



Mission Viejo High School MUN
34th Annual Conference
Vox Populi



WHO: Infant Mortality

Hello Delegates! My name is Mansour Lawand, and I'll be your head chair for the MVHS MUN 2016-2017 Conference. This is my second year in MUN and junior year in high school. I moved to the U.S two years ago from the magical land of Canada, and have since then forged quite a life here in sunny SoCal. I am enrolled in the IB program and several AP classes and have very quickly learned that sleep is not necessary for human survival. In school I participate in practically no clubs because I can't be bothered to. I used to run Cross country and Track though my schedule this year has decided to put an end to that. Outside of school I enjoy spending time with friends outdoors, going on adventures, tinkering in my garage and building custom computers. I can't wait to see what's to come in committee and I look forward to a weekend with you all. If you have any questions feel free to email me at: novicewho@gmail.com

I. Background

This issue is one that is as old as death itself and hath brought upon the deepest of sorrows and difficult of times to those parents affected by it. This subject is not an easy one to discuss, but it is a necessity to do so in order to further prevent its happening across the world. Infant mortality as a term is defined as the death of a child less than a year of age. The Infant mortality rate or IMR measures the amount of these deaths per 1000 live births. Mankind as a whole has made leaps and bounds in medical sciences resulting in fewer infant deaths. Despite the medical advances it is still seen as a problem in areas of poverty and areas in which access to medical care is lacking. IMR can also be higher where problems in health and environment lead to birth defects and complications as well as exposure to diseases that may prove fatal later on. Countries within the African Bloc and parts of the Asian Bloc suffer most from Infant Mortality, due to a lack in infrastructure, healthcare, education, and various other factors. Developed countries are seen in this case as an example to follow as advancements in public care has resulted in an extremely low IMR.

II. United Nations Involvement

The United Nations has set forth Goals to reduce IMR, as stated in goal four in the Millennium Development Goals and Beyond 2015. This Goal emphasized lowering the mortality rate further, despite the gains made since the 1990s. In Bangladesh we saw efforts from UNICEF in the training of people in healthcare at a local level. Targeting these communities that were previously deprived of sound medical services has led to a sharp decline in maternal and child mortality, from 144 deaths per 1000 live births to 41 in 2012. Efforts like these are what have proved effective in lowering Infant mortality across the world. At the UN MDG Summit in 2010 the Every Woman Every Child movement called for action to save the lives of 16 million women and children internationally and to improve the health of and lives of millions after that. IN support of this movement 176 governments have made pledges to carry out improvements in favor of children and their wellbeing. In 2012 there was the Child Survival Call to Action launched by Ethiopia, India and the U.S.A. With the added partnership from UNICEF as well as several NGOs 'Committing to Child Survival: A Promised Renewed' was launched as an



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international effort to save children's lives. These collective efforts headed by several partners aim at ending preventable deaths among children in the future.

Below is a link to the pdf of Goal four in the Millennium Development Goals And Beyond 2015

http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Goal_4_fs.pdf

III. Possible Solutions

First off creative and innovative solutions are always welcomed and encouraged among delegates. However, some key ideas must be considered when dealing with a problem of this magnitude. This problem would best benefit from both long and short term solutions in order to be effective. It should be remembered that following a solid framework with inclusion of key points like education, infrastructure, and the betterment healthcare for example will result in an easily followed and outlined. Examples of short term solutions would perhaps include shipments of medicines and the use of imported medical care professionals funded externally, either by other governments, dedicated trust funds or NGOs. Possible solutions long term would maybe include the building of clinics on a local scale and education programs to incite the creation of medical professionals within communities in need. Solutions should match the blocs in which they are applied. Delegates should observe problems like malnourishment, extreme poverty, possible diseases affecting infant deaths and etc... and discuss various ways to overcome them whilst not exceeding realistic standards or imposing upon national legislation and sovereignty.

IV. Country Bloc Positions

Latin American Bloc: Though Latin America does not suffer from extreme cases of infant mortality it lags behind the progress of Western and European nations. Poverty and the lack of access to healthcare may be a key focus in this bloc in trying to better Infant mortality among other factors.

Asia/Pacific Bloc: The Pacific Bloc being mostly developed has IMR that are almost as low as those of the more developed blocs. As some nations are still developing and industrializing societal health and well-being may come into play especially regarding the quality of the environment around which children are reared.

European Bloc: Given that the European countries are among the developed countries in the world their IMR is among the lowest internationally. Due to this focus would be placed on other nations and on the eradication of key cases that cause infant deaths rather than large problems

African Bloc: As this is the bloc most adversely affected by lack of development infant death is most rampant here. Lack of infrastructure, extreme poverty, malnourishment, widespread disease and lack of accessible healthcare all factor into the cause of a higher IMR than other nations.

Western/North American Bloc: Being that this bloc contains wealthy first world countries the prevalence of infant death is extremely low. The Western bloc is mostly involved with international aid and funding, along with research in disease.



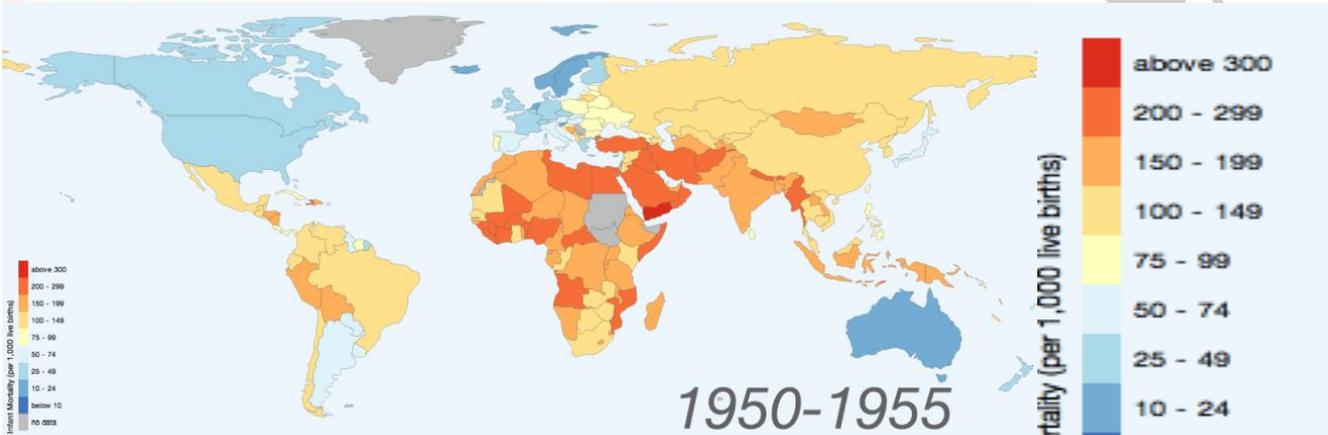
Middle Eastern Bloc: The recent wartime crises within Middle Eastern nations have left families in a difficult position in providing health care for their children and newborns. Efforts within these countries are more geared towards rebuilding and ensuring the safety of families in the midst of danger and allowing access to basic necessities and healthcare.

V. Questions to Consider

Is your nation in need of improvements in regards to the well-being of children and newborns?

1. What are the main causes for the infant deaths within your nation?
2. What are some problems that may arise in the future that could augment IMR within certain nations?
3. Would changes proposed impose on a nation's sovereignty and/or legislation?

EP Infant Mortality (Infants dying before the age of 1 – per 1,000 live births) in 1950-1955



EP Infant Mortality (Infants dying before the age of 1 – per 1,000 live births) in 2005-2010



Infant Mortality (Infants dying before the age of 1 – per 1,000 live births)



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Data source: Clio Infra before 1950 – UN Population Division since 1950



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