Europe **Population:** 5056935

Country's Leader: President Michael D. Higgins

Form of Government: Parliamentary Democracy

Official Language: English and Irish (Gaeilge) **Other Languages:** French, German, Spanish, Russian.

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Brinkley Bennett, Ava Thevenot

Percent Population with Disabilities: 13.5%

Types of Natural Disasters: Ireland is not prone to natural disasters, but in rare cases there is often flooding, severe winter weather, tropical storms and hurricane like conditions.

Percent Population Homeless: About 0.265% (roughly 13,000 people) of the population is homeless

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: In Ireland, laws like the EPSEN Act of 2004 were created to ensure that children with disabilities have access to proper education. Currently, schools are mandated to provide accommodations for students with disabilities, promoting education inclusion. Under the Health Act 2004, the Health Service Executive ensures that individuals with disabilities have access to healthcare. Both education and healthcare providers are obligated to offer accommodations, including physical adjustments and support services. Despite the legal mandates, funding and attitudes may affect the full purpose of the equal access. In Ireland, advocacy groups play a crucial role in monitoring the progress of these goals and advocating for the rights of people with disabilities.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Yes, Ireland has systems in place to prepare for natural disasters and address emergency relief. The National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management, part of the Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage, is responsible for coordinating all emergency response efforts. Additionally, Ireland has a National Risk Assessment process that can identify potential risks before they happen, and it can assess likelihood of damage and potential hazards. This information assists authorities develop emergency response plans and allocate resources effectively. The Irish Red Cross and other voluntary organizations also play important roles in providing relief and services during natural disasters. Although Ireland is not prone to natural disaster, the protective systems ensure readiness and efficient response when emergencies occur.

Affordable Housing Programs: Ireland's economy has seen significant growth recently, particularly in urban areas like Dublin, which has led to increased demand for housing, therefore has led to rising property prices and rents. This has created challenges in terms of affordability for many individuals and families, especially those on lower incomes. To address these issues, the Irish government has implemented various initiatives. The government provides social housing support for individuals and families who can't afford to rent or buy homes in the private market, as well as rental assistance, provisioned by the Housing Assistance Payment and Rental Accommodation Scheme. The government offers help to eligible individuals and families purchase homes at below-market prices, such as the Affordable Purchase Scheme and the Shared Equity Scheme. Various housing assistance programs are available to support individuals and families experiencing homelessness (or at risk), including emergency accommodation, homeless prevention services, and support for those transitioning out of homelessness. The government has committed to increasing the supply of affordable housing through initiatives such as the Affordable Housing Scheme, which aims to deliver homes for purchase or rent at below-market rates through a combination of public and private investment. The government has also introduced several regulatory measures aimed at improving housing affordability, such as rent caps in designated Rent Pressure Zones and measures to curb property speculation and ensure greater transparency in the housing market. While the programs and initiatives aim to address the affordability crisis in Ireland's housing market, challenges remain, including the pace of housing delivery, sufficient funding constraints, and the ongoing impact of the market on affordability. Continued efforts and collaboration between government and housing providers are essential in this crisis to ensure housing options are available to those who desperately need them the most.

Eco/Soc

Student Ambassadors: Emma Bonney, Ava Doucet

Regulations on Waste Management, Electronic Waste: The Circular Economy Act 2022 places the strategy and Ireland's commitment to a circular economy on a clear statutory footing and underpins relevant measures. A circular economy is an economy in which waste is prevented, reuse and repair initiatives are i

Percent Population Male, Female, LGBTQ+: Male: 49.66% Female: 50.34% LGBTQ+: 5-7%

Labor Rights, Unions Regulations: The Industrial Relations (Amendment) Act 2015 provides a framework for workers looking to improve their terms and conditions of employment where collective bargaining is not recognized by the employer. Trade Union Acts (1871-1990) which established tra

Waste Management, Climate, Public Health: Ireland has higher than average emissions of methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O) because we have the highest agriculture emission contribution from the EU member states. Ireland's national policy position establishes a low carbon vision for Ireland by 2050.

Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions decreased by 4.4% in 2019 with decreases observed in all sectors except for commercial services and public services. Climate change in Ireland is consistent with global patterns. The potential impacts of climate change on health are expected to become more severe. Health risks related to climate change vary based on location, but in Ireland the main changes are likely to be: rise in heatwave-related health impacts, rise in flood and storm-related health impacts, changes in patterns of food-borne disease, rise in waterborne diseases, and rise in respiratory diseases. Historically, Ireland's waste management has gotten little attention from central government. In the 21st century however, Ireland's central government has become more involved to regulate waste management. The EPA has set regulations on waste management through producer responsibility rules, creating the National Waste Prevention Programme (NWPP), and the passing of the Protection of the Environment Act 2003

Social, Economical, Political Gender Divisions: Ireland ranks 7th in the EU on the Gender Equality Index. With 74.3 out of 100 points, its score is 5.7 points above the EU's score. The Employment Equality Acts 1998-2015 ban discrimination in a range of areas, including gender, civil status, family status, age, race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, and membership of the Traveller community. The gender pay gap is currently being tackled through the Pay Transparency Directive. The 34th amendment states "Marriage may be contracted in accordance with law by two persons without distinction as to their sex." In recent years, there have been legislative and societal efforts to address issues facing LGBTQ+ individuals, including the recognition of gender identity and the extension of legal protections against discrimination, but there is always room for improvements. Anyone over the age of 18 is allowed to run for election and vote.

State of Labor Rights: Under the Irish Constitution, employees in Ireland have the right to join or leave the trade union of their choice. Ireland's employment law protects them from being dismissed from their jobs or discriminated against for their trade union activities. To further provide employment protection, the Irish Congress of Trade Unions – the organization that oversees all trade unions – keeps all applications and the names of members confidential. The Safety, Health, and Welfare at Work Act 2005 sets out responsibilities for employers and employees to create a safe and healthy work environment. The Terms of Employment (Information) Acts 1994-2014 says employers must give employees certain information about their employment, such as contract of employment, a job description, rate of pay, and hours of work. The Protection of Young Persons (Employment) Act 1996 regulates the employment and working conditions of children and young people. The National Minimum Wage Act 2000 provides for the national minimum wage of €12.70 per hour. Under the Pay Transparency Directive, employees have the right to ask their employer for information concerning their individual pay level and the average pay levels, broken down by "sex", for categories of workers performing the same work as them or equal value to them. Employees will also not be prevented from disclosing their pay for the purpose of enforcing the principle of equal pay.

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Delegation: Manedville High School

Capital City: Kabul **Location:** Asia: Central Asia, SW of The People's Republic of China

Population: 42923031

Country's Leader: Hibatullah Akhundzada

Form of Government: Islamic Republic

Official Language: Dari (77%) and Pashto (48%) **Other Languages:** Uzbeki (11%), English (6%), Turkmeni (3%) and Urdu (3%)

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Rylee Cote , Elise Allen

Percent Population with Disabilities: 80% of adults live with some form of disability (24.6% mild, 40.4% moderate and 13.9% severe forms) as 17.3% of children between 2 and 17.

Types of Natural Disasters: Afghanistan suffers from flooding, earthquakes, snow avalanches, landslides and droughts due to its geographical location and years of environmental degradation.

Percent Population Homeless: Due to being a war-torn state data on the homeless population is skewed and lacking. However, 56% of Afghans live in multidimensional poverty with 56% of children aged 0-17 living in multidimensional poverty.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Due to low awareness and limited disability specific services in the country, mostly persons with disabilities cannot access disability services which negatively affect their wellbeing and social life.

Therefore, the DIWG (Disability Inclusion Working Group) initiated mapping of disability services in Afghanistan. But there is an active and slow push by international public services besides the united nation to achieve equal opportunity for and support the disabled population of Afghanistan. Efforts for inclusive and specialized education, including home-based learning and healthcare are being supported throughout Afghanistan by organization such as, Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA), International Committee of the red Cross (ICRC), and others such.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: The Establishing Critical Risk Information project ensures that there is access to comprehensive multi-hazard risk assessments. This project therefore supports the creation, understanding and accessibility of hazard, exposure, vulnerability and risk information as a critical component for effective management of disaster risk and climate risk in Afghanistan. With Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) and the Government of Japan signed an agreement to implement a project aimed at reducing risks in disaster-prone communities and strengthening the capacity of ANDMA to respond when natural disasters strike. The 36-month, USD 9.9 million project will build upon IOM's ongoing efforts to reduce the risks posed by natural disasters in Afghanistan.

Affordable Housing Programs: Due to current affairs and the effects of political and social disputes, Afghanistan lacks the resources and funding to support affordable housing programs, especially due to overwhelming displacement of Afghans in recent years.

Eco/Soc

Student Ambassadors: Devon Piret , Violet Reeves

Regulations on Waste Management, Electronic Waste: Article 27: Prohibition against discharges, Article 28: Pollution control licenses, and Article 29: Reporting and Containing discharges.

Percent Population Male, Female, LGBTQ+: 48.7% female population compare to 51.3% male population. Data on the LGBTQ+ is unknown due to fear based persecution by the Taliban on LGBTQ+ Afghans.

Labor Rights, Unions Regulations: Major policies or regulations do not have any checks and balances on the system in place. However ineffective laws surrounding labor including and not limited to Articles 13 and 120 of the Labor Law, Prohibited Jobs for Child Laborers; Article 613.

Waste Management, Climate, Public Health: Lacking proper implementation, poor waste management paired with the rising climate crisis leaves Afghanistan with record droughts and contaminated waters. Water-starved crops and water-borne diseases such as cholera plague the people of Afghanistan and lead to malnutrition and sickly health. Currently, water accessibility is an issue and accessibility to clean water is an even bigger affair.

Social, Economical, Political Gender Divisions: Since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021, Afghan women and girls have suffered a severe rollback of rights, from denial of education to restrictions on movement to a lack of participation in the economy. The country now is in a state of gender apartheid. Since August 2021, the government has issued 36 Sharia-based decrees and instructions regarding the rights of women and girls. Many of these decrees specified acceptable behaviors for women, such as segregation from men, dress code, and the requirement for women to be accompanied by a male chaperone when traveling more than 72 kilometers from home. Due to fear, queer individuals mask and hide their identity in doing so they hide from the world in necessity to live safely.

State of Labor Rights: The humanitarian crisis following the Taliban takeover in August 2021 resulted in an increase in the prevalence of child labor, including its worst forms, and exacerbated existing child labor risks for girls. The Afghan labor law rejects all forms of discrimination in employment, wages, and benefits. And yet, it still makes a distinction between the different categories of employment, i.e., white-collar jobs, blue-collar service employees, and day laborers who get paid a daily wage. The labor laws have clearly defined acceptable work conditions; however, these standards are not met due to institutional weaknesses. Working hours, part-time contracts, overtime payment, and compensation have all been clearly stated, and yet there are no checks and balances or enforcement to make sure the law is being followed.

Israel

Delegation: Jesuit

Capital City: Jerusalem **Location:** Middle East **Population:** 9364000
Country's Leader: Benjamin Netanyahu
Form of Government: Parliamentary Democracy
Official Language: Hebrew **Other Languages:** Arabic, English, and Russian

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Isaiah Niles, Harry Fantaci

Percent Population with Disabilities: 17-19%

Types of Natural Disasters: Flash Flooding: Israel has been hit by frequent storms and flash floods. Drains blocked by sand after an extended dry period have worsened conditions, leading to flooding in some parts of the country. Earthquakes: Israel is at risk of earthquakes. Tel Aviv

Percent Population Homeless: 0.02%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: The education level in the Arab population is lower than that of the Jewish population, and the gap is even more pronounced among people with disabilities. For instance, 72% of people with disabilities in the Arab population have 12 years of schooling or less (without a matriculation certificate), compared with 37% of people with disabilities in the Jewish population, and 8% of people with disabilities in the Arab population have an academic degree, compared with 22% of people with disabilities in the Jewish population. 42% of students with disabilities in higher education institutions reported that they did not receive all the academic accommodations they were entitled to, and 33% noted that they considered dropping out of university due to lack of accessibility or because they did not receive the academic accommodations they needed. The rate of illiteracy among people with disabilities is considerably higher than among people without disabilities. 17% of people with disabilities in the Jewish population lack reading literacy in Hebrew or have poor reading literacy, compared with 4% of people without disabilities in the Jewish population. As for writing literacy in Hebrew, the rates are 19%, compared with 6%, respectively.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Emergency Preparedness Challenges:

Israel's emergency management system faces challenges due to the evolving nature of threats. For instance, the stabbing and car-ramming terrorist attacks that began in 2015 were not initially part of the main scenarios for which the system had prepared. The system focuses on scenarios involving missiles, unconventional warfare, and other familiar threats. However, the recent attacks highlight the need for multidimensional preparedness, including cooperation among various agencies and readiness for unexpected situations. *Structural and Inter-Organizational Characteristics:* The Ministries of Defense and Public Security are responsible for emergency management. Despite efforts, gaps exist in coordination between these ministries. In 2014, decisions were made to clarify responsibilities, but the process is ongoing. The appointment of a National Emergency Management Authority director is crucial for effective preparedness. *Earthquake Preparedness:* After a period of neglect, Israel has initiated efforts to systematically address mass natural disasters. The exercise aims to create a structured and effective system that meets diverse needs, including security challenges.

Affordable Housing Programs: Israel has implemented several affordable housing programs to address the housing needs of different segments of the population. Here are some notable initiatives: *Target Price (Mehir Matara):* Introduced last year by Housing Minister Ze'ev Elkin, this program offers a discounted rate of 20% less than market value for eligible homebuyers. It targets first-time homebuyers, young families, single-parent households, and other individuals in need of affordable housing. The focus is on areas in Israel's "periphery," which tend to have lower socioeconomic rankings according to the Central Bureau of Statistics. *Amigour Affordable Housing:* Amigour provides sheltered living complexes for vulnerable segments of the community, including the elderly (many of whom are Holocaust survivors), new immigrants, and single-parent families. These holistic environments empower elderly citizens, allowing them to live independently while staying connected through unique cultural and social services. Since 1972, Amigour has served the elderly and provided housing solutions for new immigrants and disadvantaged citizens. *Housing at Reduced Prices (Mechir Mufchat):* Minister of Construction and Housing Yaakov Litzman's plan aims to make homeownership more accessible. It was approved by the Minister of Finance Israel Katz and focuses on providing affordable housing options.

Security

Student Ambassadors: Hayden Welk, Ethan Schaeffer

Alliances with Middle Eastern Countries: Israel does not have any formal alliances within the Middle East; however, it does have somewhat close diplomatic relations with Middle Eastern states that recognize its sovereignty. Egypt, Jordan, and the U.A.E are the only three states that recognize Is

Relationship with Syria: The State of Israel does not formally recognize Bashar Al-Assad's dictatorship or his government. Israel has been in a conflict with Syria since Israel's establishment in 1948. Disagreements over Iranian involvement in the Syrian Civil War, Human rights

Percent Pop Internet Access: 90.3%

Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict, Human Rights Violations: While mostly staying out of the limelight, Israel has supported and funded Azerbaijan in the most recent Nagorno Karabakh conflict. Israeli weapons and artillery made up a high percentage of Azerbaijan's weapons used to retake the region from Armenia. Azerbaijan, a predominately Muslim nation allying with Israel is historic and peculiar agreement. The alliance is driven by economic relations and a fear of Iranian influence in the region. Similarly, the conflict sees a strange and rare "team change" for Israel. The Zionist State finds herself working with nations that it does not traditionally align with such as Türkiye or Saudi Arabia. Human Rights Violation Statement; The Israeli government uses all means and resources available to investigate alleged cases of human rights violations from IDF or any other Israeli defense force.

Syrian Civil War Aid, Humanitarian Aid History: Israel officially took the position of neutrality regarding the Syrian conflict; however, for many years Israel has practiced the operation of drone strikes on Iranian officials, Iranian militant group facilities, and any targets deemed as a threat to Israel's security (within Syrian borders). The Israeli government has also sent an extensive amount of aid under operation "Good Neighbor" such as medics, medical equipment, baby formula, and fuel for heating etc.

Internet Censorship, AI Ethics: The Israeli government has traditionally only censored information in times of crisis. For example, in the recent October 7th conflict, images of Israeli hostages and gore-propaganda from Hamas was blocked and taken down from Israeli websites. Free speech and uncensored internet access are important to Israel; however, safety must take priority in dire situations. Regarding AI safety; Israel leads the world in cybersecurity and AI innovation. It is of extreme importance to government officials that AI and the innovation of AI be advanced in an ethical and humane manner; therefore, it should come as no surprise if Israel introduces international or domestic laws regulating private AI innovation (In some cases, some legislation has already been introduced).

Italy

Delegation: Metairie Park Country Day School

Capital City: Rome **Location:** Europe: Mediterranean **Population:** 58700000

Country's Leader: Sergio Mattarella

Form of Government: Parliamentary Republic

Official Language: Italian **Other Languages:** English, Spanish, French

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Londyn Norwood, Grace Wang

Percent Population with Disabilities: 4.8

Types of Natural Disasters: Earthquakes, eruptions, floods/landslides, biodiversity loss

Percent Population Homeless: .08%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: As the Italian constitution states, disabled people "have the right to education and vocational services."

"To ensure inclusive education, measures such as free transport from home to school, the removal of architectural barriers that prevent the access to the school building, and the support for students with particularly serious disabilities are provided."

Natural Disaster Preparedness: "Civil protection exercises are carried out in collaboration with the operational structures and the components of the National Civil Protection Service with the participation of bodies and administrations involved in the management of a real emergency"

"A civil protection plan is a series of intervention and operative procedures to cope with any expected calamity in a territory"

Affordable Housing Programs: From 2001 to 2010, the number of people needing access to housing has tripled. The constitution gives the government the task of promoting access to housing through social support measures. Housing problems in Italy are almost double the European average. "Social housing" programs are publically and privately funded but are small in size. Low-rent housing regulations have been adopted in some local areas.

Eco/Soc

Student Ambassadors: Anne Marie George, Sarah Heebe

Regulations on Waste Management, Electronic Waste: Landfill tax - introduced in 1996 - has incentivized diversion of waste from landfills Legislative decree 22/97 - separate collection of municipal waste, established the National Packaging Consortium, introduced waste targets Zero Waste Cities

Percent Population Male, Female, LGBTQ+: 48.76% male and 51.24% female. 4.8% are LGBT.

Labor Rights, Unions Regulations: Italian Constitution covers employment rights such as: the right to work for fair pay, join a union, receive social security, and have access to equal opportunities The Civil Code (Codice Civile) covers employment relationship A vast number of collecti

Waste Management, Climate, Public Health: There are substantial MSW collection and treatment differences across the regions of Italy. Those with less effective policies, such as Lombardy, put far too much recyclable material in landfills. Most landfills generate methane, a greenhouse gas molecule far more potent than carbon dioxide, making it a large contributor to global warming and climate change. Public health implications include unnecessary food waste in a country with 22% of its population is food insecure, excess pollution causing genetic disorders or cancer, possible groundwater contamination, and greater spread of infectious diseases like COVID-19.

Social, Economical, Political Gender Divisions: Italy has been condemned for failing to protect women from domestic abuse. It is a historically patriarchal country, and issues continue to this day of women's access to assets, sexual violence, pay gaps, and equality in the workplace. Progress has been made in recent years, but women are still less represented politically, have less power economically, and traditional values persist socially. Queer individuals are still marginalized, and recently the far-right government limited the paternal rights of same-sex couples, among other regressive measures.

State of Labor Rights: Italy is one of the top countries for worker and trade union rights. Union membership is relatively high, and employment contracts protect employees. Constitutionally enshrined rights include the right to work for fair pay, join a union, receive social security, and access equal opportunities. Exploitative practices remain in the agriculture, construction, garment, and textile industries. Labor rights for migrants or immigrants are constantly a contentious topic, and there is room for improvement.

Jamaica

Delegation: Woodlawn High School

Capital City: Kingston **Location:** Carribean **Population:** 2828000

Country's Leader: Prime Minister Andrew Holness

Form of Government: constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary system of government

Official Language: English **Other Languages:** Jamaican Patois

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Tyriq Cooper, Jalen Olinde

Percent Population with Disabilities: Up to 15% of the Jamaican population has a disability

Types of Natural Disasters: Hurricanes, floods, droughts, earthquakes, storm surges, and landslides

Percent Population Homeless: .07%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Under the law, yes. In practice, however, no. The Disabilities Act (2014) is the primary means of protecting the right to education for PWDs. Likewise, as part of the Jamaican Constitution, people with disabilities have access to these health services on the same basis as other persons, including in relation to sexual and reproductive health.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Are there systems in place to prepare for natural disasters in your country? Do these systems address emergency relief efficiently? * The ODPEM, or the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management, provides disaster management functions in Jamaica. This department and the systems associated with this department have come under heavy criticism from civilians and politicians because they believe it to be slow and ineffective, but the government defends the department and argues against those claims.

Affordable Housing Programs: There are few viable options for Jamaica because the GDP for Jamaica is only 14.66 billion USD, and the GDP per capita is 5,183.58 USD. Jamaica has started efforts towards affordable housing with the NHT, National Housing Trust, but only under \$15 million has been poured into affordable housing in the country and the NHT is currently only building around 38 homes.

Japan

Delegation: Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

Capital City: Tokyo **Location:** East Asia **Population:** 125700000

Country's Leader: Fumio Kishida **Form of Government:** Parliamentary Government with Constitutional Monarch

Official Language: Japanese **Other Languages:** Ryukyuan, Okinawa

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Hayden Willett,

Percent Population with Disabilities: 0.3% of children in Japan have a disability.

Types of Natural Disasters: Japan is affected by natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, and flooding.

Percent Population Homeless: Homeless people make up 0.003% of the Japanese population.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Japan grants people with disabilities the opportunity to receive an education through its schools that are designed to accommodate students with physical and learning disabilities. Additionally, there are Special Needs programs in schools not specialized in education for children with disabilities. In 2007, the School Education Law was passed, allowing schools to accommodate children with multiple disabilities.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Japan uses an advanced warning system designed to help its citizens prepare for natural disasters, such as earthquakes and tsunamis. This system uses cell phone notifications and TV broadcasts to inform citizens of a disaster seconds before it occurs, giving people time to seek shelter. Additionally, Japan uses drones equipped with AI functions in order to find and report natural disaster survivors to rescue teams.

Affordable Housing Programs: In order to provide affordable housing for people with lower income, Japan has 2.17 million units of public housing. These are managed by provincial governments with federal grants and have rent set on an individual basis to provide a price that tenants can pay. Additionally, Japan has a system of Rent Relief Grants to keep housing affordable. People who have lost their jobs are able to apply for these grants to prevent them from losing their home.

Eco/Soc

Student Ambassadors: Riley Posey, Miniya Malone

Regulations on Waste Management, Electronic Waste: Basic Act for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society or Basic Recycling Act, Home Appliance Recycling Law Waste Management, and Public Cleansing Law

Percent Population Male, Female, LGBTQ+: 51.18% female, 48.82% male, 8.9% LGBTQ+

Labor Rights, Unions Regulations: ban on child labor (Art. 27 para. 3), the freedom of workers' association - the worker's right to organize, bargain, and to act collectively, the right and obligation to work

Waste Management, Climate, Public Health: In Japan there are strict waste discharge laws all must follow to maintain a safe living environment. Through these Japan has been able to significantly reduce the amount of pollution released, and thus not contributing as much to climate change. With Japan being the 7th largest contributing country to waste, they have taken important measures to prevent adding more to climate change. Not following the waste management guidelines in Japan can lead to an unsafe living environment for the population. Waste can pile up onto the roadways, restricting access to transportation, and can cause environments to decay. Not following waste management guidelines can also cause unsafe living conditions, specifically those that impact the air quality in Japan. This can make the life expectancy rate in Japan decline, which could then cause the country's population to have a rapid decline as well.

Social, Economical, Political Gender Divisions: In Japan, genders are harshly divided into traditional gender roles, with women expected to handle housework and child care while men are expected to enter the workforce and provide for their families. This negatively impacts the ability of women to succeed in high-paying jobs, with many industries neglecting to adopt policies that adequately meet the needs of female employees and thus limiting their financial mobility. Stereotypes of women as 'innocent' and thus not suited for work as perpetuated in popular Japanese media such as anime. Although men and women are equal on paper, these stereotypes serve to dissuade women from going into the realm of politics or other coveted industries commonly attributed to men.

State of Labor Rights: Japan provides a plethora of labor rights to those within its borders. Under Japan's

Labor Standards Act, employers cannot force employees to work over 40 hours a week. Additionally, Japanese employers must provide their workers with rest periods of at least 45 minutes for any work periods over six hours, at least six weeks of maternity leave with wage compensation for female employees, and cover half the cost of the premium for their employees' healthcare, pension, and unemployment insurance under the Shakai Hoken program. Any violation of these terms is a punishable offense that leaves companies vulnerable to severe financial penalties. In regards to labor unions, not only do employees have the right to form or join a union, but the Trade Union Act forbids employers from discriminating against their employees due to their union activities. In 2022, the unemployment rate of Japan was only 2.64%.

Jordan

Delegation: Haynes Academy

Capital City: Amman **Location:** Middle East **Population:** 11363990

Country's Leader: Abdullah II

Form of Government: Parliamentary Constitutional Monarchy

Official Language: Arabic **Other Languages:** English, Chechen, Circassian, Armenian, Tagalog, Russian, German, and French

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Leah Zheng, Barsha Debnath

Percent Population with Disabilities: 11.1%

Types of Natural Disasters: Droughts, extreme temperature, storms, landslides, flash floods, earthquakes, and epidemics.

Percent Population Homeless: 0%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Jordan has disability rights law that provides a list of responsibilities for ministries to ensure non-discrimination and equality in accessing essential services like education, housing, employment, justice, and health. But without the budget necessary to put these laws into practice, people with disabilities won't get services they can get. Jordan's Education Ministry has an inclusive education policy. However, a Human Rights Watch review of its 2018 and 2019 budget reports found no specific funding allocated to inclusive education. Instead, the ministry allocated 0.4 percent of its total budget to "special education," or education of children with disabilities in segregated settings.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Jordan has many systems established to prepare for natural disasters.

For example, Jordan has the Jordan National Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), the Disaster Risk Management system (DRM), and the Early Warning System for Jordan (JoEWS). The DRR is a strategy that is seen as a roadmap for obtaining a shared understanding of prevailing disaster risks and evaluating the effectiveness of the DRR system in place. The National Centre for Security, Management, and Crises (NCSMC), which has the ability to coordinate national efforts in this domain, determines these goals with the assistance of national consultations including all relevant national agencies and entities. Jordan's Disaster Risk Management system is supported by strong national resources, including easy access to social services, a highly educated population, and substantial investment in response capacities, especially in the form of equipment and expertise. The Early Warning System is the first line of defense against hazards of all kinds. The EWS works to inform potential flood threats, contributes to mitigation efforts and is essential in minimizing financial and human losses brought on by both man-made and natural disasters. Both federal and municipal governments have strengthened their response systems and capacities in the last 10 years by being more aware of the hazards associated with disasters. However, there's still limited awareness amongst policy makers and the general public and investment in preparedness and prevention is both low within and across sectors.

Affordable Housing Programs: There has always been an absence of reasonably priced housing available in Jordan for families with modest incomes. Jordanians with lower middle incomes cannot afford the median price of a home currently on the market. Despite the robust construction industry in Jordan, the supply of housing has not kept pace with demand, resulting in an excess of supply in the middle and upper end of the market and a lack of reasonably priced homes for the lower middle class and lower income groups. The lack of inexpensive housing, which was previously a problem, has gotten worse due to the refugee crisis. A much-needed boost in the supply of affordable housing has not been provided since the start of the Syrian crisis, neither by the government nor by the private sector. As a result, rents have increased and a large number of Jordanian families are residing in subpar, crammed housing.

Kazakhstan

Delegation: Lafayette High School

Capital City: Astana **Location:** Central Asia **Population:** 20086000

Country's Leader: President: Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, assisted by Prime Minister: Alikhan Smailov

Form of Government: Unitary republic with a two house parliament

Official Language: Kazakh and Russian **Other Languages:** German, English, Ukrainian

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Riley Gray, Micheline Benoit

Percent Population with Disabilities: ~3.6%

Types of Natural Disasters: Earthquakes, Mudflows, Landslides, and Droughts

Percent Population Homeless: ~0.027%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Thousands are in special schools for children with disabilities, often far from their homes. Others are educated at home, with a teacher visiting for a few hours per week at best. Children in closed psychiatric institutions receive very little or no education.

Kazakhstan's compulsory social health insurance system provides a guaranteed amount of free medical care and medical assistance. The system also offers specialized social services in hospitals and semi-hospital settings, including home care services. Access to these services is hard to find. According to experts, in Kazakhstan, about 80% of facilities are inaccessible for people with disabilities, and 20% can be considered partially accessible. Accessible facilities or in-home assistance are difficult to find especially in terms of education- children with disabilities are constantly separated from fully abled children. While Kazakhstan has made efforts to ensure access to education and healthcare services for people with disabilities, many inequalities remain. Despite laws and policies promoting inclusive education, many children with disabilities still face barriers to accessing quality education. Thousands are placed in special schools, often located far from their homes, leading to social isolation and limited opportunities for integration into mainstream society. Children in closed psychiatric institutions may receive inadequate or no education at all. In terms of healthcare, Kazakhstan's compulsory social health insurance system aims to provide a guaranteed amount of free medical care and assistance, including specialized services for individuals with disabilities. However, accessibility to healthcare services can be limited, especially in rural areas, and the quality of care may vary. While home care services are available, they may not always meet the specific needs of those with disabilities, leading to gaps in support.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Kazakhstan has many systems in place to battle natural disasters, accounting for natural disaster-related loss, wild fires, avalanches, flooding, and debris flow. Kazakhstan is a territory considered very prone to natural disasters, including two major events in 2023. Because of this, Kazakhstan has implemented various systems and measures to prepare for natural disasters and efficiently address emergency relief efforts. Some specific systems and situations include: **Early Warning Systems:** Kazakhstan has established early warning systems to detect and monitor various natural disasters, such as floods, earthquakes, and wildfires. These systems utilize technology and data monitoring to provide timely alerts to authorities and the public, allowing for proactive measures to be taken before the danger increases. **Disaster Response Agencies:** Kazakhstan has designated agencies responsible for coordinating disaster response efforts, such as the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES). These agencies work closely with local governments, emergency services, and international organizations to coordinate rescue operations, provide relief supplies, and support affected communities during and after disasters.

Infrastructure Development: Investments in infrastructure development, such as building flood defenses, constructing firebreaks, and improving transportation networks, mitigate the impact of natural disasters and enhance the effectiveness of emergency response efforts.

International Cooperation: Kazakhstan collaborates with international partners, such as the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), to exchange knowledge, resources, and best practices in disaster preparation and responses. Recent natural disasters, such as wildfires, avalanches, flooding, and debris events in 2023 have become increasingly more apparent. While the government has taken action to prevent, warn, and reduce the impact of these disasters. More can definitely be done to efficiently resolve the issues as they become more and more apparent.

Affordable Housing Programs: Kazakhstan has implemented several affordable housing programs to address housing affordability issues. Some of these programs include:

The "Nurly Zher" Program: Launched in 2017, this program aims to increase the availability of affordable housing by providing subsidies and incentives to developers, promoting the construction of low-cost housing units, and offering favorable mortgage terms to low and middle-income families. The "7-20-25" Program: Kazakhstan offers the 7-20-25 program, which offers affordable rates on mortgages. The program includes a 7% rate for borrowers, a down payment of over 20%, and a loan term of up to 25 years. The Mortgage Subsidy Program: In which the government offers subsidies on mortgage interest rates to eligible individuals or families to make homeownership more affordable. Multiple Social Housing Programs and Various initiatives provide social housing units to low-income families and vulnerable groups at reduced rents or with assistance in purchasing homes. and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP): Where the government collaborates with private developers to construct affordable housing projects, utilizing a mix of public and private funding. These programs aim to improve the access to affordable housing for low and middle-income citizens, although Kazakhstan suffers with high poverty rates and has since declaring independence from the USSR. While steps have been taken to improve this, and make housing more affordable for their lower income citizens, The issue is still very prevalent.

Eco/Soc

Student Ambassadors: Ryleigh Shullaw, Hope Gutierrez

Regulations on Waste Management, Electronic Waste: Ecological [Environmental] Safety Concept of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Ecological Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and Ecological Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Percent Population Male, Female, LGBTQ+: Male- 48.55% Female- 51.45% LGBTQ+- <1% as the government has laws in place restricting same-sex marriage and adoption and it is also widely frowned upon socially. (Kazakhstan does not recognize same-sex marriage or civil unions).

Labor Rights, Unions Regulations: Restrictive labor union law, The Employment Law (The Labor Code), The Normative Resolution of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 9

Waste Management, Climate, Public Health: The Environmental Code guides and governs all stages of waste handling, including their detection and burial. The main issues with this involve unknown and ownerless hazardous wastes. This entails hazardous waste production with no real place to put them and no person or business to track them back to. Due to the lack of protection over these hazardous wastes, leaks and spills are common that may affect nearby populations and environments.

Social, Economical, Political Gender Divisions: There is still evidence of social and economic gender-differentiated deviation in wages, segregation, family responsibilities, the participation of mostly women in part time, or temporary employment, and discrimination due to maternity and marital status. There is also absence of parental leave once children are between 5 months and 3 years old. Politically, Gender discrimination is illegal within work environments, however LGBTQ+ discrimination is still legal. There also are laws in act that prohibit same-sex marriage and same-sex adoption.

State of Labor Rights: Labor rights prohibit children under 14 from working and allow for an employee's workweek to not exceed 40 hours. There is maternal leave for 126 days and it may be paid with submission and approval of social payment fund paperwork. There are formal restrictions on forming unions by harsh punishments that weaken the unions, therefore, sharing wages wouldn't do much in forming a strong union.

Kenya

Delegation: Lafayette High School

Capital City: Nairobi **Location:** Africa: S of Ethiopia and South Sudan, W of Somalia, N and E of Tanzania **Population:** 55740587

Country's Leader: William Ruto

Form of Government: Republic

Official Language: Swahili and English **Other Languages:** Gikuyu, Oluluyia, Dholuo, Kalenjin, Somali (and many more)

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Neel Rathi, Mary-Jane Fruge

Percent Population with Disabilities: 10%

Types of Natural Disasters: Floods, droughts, landslides, thunderstorms, wildfires, and strong winds

Percent Population Homeless: 0.73%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Only 6% of disabled children in Kenya are enrolled in schools. They are also 55% less likely to enroll in schools and 60% more likely to drop out of school after being enrolled. This is often because the accommodations for these disabled people are not being provided, and that's for two reasons. The first reason is that providing these accommodations (like specialized curricula, transportation needs, and physical infrastructure) will cost too much and the second reason is the stigma associated with disabilities, with that stigma forcing children to not go to school.

In terms of healthcare, there was a law passed in 2003 which ensured that Kenyans with disabilities will get the same access to health, education, and employment as Kenyans without disabilities. However, that law was undergoing a revision in 2015, with no updates on that law today. Again, this may be tied to the stigma surrounding disabilities in Kenya.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: As of 2017, Kenya is part of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, which is the current framework for disaster risk reduction that is being implemented by the United Nations. This framework attempts to reduce the risk of destruction through focusing on three main characteristics: hazard exposure, characteristics, and vulnerability. There are also programs being implemented on the district level so that they can reduce the risk for future disasters and make themselves more resilient. There is also a lot of funding going on for risk prevention, most of it directed towards droughts. This means that there is a lot of relief funding that goes toward droughts, which is why Kenya has withstood multiple droughts over recent years. However, not much funding has been allocated to flood prevention, leaving a few communities very vulnerable.

Affordable Housing Programs: Kenya definitely has multiple affordable housing options considering its economy. As of 2022, Kenya aimed to build at least 250,000 houses per year. It targeted low income owners who were forced to live in slums and informal communities because they couldn't afford a home. This program was enacted in 2023, with prices of housing ranging from KSH 840,000 to KSH 5.76 million (5,234.04 USD to 35,890.56 USD).

Kuwait

Delegation: St. Joseph's Academy

Capital City: Kuwait City **Location:** Middle East (Asia) **Population:** 3100000

Country's Leader: Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (Emir of Kuwait)

Form of Government: Constitutional Monarchy

Official Language: Arabic **Other Languages:** English

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Caroline Thomas, Eliza Hanner

Percent Population with Disabilities: About 3% of people have a mental or physical disability.

Types of Natural Disasters: Rainstorms, Floods, Earthquakes, occasionally Tsunamis, sandstorms/dust storms.

Percent Population Homeless: 2-3% of people are currently homeless.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Kuwaitis receive free medical treatment at government facilities. As stated in article 1 of the Law on Persons with Disabilities, it is illegal to refuse to administer healthcare to a person with a disability. Kuwait is working to provide equal opportunities and accommodations of the disabled in areas like education, employment, and social welfare, this includes physical and mental disabilities. They are implementing policies that guarantee disabled Kuwaitis to equal healthcare, job, and leisure opportunities. Kuwait has encouraged the formation of civil society groups based around disability inclusion and has provided these groups with funding. The Kuwait government has also encouraged disabled people to exercise their rights to appeal and challenge the government through means such as writing to legislators and appealing to courts. Although the stereotypes and public opinion of people with disabilities in Kuwait still needs work, they are working on media campaigns to raise awareness of these disabilities. Disabled Kuwaitis are offered assistive devices free of charge as well and they do not need to pay taxes on these devices either.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Surveillance methods, specifically Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Analysis (PSHA) and a flood Risk Mitigation Program (RMP), are required to be implemented in Kuwait. This ensures safety from disasters like earthquakes and floods. The people in Kuwait have implemented PSHA to analyze earthquake severity to determine if measures such as evacuation need to be taken. RMP is implemented as well so that the people of Kuwait can know the dangers of floods and have strategic approaches to them. Some approaches to floods may include; land use regulation, Flash Floods and hazard maps, Capacity building programs, and designs of structurally sound buildings to stand against floods. To complement this, there are national weather alerts to keep the citizens of Kuwait up to speed with the state of their country. These methods have proven to be effective in keeping Kuwaiti citizens safe from natural disasters that may occur in their country.

Affordable Housing Programs: Kuwait believes in providing a housing program that meets the needs of families with both high and low incomes. Shortage of supply has caused private housing prices to rise as of recently. The head of the house is entitled to a monthly rent allowance that runs in accordance with that citizen's income. Some houses are also held at a low rental rate for several categories of people. In 2021, 4814 housing deals were made, worth 1.4 Kuwaiti dinars, but in the same period in 2022, only 2470 deals had been made for a total of 1.13 billion Kuwaiti dinars. Some of this can be attributed to the rise in interest rates on the U.S. dollar, as well as price inflation and stagnant purchasing power of Kuwaitis. They have provided 13,895 houses, 840 apartments, and 25415 vouchers since the establishment of the affordable housing program in 1993. Private residential housing sales have declined 20% in Q1 2022, and land maked up about 80% of the average value of a house, much higher than the global average of 30%.

Kyrgyz Republic

Delegation: Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

Capital City: Bishkek **Location:** Central Asia **Population:** 6629000

Country's Leader: Sadyr Japarov

Form of Government: Republic, with newly implemented presidential system.

Official Language: Kyrgyz, Russian **Other Languages:** Tajik, Uzbek, and Uyghur (French and English are spoken, but not as a first language)

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Nate McLean, Daniel Lindsey

Percent Population with Disabilities: Around 1% of children in Kyrgyzstan have a disability.

Types of Natural Disasters: Mudslides, landslides, avalanches, and earthquakes cause the most damage in Kyrgyzstan. Droughts and frosts can occur as well.

Percent Population Homeless: Around 70% of Kyrgyzstan's population does not have adequate homes. Around 40% of citizens live below the poverty line.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: It is very difficult for people with disabilities to receive sufficient healthcare, much less sufficient shelter. Many families must take care of their disabled children rather than work, putting them in an even worse situation. People with mental illness are commonly neglected by the community. In Kyrgyzstan, it is difficult to receive proper education, especially as a disabled person.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: The National Disaster Risk Reduction Day helps the country remember and prepare for earthquakes. Over 5,000 first responders and educators partook in drills in Bishkek and Osh. Enhancing Resilience in Kyrgyzstan allotted 20 million USD to combat natural disasters, with half as a credit and half as a grant. It aimed to improve school construction, expand alert systems, and improve home insurance. Although there are efforts to address natural disasters, it is not enough to upgrade safety across the entire country.

Affordable Housing Programs: Only 6.5% of the country's houses are insured by the government. Kyrgyzstan's economy is in the lower or middle class of the world. They still have an affordable housing program. The housing program they use is the habitat of humanity. This program provides for 6.5 percent of the houses to be insured by both the government and humanity since they work together to build houses for the country. The affordable housing program also helps reform and update old houses that were in the country to make them durable for longer and more sustainable to live in.

Eco/Soc

Student Ambassadors: Hayden Singh, Ethan Ott

Regulations on Waste Management, Electronic Waste: For the most part, waste is not sorted and all waste in Bishkek goes to one landfill. The small amount of waste-sorting that exists is conducted by homeless people and others looking to sell certain goods to private recycling firms. Czech investors pledge

Percent Population Male, Female, LGBTQ+: 49.1% of Kyrgyz people are male and 50.9% are female. There are no official statistics on LGBTQ+ identification in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Labor Rights, Unions Regulations: The Kyrgyz minimum wage is 2460 Soms or ~\$27 a month.

Employees may not work for more than 40 hours a week or 36 hours for those engaging in physically demanding or dangerous work. Labor unions are legal in Kyrgyzstan and, by law, should be separate from

Waste Management, Climate, Public Health: Due to a lack of resources and regulations, waste management in Kyrgyzstan is still in the early stages of development. Thus, mismanagement of waste has had widespread negative effects on the Kyrgyz people and economy. Specifically, Kyrgyzstan has no official legislative definition of electronic waste, and cancer rates have risen as a result of contamination from waste such as batteries and plastics. Waste fires are a recurring issue in Kyrgyzstan, both in the capital of Bishkek and in rural areas. Epidemiologist Aleksey Kravtsov claims that the Kyrgyz people are inhaling dangerous "forever chemicals" from the burning of plastic and rubber goods. According to environmental specialist Zhyldyz Uzakbaeva, the methane released from smoldering waste is twenty-five times more destructive to the ozone layer than carbon dioxide, meaning Kyrgyz waste mismanagement is destructive both to people and the environment.

Social, Economical, Political Gender Divisions: Among the central Asian nations, Kyrgyzstan is fairly progressive when it comes to gender. According to the UN, Kyrgyzstan has in place 91.7% of the legal

frameworks suggested to protect and promote gender equality. However, the fight for gender equality is far from over in Kyrgyzstan, as evidenced by practices such as “bride kidnapping” and the fact that only 17.1% of the Kyrgyz parliament are women. LGBTQ+ rights in Kyrgyzstan are complicated: same-sex relations and gender changes are legal, but same-sex marriages and families are not recognized by the state and one must undergo gender reassignment surgery before being allowed to officially change their gender identity. While these standards stand above many neighboring nations, it appears LGBTQ+ relations have regressed in Kyrgyzstan in recent years. Starting in 2014, legislation has been passed stifling the dissemination of information about the LGBTQ+ community and societal attitudes toward the group have worsened, with violence against the community rising by over 300% since then.

State of Labor Rights: Labor unions are legal in Kyrgyzstan, and most are governed by the Federation of Trade Unions of Kyrgyzstan. However, there has been recent controversy over the relationship between unions and the government. In 2020, the Mining and Metallurgical Trade Union of Kyrgyzstan filed a complaint with the International Labour Organization, claiming that their freedom of association had been violated and their leaders were being harassed. The Kyrgyz government’s actions against labor unions have violated their fairly progressive labor code and they have faced scrutiny from organizations such as Human Rights Watch. While the labor standards enumerated in Kyrgyz legislation are more than acceptable, they have not held true in recent years.

Latvia

Delegation: Baton Rouge High School

Capital City: Riga **Location:** Northeastern Europe **Population:** 1850000
Country's Leader: Edgars Rinkēvičs. **Form of Government:** Parliamentary republic
Official Language: Latvian **Other Languages:** Russian and Romany

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Mia Guilbeau, Travis Denson

Percent Population with Disabilities: 38.5% **Percent Population Homeless:** <1%; 5,000 people

Types of Natural Disasters: There are not many natural disasters, only minor forest fires.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: In Latvia, legislation has been enacted to ensure equal access to education and healthcare services for individuals with disabilities. The Law on Education establishes provisions for inclusive education, mandating support services and accommodations for students with disabilities within mainstream schools. Additionally, the Law on Social Services and Social Assistance addresses the provision of social services, including healthcare, to individuals with disabilities, guaranteeing their access to necessary support. Furthermore, the Law on the Rights of Patients ensures equal access to healthcare services for all individuals, explicitly prohibiting discrimination based on disability in healthcare provision.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: The national disaster management system of Latvia is organized and regulated under the legislative framework of Civil Protection and Disaster Management Law. The civil protection system is a component of the national security system, formed by the state and local government authorities.

Affordable Housing Programs: The main source for affordable housing in Latvia is a 2022 established trust fund called the Housing Affordability Fund that creates financial arrangements for those who cannot afford a home.

Eco/Soc

Student Ambassadors: Lily Thompson, Amelia Thompson

Regulations on Waste Management, Electronic Waste: Latvia has a national waste prevention and management program, lasting from 2021-2028. The program's specific waste prevention measures include 1. promoting and supporting sustainable consumption models, and encouraging the design, manufacturing and use

Percent Population Male, Female, LGBTQ+: 53.88% of the population is female, 46.12% of the population is male, and 22% identify as LGBTQ.

Labor Rights, Unions Regulations: Trade unions are allowed for both employers and employees. The New Labor Code protects employees. Requires that employers must specify what all clauses mean in an employment contract and temporary contracts are very limited to protect employees. Equal opp

Waste Management, Climate, Public Health: Improper waste disposal, such as illegal dumping, can harm ecosystems by contaminating soil and water sources. Landfilling contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, while incineration releases pollutants. Public health implications of improper waste management in Latvia may include air and water pollution, leading to respiratory issues and other health concerns. Contaminated environments can also pose risks through the spread of diseases. Measures have been taken since 2022 to reduce the amount of trash sent to landfills, however, the volume is still growing. In 2022, 62% of the waste brought in was unsorted municipal waste, 15% came from the waste management sector, so it was unrecyclable, 14% was construction waste, 4% of production waste, 3% was biodegradable and 2% was other types of waste. In 2021, Latvia had to pay EUR 15 million in sanctions for its small amount of recycled plastic. It is predicted that the amount of plastic waste discarded in 2050 could reach 12,000 million tonnes, which will negatively impact the ecosystem and people's health.

Social, Economical, Political Gender Divisions: The traditional cultural values of Latvia are the values of the patriarchal peasant family, where women are respected but their role is mainly seen as a mother. However, Latvia has a relatively high participation of women in economic and political decision making. Latvia had a female president in the past and currently has a female prime minister. Similarly, the current president, Edgars Rinkēvičs, is an openly gay man. Women in Latvia historically have high levels of employment and participation in the labor market. However, the skills acquired by women are different from those acquired by men. In Latvia, gender stereotypes are quite strong. Segregation in fields of education, as well as in occupations and economic sectors is pronounced and results in a persistent gender pay gap. Both male and female types of same-sex sexual activity are legal in Latvia, but households headed by same-sex couples are ineligible for the same legal

protections available to opposite-sex couples.

State of Labor Rights: There is one trade union confederation in Latvia, the LBAS, and almost all significant unions belong to it. The Latvian Constitution contains provisions on labor rights, such as the prohibition of discrimination, the freedom of association, the right to remuneration and the right to weekly holidays and annual paid leave, and finally the right to conclude collective agreements, the right to strike and the freedom of trade unions. During the period of occupation of Latvia by the Soviet Union (1940-1990) as well as by Germany (during WWII), the legal labor relations system of the Soviet Union and Germany was applicable in Latvia respectively. After Latvia regained its independence, a labor law reform was launched in order to replace the Soviet system based on international law, in particular European Union law. As a result of the reform, legislation in the area of labor law encompasses both individual and collective labor relations.

Lebanon

Delegation: Central High School

Capital City: Beirut **Location:** Western Asia **Population:** 5331203
Country's Leader: Prime Minister Najib Miqati **Form of Government:** Parliamentary Republic
Official Language: Arabic **Other Languages:** French, English, Armenian

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Jacob Ingrassia

Percent Population with Disabilities: 10%-15%

Types of Natural Disasters: Earthquakes, forest fires, floods, landslides, and droughts.

Percent Population Homeless: As of 2024, about 80% of the Lebanese population lives in poverty.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: There are multiple instances in Lebanon where disabled children are excluded from education opportunities. Reports reveal that disabled children are left out of mainstream schools because of the country's lack of resources. Lebanon lacks the resources to keep up with the accommodations for disabled children. Resources like trained staff, financial support, and inclusive policies, are all limited. The same situation applies to healthcare-related services. There is not just a problem with funding for health accommodations, but there is a lack of insanity. Resources such as access to necessary medications for these disabilities.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: There are systems in place to prepare for natural disasters in Lebanon, however, they are not adequate. Multiple studies have found that many buildings in Lebanon are not designed to withstand earthquakes, the most common natural disaster in this area. In addition, hospitals around Lebanon have plans put in place for emergencies, however, their lack of resources and training prevents them from carrying it out to their best ability. The lack of awareness for emergency preparedness adds to the inefficient ability to relieve emergency situations.

Affordable Housing Programs: With a shrinking economy, Lebanon struggles to keep up with its residents. Many Lebanese people can not afford to keep a roof over their heads. There is currently no strong affordable housing program in place, and it is not foreseeable that there will be any in the future. As the country's economic state struggles to remain stable, it is difficult to implement affordable housing programs, as the country can barely afford the resources to do so.

Eco/Soc

Student Ambassadors: Albert Bellanger, Tiana Bergeron

Regulations on Waste Management, Electronic Waste: Integrated Solid Waste Management Law (ISWM Law)

Percent Population Male, Female, LGBTQ+: 51.5 percent of Lebanon's population is female, while 48.5 percent of the population is male. Unknown records of the percentage of LGBTQ+ people.

Labor Rights, Unions Regulations: It's forbidden to set to work a child under the age of 14 without a medical exam. , Labor unions are only legal after publication of the ministerial order./The employer may not discriminate between men and women regarding pay, employment, and promotions

Waste Management, Climate, Public Health: The lack of waste management legislation in our country contributes to the depleting environment and growth in climate change. The only known political policy that combats the waste problem is ISWM, no other institution is present which contributes to the depletion of the climate and ecosystem in Lebanon. Some health implications that come with improper management are diseases, such as asthma, birth defects, cancer, cardiovascular disease, and more. These all affect the present population and future populations of the nation as a whole.

Social, Economical, Political Gender Divisions: The Father or the oldest male is the patriarch of the family and his opinions are always final. It is often presumed that children automatically belong to him. The mother's role is to fulfill domestic duties and care for the children. However, among younger generations, gender roles are shifting as women work outside the home. Economically they are pretty equal because there are laws in place that prevent pay being determined by gender. While they're economically equal, many Lebanese women who marry a foreigner are not allowed to pass on their citizenship to their children while men are allowed to pass theirs on. Queer individuals don't fit into any of the categories since most queer people stay in the closet due to the oppression they face. If Caught gay people are sentenced at max a year in prison. If a trans woman gets caught they will be sentenced to at max 6 months in prison.

State of Labor Rights: Lebanon has a set of laws in place to protect workers and make sure they're being

treated ethically and fairly. Workers are given breaks, limited on how many hours they can work, and when they can take off. It establishes that it's forbidden to set to work a child who has not reached the age of 14 years old and has to get a medical exam to determine if they're fit to complete the job. Labor unions are only considered legal after the publication of the ministerial order in the official gazette. Trade unions are only allowed to promote and protect the professional interests of the corporation. Trade unions are required to keep a register of their member's names, age, places of origin, addresses, places of work, and another register with all expenses and receipts.

Libya

Delegation: University Lab School

Capital City: Tripoli **Location:** North Africa **Population:** 6934279

Country's Leader: Mohamed al-Menfi

Form of Government: Unitary Republic

Official Language: Arabic **Other Languages:** Italian, English, Tamazight

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Hadley Bourgeois, Grace Martin

Percent Population with Disabilities: 2.9 - 14.3

Types of Natural Disasters: Floods

Percent Population Homeless: 4.05

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: People with disabilities in Libya are aided with homes and establishments and will receive care no matter where they reside. They are given prosthetics if needed and they are exempt from taxes and fees. When staying in a facility, it should include full accommodations, food and assistance to each patient. Minors should be able to stay in school while the school makes accommodations for their disabilities. Both disabled and non disabled students should be put into the same classroom and shouldn't be segregated from each other. Once someone has completed their rehabilitation, they must go back to work/school and cannot take advantage of the disability laws.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Libya does have systems in place that are prepared for natural disasters but they are somewhat weak. Floods were able to devastate the country because of poor meteorology services that were unable to predict what would happen and poor infrastructure in dams that broke. Overall Libya does not have very effective systems for dealing with emergency relief and with new problems that will continue to arise with changing climates it is essential that their systems be upgraded.

Affordable Housing Programs: The Libyan economy is in a pretty bad place. The GDP has dropped 50% from 2011-2020. There is a large unemployment rate in the country as well. This is due to the conflict in Libya and many other problems such as the pandemic and other global conflicts. Libya is facing a severe housing problem with many people being displaced. There have been some attempts to reconcile the housing problem in Libya but they haven't made much progress sometimes because of turmoil in the country. Though Libya's economy is in a bad place it would be in the country's best interest to try to invest in the homeless population because it is such a severe problem in the country.

Liechtenstein

Delegation: Catholic High School

Capital City: Vaduz **Location:** Europe **Population:** 39039

Country's Leader: Daniel Risch

Form of Government: Constitutional Monarchy

Official Language: German **Other Languages:**

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Mick Pasquier, Owen Hamner

Percent Population with Disabilities: 15%

Types of Natural Disasters: 1. Avalanches 2. floods 3. mudslides 4. Landslides

Percent Population Homeless: "Non-existent"

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Yes, they do because in 2020 and 2021 Liechtenstein banned disability discrimination and they have 1/3 of disability measures.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Liechtenstein has established Geological Risk Maps and specifically makes sure that the residential areas are safe and protected.

Affordable Housing Programs: The government provides housing to citizens that are not able to do otherwise.

Eco/Soc

Student Ambassadors: Mick Pasquier, Owen Hamner

Regulations on Waste Management, Electronic Waste: 1. Increase of use of recycling materials in road surfaces 2. Evaluation of a gradual degrees of dumping fees 3. Use of recycled building materials from construction waste in public buildings and plants

Percent Population Male, Female, LGBTQ+: 1. 49.6% Male 2. 50.4% Female 3. There is an unknown percent of LGBTQ+ because they do not have as much rights as straight people and the country is relatively small.

Labor Rights, Unions Regulations: 1. Liechtenstein facilitates the formation of trade unions and collective bargaining, and workers enjoy freedom of association in practice

Waste Management, Climate, Public Health: The current waste management in Liechtenstein is not contributing too much to climate change because all their waste is incinerated or recycled. Because the waste is incinerated, that causes air pollution.

Social, Economical, Political Gender Divisions: Genders in Liechtenstein are divided somewhat equally with a 16.5% pay gap between men and women. Queer people are able to fit in somewhat in Liechtenstein, as they are unable to be recognized as non-binary and are unable to change genders.

State of Labor Rights: Labor Laws in Liechtenstein are great and do not provide a minimum wage. Law also facilitates trade unions so that the workers of Liechtenstein have the freedom to enjoy association.

Security

Student Ambassadors: Mick Pasquier, Owen Hamner

Alliances with Middle Eastern Countries: None

Relationship with Syria: 1. Liechtenstein denounced Syria for "Atrocities" 2. Made effort to investigate crimes against humanity in Syria.

Percent Pop Internet Access: 99.0% has access

Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict, Human Rights Violations: The Prince of Liechtenstein was ready to send humanitarian aid to Nagorno-Karabakh. In general Liechtenstein is always ready to call another country out when violating human rights.

Syrian Civil War Aid, Humanitarian Aid History: Liechtenstein did not provide aid or military support in the Syrian Civil War. Liechtenstein is not shy to provide humanitarian aid to countries having trouble.

Internet Censorship, AI Ethics: Liechtenstein does not censor certain parts of internet. Liechtenstein has plans in place in order to protect data from AI.

Malaysia

Delegation: Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

Capital City: Kuala Lumpur **Location:** Southeast Asia **Population:** 34671895

Country's Leader: Anwar Ibrahim

Form of Government: Parliamentary Democracy

Official Language: Malay **Other Languages:** Mandarin, Tamil, and English

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Sofia Leo, Meredith Hill

Percent Population with Disabilities: The overall prevalence of physical disability was 2.8 per 1000 population among children aged between 7 and less than 18 years old. The commonest cause was congenital, in 61.5% of the affected children.

Types of Natural Disasters: Drought, landslides, earthquakes, and storm surges.

Percent Population Homeless: 20%-30%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Malaysia has equal healthcare for all of its citizens and education may be obtained from the multilingual national school system, which provides free education for all Malaysians, or private schools, or through homeschooling. International and private institutions charge school fees. The duty to provide reasonable accommodation is not yet mandated for employers in Malaysia.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: The National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA) continuously implements various improvement initiatives to reduce the risk of disasters and to enhance our disaster preparedness.

Affordable Housing Programs: Yes, there are some options for affordable housing programs. Federal Territory Residences which was earlier known as RUMAWIP/FTMH is an affordable housing program that provides more comfortable, quality, and affordable residences to Federal Territory residents. The Perumahan Awam Kos Rendah ("PAKR") program was launched in 1976 and later changed to the Projek Perumahan Rakyat ("PPR") which is the current government initiative for providing affordable housing for the poor.

Mongolia

Delegation: Metarie Park Country Day

Capital City: Ulbaanbaatar **Location:** Central Asia **Population:** 3348000
Country's Leader: Ukhnaagiin Khürelsükh
Form of Government: Semi-Presidential Republic
Official Language: Mongolian **Other Languages:** Kazakh

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Sydney Allmont, Porter Sinnott

Percent Population with Disabilities: 3.3%-4.1%

Types of Natural Disasters: floods, dust storms, droughts, wildfires, earthquakes, dzuds

Percent Population Homeless: half of the street homeless had been homeless for 1-5 years, with 24 percent for 6-9 years and 2 percent for more than 10 years.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: The law states no discrimination against persons with disabilities and there must be equal access to education, healthcare, and public buildings. The law states this, but it is not enforced. Many buildings are still inaccessible and schools lack the appropriate infrastructure as well as the teacher training.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: There are organizations that prepare and assist before and after natural disasters. These systems address relief through administration, organization and direct assistance. Mongolia has emphasized being prepared, early warning, and natural disaster mitigation. The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), National Agency for Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring, National Program for Community-based Disaster Reduction and the UN all address systems of relief, warning and protection against natural disaster in Mongolia.

Affordable Housing Programs: Ulaanbaatar Green Affordable Housing and Resilient Urban Renewal Project is an \$570.1 Million eight year project. The project is meant to deliver solutions for their high homeless and poverty issue. It will turn Ulaanbaatar into an affordable, low-carbon, livable, eco-districts and increase activity in investments for homes.

Mozambique

Delegation: St. Joseph's Academy

Capital City: Maputo **Location:** Southeast Africa **Population:** 33897354

Country's Leader: President Filipe Nyusi

Form of Government: Mozambique has a constitutional republic, semi-presidential system and the Assembly of the Republic has domain over the country

Official Language: Portuguese **Other Languages:** Makhuwa, Tsonga, Nyanja, Sena, Lomwe, Chuwabo, Ndaou, Tswa, other (11.8%)

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Cameron Wilkinson, Addison Richard

Percent Population with Disabilities: Around 3% of the population is disabled.

Types of Natural Disasters: The natural disasters of Mozambique are mainly flooding, droughts, and cyclones. In the past 35 years there were 75 declared disasters; 13 droughts, 25 floods, 14 tropical cyclones, and 23 epidemics.

Percent Population Homeless: About 2.54% of Mozambique's population is currently homeless.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: In the past, they did not have equal access to healthcare, healthcare is limited and more than half of Mozambique used to walk an hour or more to their nearest health facility, and medicine stockouts are common. They have made significant progress in healthcare over the past 15 years. Now, most of the population uses public health assistance, which is offered for free. Even though it is not the best and still experiences frequent shortages and is subject to whenever there is available staff.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Early warning systems are the systems in place to prepare for natural disasters in Mozambique. These systems are the National Meteorology Institute (INAM), Social Communication (ICS), and the National Institute for Disaster Management and Risk Reduction (INGD). The INAM produces a meteorological warning based on satellite imagery, radar, and observation network data, the ICS disseminates these alerts through its network of 70 community radios and trained community brigades that warn at-risk communities that leads them to safety before an extreme weather occurrence, and the INGD coordinates this exercise with support from the World Bank's Disaster Risk Management and Resilience Program. The systems address the disaster early so that emergency relief is efficient.

Affordable Housing Programs: There is one major household program called the Housing Promotion Fund (FFH) and there are 17 mortgage providers. Based on the economy there are most likely not going to be other programs besides this one. There are still more attempts to increase funding and affordable housing to accommodate the large influx in population. This plan is attempting to reduce slum housing and replace inadequate housing with ~4000 units already built.

Nepal

Delegation: St. Joseph's Academy

Capital City: Kathmandu **Location:** South Asia **Population:** 30030000
Country's Leader: Ram Chandra Poudel - president
Form of Government: Federal Parliamentary Republic
Official Language: Nepali **Other Languages:** Maithili, Bhojpuri

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Aubrey Harvey,

Percent Population with Disabilities: 2.2% of Nepal's population is reported having a physical or psychological disability.

Types of Natural Disasters: Landslides, Floods, Earthquakes

Percent Population Homeless: Nepal around 250,000 people (about .01% of the population) are homeless, and about 10% of the general population live in slums with unstable housing.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Nepal strives to provide equal public education and health services for citizens with disabilities as their constitution guarantees social security as a right for vulnerable citizens. Disabled citizens in cities or densely populated areas have access to medical treatments, but in rural areas there is less access to healthcare. As with Healthcare, Nepal is developing their education for disabled people, with varying programs and success by regions. Some schools offer classes where students with similar disabilities are grouped and receive more help, however there is no set curriculum for students with intellectual disabilities. While disabled students can attend school, most do not have adequate access to support programs and do not attend school.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Due to its geographical position, Nepal is Prone to many natural disasters including landslides, floods, earthquakes, droughts, and avalanches. To help preparedness for these events Nepal established the National Emergency Operation Center (NEOC) to spread information and coordinate response efforts for disasters. Despite these efforts made by the government, lack of resources and scale of disasters can cause the government to be unable to provide support in situations of large scale disasters.

Affordable Housing Programs: The constitution of Nepal states that housing is a basic right for every citizen, however many citizens and residents of Nepal are homeless or unable to access safe and affordable housing. Because of Nepal's lack of infrastructure and funding, creating affordable housing is impossible for the whole population as 17.4 percent of Nepal's population lives below the poverty line and many residents are still displaced due to the 2015 earthquake.

Netherlands

Delegation: Lafayette high school

Capital City: Amsterdam **Location:** Western Europe **Population:** 17650521
Country's Leader: Mark Rutte
Form of Government: Parliamentary Representative Democracy
Official Language: Dutch **Other Languages:** French, English, German

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Nicoline Perrin, Julie Le

Percent Population with Disabilities: 13%

Types of Natural Disasters: Extreme weather, wild fires, and earth quakes

Percent Population Homeless: .18- 36,000

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Netherlands strives to create equal opportunities for all, this includes equal education and healthcare services for those with disabilities. The government implemented the "Equal Treatment Of Disabled And Croncially Ill People Act" in 2003. This profits discrimination against disabilities in regard to education. This includes specialized service inclusive practices to promote inclusion. In regarding healthcare Netherlands pay for unemployed citizens with diabetes, insurance. Also pays benefits for those struggling with disabilities.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: The Netherlands does have well developed systems to prepare for natural disasters. They implemented various measures such as flood protection systems, emergency response plans (NCTV), and early warning systems. Additionally, they have implemented innovative strategies like creating floodplains, and reservoirs to store access to water during heavy rain fall. This ensures the safety and protection of our country and citizens.

Affordable Housing Programs: Netherlands has Implemented various affordable housing programs to address the needs of our citizens. Some to list are "Social Rental Sector"-which aims to provide housing for lower income families, or "Huurtoelag"- Which helps individuals and families with rental costs, "Woningwet"- this sets guidelines for construction, allocation, and management to ensure availability. These and among others help address the housing needs for our citizens.

Eco/Soc

Student Ambassadors: Julie le, Nicoline Perrin

Regulations on Waste Management, Electronic Waste: Netherlands has a strong focus on sustainability and environmental protection. Currently, 77% of our waste is recycled and the residual waste is mainly used for energy production. Some of our major polices and regulations included, EPR- where we hold prod

Percent Population Male, Female, LGBTQ+: male-49.5 Female-49.5 LGBTQ- 67%

Labor Rights, Unions Regulations: Indefinite contracts, fixed-term contracts, and on-call contracts.

Waste Management, Climate, Public Health: Netherlands has a Improper waste management can have negative impacts on the environment and ecosystems. It could contribute to climate change by releasing greenhouse gases when it decomposes and can further contribute to global warming. It can also harm the ecosystem by polluting water bodies, damaging soil quality, and affecting wildfire. Additionally when it comes to public heath implications it can increase the risk of disease and air born illness and respiratory problems.

Social, Economical, Political Gender Divisions: Netherlands has a strong empahis on gender equality and expressions. Socially we encourage

acceptance aim to reduce gender disparities. Economically Netherlands has implemented polices guided by Ministry of foreign affairs that focus on promoting female leadership, increase economic empowerment, eradicating violence among females, and peace building women. Among this Netherlands, Queer individuals are protected. Economically we have implemented anti-discrimination laws in the workplace. Politically, first to legalize same sex marriage and take pride in the LGBTQ+ representation in our government.

State of Labor Rights: Labor rights in the Netherlands are concrete. The country values fair workers' rights as well as creating a positive and collective environment. We have the Dutch Constitution, Work Council Act and Working Conditions Act. To ensure that workers have a voice in their workplace, they have the right to form unions and participate in collective bargaining that is protected by law.

Security

Student Ambassadors: Nicoline Perrin, Julie Le

Alliances with Middle Eastern Countries: Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Jordan, Egypt, Turkey

Relationship with Syria: The Netherlands have a complex relationship with Syria in which they share opposing views on human rights violations.

Percent Pop Internet Access: 98%

Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict, Human Rights Violations: Yes, Netherlands has made a public comment and calls for an immediate end to the military action and calls for the discussion to prevent further escalation. Our country usually responds to human violations in a humane way in favor for those whose rights were violated.

Syrian Civil War Aid, Humanitarian Aid History: Our government, has designated 70 million to fund Syrian rebel groups to help fight there government of Al-Assad. We usually comply with the guidelines of humanitarian law.

Internet Censorship, AI Ethics: Our access is generally unrestricted and allows for open access, we value freedom of expressions and information. we also do not interfere with the private sector when it comes to A.I we collaborate to establish guidelines but have limited restrictions.

New Zealand

Delegation: Woodlawn High School

Capital City: Wellington **Location:** Oceania: South Pacific, SE of Australia **Population:** 5269939

Country's Leader: Emmanuel Macron

Form of Government: parliamentary democracy

Official Language: English and Maori **Other Languages:** Eleven languages (Northern Chinese, French, Yue, Sinitic, German, Tongan, Tagalog, Afrikaans, Spanish, Korean and Dutch)

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Kholbie Nethery , Wesley Porter

Percent Population with Disabilities: 24 percent of the country's population has some sort of disability or long-lasting impairment. This is about 1.1 million people in New Zealand.

Types of Natural Disasters: New Zealand is a geologically active country. New Zealand is an island country which means it tends to be hit by some severe storms and tsunamis. Beyond that, the island also has its fair share of volcanoes and seismic activity. Earthquakes happen on a da

Percent Population Homeless: New Zealand is second to Australia when it comes to homelessness. New Zealand has a 0.12 percent homeless population. This is about 100-200 thousand people. Homelessness is a significant issue in New Zealand.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: The island of New Zealand faces many problems just as much as any other country in the world does. People in this country who have disabilities are treated as equals to those who don't. This is because In 2008 New Zealand agreed to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) agreeing that disabled people have the same rights and freedoms as non-disabled people. New Zealand treats its people very well and takes care of them. In NZ efforts have been provided to equal access to education and healthcare services.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: The island of New Zealand faces many threats from the natural world. Due to its geographical location, New Zealand is very susceptible to seismic activity and volcanic eruptions. The government recognizes that earthquakes happen on a daily and while most of the time not felt, sometimes they can be more dangerous and cause more damage which is taken care of by the well-developed civil defense network overseen by the National Emergency Management Agency. The people of New Zealand are faced with many difficulties living on the island because storms and tsunamis also cause issues.

Affordable Housing Programs: New Zealand has also solved a housing crisis. The island nation implemented upzoning measures that legalized the building of medium-density housing which allowed more houses to be built and people to get off of the street.

Nigeria

Delegation: Haynes Academy

Capital City: Abuja **Location:** West Africa **Population:** 230842743

Country's Leader: President Bola Tinubu

Form of Government: Federal Presidential Republic

Official Language: English **Other Languages:** Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo (Ibo), Fulani, 500+ Indigenous languages

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Sumaiyya Baig, Christine Tseng

Percent Population with Disabilities: The percentage of people with disabilities in Nigeria is approximately 9.6% of the total population, or 19 million people, according to a 2018 report by the Nigeria National Population Commission. However, in 2018, the World Bank reported 29 million.

Types of Natural Disasters: Flooding is a major issue. In Nigeria, the three types of flooding (fluvial, coastal, and pluvial) are interrelated because the peaks of all three flooding types can coincide seasonally.

Percent Population Homeless: Nigeria has the world's greatest number of homeless people. Within the nation, 24 million people do not have homes, according to data from World Population Review.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Speaking generally, the people of Nigeria do not tend to have access to equal education and healthcare services, which include people with disabilities. Regarding education, one in every five of the world's out-of-school children is in Nigeria, with over 10.5 million children not being able to have primary education (Kindergarten-Sixth Grade). Socio-cultural norms and practices that discourage attendance in formal education, regional barriers, and economic barriers are factors of educational marginalization, even though primary education is officially free and compulsory in the country. Not to mention, the lack of resources and available classrooms and teachers in the nation have further contributed to this education crisis. Regarding healthcare services, Nigeria has free healthcare funded by the government, but is ranked among the worst in the world due to its underdevelopment: lack of modern medical facilities; lack of coordination among government officials; lack of accessibility, especially in rural areas; lack of resources, including safe drinking water, drugs, and supplies; lack of health care professionals; lack of infrastructure; and overall a lack of quality care. Additionally, there is poor hygiene, corruption, malnutrition, and insufficient financial investment. In terms of treating mental health disabilities, the health care system seems to be in an even worse shape as Nigeria faces a global human rights emergency in mental health, with around 80% of individuals with serious mental health issues unable to access care. In fact, Africa has the highest caseload of depression and is 15th in the world for suicide rates. To put this in perspective, there are less than 150 psychiatrists in the country of 200 million people. This is particularly alarming for people with disabilities in the country as there are over 29 million people living with disabilities, needing equal access to education and healthcare services, and 90% of those with disabilities live in poverty, further marginalizing the systems. Despite the millions of persons living with disabilities in the country, many public spaces are not accessible to those handicapped due to poor signage, narrow doorways, internal steps, inadequate bathroom facilities and inaccessible parking areas. The government has made efforts through legislation and funding, but it has largely been rendered ineffective. Thus, people with disabilities are among the worst off in Nigeria.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: There are systems in place to prepare for natural disasters in Nigeria, including the National Disaster Response Plan, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Nigeria Erosion and Watershed Management Project (NEWMAP), and Great Green Wall initiative among others. These agencies seem to be largely effective in ideals as they set forth the roles and responsibilities in Emergency Disaster Management regarding agencies involved in the implementation of key response functions during emergencies and disasters and coordinate resources towards efficient and effective disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation and response in Nigeria. However, these systems in reality do not seem to be addressing emergency relief efficiently as these natural disasters destroy the livelihoods of people in which the government does not seem to adequately address or compensate. In these Emergency Disaster Management Systems, poor coordination of emergency response, lack of proper equipment, poorly kept records and data, absence of political will, and rampant political corruption are evident throughout though natural disasters and environment. In the future, this may change as it seems to currently be a priority of the government, but this is doubtful.

Affordable Housing Programs: Nigeria's economy is the first in Africa as it is the largest producer of oil and gas in the continent, yet there is a spatial divide and inequity with this distribution of wealth among social

classes as well as the government and the people; as a result, our country has the world's greatest number of homeless people and deficit of over 28 million units as of 2023. With that being said, there are affordable housing programs outlined with the National Housing Program available in 34 of the 36 states in Nigeria, which commit to adequate and affordable housing and rentals in urban, suburban, and rural areas. Yet still, many issues arise with the program with the high cost of building materials, exchange rate fluctuations, inflation, land acquisition issues, and shortage of fundamental infrastructure (e.g., roads, water, and power).

Eco/Soc

Student Ambassadors: Margo Esquivel, Teagan Pethe

Regulations on Waste Management, Electronic Waste: In 2019, a \$15 million dollar project was started to effectively recycle electronic waste. Nigeria is a part of all major international environmental agreements, and recently began introducing a solid waste management system.

Percent Population Male, Female, LGBTQ+: 1.04:1 male to female. 50.98% male, 49.02% female. There is no data on LGBTQ+ population.

Labor Rights, Unions Regulations: The standard working week shouldn't surpass six days that shouldn't exceed eight hours a day. Labor unions have been in place in Nigeria since 1912.

Waste Management, Climate, Public Health: Nigeria generates 32 million tons of waste annually, with about 22,400,000 tons inefficiently collected and disposed of, mainly in lower income communities. Nigeria generates 1.6% of global solid waste and 0.23% of carbon emissions. All of Nigeria has unsafe air quality, accounting for 50% of people exposed to unsafe pollution levels when combined with the Democratic Republic of Congo and India. Additionally, all main causes of death can be traced back to poor waste management.

Social, Economical, Political Gender Divisions: While women represent more than 60% of Nigeria's rural labor force, they are 5 times less likely to own their own land than men. The Nigeria Labor Act mandates equal pay for equal work regardless of gender.

State of Labor Rights: Nigeria's Labor Act states that no employee should work more than six days a week and the hours shouldn't surpass eight hours a day. If an employee works over six hours in a day, they are entitled to a one hour break. Female workers are entitled to at least 12 weeks of paid maternity leave. There are no restrictions on sharing wages, and there are no barriers on forming unions. Unions have the right to negotiate the terms and conditions of employment with employers on behalf of employees who are members of the trade union, embark on industrial strike action, and engage in peaceful picketing.

Norway

Delegation: Captain Shreve High School

Capital City: Oslo **Location:** Northern Europe **Population:** 5408000
Country's Leader: Jonas Gahr Store
Form of Government: Parliamentary Democracy
Official Language: Norwegian and Sami **Other Languages:** English

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Owen Stillwell, Kaleb Law

Percent Population with Disabilities: 15%

Types of Natural Disasters: Winds, floods, landslides, and avalanches

Percent Population Homeless: 0.05%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: They have access to equal education and special needs education if necessary.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: There is free healthcare and ability to contact an ambulance or the police.

Affordable Housing Programs: There is an affordable housing program for people above the age of 18 with a certain level of income.

Eco/Soc

Student Ambassadors: Owen Stillwell, Kaleb Law

Regulations on Waste Management, Electronic Waste: Divide household items into bags such as recycle and trash. Requires 50% of household trash to be recycled. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030.

Percent Population Male, Female, LGBTQ+: 50.46% male 49.54% 3.8% LGBTQ+

Labor Rights, Unions Regulations: 50 hours max of weekly work. Entitled to holiday pay. Sunday work is not permitted.

Waste Management, Climate, Public Health: Their waste management previously was harmful but there are policies to fix this problem in the near future.

Social, Economical, Political Gender Divisions: Women tend to get a smaller average wage than men.

State of Labor Rights: There are labor unions in Norway.

Security

Student Ambassadors: Owen Stillwell, Kaleb Law

Alliances with Middle Eastern Countries: N/A

Relationship with Syria: Norway has a decent relationship with Syria but are not on the best terms.

Percent Pop Internet Access: 99%

Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict, Human Rights Violations: Norway will provide \$20 million in donation towards this conflict. Norway attempts to help people who's human rights have been violated.

Syrian Civil War Aid, Humanitarian Aid History: Norway is one of the largest donors to this issue.

Internet Censorship, AI Ethics: There are no government restrictions on the internet in Norway.

Pakistan

Delegation: Haynes Academy

Capital City: Islamabad **Location:** South Asia **Population:** 231400000

Country's Leader: Imran Khan. **Form of Government:** Federal Parliamentary Republic.

Official Language: Urdu and English

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Bhavisha Mavadia, Hibah Nawaz

Percent Population with Disabilities: 6.2%.

Percent Population Homeless: 9%

Types of Natural Disasters: inland floods, storms, earthquakes, landslides, droughts, cyclones, and tsunamis

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: The Disability Rights Act in Pakistan prevents institutions from discriminating against people with disabilities. This act claims to take necessary legal and administrative acts against organizations that do so. However, it still occurs. People with disabilities are not given equal chances towards education. The country does not have very many schools that accommodate disabled students. However, the ones that do exist are situated only within urban areas, making it difficult for people living in rural areas to access. Additionally, in terms of healthcare, economic restraints as well as inequities in health create a hassle for disabled citizens from accessing the required care.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) formulates policies, plans, and guidelines for disaster management. In addition to this, there are early warning systems put in place to provide timely alerts to quickly evacuate the affected communities. These local communities undergo training on what to do in the event of a natural disaster within the country as well. Not only that, but infrastructure has undergone mass development, resulting in stronger and sturdy infrastructure. Most importantly however, Pakistan communicates with its neighboring countries to share knowledge and expertise. These systems do address emergency relief, but to an extent. There are still issues with the accuracy and precision of these systems due to funding constraints, infrequent disasters, and remote locations.

Affordable Housing Programs: Pakistan has already created its own housing program called the Naya Pakistan Housing Program. This program aims to create affordable housing for those facing homelessness in the country. However, this plan does come with restrictions. Applicants cannot be residents of Punjab, no plot can be registered against the applicant's name. Furthermore, Applicants must live in the house and are not permitted to sell the home until 5 years.

Eco/Soc

Student Ambassadors: Riley Gulino, Bella Toups

Regulations on Waste Management, Electronic Waste: Plastic bag ban, Green stimulus, CGPI (Clean green pakistan index)

Percent Population Male, Female, LGBTQ+: 123.7/241.5 males , 117.8/241.5 million females

Labor Rights, Unions Regulations: Article 11: prohibits all forms of slavery, forced labour and child labour
Article 17: fundamental right to exercise the freedom of association and the right to form unions
Article 37(e) makes provision for securing just conditions of work

Waste Management, Climate, Public Health: Pakistan has a multitude of different groups working together to manage waste in the country, each of them seeming to take a certain territory of the country. These groups take trash and put them into landfills, similar to other countries around the world. Well, not all of the trash makes it to the landfills and seeing as Pakistan sits right next to the ocean, that's where a lot of it ends up. The vast majority of Pakistan's waste comes from food but right behind it is the group of ash, bricks, and dirt which, when put into the ocean, can negatively impact the environment that marine life inhabits. Pakistan also uses open air incinerators to manage waste which can easily send loads of CO2 into the air. Pakistan has been among the top 10 countries to be affected by climate change and natural disasters and is 3rd worst in carbon emissions. Millions of people have been displaced along the coasts of the country due to rising sea levels and hundreds of thousands are killed due to CO2 emissions.

Social, Economical, Political Gender Divisions: Pakistan is ranked 145th out of 146 countries on the World Economic Forum's 2022 Global Gender Gap Index. While women are respected for the hard work that they put in within the home, it doesn't seem as though their abilities outside of the home are seen regularly. Similar to other countries, men are typically the bread winners of the home due to social norms and general safety. Women in Pakistan are easily targeted by gender based crimes and though these crimes are severely under reported, rates still continue to rise. Because of the social norms and the safety of the country, the numbers of working women in the country are some of the lowest in South Asia. Genderqueer people, or really queer people in general, seem to be missing from the numbers entirely. It is not common for queer people to express themselves due to many understanding the country's main religion, Islam, to be against identifying as queer. So,

coming out could be incredibly dangerous for LGBT people and cannot be accurately accounted for in respect to gender equality.

State of Labor Rights: Pakistan allows the creation of unions under article 17 of the constitution. The only barrier to this is that unions must be registered under the Industrial Relations Act of 2012 (IRA). The IRA was made to regulate the formation of trade unions, trade union activities, relations between employers and workmen, the settlement of industrial disputes, and ancillary matters. One of the larger unions in Pakistan is called the Pakistan Workers Federation (PWF), with 500,000+ members. One of the major strikes of the PWF union was a protest in 2011 over the price hikes in Islamabad. As to any protections or barriers against sharing wages, while the practice is taboo, Pakistan has no litigation against it.

Peru

Delegation: Baton Rouge High School

Capital City: Lima **Location:** Western Coast of South America **Population:** 34550207

Country's Leader: Dina Boluarte

Form of Government: Presidential Republic

Official Language: Spanish, Quechua, and Aymara **Other Languages:** Indigenous languages (Aguaruna, Ashaninka, Kawki, Kukama, Wachiperi, etc.)

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Sarah Thomas, Camille Moore

Percent Population with Disabilities: Approximately 10% of Peruvians had a disability, as of March 2023.

Types of Natural Disasters: Flooding, Earthquakes, Landslides, Volcanoes, and Tsunamis affect Peru.

Percent Population Homeless: There is no clear statistic on the total homeless population in Peru due to fluctuations due to job loss from Covid-19 and frequent natural disasters, such as flooding and landslides in 2017 that left 700,000 homeless. However, as of 2023, 2.9% of the pop

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Peru has legislation protecting the rights of people with disabilities, and provides resources to families and individuals to assist with education. In 2018 Act 30797, modifying Peru's General Education Act of 2003, was put into effect. This act guarantees inclusive education, and gives the Directorate-General of Special Basic Education responsibility for detailing projects and policies for teaching students with disabilities, and monitoring the implementation of the projects and policies. Additionally, UNICEF funded by Education Cannot Wait is providing education to refugees and native Peruvians with disabilities. However, many of these laws lacked or have vague regulations and budgets and are not adequately made aware of to people with disabilities, making them ineffective. This is seen in 88% of school-aged Peruvian children with disabilities not attending school. Moreover, although the law stipulates equal access to education and healthcare for people with disabilities, poverty limits the implementation of this law. The poor elderly are particularly vulnerable; as of 2018 Peruvian adults living with disabilities affecting their daily life were 63% less likely to have extensive health insurance. Peru has also failed to investigate mistreatment of people with disabilities in psychiatric institutions.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Peru is both in the Pacific Ring of Fire and on the western coast of South America, making it vulnerable to a range of natural disasters including El Niño flooding, and Earthquakes. Peru has been working to improve its resilience to natural disasters with measures such as taking out a Development Policy Loan with a Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Option (Cat DDO) from the World Bank. This gives them access to funds to support rebuilding and assist in rescue during disasters. As of 2017, 116 workshops on reducing risk and responding to disasters including training on the operation of mobile health brigades had been given across districts. Solar Heating systems, and polar fleece blankets have also been installed and distributed in order to reduce the effects of freezes, ultimately protecting 80% of babies. However, despite these and other measures, damage and destruction of property due to natural disasters remains high, particularly from January to March. 8,216 residencies were damaged and 326 residencies were destroyed by natural disasters in March of 2021 alone.

Affordable Housing Programs: There are limited options for affordable housing in Peru. Fondo Mi Vivienda is the foremost affordable housing program. It focuses on providing subsidies to lower prices and investing in the production of new low cost homes. However, requirements to receive different subsidies to receive or have a home to be built can include owning a blank lot of land, or having savings, making the poorest Peruvians ineligible. Moreover, it is estimated only 45% of Peruvians can afford newly built low cost new homes. This forces families to reside in lower cost older homes or informal housing both of which often lack solid structure and utilities. The cheapest homes are most vulnerable to natural disasters, perpetuating the homelessness and poverty crisis. The Peruvian government has invested in cheap social housing programs, but these still have requirements such as qualifying for a loan.

Eco/Soc

Student Ambassadors: Alina Tran, Aiswarya Nair

Regulations on Waste Management, Electronic Waste: Legislative Decree N°1278: Solid Waste Management Law, Law N°30884: Law that Regulates Single-Use Plastic and Disposable Containers or Containers, Supreme Decree N°003-2020-PRODUCE: Roadmap towards a circular economy in the industrial sector

Percent Population Male, Female, LGBTQ+: 50.5% female, 49.5% male, 4% LGBTQ

Labor Rights, Unions Regulations: Article 28 of the Political Constitution of Peru (allots collective labor rights), Law 30709 and corresponding regulations under Supreme Decree 002-2018-TR (prohibit wages discrimination), Peruvian Children and Adolescents Code (regulates child labor)

Waste Management, Climate, Public Health: Even though Peru does not generate a large amount of trash, its poor management system exacerbates the waste issue, to where not only the environment is affected, but also the economy and wellbeing of the citizens. Peru only has 64 sanitary landfills, and in addition to low recycling rates, the waste issue is only increasing. Specifically, in Chiclayo, a city in northern Peru, waste has built up in urban areas, leading to the spreading of viruses and bacterial diseases through bugs and rodents. The poor state of waste management has reduced quality of life in that city, and since solid waste management is up to municipalities, the lack of funding can lead to situations such as the one in Chiclayo. Additionally, Peru has some of the largest dumpsites globally, and the poor waste management compromises Peru's participation in the Paris Agreement.

Social, Economical, Political Gender Divisions: Like many other countries, there is a lack of equality between men and women in Peru. Women do not have equal rights when it comes to pay and suffer from poverty and food insecurity at a greater rate than men. Politically, there are efficacy issues in gaining equality for employment and economic benefits. Additionally, there are increasing acts of violence against women. Queer individuals face discrimination and acts of violence in Peru, and some organizations report local regulations that disproportionately affected LGBTQ+. While there are ways to change your name legally in Peru, it is a long and expensive process, which inhibits transgender people from having valid ID cards.

State of Labor Rights: In 2018, there was an estimated 9.8% of workers in trade unions, although 3 out of 4 Peruvians work in an informal industry. Although there are some labor unions in Peru such as the Workers' General Confederation of Peru, traditionally labor unions have been weak due to the weak economy of the country making having a job itself difficult. Many of the inhabitants, including workers themselves, also put labor unions low in their importance level and believe that making labor unions will ultimately decrease their global competitiveness. This has made labor unions difficult to organize, but it is allowed by the government to join any labor union without fear of any business employers from interfering with these practices. Despite this, many of those labor restrictions are not enforced or culturally difficult to support so gender gap pay and wage gaps between indigenous and non indigenous peoples are present. Also, although labor for those in non industrialized agriculture, industrialized fishing, and industrialized mining are restricted for those 15 years and older, it is still legal to hire children starting from age 12.

Philippines

Delegation: St. Joseph's Academy

Capital City: Manila **Location:** Southeast Asia, on the eastern rim of the Asiatic Mediterranean

Population: 118400000 **Country's Leader:** President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

Form of Government: presidential, representative, and democratic republic

Official Language: Filipino (modernized Tagalog) and English **Other Languages:** Bisaya, Cebuano, Ilocano, Hiligaynon Ilonggo, Bicol, Waray, Maguindanao, Kapampangan and Pangasinan

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Kali Baker, Lily May

Percent Population with Disabilities: The 2016 National Disability Prevalence Survey (NDPS) revealed that 12% of Filipinos 15 and older suffer from severe disabilities. Furthermore, 47% of people have moderate conditions and 23% have mild mental and physical disabilities.

Types of Natural Disasters: The Philippines is prone to earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, flooding, and monsoons.

Percent Population Homeless: There are approximately 4.5 million homeless people, including children, in the Philippines. Although the unemployment rate in the Philippines is low (5.3% in March of 2020), 16.6% of Filipinos' wages remained below the country's poverty line in 2018.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: The disabled face a higher likelihood of poverty and lower rates of education, health, and employment. The Magna Carta for Disabled Persons Act was passed in 2007, allowing all disabled citizens to receive a minimum 20% discount from stores and services. Dental and medical care, hotels, theaters, and travel are all included in this coverage. Furthermore, regarding education, the disabled have the right to primary, secondary and all higher levels of schooling, with the proper financial assistance granted. This comes in the form of aid packages, scholarships, full coverage and book and supply financing. For those who are physically or mentally unable to work, rights to benefits from the Social Security System (SSS) and Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) are provided.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: The Ready to Rebuild: Disaster Rehabilitation and Recovery Program is a joint program of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), Office of Civil Defense (OCD), and the World Bank (WB). Ready to Rebuild enhances the capacity of national and local governments to recover better and faster from natural disasters and climate risks even before it happens. This covers pre-disaster and post-disaster activities such as gathering baseline data, formulating a recovery plan, financing, facilitating emergency procurement and implementation, crafting a communications strategy, and developing M&E mechanisms. A total of 325 local governments have participated, translating to 1,805 Mayors, DRM officers, and technical staff trained to prepare baseline data, risk-informed recovery plans, and risk financing strategies prior to disasters.

Affordable Housing Programs: The government, NGOs, and religious institutions are working help the homeless. Government programs include the Modified Conditional Cash Transfer for Homeless Street Families program (MCCT-HSF). This program provides financial support, such as housing grants and funding for health and education, to homeless families in Metro Manila. Although the government and NGOs have made efforts to help the homeless population, much more still needs to be done. Moving forward, these initiatives need to be increased in order to significantly reduce homelessness in the nation.

Poland

Delegation: Catholic High School

Capital City: Warsaw **Location:** Mid Europe **Population:** 37750000

Country's Leader: Andrzej Sebastian Duda

Form of Government: Parliamentary Republic Democracy

Official Language: Polish **Other Languages:** Kashubian and Pomerania

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Ian Trahan, Garrett Mathews

Percent Population with Disabilities: 12.2

Types of Natural Disasters: Violent Marine Storms, extreme temperatures, heavy or low precipitation.

Percent Population Homeless: 8%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: People with disabilities in Poland have equal access to education as well as healthcare services due to their new laws passed and have plenty of access to education and healthcare.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Poland is a part of the Civil Protection of Europe program that has systems in place to relief damages from natural disasters as well as rescue abilities, although there is not a single organization responsible for all disaster management.

Affordable Housing Programs: There is an affordable housing program in place since 2016 that plans to build new flats for people to live in by a substantial number. There is also Habitat for Humanity that has built 1,500 homes since 1992 and continues to build them today.

Qatar

Delegation: Haynes Academy

Capital City: Doha **Location:** Middle East **Population:** 2688000

Country's Leader: Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani

Form of Government: Semi-Constitutional Monarchy

Official Language: Arabic **Other Languages:** Different Arabic Dialects

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: David Russo, William Triplett

Percent Population with Disabilities: Between 0.5-1.5% of citizens have a disability.

Types of Natural Disasters: Qatar is impacted by floods, droughts, occasional sand and dust storms, and earthquakes.

Percent Population Homeless: There are no statistics of Qatar's overall homeless population, however around 85% of the population is migrant workers, with no housing accommodations leading to high homelessness rates.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Over the past 20 years, there have been more accommodation laws being passed in Qatar to help the disabled population. Starting in 2004, Qatar passed two laws regarding the rights of people with disabilities. The first one protected the right to integration and coexistence of people with disabilities in society, and the second made provisions for providing special education for people with total disability of any sense or with physical, psychological, or mental disabilities (The Nation Autism Plan of 2017 added onto this by aiming to improve the lives of citizens with autism). In 2008, Qatar ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 10 days after its passing in the UN. The committee has a goal of making sure all people with disabilities enjoy human rights and fundamental freedoms. However, the committee has found some concerns in the programs Qatar has passed, stating that the approach and programs, though providing them with rights, was segregating disabled people from the rest of the population, with their own specialized solutions, rather than being implemented into existing programs. Qatar has also been more concerned about preventing disability, rather than issuing rights to the disabled, which lead to some discrimination, and in some cases violence against certain groups, not only based on their disability, but also their gender identity, sexual orientation, and migrant status.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Yes. Qatar established in 1998 a Permanent Emergency Committee (PEC), composed of members of the ministries, and public and private organizations, with a goal of tackling crisis and disaster management. Since then, they have created a National Plan for Emergency, which outlines contingency plans for expected disasters within Qatar. The State runs drills periodically to ensure efficiency in carrying out the plans, and established observatories to monitor earthquakes and other disasters that could happen in the area. The PEC also discusses future plans for possible disasters, such as storm surge or rising sea levels, both of which are starting to present themselves as a pressing problem. Qatar itself is less prone to disasters than its neighboring countries, being ranked in the bottom 15 in the world of disaster risk in the 2023 World Risk Report. However, disasters can spontaneously occur at any time, and Qatar's systems in place ensure that its people are always kept safe during disasters.

Affordable Housing Programs: Qatar has been providing low-income families with housing allowances since the mid-1960, and today citizens get around 35% of their pay for housing allowance. Recently, changes have been made to laws regarding housing laws, with the ceiling for home loans being raised to \$330,000, and repayment tenure being raised to 37 years, with the Qatari Development Bank being responsible for distributing government housing loans. Charity programs like the Qatar Charitable Society and the Sheikh Eid bin Mohamad Al-Thani Charitable Association have programs to build affordable housing in Qatar. However, with a growing population, housing prices and the homeless percentage of migrant workers have been rising, and the demand for housing units is outweighing the supply. In 2014, there was a demand for 177,000 units, with Qatar only having 129,000, and the demand has only been going up. This lack of housing has led to the construction of illegal makeshift structures on rooftops, or landlords illegally partitioning apartments. Not many plans are currently in place, however affordable housing has been addressed in Qatar's National Development Framework and Vision of 2030, with a goal to be as sustainable as possible.

Republic of Colombia

Delegation: Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

Capital City: Bogotá **Location:** Northern South America **Population:** 49336454

Country's Leader: Gustavo Petro

Form of Government: Presidential Republic

Official Language: Spanish **Other Languages:** 65 Amerindian languages, Portuguese, and English

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Autumn Baldrige,

Percent Population with Disabilities: There is no information about the percentage of children, but 4.1% of the total population has a disability.

Types of Natural Disasters: volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and droughts

Percent Population Homeless: 5%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Colombia has some accommodations like braille, aid at the DMV, and handicap ramps, but only in cities like Bogota. A 2022 study by the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) found that only one in five disabled people are employed in Colombia. This is even with Law 361 of 1997 which attempts to prevent discrimination for disabled individuals within Colombian borders.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: In Colombia, the most common natural disasters are earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. USAID partners will provide food, protection, water, and health care to Colombians displaced because of natural disasters.

Affordable Housing Programs: Colombia receives aid from non-profit organizations like Habitat for Humanity to help create houses for individuals who can not afford homes.

Republic of Korea

Delegation: Metairie Park Country Day School

Capital City: Seoul **Location:** East Asia **Population:** 51740000

Country's Leader: Yoon Suk Yeol

Form of Government: democratic republic

Official Language: Korean **Other Languages:** Japanese, English, and Mandarin

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Coco Goldenberg, Raine Goldenberg

Percent Population with Disabilities: 5.1%

Types of Natural Disasters: typhoons, rainstorms, floods, droughts, wildfires, winterstorms, landslides, earthquakes, dust storms

Percent Population Homeless: 0.02%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: In the Republic of Korea, it is obligatory for children to attend elementary and middle schools. All citizens of the Republic of Korea receive primary and secondary education, but, depending on their abilities and not their social status or position, some people also receive higher education. The Republic of Korea is 1 of 14 countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) where at least half of the population ranging from 25 to 35 years of age have a tertiary education. The amount of people from 25 to 35 years old who receive a tertiary education increased by 32 percentage points from 37% in 2000 to 69% in 2021. The Republic of Korea spends an average of 12,225 US dollars per student on education. In the Act on Special Education for Persons with Disabilities, Article 28 states that disabled students and their families must have access to proper equipment, facilities, support, and therapy to accommodate the child's educational needs. They also have the Act on Welfare of Persons with Disabilities that helps integrate people with disabilities into society through basic necessities such as medical care and education. Also, people with disabilities in the Republic of Korea have equal access to healthcare since they have a universal medical care system.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: In the Republic of Korea, the National Disaster Prevention and Countermeasures Headquarters (NDPCH) is responsible for the operation of preventative programs for natural disasters. The local branches of this establishment work closely with the Disaster Prevention Team and the Water Control Department. The Republic of Korea also has the Civil Defense and Disaster Prevention Bureau (CDDPB) with its 3 subunits of the Disaster Prevention Planning, the Disaster Preparedness Division, and the Rehabilitation division to account for all stages of a natural disaster. They also have the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasures Headquarters (CDSCH) who is responsible for the prevention of natural disasters and assists in recovery and rehabilitation planning. The Republic of Korea also has a Construction Monitoring System to ensure that preventative systems are functioning properly. They also have the Korea Disaster Relief Team (KDRT) which is an official overseas emergency relief team for the Republic of Korea and they help recover damage, rescue people, and provide emergency medical assistance. There is also the Framework Act on the Management of Disasters and Safety that implements the emergency preparedness systems of alert mechanisms, response manuals, and emergency drills. These systems address emergency relief efficiently because the Republic of Korea is a "smart" country and is able to recover from natural disasters with relatively low costs and is able to reduce damages and casualties that occur to begin with.

Affordable Housing Programs: The economy of the Republic of Korea is strong and stable and is expected to grow by 2.2% in 2024. Therefore, based on the economy of the Republic of Korea, there are viable options for affordable housing programs. Specifically, there is a housing program provided by Habitat for Humanity, which is intended to support low-income people and people who have been displaced from events like natural disasters and wars. Additionally, Social Housing Programs like the Voucher Program, which started in 2022 enabling displaced people to have a temporary home for 3-6 months, have been put in place since 2012.

Eco/Soc

Student Ambassadors: Janna Sherman, Magdalena St. Louis

Regulations on Waste Management, Electronic Waste: The policies include Volume-based Waste Fee (VBWF), Pay As Your Trash, and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). VBWF is a waste management system that requires the public to sort waste that is recyclable. It also requires the community to pay a waste m

Percent Population Male, Female, LGBTQ+: Male: 50.05%; Female: 49.95%; LGBTQ+: 6%

Labor Rights, Unions Regulations: Unionism is permitted only as long as it is about negotiating the price of labor. Any attempt to create a working-class union is banned. Also, any union whose goal is political transformation is persecuted. The Labor Standards Act states that the “terms a

Waste Management, Climate, Public Health: There is water pollution from the discharge of sewage and industrial effluents. Drift net fishing can harm ecosystems. They also have issues with solid waste disposal. Acid rain and air pollution have public health implications, especially in large cities. Some of the problems arising from poor management of medical waste include damage to humans from sharp instruments, diseases transmitted to humans from infectious agents, and the contamination of the environment by toxic and hazardous chemicals.

Social, Economical, Political Gender Divisions: South Korea is rooted in many patriarchal ideologies/gender roles. They have had one female president in the past, but a scandal and impeachment undermined some of the progress made for female politicians. It ranks 121st in a study out of 144 countries on female economic participation and equality. On the government side, there have been 6 Acts that address gender equality issues (all dating from 1987 to 1997). Women gained the right to vote/run for election in 1948. The wage gap (2017) between men and women is 34.6%. “South Korea is placed at number 124 out of 149 countries in the world in regards to economic participation and opportunity for women.” In terms of societal gender roles, women are often encouraged to have childlike behaviors, tones of voices, and expressions (called aegyo), in order to seem more cute, pleasant, and feminine.

Same sex marriage is not recognized by Korea and same-sex couples can't jointly adopt, but same-sex intercourse is legal. Transgender and nonbinary people are excluded from military service. There are some policies (not laws) against LGBTQ+ discrimination in some provinces.

State of Labor Rights: Currently the legal work hours are 8 hours a day, 40 hours a week, not including break times. Women within 1 year of childbirth cannot work extended hours, over 2 hours a day, 6 hours per week, and 150 hours per year. Pregnant women cannot work any extended hours. The employee's consent is required for women over the age of 18 to work overnight hours and holidays. The minimum wage in 2023 is KRW 9,620, hourly. Labor unions are permitted only as long as it is about negotiating the price of labor. Any attempt to create a working-class union is banned.

Republic of Singapore

Delegation: St. Joseph's Academy

Capital City: Singapore **Location:** Southern tip of the Malay Peninsula. **Population:** 5827000

Country's Leader: Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

Form of Government: Unitary multiparty republic with one legislative house.

Official Language: Mandarin Chinese, Malay, Tamil, English. **Other Languages:** Hokkien, Teochew, Cantonese, other Chinese dialects, and other Indian languages.

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Anna Camille deBlieux, Louisa deBlieux

Percent Population with Disabilities: 2.5% of Singapore's residents currently have a disability or cannot perform basic tasks. Many of these numbers come from people who are over the age of 65.

Types of Natural Disasters: Singapore is exposed to the risk of earthquakes, tsunamis, and cyclones, but is primarily exposed to flooding due to monsoons during the rainy season.

Percent Population Homeless: 0.18% of the Singaporean population is homeless right now, and this number includes street living and temporary shelter populations.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: People in Singapore are required to attend school from the ages of 6-15 under the Compulsory Education Act. The only exception is if the child has been granted compulsory education exemption due to their disability, and then other measures will be taken. Measures such as home-schooling or attending another designated school. Although Singapore signed the Conventions on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), many people with disabilities, specifically autism, find that their voices go unheard to the Singaporean government. Specifically, what those people consider to be discrimination, the government does not. While Singapore has universal healthcare, many private insurance companies provide outdated or irrelevant criteria to people with disabilities applying for insurance, specifically those with autism.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Singapore established a natural disaster management system through the Civil Defense Act in 1986. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is the main government body that makes decisions in relation to safety and security, leading at the strategic level of disaster management. The Singapore Civil Defense Force (SCDF) works at the tactical level, planning and executing the multi-agency response to lessen the impact of a disaster. The SCDF also provides 24-hour firefighting services, rescue and emergency ambulance services, public education that allows citizens to become more involved in safety and security, public warning systems, fire safety requirements, and civil defense shelter construction programs. The SCDF developed the Operations Civil Emergency Plan that summarizes the response plan for natural disasters.

Affordable Housing Programs: Singapore's Housing and Developmental Board (HDB) started building low-cost units in 1960. These units promised housing for those who applied to the program, and since 1960, more units have been built to manage the growing population. For a while, the HDB offered rental units, but quickly got rid of the option during the 1990's due to the rising influx of homeowners. These dwelling units are still being built and bought today, and about 95% of the units are put aside for first time buyers, usually young couples. Grants up to \$80,000 are offered to first time buyers, and on average, a condo or flat is 3 times the price of the HDB units

Republic of Slovenia

Delegation: Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

Capital City: Ljubljana **Location:** Europe, East of Italy **Population:** 2108000

Country's Leader: Nataša Pirc Musar Prime Minister: Robert Golob

Form of Government: Parliamentary republic

Official Language: Slovenian **Other Languages:** Croatian and Serbian

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Tripp Veillon, Kate Lyons

Percent Population with Disabilities: 12-13%

Types of Natural Disasters: Slovenia experiences and has experienced ravaging and devastating floods since its independence in 1991, due to rising temperatures. Slovenia had its worst flood in August 2023, when a month's worth of rainfall emptied onto the country. "The country exper

Percent Population Homeless: From the most recent sources, (2016-7), there were roughly 3000-6700 homeless people. There is not much recent information on this, most recent

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: In 1991, Slovenia adopted the Concept of Development Strategy for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities, offering a modern definition of disability based on human rights philosophy. This act covers healthcare, education, employment, rehabilitation, legal protection, and emphasizes the right of persons with disabilities to an independent life. This strategy was developed with the involvement of persons with disabilities, state representatives, and experts.

Slovenia has also implemented various decisions, laws, and acts to protect the rights of disabled individuals, including ensuring traineeship opportunities, the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act, and the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Disabled Persons Act. Additionally, Slovenia addresses disability rights through sector-specific legislation, covering areas such as employment relationships, social security benefits, healthcare, and cultural heritage protection.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Disaster management in Slovenia is organized as an integrated system that involves various stakeholders, including rescue units, humanitarian organizations, research institutions, and governmental bodies. Responsibilities are shared among the government, local communities, commercial companies, and citizens, emphasizing a bottom-up and systematic approach.

The Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief (ACPDR), operating within the Ministry of Defence, serves as the national authority responsible for disaster management. Prevention efforts are outlined in the National Programme of Protection against Natural and other Disasters, focusing on reducing accidents and their consequences. Risk assessments for various disasters are conducted by ministries and local communities, coordinated nationally by the ACPDR. Preparedness includes training and exercises for professional and voluntary firefighters, as well as civil protection personnel. Early warning systems, such as sirens and media broadcasts, are in place, with monthly siren testing. The Emergency Notification Centre of the Republic of Slovenia monitors events, issues alerts, and coordinates international assistance requests in case of major disasters. In emergency response, operational command and coordination occur at various levels, depending on the severity of the incident.

Affordable Housing Programs: The National Housing Fund of the Republic of Slovenia was established in October 1991 under the National Housing Act to fulfill the state's obligation of providing housing for its citizens. The Fund oversees the implementation of the National Housing Programme (NHP) in collaboration with governmental bodies at both national and municipal levels. Initially tasked with providing favorable loans, the Fund's responsibilities have expanded over the years to include investment, management, and construction activities. The current ten-year strategy, concluding in 2025, emphasizes increasing dwelling supply and supporting disadvantaged and vulnerable individuals. Under the NHP, the Fund commits to dedicating one public dwelling for rental use for each sold public dwelling. Recent projects, co-financed by the Fund, include the construction of rental housing in Ljubljana. The Fund aims to acquire public rental housing units, assisted rental housing units, and places in retirement homes. The Fund, along with European Commission funds, has secured around €60 million for affordable housing.

Republic of Uzbekistan

Delegation: St. Joseph's Academy

Capital City: Tashkent **Location:** Central Asia **Population:** 36407000

Country's Leader: President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov

Form of Government: Presidential republic with a bicameral Supreme Assembly (Oily Majlis) which consists of a Senate (Senat) and Legislative Chamber (Qonunchilik Palatasi).

Official Language: Uzbek **Other Languages:** Russian, Tajik, Bukhari, Crimean Tartar, Karakalpak, Kazakh, Korean Turkish, and Arabic.

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Lorelei Robinson, Gabrielle Perrault

Percent Population with Disabilities: Uzbekistan has 2.14% of the population registered as physically or mentally disabled.

Types of Natural Disasters: Along with other Central Asian countries, Uzbekistan is prone to earthquakes, landslides, mudslides, floods, and droughts. They also face threats from locust invasions and avalanches.

Percent Population Homeless: 17% of people in Uzbekistan live under the poverty line. According to the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), 2.4% of the population is affected by unstable housing.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: 4.9% of Uzbekistan's GDP is spent on education, which is approximately 3,392,760,000 dollars USD. All males over 25 have a secondary education and 99.9% of women have secondary education. Article 23 of the Constitution mandates the state to ensure free compulsory general secondary, special (disability) secondary, and vocational education. Only 2.8% of disabled people received assistive devices from the state and 21.5% of disabled people have access to assistive devices. The government intends to introduce market competition for assistive devices to increase the quality and availability. Reported disabilities for women and girls halved in recent years. Women and girls with disabilities are prone to gender-based violence and harassment. 25% of disabled people do not receive required healthcare services and are three times more likely to not receive prescription medication. People with disabilities can receive Individual Rehabilitation Plans (IRP) which contain measures of multiple rehabilitation and assistance with finding work. IRPs are not usually given out because the company assessing lack qualification and have almost no specialization in rehabilitation. Uzbekistan has many protections for disabilities: the 2008 Law on the Rights of the Child, Articles 23, 25, 27, and 29 of the Constitution, the 2018 revision of the Law on Education, 2019-23 education sector plan, 2013-17 education sector plan, Article 23 of the Law on Education, 2008 Law on Social Protection of People with Disabilities specifically Articles 6 and 17, Resolution 2685/2015, Resolution 2519/2013, Resolution 417, and the EU's Inclusive Education for Children with Special Needs. The Law on Social Protection of Disabled People guarantees disabled people unhindered access to social infrastructure.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Uzbekistan expects a loss of \$92 million (USD) annually from natural disasters, which is the highest in Central Asia. After an alarming increase in natural disasters in Uzbekistan in the early 2000s, protection against natural disasters became a high priority topic for the Uzbekistani government. They have laws in place on protection of their citizens in cases of both natural and man-made disasters as well as prevention of said disasters. The Ministry of Emergency Situations (MoES) is Uzbekistan's key national body in place to work towards reducing disaster risk in the country. The State System for Prevention and Response (SSPR) in Uzbekistan consists of bodies in charge of managing emergency epidemiological, epizootic, and epiphytotic situations. The SSPR also includes the ministries' resources, other agencies, and local governing bodies. A mapping system was also created to evaluate and calculate the risk of earthquakes in various areas of the country in order to protect against possible technological emergency situations such as structural collapses. Many other projects have been started by MoES and other similar organizations within Uzbekistan and from outside of the country to work towards preventing natural, man-made, and lessening damages of disasters that may occur. Education systems have also been put in place to teach Uzbekistani citizens how to properly protect themselves in case of an emergency situation. More research is also being done on behalf of the government to improve upon prevention and relief services across the country as a whole.

Affordable Housing Programs: In June of 2017, Uzbekistan began an Affordable Rural Housing Program (ARHP) after it was approved by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). This project aimed to improve the quality of life for Uzbekistani citizens in rural areas as they tended to be poorer areas. It provided a loan of \$500 million and attempted to create more housing and more jobs. Three state owned banks provided loans

to construct 29,000 housing units in nine different areas. Private contractors took on the project and it was to be supervised by Qishloq Qurilish Invest (a state-owned engineering company), Qishloq Qurilish Loyiha (State Design Institute), and the Ministry of Construction. The project officially went into effect mid-2023, and while it did provide more affordable housing for those living in rural Uzbekistan, there have been reports of residents questioning the quality of the housing. Uzbekistan would likely benefit from increased aid from foreign countries in the matters of improving the conditions of affordable housing and maintaining their affordability.

Romania

Delegation: Haynes Academy

Capital City: Bucharest **Location:** Eastern Europe **Population:** 19892812

Country's Leader: Klaus Iohannis

Form of Government: Republic

Official Language: Romanian **Other Languages:** Romani, Hungarian

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Rania Abbas, Zainab Majid

Percent Population with Disabilities: Approximately 900,000 Romanian's have a disability, of which about 77,000 are children. There is still an unknown number of disabled adults in Romania due to them being admitted in different facilities and psych wards.

Types of Natural Disasters: Vulnerable to several historic natural disasters, the areas mainly affected are the agricultural sectors through seasonal floods and droughts. High temperatures, heat waves, landslides, earthquakes are all natural hazards that affect Romania.

Percent Population Homeless: About 14,000-15,000 people in Romania don't have a roof over their head (statistics from 2020).

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Approximately 1 out of every 20 people in Romania are classified as disabled as of June 2023, adding up to nearly 900,000 individuals in which about 77,000 are children. Disabled persons are most likely to hold low levels of education. Many children in Romania are still excluded from any form of education and have very costly healthcare. Every insured person in Romania has the right to free and unrestricted medical services. Despite this, they still end up paying themselves to receive quality care. Out of 7,072 educational facilities in Romania, 167 are special needs schools. People with disabilities can receive care services and protection provided at day centers (worldbank.org).

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Romania has made substantial investments in enhancing its emergency and disaster response capabilities. This project aims to improve the country's resilience, preparedness, and response to disasters. Facilities through investments will be energy efficient and disaster resilient, as well as accessible for disabled persons.

Affordable Housing Programs: Romania's GDP is \$651.6 Billion. The country itself is ranked 3rd in the top European countries for cheap housing, however, some individuals cannot afford these prices. There are housing programs run by several companies in Romania to provide affordable and comfortable housing. That's why Romania has organizations such as Carusel to support these homeless people and help them afford housing and basic necessities for their life.

Russian Federation

Delegation: Lafayette High School

Capital City: Moscow **Location:** Eastern Europe, Northern Asia **Population:** 144995000

Country's Leader: Prime Minister: Mikhail Mishustin, President: Vladimir Putin

Form of Government: Federal Multiparty Republic with a Bicameral Legislature

Official Language: Russian **Other Languages:** Approximately 26 other languages

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Evan Patton, Will Swann

Percent Population with Disabilities: 9%

Types of Natural Disasters: Heavy rains and snowfalls, river floods, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, debris flows, snow avalanches, rockfalls, and ice phenomena.

Percent Population Homeless: 0.0081%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Children and adults living with disabilities in Russia encounter numerous obstacles to getting a quality education, at all levels of the education system.

Children and adults living in state institutions may receive little or no education at all. They have no accommodations for those with disabilities.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: The Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Mitigation of the Consequences of Natural Disasters (EMERCOM of Russia) coordinates and responds to any "disasters resulting from accident, natural and man-made disasters, employment of conventional and CBR weapons, underwater special rescue operations." It effectively provides water and fire safety measures to all Russian citizens.

Affordable Housing Programs: Housing is a right in Russia according to Article 7 of their Constitution. However, about 46% of Russians say they are unsatisfied with their current housing. One current system is the Federal Housing Development Foundation to promote the development of land market, to support activities related to territorial planning, urban zoning, and land development through the construction of infrastructure facilities, and to stimulate creation of energy-saving and environmentally friendly technologies. This program doesn't actually do much.

Eco/Soc

Student Ambassadors: Axe Plaisance, Anna Skerrett

Regulations on Waste Management, Electronic Waste: "Bases of a State Policy in the Field of Ecological Development of the Russian Federation for the Period till 2030» (2012) "Complex Strategy of Treatment with Solid Municipal (Household) Waste in the Russian Federation" (2013) "About Production and Consum

Percent Population Male, Female, LGBTQ+: Male: 46.5%, Female: 53.5%, LGBTQ: unknown

Labor Rights, Unions Regulations: The Employment Act, The Labour Code, and The Labour Law

Waste Management, Climate, Public Health: Since its transition period in the early 1990s, Russia has been carrying out major environmental policy reforms focusing on major issues such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, and ozone layer depletion. Improper waste management in Russia poses significant risks to climate change and ecosystems, this is not helped by Russia being a major emitter of greenhouse gasses (Contributing 4.5% of GHG emissions), and a leading global supplier in fossil fuels. It is majorly impacted through methane emissions from landfills, carbon dioxide from incineration without energy recovery, and the leakage of refrigerants from improperly disposed electronic waste. These practices also threaten ecosystems by polluting water sources with landfill leachate, contaminating soil, and releasing toxic substances into the air, leading to detrimental effects on biodiversity and natural resources. For public health, the repercussions include respiratory issues from air pollution, waterborne diseases from contaminated water sources, soil and crop contamination affecting food safety, and the spread of vector-borne diseases due to uncontrolled waste sights, all of which highlight the critical need for improved waste management strategies to safeguard environmental and public health in Russia.

Social, Economical, Political Gender Divisions: According to Article 19 of the Russian Constitution, "All people shall be equal before the law and court. 2. The State shall guarantee the equality of rights and freedoms of man and citizen, regardless of sex, race, nationality, language, origin, property and official status, place of residence, religion, convictions, membership of public associations, and also of other circumstances." Despite this, 16% of Russian parliament seats are held by women, compared to 26% of legislature seats worldwide. Russia was ranked 81 of 156 by the Global Gender Gap Index (2021), an index

used to measure gender inequality in health, education, economy, and politics.

Queer individuals do not fit into Russia. 38% of the Russian population are disgusted or scared by the homosexual population. Only 3% of the Russian population deem Homosexual people “friendly.” The Russian Supreme Court has deemed the LGBT movement an extremist organization. Under Russian criminal law, participating in or financing an extremist organization is punishable by up to 12 years in prison.

State of Labor Rights: In Russia, labor rights are governed by a comprehensive legal framework that includes the Labor Code, which outlines the rights and duties of employees and employers, including work hours, rest periods, and leave entitlements, aiming to protect workers’ rights and ensure fair employment practices. However, while the law formally recognizes the right to form and join trade unions, in practice, workers face significant barriers to unionizing, including bureaucratic hurdles and resistance from employers. Additionally, recent legislation has tightened controls over labor activism and restricted the operations of independent labor unions, complicating collective bargaining efforts. Although wage sharing is not explicitly prohibited, the environment for openly discussing wages or organizing for better pay can be constrained by these legal and practical challenges, affecting workers’ ability to advocate for improved labor conditions and rights effectively.

Security

Student Ambassadors: Walker Prejean, Lincoln Trumps

Alliances with Middle Eastern Countries: Russia maintains an alliance with Syria and Iran, while unofficially influencing countries like Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine.

Relationship with Syria: The Syrian government maintains an alliance with Russia. Russia’s only mediterranean naval base, Tartus, is located in Syria.

Percent Pop Internet Access: 83.42%

Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict, Human Rights Violations: Russia publicly supports Armenia’s claims to Nagorno Karabakh and backs them against the Azeris. Russia historically has attempted to broker peace negotiations in the region. After the Azerbaijani victory in the second Nagorno-Karabakh war, Russia led peace talks after which they stationed soldiers in Armenia. Russian troops are stationed in the region for at least 5 years according to the 2020 ceasefire agreement. Russia, typically does not directly address human rights concerns in its adjoining countries.

Syrian Civil War Aid, Humanitarian Aid History: Russia has publicly supported and militarily backed Bashaar Al-Asaad in the Syrian Civil War. Airstrikes and small scale interventions have been the norm. Russia tends to provide humanitarian aid primarily through the training of medical professionals and distribution of vaccines.

Internet Censorship, AI Ethics: Russia is in full support for the development of artificial intelligence, as well as in other Asian countries. Russia believes it’s essential to preventing a western AI monopoly due to the power it can have in a country’s development. It has used military AI in conflicts such as Nagorno-Karabakh, Syria, and Ukraine, and plans on furthering AI’s development. Russia has sent federal grants totaling up to \$14 million U.S.D. to six Universities across the nation to research AI development. Russia hopes for this research to advance medical practice, galactical knowledge, security efforts, and more to its full extent, both at the private and public level. Putin has sought out to privatize AI to a large degree due to the public’s wishes. Russia intends to use AI to aid in its harmonization efforts to protect the public.

Rwanda

Delegation: Catholic High School

Capital City: Kigali **Location:** Sub-Saharan Africa **Population:** 13400531

Country's Leader: Paul Kagame

Form of Government: Presidential Republic

Official Language: Kinyarwanda, French, English, Swahili **Other Languages:** Small Tribal Languages

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Gordon Crawford, Steven Stogner

Percent Population with Disabilities: 4-5% of population above 5 years old.

Types of Natural Disasters: The main natural disasters that affect Rwanda are floods and landslides, particularly in the higher mountainous regions of the country..

Percent Population Homeless: The government of Rwanda does not officially publish homelessness statistics and actively persecutes the homeless population, but it can be estimated that the population is likely in the thousands, with a particularly high number of homeless Rwandans being

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: While people with disabilities are constitutionally protected from discrimination, multiple problems still significantly affect the community. People with disabilities are not constitutionally entitled to social protections, and there is an intense societal stigma towards people with disabilities. People with disabilities both attend and graduate from school at roughly half the rate of those without disabilities. However, in the past decade, the Ministry of Health has undertaken significant efforts to properly categorize people with disabilities and have implemented new programs to better support their well-being.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Disaster preparation and relief falls under the Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management, or MINEMA. The Ministry organizes the coordination of the different government ministries in responding to disasters, formulates disaster policy, provides resources to the public in natural disaster education, and manages aid negotiations and certain project funds. While the foundation of MINEMA in 2010 has improved the ability of the government to respond to natural disasters, disasters are still a major issue in Rwanda and Rwanda frequently relies on foreign aid and NGO assistance in disaster response.

Affordable Housing Programs:As stated by the law establishing RHA, the Institution is responsible for promoting the program for the provision of housing to individuals or assist them in building their own homes; and collaborating with banking and financial institutions to help Rwandans to build their own homes. Government of Rwanda targets to increase urbanization rate from 18% to 35% in 2024 to support economic growth. An urbanization of 35% by 2024 is the expression of an increase of urban population by about 2.7 Million people. The Housing Market study done in City of Kigali (IGC 2018) showed that 700,000 new dwelling units were needed by 2028, where 70% dwelling units lay in Affordable Housing category. The Government of Rwanda initiated the Affordable Housing program to find the solutions of housing challenges to low and middle income communities all over the country.

Eco/Soc

Student Ambassadors: Nick Pecquet, Peter Watson

Regulations on Waste Management, Electronic Waste:Rwanda does not have great capabilities to manage electronic waste management. Rwanda, however, has limited imports of used electronics, to limit waste.

Percent Population Male, Female, LGBTQ+: 48% male, 52% female, <1% LGBTQ+

Labor Rights, Unions Regulations: 12 week paid maternity leave, 16 years minimum age, an employer must pay employees equal salary for work of equal value without discrimination of any kind.

Waste Management, Climate, Public Health: Due to Rwanda's size and cleanliness, Rwanda contributes a nominal amount to climate change; however, Rwanda manages electronic waste poorly, so the nation will eventually have to solve this when they do implement more electronic capabilities.

Social, Economical, Political Gender Divisions: Female majority in parliament, constitutional enforcement that ensures 30% of ruling body is female, very few queer individuals so no policy, female slightly higher unemployment rate.

State of Labor Rights: There are no restrictions on forming unions or sharing wages. There is maternity leave, employee benefits such as health insurance, and other rights.

Saudi Arabia

Delegation: Metairie Park Country Day School

Capital City: Riyadh **Location:** Arabian Peninsula **Population:** 36000000
Country's Leader: Mohammed bin Salman (House of Saud)
Form of Government: Absolute Monarchy
Official Language: Arabic **Other Languages:** N/A

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Christian Myers, Gavin Ferrand

Percent Population with Disabilities: 2.9%

Types of Natural Disasters: Saudi Arabia suffers from floods, sand and dust storms, and drought.

Percent Population Homeless: 0%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Saudi Arabia offers at home specialized healthcare services for people with disabilities. The Kingdom also provides our citizens with equal education opportunities no matter what special needs they have.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Yes, the Saudi Red Crescent Authority. It addresses issues efficiently.

Affordable Housing Programs: Vision 2030 is a Saudi Arabian housing program to give housing support. Saudi Arabia helps people access financial support and made it much easier to afford houses. By 2022, 60% of people in Saudi Arabia own a house. By 2030, 70% of Saudi Arabians will own a house. Saudi Arabia also have other plans to support people in need of a house or is renting.

Security

Student Ambassadors: Clovis Layrisson, Ben Morvant

Alliances with Middle Eastern Countries: Egypt, Jordan, Qatar, Bahrain, Iraq, Oman, Yemen, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates.

Relationship with Syria: Saudi Arabia funds rebels in Syria.

Percent Pop Internet Access: 99%

Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict, Human Rights Violations: Saudi Arabia recognizes the region as rightfully belonging to Azerbaijan. Armenia is not a sovereign state and thus does not have the privileges associated with it. This conflict is one of the few instances in which the House of Saud is willing to cooperate with the Turkish government. We fully support Azerbaijan's military endeavors.

Syrian Civil War Aid, Humanitarian Aid History: The Saudi government has funded and will continue to support rebel groups in their rightful fight against an oppressive Syrian government. While we are not entirely opposed to the existence of a Syrian state, major changes at the fundamental level are required before we commit resources to support the Syrian government.

Internet Censorship, AI Ethics: Yes there is internet censorship in Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia stands at the forefront of AI development. Saudi Arabia will continue to provide ample resources to further this technology. The distinct lack of ethics found within these systems allows for incredible practical use. Unburdened by emotion, AI will revolutionize government, economy, and technology. Saudi Arabia fully supports the acceleration of AI research with minimal regulation.

Sierra Leone

Delegation: Metairie Park Country Day School

Capital City: Freetown **Location:** North Atlantic Coast of West Africa **Population:** 8908040

Country's Leader: Julius Maada Wonie Bio

Form of Government: Republic with one legislative house

Official Language: English **Other Languages:** Mende, Temne, Krio, ethnic languages

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Peetsie Goldenberg, Chloe Jones

Percent Population with Disabilities: 1.3%

Types of Natural Disasters: flooding, drought, coastal erosion, and landslides

Percent Population Homeless: over 50%, homelessness increasing

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Many children with functional disabilities in Sierra Leone have access to education. Most children with disabilities are in school, but for others there needs to be special accommodations or improved accommodations to allow them to effectively learn. However, children with hearing or seeing disabilities have the lowest rates of school attendance, so there is need for improvement in that area. Although the Persons with Disability Act from 2011 allows for people with disabilities to have free medical services, for government healthcare facilities there is an unequal access to them for people with disabilities. The Education Act of 2004 forbids discrimination between students in their attendance in schools in Sierra Leone.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: There is work to be done for Sierra Leone to be prepared for its natural disasters. However, UNICEF works with the Sierra Leone Government, other UN agencies, the Sierra Leone Red Cross, local authorities, and NGO partners to aid communities that were affected by natural disasters and prevent these disasters from further harming communities and harming child survival and development. UNICEF supports communities financially and technically after natural disasters by giving medicine, aid for children, and needed items (not food). To improve preparedness and limit harm, UNICEF gives money to households endangered by natural disasters. For coastal erosion, there is also protection against barriers to solve the problem.

Affordable Housing Programs: Around over half of the population lives in poverty, with them being higher in rural areas. FBN Bank Sierra Leone offers mortgages for first home purchases, construction, or renovation. However, there are some restrictive requirements that make it less accessible such as steady income. It is challenging to provide reasonable affordable housing for the poor in Sierra Leone. Rural housing is made of sticks, mud, and likely grass roofs and is cheaper. Meanwhile, Freetown(urban) has a population of people that are above poverty rates and can afford adequate housing.

Slovakia

Delegation: Episcopal School of Acadiana

Capital City: Bratislava **Location:** Central Europe **Population:** 5447000

Country's Leader: President: Zuzana Čaputová. Prime Minister: Robert Fico

Form of Government: Parliamentary Republic **Official Language:** Slovak

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Siyeon Joo

Percent Population with Disabilities: 30.6%.

Percent Population Homeless: 0.19%

Types of Natural Disasters: Floods

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: People with disabilities are entitled to equal access to education and healthcare. While discrimination against people with disabilities is illegal in Slovakia, accessibility and prejudices against disabled persons persists. Necessary accommodations are offered but incredibly limited in private businesses and public housing and transportation. Holistically, this lack of accessibility renders it nearly impossible for people with disabilities to access education, employment, healthcare, and other essential services.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: The Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic cooperates with other state authorities, self-governing regions, municipalities, legal entities, individuals and with public-legal institutions with the humanitarian mission to activate responses to emergencies. These rescue operations are deployed in natural disasters and participate in situations stipulated in the Act on Civil Protection. Although these systems are effective in mitigating any damage, Slovakia's resilience and rebound is mainly empowered by its diverse peoples and communities.

Affordable Housing Programs: Slovakia is ranked very lowly amongst other European countries in terms of providing affordable housing programs. For context, according to the consultancy firm Deloitte, it takes an average of 14 gross annual salaries for a Slovak to purchase a new 70-square-metre flat. State housing policies and the State Housing Development Fund have helped increasing housing construction but have largely failed due to ongoing privatization. Despite the national housing allowance scheme, such programs are insufficient in addressing affordability problems.

Eco/Soc

Student Ambassadors: Adam Gombos, Arun Cacodcar

Regulations on Waste Management, Electronic Waste: Waste Management Programme of the Slovak Republic, Waste Management Information System, The Waste Act (renewed every 5 years)

Percent Population Male, Female, LGBTQ+: 48.88% male, 51.63% female, and unknown/unreliable data on the LGBTQ+ communities

Labor Rights, Unions Regulations: Labour Code Act No. 311/2001 Coll, The Employment Contract, and Act No. 5/2004 on Employment Services.

Waste Management, Climate, Public Health: Slovakia is navigating how to increase its energy recovery, reduce its 75% landfill-fated waste, and shape its landfill tax. For example, the 2010 amended Waste Act instructed municipalities in Slovakia to introduce separate collection for paper wastes, plastic wastes, metallic wastes, glass wastes, and biodegradable waste. However, these practices are rarely highly prioritized or enforced despite the decreasing CO2 emissions per capita. Both material and organic recycling have been at the forefront of government policy but not action. Nevertheless, the economic strains on Slovakia to meet EU's waste targets and landfill constraints hinder the country's ability to handle the COVID-19 pandemic and its emerging insurance coverage policies. The issue for Slovakia is the limited space to manage waste but also the economic allocations of the money towards environmental concerns.

Social, Economical, Political Gender Divisions: Slovakia ranks 24th out of 27 EU countries in the gender equality index. Gender divisions exist in every domain including childcare work of which 57 % of women, compared to only 16 % of men, are involved in. Unfortunately customary gender inequalities are also apparent with women being significantly more likely to have their working hours reduced and disproportionately engaging in housework. Given these substantial traditional gender divisions, Slovakia has cultivated environments that are nearly impossible for queer individuals and the LGBTQ+ individuals to thrive in. If Slovakia wishes to become a more accepting and tolerant country, it must tackle its profound gender inequalities to address its corresponding social, economic, and political barriers.

State of Labor Rights: The Confederation of Trade Unions of the Slovak Republic (KOZ SR) is a national trade union center in Slovakia and helps conduct and regulate labor unions within the country. There is a weak presence of labor unions, a 40 hour weekly work maximum, and a recently increased minimum wage of €4.023 to €4.310 per hour and €700.00 to €750.00 per month. Forming unions is not entirely encouraged nor restricted by law but is naturally uncommon in Slovakia's workforce. Sharing wages is not protected by law, however.

South Africa

Delegation: Dutchtown Highschool

Capital City: Pretoria, Cape Town, Bloemfontein **Location:** Africa, Southernmost African Nation

Population: 61020221 **Country's Leader:** Cyril Ramaphosa

Form of Government: Constitutional Republic **Official Language:** Afrikaans

Other Languages: English, Xhosa, Zulu, Northern Sotho, Tswana, Tsonga, Venda, Swati, Ndebele

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Robert Jacobs, Rachel Thompson

Percent Population with Disabilities: The national disability rate is 7.5% in South Africa. Disability is more common among females compared to males. More than half (52.,2%) of persons aged 85+ reported having a disability.

Types of Natural Disasters: Storms and floods make up over 50% of South Africa's natural disasters. Between 1900 and 2017, above 100 disaster events were reported, resulting in 2200 deaths as well as 21 million affected.

Percent Population Homeless: The Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) estimates between 100,000 and 200,000 nationwide are homeless.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Many people with disabilities living in South Africa are unable to access healthcare facilities. Including ICU beds and ventilator access, therapeutic interventions, or rehabilitation. As well as medication. Article 24 of the CRPD, in affording the right to education for persons with disabilities. emphasizes the principles of non-discrimination. requires state parties to realize the right based on equal opportunity. The country of South Africa has the CRPD which states key rights for people with disabilities that everyone has to obey to be equal.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: The Department of Cooperative Governance is responsible for disasters in South Africa, they made the Disaster Management Act in 2002. Which aims to provide a coherent, transparent, and inclusive policy on disaster management appropriate for South Africa. The Framework presents the intergovernmental structures and policy framework that creates the main responsible organ the National Disaster Management Centre.

Affordable Housing Programs: FLISP is a program that provides home purchases for low-income earners. If your income ranges from R 3501 to R 22000 per month, you may qualify for FLISP, provided you meet the other criteria.

Eco/Soc

Student Ambassadors: Aaren Mohammed, Jake Albares

Regulations on Waste Management, Electronic Waste: National Environmental Management Waste Act 59 of 2008, National Environmental Management Act of 1998, 2020 National Waste Strategy

Percent Population Male, Female, LGBTQ+: Approximately 51.1% (approximately 30,75 million) of the population is female and approximately 48.9% (approximately 29,39 million) is male. As of 2019, an estimated 634,000 South African adults identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or "other" than hetero.

Labor Rights, Unions Regulations: Everyone has the right to fair labor practices, Every worker has the right to strike, and every employer has the right to form and join an employers' organization, and to participate in the activities of the organization including collective bargaining.

Waste Management, Climate, Public Health: South Africa currently has extremely poor waste management. It is predicted that South Africa domestically generates a total of 12.7 million tons of waste per annum as of 2020. Every year approximately 3.67 million tonnes of this waste are not collected and treated through formal waste collection systems, resulting in large amounts being dumped illegally; this leads to many health problems all over the country. The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEFF) has identified 69 illegal landfill sites in South Africa as of 2016, meaning those numbers will have only increased since then.

Social, Economical, Political Gender Divisions: In South Africa, the gender divide is being closed highly compared to that of other countries in Africa. Based on a 2023 study, South Africa had an overall gender gap index score of 0.79, placing it 20th out of 146 countries proving that South Africa had its gender disparity lowered. However, economically, men still dominate the field as men have had higher chances of becoming an employer or getting a job as a manager. In the second quarter of 2022, men occupied over 67 percent of the total managerial roles in the country. Similarly, of 806,000 employers, almost 650,000 were men. In the

political field, inequality is also prevalent. Although women in the country secured around 46 percent of the seats in the National Assembly, they were still under-represented in decision-making occupations.

State of Labor Rights: The labor laws in South Africa are embedded in its constitution in chapter two of its Bill of rights. Based on past situations and developments a Ministerial Legal Task Team to draft new labor legislation and the Labour Relations Act 66 of 1995 was born and came into effect on 11 November 1996. The act formed a new era in South African labor law that is protected to this day. The labor law includes Legislation, Judicial precedent (judicial decisions), arbitration awards, Collective agreements, Common law, and custom and legal writings. Every worker has the right to form and join a trade union and to participate in the union's activities.

Security

Student Ambassadors: Benjamin Tilley , Marcus Soileau

Alliances with Middle Eastern Countries: Iran, Israel, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia

Relationship with Syria: South Africa does not want any military intervention in Syria. It supports the dictatorship of Bashar Al Assad. While South Africa is not willing to put troops in Syria, South Africa is willing to provide support and aid for Syria and Bashar Al Assad.

Percent Pop Internet Access: 72.3% of the population has access to the internet. This is the majority of the country but not as much as most first world countries. The country is actively working on getting internet access to 80% citizens by the year 2024.

Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict, Human Rights Violations: The South African Government has not commented on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. However, South Africa does have diplomatic relations with Armenia. South Africa is not always interested in stopping human rights violations, and there is very little to no response from the South African Government.

Syrian Civil War Aid, Humanitarian Aid History: They have sent aid to some countries during war and large crises. The South African Government has sent aid to Bashar Al Assad through the City of Damascus. The South African government supports the dictatorship of Bashar Al Assad in Syria.

Internet Censorship, AI Ethics: The only internet restrictions in South Africa are bans on websites that post 18+ content. It does not regulate the use of AI and would not majorly interfere with AI ethics. The South African government would not regulate the private sector when it comes to AI and AI ethics due to it having little influence over the state of the country and its people. With limited access to the internet AI would not have a major effect on the country as of now.

South Sudan

Delegation: Baton Rouge High School

Capital City: Juba **Location:** Northeastern Africa **Population:** 11200828
Country's Leader: Salva Kiir Mayardit
Form of Government: Presidential Republic
Official Language: English **Other Languages:** Dinka, Arabic, Nuer

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: David Huang,

Percent Population with Disabilities: 11%

Types of Natural Disasters: Droughts, flooding, etc

Percent Population Homeless: 7.3%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Though now there are more actions being taken by South Sudan to accommodate their large population of disabled citizens like with their signing to join the Conventions on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, South Sudan is a famously cruel place for people with disabilities to reside. People with disabilities face challenges with access to education, as there are still many educators who hold negative attitudes towards those with disabilities and many schools don't have accommodations for people with disabilities and are in difficult to reach locations. Healthcare services for disabled people are still very limited, and many of those that exist aren't accessible or affordable to most. The necessary accommodations like adjusted transportation and infrastructure aren't always accessible due to most of them being concentrated in Juba and the high costs associated with them.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: The National Disaster Management Strategic Plan for South Sudan is the most recent natural disaster plan in the country. This system seems to be very effective for emergency relief, covering both disaster relief for the numerous flash flood that happen every, and future development for regions near and in potential disaster areas. They were so effective that are to still be in state even though they were planned only for only 2018- 2020.

Affordable Housing Programs: There are many affordable housing initiatives being taken plan in South Sudan. There are microfinancing plans to loans to provide low-income families with loans or resources for the purchasing or building of affordable housing. There are subsidies provided to developers to incentivize the development of affordable housing. The government has also started a "slum-development" plan which aims to improve upon the conditions of many informal houses that have been built across the country

Spain

Delegation: Catholic High School

Capital City: Madrid **Location:** Europe **Population:** 47519628

Country's Leader: Pedro Sanchez Perez-Castejon

Form of Government: parliamentary constitutional monarchy

Official Language: Castilian Spanish, Catalan **Other Languages:** Basque, Galician, Araneae

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Alex Traylor, Jack Butler

Percent Population with Disabilities: 33% of Spain's population has some form of disability.

Types of Natural Disasters: Spain suffers from natural disasters including flooding, forest fires, draughts, earthquakes, and tornadoes especially in the summer months.

Percent Population Homeless: Currently .09% of Spain's population is homeless which affects only a sum 40,000 people living there.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Article 43 of the Spanish Constitution reads that all citizens have the right to free healthcare and protection, however many with disabilities feel they aren't treated the same as non-disabled citizens, as a lack of education, jobs, and communal areas are present in Spain.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Spain has a National Disaster Risk Reduction Program that strengthens the people and their knowledge of impending threats. Spain has provisions such as early warning systems that detect heavy rain, snow and wind.

Affordable Housing Programs: The rights to housing in Spain is given by the constitution, The plan is called the Vivienda Protection Publica, translated to publicly protected housing; however, a small amount of this housing is available to rent, and the price of rent is increasing.

Sri Lanka

Delegation: Haynes Academy

Capital City: Colombo **Location:** Southeast Asia **Population:** 21949268

Country's Leader: Ranil Wickremesinghe

Form of Government: Democratic Socialist Republic/ Semi-Presidential

Official Language: Sinhala **Other Languages:** Tamil

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Carter Gutirez, Hudson Mobley

Percent Population with Disabilities: 8.7%

Types of Natural Disasters: Droughts, floods, landslides, cyclones, and coastal erosion

Percent Population Homeless: 4%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: In 2016, the government introduced a National Action Plan on Disability, emphasizing inclusive education for children with disabilities. However, challenges such as the availability of specialized teachers and accessible facilities exist.

In Sri Lanka, the healthcare system may face challenges in providing specialized services and accessible facilities for individuals with specific disabilities. Awareness and training of healthcare professionals on the needs of people with disabilities are crucial for improving services.

Accommodational issues include accessible infrastructure, assistive devices, and trained personnel. All of which Sri Lanka in many cases lacks. Advocacy groups and NGOs in Sri Lanka are pushing for better accommodations and inclusivity.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Disaster Management Center (DMC): Sri Lanka has a Disaster Management Center, which serves as the primary government institution responsible for disaster response and management. It coordinates disaster risk reduction activities, early warning systems, and emergency response.

Meteorological Department: The Meteorological Department of Sri Lanka issues early warnings for weather-related disasters, including cyclones, heavy rainfall, and floods.

National Early Warning Center: The National Early Warning Center works in coordination with the DMC to disseminate timely information and warnings to the public.

National Disaster Relief Services Center (NDRSC): NDRSC plays a crucial role in organizing and coordinating emergency relief efforts during and after disasters. This includes the distribution of relief supplies, medical assistance, and support to affected populations.

Sri Lanka also receives international assistance and support during major disasters through collaborations with organizations like the United Nations, international NGOs, and neighboring countries.

Affordable Housing Programs: Shelter for All Program: Sri Lanka has had initiatives like the Shelter for All Program, aiming to provide housing for low-income families. These programs may involve the construction of basic housing units and the improvement of existing housing conditions.

Concessionary Loan Schemes: The government may implement concessionary loan schemes to make housing finance more accessible for individuals with lower incomes. These schemes often include favorable terms for repayment.

Urban Regeneration Projects: Some urban regeneration projects may include provisions for affordable housing. These projects aim to revitalize urban areas and often include a mix of residential, commercial, and recreational spaces.

Urbanization Challenges: Rapid urbanization in Sri Lanka has led to increased demand for housing, especially in urban areas. Balancing this demand with affordable solutions is a challenge.

Land Availability: The availability of suitable land for affordable housing projects can be a constraint. Urban land is often expensive, affecting the feasibility of affordable housing initiatives. Sri Lanka is rapidly running out of urban space due to exponential shifts in population.

Infrastructure Development: Infrastructure development, including access to water, electricity, and transportation, is crucial for the success of affordable housing programs. All of which have been a reoccurring issues in Sri Lanka.

Sweden

Delegation: Woodlawn High School

Capital City: Stockholm **Location:** Northern Europe **Population:** 10560000

Country's Leader: Ulf Kristersson

Form of Government: Parliamentary representative democratic constitutional monarchy

Official Language: Swedish **Other Languages:** English, German, French, Spanish, Danish, Finnish

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Katherine Russell, Paul Pittman

Percent Population with Disabilities: 21.7%

Types of Natural Disasters: Coastal flooding, blizzards

Percent Population Homeless: 0.31%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Sweden has worked to provide equal services in healthcare and education to those with disabilities. For education, inclusion policies have been key to the country's success in this sector. Most students with disabilities can attend regular compulsory schooling, with state-run special schools in place for students who need additional support. As for health services, Sweden's long-standing commitment to universal, high-quality, publicly-funded healthcare is carried over to its disabled population. Special services are provided as a part of the existing system. An extra emphasis is put on services that don't require institutionalization, allowing for our disabled population to lead normal lives. Following the 2008 UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Sweden has worked diligently to remove barriers to these services. This includes legislation that requires disabled access to public transportation, and universal access to services across the country, not just in major cities.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Sweden is considered to have one of the lowest risk factors for natural disasters globally. Despite this, the country has a comprehensive disaster system to respond to forecasted and sudden disasters. The government provides training at the national and local levels to public authorities to ensure preparedness and that relief is properly carried out. Emergency warning systems for weather-based disasters are in place to communicate advisories to the public in the case of an impending weather disaster. Required risk prevention has also been applied through legislation to prevent catastrophes regarding the country's nuclear power plants, dams, and other man-made structures that have catastrophic potential. Sweden also continues to work with the EU and the UN to ensure international standards are met.

Affordable Housing Programs: Sweden currently offers affordable public housing across the country. Public housing was first developed in the mid-60s responding to housing shortages under the "Million Houses Policy" moniker. This policy has proven to be successful for both the government and its citizens. Homes and apartments are kept up to the standards of private housing, with lower-than-market value rent pricing. Over 20% of the country's population lives in the form of public housing. Furthermore, rent regulations have limited pricing on private housing, allowing for great accessibility. Unfortunately, this system has been unable to fulfill modern housing shortages due to the influx of migrants into the country. Big cities such as Stockholm and Malmö are the primary epicenters of this ongoing crisis. However, construction of new housing has not slowed down and is expected to increase further into the decade, hoping to match the speed of immigration.

Eco/Soc

Student Ambassadors: Helena Liljeberg, Eddie Hasson

Regulations on Waste Management, Electronic Waste: Over 50% of household waste is turned into energy by burning it; there is a comprehensive incentive-based recycling program; the country now requires all food waste be separated when collecting waste to create biogas

Percent Population Male, Female, LGBTQ+: 49.6% Male; 50.3% Female; 2-4% Lesbian, Gay, or Bisexual
Labor Rights, Unions Regulations: Right to join any labor union without employer intervention; guaranteed paid vacation, parental leave, and sick leave by the government; Labor unions are given the authority to bargain wages and working hours

Waste Management, Climate, Public Health: The impact of Sweden's current waste management system is very low compared to other industrialized nations in Europe and across the globe. Sweden burns most of its organic waste and turns the emissions into biogas, used to power homes and vehicles. Biogas, despite being cleaner than fossil fuels, still leaves environmental and health impacts when burned. Specifically for health, impurities in biogas, if not filtered out, can cause respiratory irritation and asthma. However, Sweden

acknowledges its usage as a transition fuel until more of its infrastructure is moved to renewable energy sources such as wind and solar. Additionally, facilities that produce biogas receive inspections and funding to improve their processes.

Social, Economical, Political Gender Divisions: Sweden has consistently ranked in the top 5 of the World Economic Forum's gender equality index. Socially, women have become more self-determinative within the home and workplace since the 1970s. Men are found in an equal, if not greater amount of tasks involved in home-making, childcare, etc. However, a gender pay gap does remain, with women tending to get paid 10% less than men on average. Politically, the Swedish legislative body, the Riksdag, sees a split of 53% men to 47% women. As for LGBTQ individuals, the 2000s saw multiple laws passed that gave LGBTQ Swedes adoption and marriage rights, as well as prohibiting discrimination. For specifically transgender individuals, there remain barriers within the workplace and in healthcare. However, Sweden has legal benchmarks set that they hope to reach soon to close the inequality gap.

State of Labor Rights: Swedish labor rights put workers first. Companies operating in the country are required to provide paid sick leave for two weeks, over a year of paid parental leave, and twenty-five days of paid vacation days. Instead of closely regulating the labor market, the Swedish government has given labor unions much power to self-regulate. Employers cannot prevent you from joining a worker's union under Swedish law. Labor unions help negotiate wages, working hours, resources, and other workplace factors. Collective agreements at a specific employer are also used between the employer and the employee.

Switzerland

Delegation: Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

Capital City: Bern **Location:** Western Europe, East of France, North of Italy

Population: 8796669 **Country's Leader:** Viola Amherd

Form of Government: semi direct democratic republic

Official Language: French, Italian, German, and Romansh **Other Languages:** English, Portuguese, Spanish, Serbian, Croatian, and Albanian

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Mason Bond, Andrew Taylor

Percent Population with Disabilities: 20.3%

Types of Natural Disasters: Landslides, rockfall, flooding, forest fires, avalanches

Percent Population Homeless: 0.02%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: In Switzerland, all schooling is compulsory through the end of secondary education, though those with disabilities have a 3% higher likelihood of not attaining complete secondary education (88.0% to 91.3%). To ensure that all students receive the education they deserve, physical adaptations to educational facilities are made, including ramps or altered materials, and educational adaptations, like personal tutors and support, specialized curriculums, and some separated classroom education. In terms of healthcare, and perception of personal health, there is a massive gap of 32% between the severely disabled and generally disabled population, and a 47% gap between the generally disabled and the general population (15% to 47.3% to 94%). There is a disability insurance that is funded by the individual and cantons to support medical expenses, though otherwise a lack of medical accommodations for the disabled.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: There are avalanche warning systems at the WSL (Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research), as well as hydrologists to study the chances and progression of flooding. The SLF (Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research) publishes a twice daily avalanche bulletin in winter to keep people informed. There are also constant notices about various environmental concerns released to help raise awareness and keep the population aware of dangers. The impacts are constantly studied to examine perception in order for changes to be made for the best reception. For avalanches steel snow bridges are used as barriers to slow or stop snow and rock fall from landing on towns neighboring mountains. Simulations are constantly run to confirm the potential effects of natural disasters, so as to determine if there is a manageable risk, or to send out accurate and timely warnings. Swiss Humanitarian Aid, a national organization, aims to provide food, economic, and housing relief both within and outside the nation, representing Swiss ideals while caring for others, and has been a major assistance in many situations.

Affordable Housing Programs: In The Swiss constitution, the people are entitled to assistance with any needs they may need should they be unable to provide for themselves, until reaching a point of self sufficiency. Though housing is not explicitly stated as a method for support, many Cantons take control of this and are tasked with providing temporary housing and funding to assist in permanent housing being supplied. A vast majority of Swiss populations are in poverty (84%) and of the total population 57% do not have fully adequate housing. Of the subsidized housing for the disadvantaged, only 7.2% of those given the assistance have any noticeable improvement to the quality of life. There are private organizations, such as Swiss Solidarity, that provide for affordable housing and homeless shelters, which are recognized as some of the best alternatives (small temporary housing) and are highly trusted, though national programs could potentially require assistance.

Syria

Delegation: LSU Lab School

Capital City: Damascus **Location:** In the Middle East/West Asia - 35 00 N, 38 00 E
Population: 22933531 **Country's Leader:** President Bashar al-Assad
Form of Government: presidential republic; highly authoritarian regime
Official Language: Arabic **Other Languages:** Kurdish Armenian Aramaic Circassian French English

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Maryam Musa Yola, Greta Bailey

Percent Population with Disabilities: 28%

Types of Natural Disasters: Syria experiences frequent deadly and destructive earthquakes because of its position on the East Anatolian Fault and the Dead Sea Transform.

Percent Population Homeless: Roughly 26% of the population is homeless, and that number is not helped by displacements due to conflict and natural disasters, such as earthquakes.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: There is a lack of commitment from the Syrian government to help those with disabilities, they remain unprotected and there is an absence of inclusive and universal programs to Syrians that have disabilities. Including lack of an equal education, and lack of necessary accommodations.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: There are international systems that do aid Syrian efforts in the country such as the World Health Organization, and the UN World Food Program. Though in terms of preparation for these disasters there still seems to be a lacking.

Affordable Housing Programs: The Syrian government in terms of housing has tried to increase housing in the country in order to get rid of the housing crisis. That being said, the Syrian government has created a land tenure system, and the government has taken steps on different levels and has been spending on housing subsidies. Though many of the notes I spoke about may not be current as the situation has changed in the past few years. But as of new developments these systems are extremely limited due to the humanitarian crisis occurring in the country. Meaning that many of the support systems are coming from outside of Syria.

Security

Student Ambassadors: Molly Bush, Emma Stone

Alliances with Middle Eastern Countries: Russia Iran

Relationship with Syria: We are Syria. We're in a civil war, spurred by protests against the authoritarian regime of President Bashar al-Assad. Over time, jihadist groups such as ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) emerged as significant players in the conflict, seizing territory

Percent Pop Internet Access: Around 50% as of 2022

Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict, Human Rights Violations: Syria's response to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict typically aligns with its broader foreign policy stance, which often involves expressing support for allies or nations perceived as victims of aggression. In this case, Syria has condemned Azerbaijan's military actions in Nagorno-Karabakh and expressed solidarity with Armenia, which has historical and cultural ties to Syria. The Syrian government has frequently denied allegations of human rights abuses, often blaming opposition groups, terrorists, or foreign entities for any reported violations. It has portrayed its actions as necessary measures to combat terrorism or maintain stability. Rather than addressing human rights concerns, the Syrian government has often responded to internal dissent with further repression, including arbitrary arrests, torture, and extrajudicial killings, thereby exacerbating the human rights situation. Syria often selectively condemns human rights violations committed by other countries, particularly those perceived as adversaries or rivals. It may use such condemnations as a means to score political points or deflect attention from its own human rights record.

Syrian Civil War Aid, Humanitarian Aid History: committed by other countries, particularly those perceived as adversaries or rivals. It may use such condemnations as a means to score political points or deflect attention from its own human rights record. Syria may downplay or ignore human rights abuses committed by these allies, focusing instead on mutual cooperation or shared objectives. While it may occasionally condemn such abuses for strategic reasons or to assert moral authority, its actions are generally guided by pragmatic considerations rather than a genuine commitment to human rights principles.

Internet Censorship, AI Ethics: The government blocks access to websites and online platforms that host

content deemed objectionable or politically sensitive. This includes news websites, social media platforms, and websites of opposition groups or human rights organizations. The Syrian government monitors internet traffic and online communications, using surveillance technology to track and identify individuals who engage in dissent or opposition activities. The government enforces laws and regulations that restrict online freedom of expression and allow for the prosecution of individuals who criticize the regime or disseminate dissenting views online. During periods of unrest or political upheaval, the government may impose internet shutdowns or restrictions to prevent the spread of information and communication among protesters and opposition groups. No definitive stance on AI, but given the Syrian government's authoritarian nature and its history of strict control over information and communication, it's plausible that the government could interfere with the private sector's activities related to AI ethics if it perceives them as threatening to its authority or interests. This could involve imposing regulations or restrictions on AI research and development, censoring AI applications or content that it deems politically sensitive, or surveilling and monitoring AI technologies and their use. But we love AI weapons. AI weapons sourced from Russia are being used to spy, target, analyze attack situations, and launch attacks on battlefields.

The People's Republic of China

Delegation: Catholic High School

Capital City: Beijing **Location:** East Asia **Population:** 1409670000

Country's Leader: Xi Jinping **Form of Government:** Unitary Communist State

Official Language: Mandarin Chinese **Other Languages:** Wu, Cantonese, Min, Jin, Xiang, Hakka, Gan, Hui, Ping, Arabic, Korean, Vietnamese, (in Macau) Portuguese, and English

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Andrew Sarhan, Peyton Trigo

Percent Population with Disabilities: 6.2%

Types of Natural Disasters: Earthquakes, Fire, Flooding, and Earthquakes.

Percent Population Homeless: 300 million approx. (21.43%)

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: In the People's Republic of China, Basic public health service packages are provided to all Chinese residents, free of charge. Education is not only free, but schooling is compulsory between the grades of 1st to 9th. No matter any disability, education and healthcare is free. There are two systems of education for people with disabilities in China, either the mainstream education, where disabled kids will be put in the same classrooms as non-disabled kids, but will be given an education plan where the teacher will adapt work for them. There is also an optional special education school that kids can enroll in, and it will have a smaller class size, along with being in a classroom full of other disabled kids, which can lead to less kids being ostracized.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: China has the Natural Disaster Reduction Center of China (NDRCC) which monitors and manages the natural disasters in China, however China still loses 1.6% of its GDP every year to natural disasters due to the lack of coordination between bureaucracies and large nature of the country which makes it hard to cover all areas effected.

Affordable Housing Programs: China has been in a massive housing crash since last year, making the price of housing plummet and harming the value of real estate. China is implementing subsidized housing since July to combat this slump but still 120 million people do not own a home and China has a 15% vacancy rate.

Eco/Soc

Student Ambassadors: Austin Roberson , Elliott Eagleton

Regulations on Waste Management, Electronic Waste: Operation National Sword is a policy beginning in 2018 to limit the amount of plastic waste which can be imported into the country. The revised Solid Waste Law is a PRC law implemented in 2020 which requires that any person or group dumping or importing s

Percent Population Male, Female, LGBTQ+: 51.24% male, 48.76% female, 4-5% LGBTQ+

Labor Rights, Unions Regulations: The All-China Federation of Trade Unions is a state run trade union organization. All unions are required to register to operate. The Labor Law of 1995 created relationships between employees. The Labor Contract law of 2008 enforces the previous law.

Waste Management, Climate, Public Health: China as a whole contributed 244.45 million tons of disposed waste in 2022, and China's status as the second most populous country naturally predicts a large amount of waste. China's policy on waste in the past has been landfills, but as we run out of land to fill, we have transitioned into burning waste instead, leading to the release of greenhouse gases as well as different toxic gases into the air, especially in major cities. Because of these toxic gases, cancer and asthma diagnoses could increase in the future.

Social, Economical, Political Gender Divisions: Our first leader, the indispensable Chairman Mao, famously said that "women hold up half the heavens." Taking this into account, our government does not in anyway discriminate on the basis of gender. (The labor market discriminates against married women, as they are seen as more focused on the household rather than their career, encouraging women to take on the more stereotypical role on the homestead rather than focusing on their careers.)

State of Labor Rights: Labor rights in the PRC have very few protections, but there are no legal barriers against labor organization. In fact, the All-China Federation of Trade Unions is a state run Chinese trade union organization. All unions are required to register with the ACFTU to operate. Reporters say that President Xi has criticized the ACFTU for not doing enough for workers' rights. Workers are also permitted to use collective bargaining. (China's Hukou system limits the ability for workers to move, making their job

options limited and benefitting employers. Forced labor also occurs in China, typically in specific situations such as brick-making, electronics internships, construction, and immigrant work.)

Security

Student Ambassadors: Brennan Coco , Michael Wilhelm

Alliances with Middle Eastern Countries: China maintains an economic alliance with most middle eastern countries as we depend heavily on its oil. China maintains neutrality with conflicts in the Middle East.

Relationship with Syria: Syria is an economic ally and part of our Belt and Road initiative, China has a 'strategic partnership' with Syria in an effort to deepen ties economically, both countries are against foreign involvement from the United States.

Percent Pop Internet Access: 76.4% which equates to over 1 billion people.

Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict, Human Rights Violations: China has commented that both sides should abide by a ceasefire and hopes for a diplomatic solution to the conflict, not supporting either side outright. China tends to maintain neutrality on outside human rights violations, while internally violating many of the human rights of their own people.

Syrian Civil War Aid, Humanitarian Aid History: China tends to avoid military conflict and prefers to act as a mediator in affairs like the Syrian Civil war, China does however offer aid to its allies for non-military situations, like sending grain to Syria after the recent earthquakes

Internet Censorship, AI Ethics: China has immense restriction of internet access, there is very few ways to remain anonymous and there are several crimes associated with posting on the internet, like the Heroes and Martyrs laws which prevents criticism for the armed forces and historical figures, there is no criticism allowed against the government, and all foreign content is not allowed by default due to the Chinese firewall, which prevents all outside content from reaching Chinese devices, China would likely maintain strict control over AI development, not allowing the private sector to have control.

Turkey

Delegation: Archbishop Hannan

Capital City: Ankara **Location:** East Asia **Population:** 85816199

Country's Leader: Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

Form of Government: Republican Parliamentary Democracy; executive

Official Language: Turkish **Other Languages:** Caucasian, Kurdish, Arabic, Greek, Ladino, and Armenian

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Madison Shea, Margaret Elkins

Percent Population with Disabilities: The percentage of people having at least one type of disability is 6.9% (4.876.000).

Types of Natural Disasters: earthquakes, wildfires, landslides, and floods

Percent Population Homeless: 17.7%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Yes, Turkey is working towards a national strategy of making accommodations for people with disabilities so it is equal.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: Turkey has a disaster plan in place as well as a prevention plan that actively works and yes it is effective.

Affordable Housing Programs: No Turkey does not have many viable option for affordable housing programs, they do have the HDA which builds homes for middle and low income citizens at subsidized rates.

Security

Student Ambassadors: Mary Grace Wilson, Chloe Agena

Alliances with Middle Eastern Countries: Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen

Relationship with Syria: Turkey's relationship with Syria is that the Diplomatic relations were suspended in 2011. We are currently aiding in the fight of the rebels in Syria.

Percent Pop Internet Access: 94.15% of people

Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict, Human Rights Violations: Turkey gives its full support to the conflict. Turkey often fights and denies support to violations of human rights by protecting rights through international law treaties.

Syrian Civil War Aid, Humanitarian Aid History: Yes, Turkey actively has helped to fight in the Syrian Civil War on the side of the rebels. Turkey has an emergency Humanitarian Assistance plan in place for helping countries in difficult times.

Internet Censorship, AI Ethics: Turkey does consistently block websites like Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Wikipedia. Turkey leads in social media censorship according to Twitter. Turkey is focusing on a six point strategic plan on the internet and AI. Yes Turkey would interfere if AI was to be mistreated, but it is overall for using AI within businesses.

Turkmenistan

Delegation: St. Joseph's Academy

Capital City: Ashgabat **Location:** Central Asia, bordering Caspian Sea, between Iran and Kazakhstan

Population: 6342000 **Country's Leader:** President Serdar Berdimuhamedow

Form of Government: Constitutional republic

Official Language: Turkmen **Other Languages:** Russian, Uzbek

Eco/Soc

Student Ambassadors: Allison Riley, Sophia Montalbano

Regulations on Waste Management, Electronic Waste: Turkmenistan recently established the Aslyhalal Waste management facility. The law also requires state bodies and officials to provide certain environmental protection information to the public. Their Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection

Percent Population Male, Female, LGBTQ+: Specific population statistics for LGBTQ+ populations not published. Because census results have been withheld, the most recent estimate is 0.98 males per female

Labor Rights, Unions Regulations: Employees have the right to form unions, employers have slight regulations on just hiring practices, and certain groups are protected under the Turkmenistan Labor Code, which outlines all regulations and laws for Turkmen employees and employers.

Waste Management, Climate, Public Health: In 2021, Turkmenistan established its first private waste management facility. However, there is still a need for a national waste management system. The research and spreading of data on diseases is largely discouraged, and little research has been done on the subject. According to USAID, in particular, Turkmenistan is a hotspot for Tuberculosis, which has been found to have a correlation between air pollution and low-income communities. This may have implications to the low life expectancy and high infant mortality rates of the country.

Social, Economical, Political Gender Divisions: In Turkmenistan, women face high rates of domestic violence that are usually ignored by the government. It is extremely difficult for women to be accepted into universities, particularly if they are minorities. Women's organizations are prevented from being legally registered, thus making their formation/activity illegal. Women are less likely to attain positions in government.

There are special labor protections for pregnant women and mothers with children under the age of 3 or disabled children under 18, including maternity leave. Women are specifically legally prohibited from night work, overtime work, holiday and memorial day work, and on business trips. Women are not permitted to lift certain weights in the workplace. Pregnant women have shorter allowed working days. Women with breastfed children must be given work breaks for feeding. In certain professions, women's restrooms are required. International Women's Day (March 8th) is recognized.

It was reported by RadioFreeEurope/RadioLiberty in 2019 that homosexuality is criminalized in Turkmenistan, citing reports of a man being beat up, verbally abused, and then given electric shocks after being lured by police on a dating app. Social and familial hinderances are the norm. A few weeks after RFE/RL's interview with the man, he went missing and lost contact with the news source. It was reported that members of his family were also incommunicado. The last contact news organizations had with him was a recorded video of himself, including saying "If I disappear, forgive me." This is just one example of human rights allegations brought forth by these independent organizations.

State of Labor Rights: The state guarantees the labor rights of citizens including favorable working conditions and protection of the rights and interests of employees and employers. Citizens do have the right to choose their occupation and workplace as per the Constitution of Turkmenistan, the government provides services to assist the job search process. Employees are protected from many types of hiring and workplace discrimination, and servitude is outlawed. Though work required for military service or when the government requests citizen's cooperation for most reasons doesn't qualify as servitude under Turkmen law.

Employees have the right to information about their workplace and equal pay for work of equal value. The labor code allows for employees "to unite in order to protect their labor rights, freedoms and legal interests, including union associations, as well as other public associations, unless otherwise provided by the legislation of Turkmenistan." Workers may receive nonspecific amounts of pension and social security. To receive any of the employees' rights, the employee must perform their labor duties with a list of labor requirements as per the Labor Code. The employer is also required to perform their duties in accordance with a list of labor requirements of their own.

United Arab Emirates

Delegation: Lafayette High School

Capital City: Abu Dhabi **Location:** Southeast of the Arabian Peninsula **Population:** 9200000

Country's Leader: Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Arabic: نهيان آل زايد بن محمد

Form of Government: Federation of 7 Emirates: Supreme Council of Rulers.

Official Language: Arabic **Other Languages:** English, Urdu, Malayalam, and Hindi

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Radia Karim, Willie Chang

Percent Population with Disabilities: 11%

Types of Natural Disasters: The UAE is prone to earthquake occurrences, flash floods, coastal floods, and desertification.

Percent Population Homeless: 0.05% of the population is homeless. (2022)

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: The UAE has made countless efforts to accommodate homeless people, and with the enactment of the "Convention On The Rights Of Persons With Disabilities (CRPD)" protocol, the UAE ensures equal access to education for people with disabilities.

Disabled people are at an advantage when it comes to healthcare services, since the UAE entitles people with disabilities to all healthcare services free of charge. The UAE Government provides specific services to benefit disabled people. Services range from providing a medical card and rehabilitation to providing monthly social assistance; from providing jobs to translating documents into sign language and providing educational material in Braille. A great example is that people with disabilities have the right to occupy public positions.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: There's a system in UAE called the "National Crisis and Emergency Disaster Management Authority" that was established in 2007 to regulate and coordinate all stages of dealing with emergency events or disasters. The NCEMA regulates and coordinates all efforts of emergency and crisis management as well as developing national sites for responding to emergencies and natural disasters.

Affordable Housing Programs: The UAE offers housing aid under the Sheikh Zayed programme which offers grants, loans, or government housing based on each case. Likewise, the Mohammed Bin Rashid Housing Establishment (MRHE) provides appropriate housing to nationals through granting residential plots, government houses, maintenance of current houses, and housing loans.

Venezuela

Delegation: Episcopal High School

Capital City: Caracas **Location:** South America **Population:** 28.2

Country's Leader: Nicolas Maduro **Form of Government:** Federal Republic

Official Language: Spanish **Other Languages:** Portuguese, Italian, and some indigenous languages including Wayuu, Warao, and Pemón.

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Vivi Bennett, Elizabeth Odom

Percent Population with Disabilities: 1.7 %

Types of Natural Disasters: Venezuela's main natural disasters that occur are floods, landslides, earthquakes, tropical storms and droughts.

Percent Population Homeless: 33% of the 28 million people in Venezuela live below the poverty line. Around 90% live in some form of poverty.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: In Venezuela, there is a general lack of awareness and support for people with disabilities. Public transportation and the majority of buildings do not have ramps, or necessary equipment to support people with disabilities. Although they did pass a law in 2007 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This law is supposed to protect their rights and ensure that the Venezuelan government supports them with education and employment. For healthcare services, this law guarantees medical assistance and plans to ensure they are represented in the workplace. The law includes hearing, physical, mental, and visual disabilities.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: In the last 50 years, Venezuela has been hit the awful natural disasters, displacing the population with 150,000 people becoming homeless. The only real action they have taken was to receive international aid from various countries. The Venezuelan government struggles to pay for relief since they have such a high inflation rate. The US gives the most aid by sending around 3\$ in relief, 10 military helicopters, 15,000 blankets, a 25,000 cash grant to the Venezuelan Red Cross organization, and more.

Affordable Housing Programs: Venezuela's economy has lots of inflation and poverty rates are extremely high, while many Venezuelans are homeless they did create the Great Mission Housing program. The program was created in 2011 by Hugo Chávez and their plan was to build 350,000 houses.

Vietnam

Delegation: St. Joseph's Academy

Capital City: Hanoi **Location:** Vietnam is located in Southeastern Asia, bordering the Gulf of Thailand, the Gulf of Tonkin and the South China Sea. **Population:** 97470000

Country's Leader: Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh and President Vo Van Thuong

Form of Government: Vietnam has a unitary parliamentary government system

Official Language: Vietnamese **Other Languages:** French, English, Chinese, and Khmer

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Sara Pasquier, Charley Bergeron

Percent Population with Disabilities: In Vietnam, 7% of the country is reported to suffer from at least one physical disability, totalling about 6.8 million people. Likewise, 14.2% of the population suffers from mental disability or illness.

Types of Natural Disasters: Vietnam has increased exposure to extreme flooding, tropical cyclones, and droughts.

Percent Population Homeless: Because of Vietnam's extreme weather patterns, homelessness is pervasive. While recent reports of homelessness in Vietnam are scarce, reports from 2012 regard 6.7% of the population to be living in poverty and/or without proper housing.

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: Throughout Vietnam, 7.8% of the population suffers from a mental or physical disability, to whom the country offers welfare, health care, rehabilitation, education, vocational training, employment, transport, sports, and entertainment opportunities. However, all of these programs are relatively new, suggesting that until about 25 years ago, disabilities were regarded as important issues but were not given priority to resources or funding. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has worked to implement and provide disability assistance throughout the country via confluence with varying levels of government, private organizations, and grants superseding \$155 million. With USAID's help, Vietnam's disability program has improved greatly, expanding on the offering of basic services like prosthetics and orthotics to include policy initiatives. Modeled after the United States' Americans With Disabilities Act, Vietnam has increased support for services including physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and prioritized the development of the social work profession.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: In a country with as much meteorological diversity as Vietnam, weather relief programs are extremely vital resources. Vietnam has sustainable urban drainage systems, which manage and reduce flooding. However, drastic population and urbanization increases have resulted in flooding systems that are incapable of meeting drainage demands. In response to other natural disasters pervasive throughout Vietnam, such as tropical storms, droughts, landslides, and forest fires, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) launched a five-year disaster prevention program for 2018-2023. The program brings disaster education to school environments, urging students, teachers, and communities to make informed decisions about how to respond to the effects of natural disasters. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as result of this initiative, thousands of individuals in areas vulnerable for floods and storm surges were trained to save their lives in times of weather-related emergencies.

Affordable Housing Programs: There is a shortage of housing in Vietnam, yet still, the country is working everyday towards producing affordable living for its citizens. Social housing throughout the country meets just 30% of its demand, meaning that 70% of individuals in need of housing are unable to satisfy that need. Scholars trace record levels of homelessness to the dramatic increases in population and economic rates. Over the last three years, Vietnam has planned mobilized \$36.2 billion dollars to construct at least 1 million units of affordable "social housing" for low-income individuals by 2030. Regardless, individuals being unable to access housing is not only an economic problem, but a humanitarian one, It is a problem that Vietnam is seeking the international community's support over.

Eco/Soc

Student Ambassadors: Lola Avery, Margaret Johnson

Regulations on Waste Management, Electronic Waste: Vietnam is advancing towards a more circular and sustainable economy, investing heavily in stronger recycling facilities, seeing that as of 2022, about 85 percent of waste in Vietnam is buried and left untreated in landfills. According to the Ministry of

Percent Population Male, Female, LGBTQ+: As of 2022, the female percentage of the Vietnamese population was reported at 50.2%, with the male population percentage totalling 49.8%. Percentages are consistent with Vietnam's rising population, specifically, an increase of 10.4 million persons over

Labor Rights, Unions Regulations: Vietnam has recently amended the Vietnamese Labor Code, the legal framework by which all companies with business in the country must abide that details the rights and obligations of employers/employees with respect to working hours, labor agreements, soci

Waste Management, Climate, Public Health: Vietnam is working towards more environmentally-conscience regulations, adopting strategies like the Circular Economy Development Strategy, an approach involving the consideration of waste as a renewable resource with a goal of achieving a 100 percent rate of solid waste collection and treatment by 2050. Still, a large portion of the waste produced is still buried and left untreated in landfills. Vietnam is one of 5 countries in the world responsible for nearly 60 percent of the ocean's plastic pollution and is also amongst the 5 most vulnerable countries to suffer the effects of climate change. Changes in climate are capable of producing typhoons, floods, droughts, and landslides, all of which can destroy communities and wreak economies. Additionally, Vietnam is ranked 14th out of 118 countries in air pollution, an issue known to cause serious national-health implications. *Breathelife2030*, a website associated with the World Health Organization states that over 60,000 people die annually in Vietnam due to the industrial industry alone. In order to combat the rising health concerns, climate changes, and waste-management predicaments that are pervasive, Vietnam is working to integrate environmental protection and waste reduction strategies into education programs and extra-curricular activities, raising generations who understand the necessity of combating negative effects on the environment through education and action.

Social, Economical, Political Gender Divisions: In Vietnam, as in several developing countries around the world, women are continuously overworked, underpaid, and undervalued. This is often the result of higher female employment rates in "invisible" areas of informal employment, such as domestic workers, street vendors, and entertainment laborers. Female political participation, however, sets Vietnam apart from other countries of similar developmental and democratic levels, as studies such as the 2022 World Economic Forum Gender Gap Report reveal increasing percentages of female representation across the country. However, these trends have not yet spread throughout higher echelons of power, as both Congress and the Politburo report decreasing female representation and a lack of dedication to achieving target goals of gender equality. Homosexuality was recorded to have been explicitly criminalized until 2013 when the country removed same-sex unions from the list of forbidden relationships, though it still is not legally protected. Though Vietnam has made significant improvements towards reversing stigmas around genderfluidity and homosexuality, such as the 2016 UN Human Rights Council resolution supported by Vietnamese representatives calling for the need for protection against violence and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, its legal codes do not allow, via regulation, codified protections for same-sex marriage or gender-affirming care. What was once considered a "curable illness" is slowly becoming destigmatized throughout the country of Vietnam, as homosexual individuals are closer each day to achieving codified, nondiscriminatory, legal protections.

State of Labor Rights: In Vietnam, aggressive work-culture has, historically, normalized a 48-hour workweek. In recent years, however, as the world has pushed for the reconsideration of healthier labor expectations, the evolving-communist country of Vietnam has effectively worked to decrease the standardized workweek to 40 hours. This push for a more employee-considerate work force has contributed to an increase in nation-wide labor rights, as the country has recently implemented a transition program to lower the retirement age, expand on employee-benefits throughout labor contracts, and extend probationary periods for "enterprise-managers" who are found to be violating any aforementioned labor rights. Workers in Vietnam have the right to join the Vietnam General Confederation of Labor, the only workers union in the nation, as well as a union governed by the majority-ruling communist party. Vietnam believes that every worker should be treated fairly and does not allow for discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, national origin, social origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, family responsibility, religious beliefs, HIV status, or potential disabilities. In addition, workers in Vietnam are entitled to 75% of their salary while on sick leave. Individual workers are able to form small low-level groups with representatives, however, there are no apparent legal protections that allow for and individual's right to discuss earned wages. Instead, employers are required to disclose information about gross and net salary payments within salary slips alongside an employee's monthly compensation. Though Vietnamese work culture emphasizes productivity alongside occupational success, the labor culture in the country is healthy; individuals are being afforded more rights each and every day as the country adopts for employee-central labor laws that benefit the worker rather than corporations and businesses.

Yemen

Delegation: Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

Capital City: Sanaa **Location:** Middle East, bordering the Arabian Sea **Population:** 31565602
Country's Leader: Rashad Muhammad al-ALIMI **Form of Government:** Republic/Presidential System
Official Language: Arabic **Other Languages:** Mahri

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Wylie,

Percent Population with Disabilities: 15%

Types of Natural Disasters: Extreme temperatures, floods, landslides, and droughts affect Yemen.

Percent Population Homeless: 12.9%

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: People with disabilities in Yemen have restricted access to healthcare and education services. Even those without disabilities 19.7 million people lack access to basic healthcare services. Only 51 percent of health facilities in Yemen are fully functioning. The healthcare overall has crumbled due to a lack of specialists and outside conflicts.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: While there are some systems in place to prepare for natural disasters, many are ineffective and spontaneous. Plans in the future include rescue teams for after floods and community planning.

Affordable Housing Programs: There are a few critical problems with supply and affordability in Yemen's urban areas. The need for housing is increasing rapidly but most are not affordable. The "Adequate Housing" project aims to improve living conditions in Yemen.

Zimbabwe

Delegation: Haynes Academy

Capital City: Harare **Location:** Southern Africa **Population:** 16883300
Country's Leader: Emmerson Mnangagwa **Form of Government:** Parliamentary Democracy
Official Language: English, Shona, Ndebele, Shangani, Sotho, Venda, Kalanga, Nambya, Chewa, sign language, Tonga, Chibarwe, Ndaou, Tswana, Koisian, and Xhosa **Other Languages:**

General Assembly

Student Ambassadors: Musa Cheema, Hisham Kahoot

Percent Population with Disabilities: 11%

Types of Natural Disasters: Droughts and Floods

Percent Population Homeless: 7% Homeless and 72% living under the poverty line

Access to Education, Healthcare for Disabled Population: No, because although Zimbabwe has laws and policies to support inclusive education, it is still difficult to put them into practice. A lot of schools lack the facilities, qualified teachers, and resources needed to meet the requirements of kids with disabilities.

Children with impairments consequently frequently face problems in receiving an education, such as physical barriers and prejudice. There are necessary accommodations provided to allow people with disabilities to receive these services however, there are still many setbacks in these services. Even though the nation has medical facilities—some of which even provided specialized services—accessibility remains a problem.

Individuals with disabilities face obstacles in receiving quality healthcare due to physical hurdles, inadequate training of healthcare personnel, and limited availability of specialized equipment and facilities.

Natural Disaster Preparedness: There are systems in place in Zimbabwe to get ready for natural disasters, but they frequently face funding and coordination issues. These systems comprise international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) supporting government-run disaster management agencies. However, difficulties including insufficient infrastructure and logistical limitations might make emergency aid efforts after disasters less effective. Natural disasters disproportionately harm vulnerable people, especially those who are poor or don't have enough housing. Programs for community resilience and capacity-building are two ways to improve preparedness and response to disasters. To increase the efficiency of emergency aid and lessen the effects of natural catastrophes in Zimbabwe, cooperation between governmental bodies, nonprofits, and local communities is essential.

Affordable Housing Programs: Yes, there are viable options for affordable housing programs in Zimbabwe. However, affordable housing programs in Zimbabwe are impacted by economic issues such as high unemployment, inflation, and insufficient funding. Nonetheless, the government carries out programs like the National Housing Fund and the National Housing Delivery Program. In order to construct affordable housing units, these programs include subsidies, concessional financing, and collaborations with private developers. Cooperatives and community-based programs also make a difference through communal land projects and self-help programs. The need for affordable housing is greater than the supply, despite attempts, therefore long-term investment, legislative changes, and creative solutions are required.

Amendment Form

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