



IDEAS

**DEFENSE AND
DIPLOMACY**

POLICY OF THE YEAR NOMINEE:

**Facilitating Public
Diplomacy Through Less
Commonly Taught
Language Exchanges**



FOR DEFENSE & DIPLOMACY 2015

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Who We Are

The Roosevelt Institute | Campus Network, the nation's largest student policy organization, engages young people in a unique form of civic participation that empowers them as leaders and promotes their ideas for change. Through coordination with political actors and community leaders, Network members design and implement solutions to the pressing issues facing their towns, counties, and states. Now boasting 120 chapters in 38 states with thousands of members, we're building a network of young people who are filling the ideas gap in communities across the country. In doing so, we're preparing a new generation of thinkers and policymakers to burst forth onto the nation's political stage.

What You're Holding

Now in its seventh year, the *10 Ideas* series promotes the most promising student-generated ideas from across our network. This journal, which includes submissions from schools located from California to Georgia to New York, stands as a testament to the depth and breadth of our network of innovators.

Our *10 Ideas* memos are selected for publication because they are smart, rigorously researched, and, most importantly, feasible. We want to see these ideas become a reality.

How You Can Join

As you explore these ideas, we encourage you to take special note of the "Next Steps" sections. Here, our authors have outlined how their ideas can move from the pages of this journal to implementation. We invite you to join our authors in the process. Contact us on our website or by tweeting with us @VivaRoosevelt using the hashtag #solve2015.

Thank you for reading and supporting student generated ideas. Together we will design the future of our communities, from towns to countries and all that lies in-between.

WELCOME!

Dear Readers,

Young people on college campuses are often asked to make phone calls, knock on doors, and campaign for existing agendas, but they're rarely asked about their own policy ideas. Since 2004, we have been working to change that norm. At its core, the Roosevelt Institute | Campus Network seeks to defy the public's expectations of young people in politics today.

Over the past 10 years, we have built an engaged, community-driven network of students who are committed to using policy to transform their cities and states now and build the foundation for a sustainable future. We believe that broader participation in the policy process will not only improve representation but produce more creative ideas with the potential for real impact.

In this year's *10 Ideas* journal, we present some of most promising and innovative ideas from students in our network. With chapters on 120 campuses in 38 states, from Los Angeles, California, to Conway, Arkansas, to New York City, we have the potential to effect policy ideas that transcend the parameters of our current national debate. Our student authors push for practical, community-focused solutions, from using pavement to improve sanitation in Louisville, Kentucky, to creating community benefit agreements for

publicly funded stadiums in Lansing, Michigan, to building workforce development programs for agricultural literacy in Athens, Georgia.

Policy matters most when we take it beyond the page and bring it to the communities and institutions that can turn it into reality. Many of the students in this year's publication have committed to pressing for impact. They're connecting with decision-makers in city halls and state capitols, armed with the power of their own ideas.

The breadth and depth of our network is reflected in the diversity of the proposals featured in this journal. We hope you'll enjoy reading them as much we did. The next generation of innovative minds and passionate advocates is here, and it's changing this country one idea at a time.

Sincerely,

Joelle Gamble

National Director

Roosevelt Institute | Campus Network



CONGRATULATIONS TO

Lee Ciocia

author of *Facilitating Public Diplomacy Through
Less Commonly Taught Language Exchanges*

**Nominee for
Policy Of The Year**

A jury of Roosevelt Institute | Campus Network members, staff, and alumni select one piece from each journal to nominate for the honor of Policy of the Year. We base our nominees off of the quality of idea, rigor of research and potential for implementation. The cover design of this journal portrays this year's nominee in visual form.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Facilitating Public Diplomacy Through Less Commonly Taught Language Exchanges <i>Lee Ciocia</i>	8
Economic Development for Emerging Markets Through the Olympic Games <i>Erich Denk</i>	11
Establishing a Peaceful Middle East Through the Kurds <i>Marc Getzoff</i>	14
Enforcing Non-Refoulement in the Midst of Increasing Migration Flows <i>Hazel Guardado</i>	17
Rethinking Biodefense: Shifting Towards Biosecurity <i>Garrett Hinck</i>	20
Human Rights Crisis in North Korea: Protection and Justice for Female Defectors <i>Lynn Lee</i>	23
Stronger Together: A Case for a Supranational Central American Union <i>Blake Michael</i>	26
Closing Morocco's Language Gap: Incorporation of Bilingual Curriculum in Public Schools <i>Meredith Morrison</i>	29
Introducing Mobile Health to Guyana <i>Nadine Pratt</i>	32
Strengthening Women's Land Tenure Security in Kenya <i>Elijah Scott</i>	35

Facilitating Public Diplomacy Through Less Commonly Taught Language Exchanges

Lee Ciocia, New York University

The current scarcity of fluent Less Commonly Taught Language (LCTL) speakers will inevitably hurt U.S. diplomacy. To help remedy this, New York City's government and foreign education ministries should facilitate LCTL instruction and exchanges in elementary and middle schools.

Although their speakers constitute a majority of the world's population, LCTLs still comprise a minuscule percentage of foreign language enrollment in the U.S. Less than one percent of U.S. K-12 students studied Chinese or Russian in 2007-2008, and enrollment for other LCTLs was in the thousands.¹ Furthermore, in areas that the State Department designates as being of "strategic interest," which also happen to be areas where LCTLs are primarily spoken, about 40 percent of diplomats do not meet language requirements.²

The federal government has recognized that increased LCTL fluency is an important factor in improving the U.S.'s foreign relations, and as such, it has established a number of opportunities for undergraduates, graduates, and high school students to obtain LCTL training.³ However, opportunities to learn LCTLs in elementary and middle schools are lacking. In 2012, Congress cut funding for the Foreign Language Assistance Program, the only federal program that funded foreign language education in primary schools. In NYC, dual language programs are highly skewed toward Western European languages, particularly Spanish.⁴

KEY FACTS

- In the U.S., Less Commonly Taught Languages refer to any of the 6,909 living languages other than English, French, German, and Spanish.¹²
 - As of summer 2014, there are only 27 high schools in NYC that teach courses in a Less Commonly Taught Language.¹³
-

The lack of opportunities for LCTL education in elementary and middle school is alarming because it is in those grade levels where students absorb languages best.⁵ By only providing federal support for LCTLs starting at the high school level, the U.S. exacerbates its current shortage of qualified diplomats stationed in countries where LCTLs are spoken.

The Mayor's Office for International Affairs, together with the NYC Department of Education and education ministries in countries where LCTLs are spoken, should roll out optional exchange programs. These programs should be supplemented with daily classroom instruction in the relevant LCTL.

These programs would develop LCTL proficiency for NYC elementary and middle school students and English proficiency for the international students. They would also build cross-national rapport between the two groups of students.

ANALYSIS

Traditionally, American soft power has come from its entertainment industry and universities.⁶ In recent years, however, innovative mediums of art and communication have created new opportunities to practice public diplomacy, a type of soft power focused on engaging with foreign publics.^{7,8} By connecting elementary and middle school students with their peers in other countries through videoconferencing, the two groups will be able to build rapport, hone their foreign language skills, and get a picture of people in other cultures that is not driven by local biases. By learning these languages, U.S. elementary and middle school students would help close a major gap in American public diplomacy vis-à-vis a lack of professional LCTL fluency.

TALKING POINTS

- LCTL speakers are incredibly beneficial for the U.S.'s economic competitiveness and national security, but are in short supply.
 - Public diplomacy, though very effective in improving the America's image abroad, is highly underutilized.
 - A language exchange that increases fluency in English and an LCTL would be a win-win for each party, which greatly adds to the attractiveness of signing on to such a program.
-

It is also worth noting that attaining LCTL proficiency alone would yield tangible economic benefits for U.S. students. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects 46 percent job growth for interpreters and translators between 2012 and 2022, fields that students will be well equipped to enter if they pursue further LCTL education.⁹ Government jobs, particularly in intelligence and security, pay a premium for those who have mastered LCTLs.¹⁰ Finally, as the U.S. increases exports to countries that speak LCTLs, students will find that this proficiency makes them more competitive in the global marketplace.¹¹

Next Steps

The NYC government should leverage the international connections it has made through the Global Partners program (based in the Mayor's Office for International Affairs) to start fleshing out the content of the language exchanges. The focus should be placed on cities in Global Partners where a LCTL is spoken. A few suitable cities to pilot the exchanges include New Delhi, Moscow, and Shanghai. The NYC Department of Education and participating elementary and middle schools should then work together to find teachers for daily classroom instruction.

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Economic Development for Emerging Markets Through the Olympic Games

Erich Denk, Wake Forest University

The International Olympic Committee should revisit its process for selecting host countries for the Olympic Games. The new process should include a reutilization plan for self-sustainable development projects that would allow emerging states to host the Olympics and gain an economic boost. Reutilization is crucial to turning what could be a wasteful spectacle into a longer term investment with the potential for long term returns.

After a city is awarded a bid to host the Olympic Games, the news is met with great pride and excitement. Much of the excitement is a response to the promise of economic stimulus and soft power that should accrue to the host city and country. Unfortunately, this anticipated economic boost is rarely realized. Host cities, such as Athens in the summer of 2004, have not only failed to reach their economic goals but have actually helped to trigger a decline in development. On the other hand, some cities like London have used the games as part of an urban renewal project and created sustainable multi-purpose infrastructure.¹ In the most recent Sochi 2014 Olympic Games, the world witnessed a disconcerting lack of preparation and efficiency. These games cost approximately \$50 billion and time will tell as to what the economic impact will be. In fact, Russia could spend up to an additional \$7 billion over the next three years for upkeep of the new venues and infrastructure in Sochi.² With more emerging states bidding to host these mega-events, there needs to be more institutionalized awareness of long-

KEY FACTS

- Host cities experience a 30 percent increase in exports after they are awarded the games. This increase can be robust and permanent.
 - The 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi are expected to cost \$7 billion in maintenance over the next three years.
 - Developing countries now win half of all Olympic Medals.
-

term development as an important factor in site preparation. The International Olympic Committee, the governing body of the Olympic Games, can accomplish this task by reforming the bidding process to ensure sustainable development.

ANALYSIS

Emerging states have come to the forefront both in participation in the games and in serious bids to host the games. As far as participation goes, these states win now half of all Olympic medals, a significant increase from the past.³ Brazil will host the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, a prime example of the push by rising powers to become more involved in the mega-event. There are concerns about whether developing countries can manage the burdens on infrastructure and institutions that hosting such events bring.⁴ Clear short-term benefits to hosting the Olympic Games include job creation and stimulus, both of which are robust during the event. Continued growth after the 1988 South Korea games made the country once again an economic power in East Asia.⁵ The less quantifiable benefits, such as the global promotion of the host city, should also be considered. For example, studies have suggested that hosting the Olympics was vital in increasing the international standing and soft power of Beijing and Barcelona.⁶

The belief that facilities should be economically productive for the long term is a view shared by a similar mega-event governing body, the Bureau of International Expos (BIE). This organization requires multi-use plans in the bidding process for the World Expo. After the

TALKING POINTS

- Rising states are the future sites for Olympic Games, but the lack of sustainable development and preparation can undermine their development.
 - Multiuse facilities and infrastructure are the keys to reaping the economic and soft power benefits of hosting the Olympic Games. The London Games in 2012 were particularly successful due in part to the incorporation of the games into a larger urban renewal strategy.⁸
 - Reforming the National Olympic Committee bidding process to include reutilization plans would assert sustainable economic development as a pillar of the Olympic Games and be in accordance with the Olympic Charter.
-

Expo is complete, the BIE visits the host city to guarantee that the reutilization plan is implemented. The Olympics can also effectively incentivize self-sustainable development. However, there are currently no regulations for infrastructure or the building of stadiums in the Olympic Charter and it is left up to host countries to designate building committees to report to the IOC.⁷

Next Steps

The International Olympic Committee should utilize a similar process as the BOE and reform its bidding process. Before a city can even be considered by the IOC, their country's National Organizing Committee (NOC) must endorse them. The Executive Board of the IOC, the only entity in the IOC that can propose and administer reforms, should reform NOC evaluations to include a comprehensive assessment of the development needed to host the games. The assessment should include a reutilization plan that details sustainable construction practices, inclusive planning with local populaces to stem forceful relocation and displacement, and plans to use these development projects post-Olympic games. Rather than bankrupting them, emphasizing reutilization and sustainability can allow the Olympic Games to become a tool in aiding emerging countries in their development.

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Establishing a Peaceful Middle East Through the Kurds

Marc Getzoff, Cornell University

To effectively combat the Islamic State (ISIS), the United States should be the first to recognize a united Kurdistan. Although the Kurds have long suffered from oppression and violence, they have proven to be strong allies in the fight against ISIS. By providing them with military resources, helping them to establish a stable state, and engendering economic development, the U.S. can move towards creating a peaceful Middle East.

Despite persistent efforts, the Kurdish people have been impeded in their quest for autonomy since the 20th century.¹ Numbering over 30 million,² they reside in a region that includes parts of modern Turkey, Syria, Iraq, and Iran.

Iraqi Kurdistan is an autonomous region that has diplomatic relations with over 25 nations including the U.S., Israel, Turkey, Germany, and India.³ The EU and the UN have missions in Iraqi Kurdistan. In Syria, the Kurdish forces have established a de facto area of autonomy.⁴

Throughout the 20th century, U.S. supported governments in Turkey and Iraq oppressed the Kurds. Recently, the United States and Turkey have altered their stances due to the threat posed by ISIS.⁵ They now rely heavily on the Kurdish armed forces, the Peshmerga,⁶ in the fight against ISIS and have recently improved relations with the Kurds.⁷

KEY FACTS

- ISIS's advance into Kurdish areas of Syria have caused over 300,000 Kurdish refugees to flee into neighboring Turkey.¹⁵
- The Peshmerga forces currently consist of approximately 200,000 soldiers.¹⁶
- The combined area of Iraqi Kurdistan and Syrian Kurdistan would encompass 10.9 million people.¹⁷
- Roughly 4.5 to 8 million people currently live under the rule of ISIS.¹⁶

The current conflict with ISIS has destabilized the Middle East, killing over 17,000 in Iraq since 2011.⁸ ISIS has established control over large areas of both countries.⁹

The U.S. should lead major allies like Turkey, Israel, Germany, and India in recognizing a united Iraqi and Syrian Kurdistan. The U.S. should establish diplomatic ties with the new nation, provide military expertise and political advisors, and establish an embassy to coordinate its campaign against ISIS.

ANALYSIS

The Kurdish forces present the most effective way to combat ISIS due to their combat readiness and regional strength. Military aid to other groups has been ineffective and costly. Many Sunni militants have joined ISIS or are unwilling to support a Shia-dominated Iraqi government. Iraqi government forces have retreated from ISIS, despite their superior numbers and U.S. supplied modern weaponry.¹⁰ Anti-western sentiment precludes the use of large-scale American forces.

The Iraqi government recognizes an autonomous Iraqi Kurdistan. The Syrian government unwillingly ceded control to the Kurds at the start of the civil war.

Supporting the Kurds and uniting the regions would create a zeal of nationalism for the Kurds and the Peshmerga. The Kurds would be able to reinforce key positions such as Kobani and would provide the U.S. with a fundamental ally that has a trained army and moderate views (for example, women have achieved de facto equality in the military and much of Kurdish society).^{11,12}

TALKING POINTS

- The Kurdish people have been historically oppressed and deprived of their right to sovereignty.
 - The Peshmerga presents the most viable force combating ISIS in both Iraq and Syria.
 - Recognizing the legitimacy of Kurdistan would help the Peshmerga organize and energize the population to defend their new territory.
-

Next Steps

The U.S. should work with other nations to recognize and help build a united nation of Kurdistan. Peacekeeping and occupational forces are unlikely to be necessary since Kurdistan is neither a former enemy nor a currently failed state. Due to its homogeneity and the discipline of its military, the country is a suitable target for nation building.¹³ For Kurdistan to develop into a prosperous nation, it will require a united government, military support to protect its territory, and help from the OECD to create trading markets.¹⁴ The U.S. and other regional allies should broker peace agreements amongst Kurdish militias, develop military forces with advanced weaponry, and establish long-term trading agreements. The final step would be to create a permanent embassy in the new state in order to maintain strong relations.

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Enforcing Non-Refoulement in the Midst of Increasing Migration Flows

Hazel Guardado, Cornell University

To make sure genuine refugees are not turned away from receiving countries, the United Nations should adopt clearer language on the international principle of non-refoulement and allow the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to have greater oversight in the asylum screening process at ports of entry.

The principle of *non-refoulement*, or no forced return, means that states should not “expel or return (*refouler*) a refugee in any matter whatsoever to the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion.” This principle is invoked in a number of international treaties, most notably the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (Article 33).¹

With rising migration flows, a growing number of states are resorting to *non-entrée* measures to keep migrants, and consequently refugees, from accessing their jurisdiction and thus gaining access to the benefits of international refugee law.² *Non-entrée* takes many forms, such as Spain’s immediate deportation of immigrants crossing into the Ceuta and Melilla³ and Australia’s interception of asylum seekers at sea,⁴ but they all violate *non-refoulement*.

UNHCR has little recourse but to remind governments to respect this international principle or to protest governments who disregard it. Though it is rare for states to not recognize their obligations to act

KEY FACTS

- Developing countries host 80 percent of the world’s refugees.
- More than 3,400 people died in 2014 trying to cross the Mediterranean into Europe.
- Crushed by over one million registered refugees, Lebanon cannot handle any additional influxes.

in accordance with *non-refoulement*, the proliferation of *non-entrée* measures reveals that their support is often only nominal.⁵

The United Nations should reconsider how nations can be made more accountable for violating *non-refoulement*. Border closings and return of asylum seekers without proper screening procedures should be explicitly denoted as violations of international law, and appropriate measures should be developed with UNHCR to make sure legitimate refugees are not being turned away as ordinary migrants at ports of entry.

ANALYSIS

The current language on *non-refoulement* gives states too much liberty to interpret the principle according to their domestic and international interests. More precise language combined with increased oversight from UNHCR would make *non-refoulement* more enforceable.

Failure to enforce this principle has serious international and humanitarian consequences. *Non-entrée* measures undermine the principle of burden sharing, which states that countries should shoulder the responsibility of hosting refugees collectively. The fact that developing countries host 80 percent of the world's refugees reveals today's deep imbalance in burden sharing.⁶

In addition, the closing of land routes forces refugees to resort to dangerous measures to attain a safe haven. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), more than 3,400 people died in 2014 trying to cross the Mediterranean to reach Europe.⁷

Created after World War II, UNHCR has over 50 years of experience

TALKING POINTS

- Clearer and more consistent language on *non-refoulement* would give states less freedom to interpret the principle according to their interests.
- Oversight by UNHCR would take advantage of the agency's decades of experience in refugee affairs.
- Making sure countries respect *non-refoulement* would reduce pressures on countries currently hosting the majority of refugees.

dealing with refugee affairs. Allowing UNHCR to have a greater role in migrant-screening at ports of entry would take advantage of this experience and make sure that agents do not turn away genuine refugees.

Next Steps

Officials at ports of entry have the most power in determining who gets into the receiving country. As such, state governments and UNHCR should work together to train those officials so that they can better determine who is in fact eligible for asylum. UNHCR training materials already exist, but training should become more comprehensive and streamlined. The first step would be to set up a board of asylum and legal experts to determine what the training process should look like. Funding for this project should be factored into the UNHCR budget, which donor states will ultimately be responsible for. Finally, the United Nations should adopt clearer and more consistent language on what constitutes *non-refoulement* to make the principle more binding, including clearly stating that the principle applies even in detention facilities located outside the receiving country's territory.

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Rethinking Biodefense: Shifting Towards Biosecurity

Garrett Hinck, Georgetown University

The U.S. biodefense program has encouraged the proliferation of labs researching high-containment biological agents, increasing the possibility of an accident or a malicious incident. In fact, current policy weakens biosecurity. Many of these labs should be placed under federal oversight or redirected towards less dangerous research. Federal funding should be channeled instead to public health research.

After the attacks of September 11, 2001 and the anthrax scare that followed, policymakers focused on preventing terrorist groups from acquiring biological weapons. In 2004, Congress passed the Project BioShield Act, providing billions of dollars in funding directed to countermeasures for bioweapons agents.¹ Since 9/11, the American government has spent over \$55 billion on new “biosecurity” research and the building of high-level BioSafety labs to develop new countermeasures against advanced bioweapons.² The number of BioSafety Level-4 (BSL-4) labs, which work with highly dangerous agents, including smallpox and hemorrhagic fevers, has tripled from 5 in 2001 to 15 today. The number of BSL-3 labs dealing with “select agents” – substances such as tularemia and anthrax – is now at 1,356.³ No single federal agency has oversight over these labs, and private entities run many of them. With the proliferation of dangerous substances the chances of an

KEY FACTS

- There is no single federal agency regulating research into dangerous, highly infectious biological agents such as Ebola, smallpox, and anthrax.
- Of the \$60 billion the United States has spent since 9/11 on biodefense, only 2 percent has gone into laboratory safety and basic security upgrades.⁸
- Before 1990, there were only two BSL-4 facilities in the United States. There are now 15, with six outside the control of the federal government.⁹

accident or misuse have multiplied. In light of a recent incident in which an unsecured vial of smallpox virus was discovered at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), it is clear these agents are not always handled safely.⁴ The U.S. research program into dangerous, genetically modified bioweapons has lacked oversight and diminished overall security.

The U.S. government should redirect its biodefense policy towards biosecurity. BSL-4 labs not managed by the federal government should either be closed or repurposed to focus on less dangerous pathogens that infect large populations, such as antibiotic-resistant tuberculosis. Portions of funding currently earmarked for research into defense against technically advanced, genetically modified biological agents should be redirected towards research into combatting naturally occurring infectious diseases. A new regulatory agency should be created to oversee research and labs dealing with dangerous biological agents.

ANALYSIS

Despite the doomsday prognostications of many leading officials, the risk of a bioterrorism attack is extremely unlikely. Jessica Stern, an expert on terrorism and a fellow at the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights at the Harvard School of Public Health, argues that government officials have overreacted due to the vividly horrific consequences of a bioterrorism attack, despite its low probability.⁵ Currently, thousands of individuals work in BSL-4 and BSL-3 labs. Putting all BSL-4 labs under federal control would reduce the likelihood of these people accidentally or deliberately misusing dangerous agents through the use of uniform, strict protocols. Even though the NIH conducted an investigation of its facilities after the smallpox incident, they did not challenge the fundamental basis

TALKING POINTS

- U.S. policy should be based on using research funding to study likely threats, not on creating threats in order to defend against them.
- To continue the proliferation of dangerous bioweapons would be irresponsible, only increasing the probability of a devastating accident.
- It is common sense to exercise strict oversight on highly infectious biological agents. Clarity is essential for effective regulation; therefore, a single agency regulating this research is necessary.

of the U.S. biodefense program.⁶ Only a thorough revision of U.S. policy will address these deep issues. Direct oversight with a clear focus on safety is essential to solving these problems. Research into aerosolized compounds, novel agent delivery, and genetic engineering of bioweapons, all of which have been conducted by the BioThreat Characterization Center, should be stopped.⁷ A new regulatory agency governing research into dangerous agents would make the process transparent and non-threatening to other nations. The redirection of funds towards infectious disease research will better enable researchers to develop new vaccines for viruses such as Ebola and prepare for naturally-occurring disease outbreaks.

Next Steps

Congress should rewrite the Project BioShield Act to redirect NIH and CDC funding towards research into preventing natural infectious disease outbreaks. President Obama should issue an executive order for a comprehensive review of the safety practices of all federally managed BSL-4 and BSL-3 labs. Ultimately, Congress and the President should pass and sign into law a bill creating a new regulatory agency governing research into highly dangerous biological agents.

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Human Rights Crisis in North Korea: Protection and Justice for Female Defectors

Lynn Lee, Georgetown University

In order to protect North Korean defectors from facing torture when repatriated by Chinese authorities, the United Nations should label them as political refugees and restrain China from sending them back to North Korea.

North Korea is a totalitarian state in which the supreme leader employs imprisonment, executions, and torture as state policies to maintain his power.¹ The targets of these harsh punishments mainly consist of repatriated North Korean defectors.² Repatriated women in particular are subject to sexual degradations. The prison guards not only rape them, but also force all women who have possibly been impregnated by non-Koreans to receive abortions, often performed without doctor's supervision, in an attempt to preserve ethnic "purity."³

Despite such human rights violations, the Chinese government labels North Korean defectors as "economic migrants"⁴ instead of refugees, and aids the Kim regime in transporting them back to North Korea.⁵ Without any legal protection or assistance, 90 percent of female defectors fall into the hands of traffickers who sell them to Chinese "husbands" or force them into prostitution.^{6,7}

KEY FACTS

- North Korea is a totalitarian state that uses torture and imprisonment as state policies to maintain political power.¹²
- China labels North Korean defectors as economic migrants and helps North Korea repatriate the defectors.¹³
- Repatriated North Koreans face torture, forced labor, imprisonment, and possibly execution. Repatriated female defectors are further subject to rape, sexual degradation, and forced abortion.¹⁴
- 70 percent of North Korean defectors are women, and 90 percent of them will be victims of human trafficking due to a systemic lack of Chinese legal protection.¹⁵

As the UN suggests, North Korean defectors should be treated as refugees.⁸ I propose that the UN General Assembly (GA) pass a resolution that clearly defines all North Korean defectors as political refugees. Next, the Human Rights Council (HRC) should establish shelters near the North Korean-Chinese boarder in order to provide basic care to the defectors and to carry out the investigations suggested by the UN Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights (COI).⁹

ANALYSIS

In response to his crimes against humanity, the UN COI has suggested referring Kim Jong Un to the International Criminal Court (ICC).¹⁰ However, this is not a feasible solution due to the UN's inability to summon a state leader to the ICC. Therefore, the UN General Assembly should pass a resolution recognizing North Korean defectors as political refugees. Action by the UN is justified and necessitated by the COI Report's conclusion that North Korea is a totalitarian state that uses inhumane methods to secure power. Changing the legal status of North Korean defectors would force China to treat them in accordance with the 1951 Refugee Convention and thus grant them fundamental human rights and protections.¹¹ If given these rights, defectors would be protected from human trafficking and could seek asylum without fearing capture by the Chinese police.

TALKING POINTS

- People are tortured and killed with shocking frequency for attempting to escape North Korea.
 - It is unlikely that the international community will succeed in referring Kim Jong Un to the International Criminal Court due to North Korea's alliance with China.
 - China should immediately stop repatriating North Korean defectors and protect defectors' fundamental human rights.
-

Next Steps

The United Nations General Assembly should immediately pass a resolution that defines North Korean defectors as political refugees escaping from the statewide persecution. The United Nations Human Rights Council should then work in tandem with South Korea's Unification Department, Chinese law enforcement, and relevant non-governmental organizations to build shelters along the Sino-North Korean border. Governmental and non-governmental organizations should initiate advocacy and awareness events in order to secure monetary resources for the refugee shelters from donors.

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Stronger Together: A Case for a Supranational Central American Union

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The Central American Integration System (CAIS) should be strengthened through greater political and economic integration in order to effectively combat the shared challenges – drug violence, poverty, and structural underdevelopment – of its member states.

The Central American Integration System, signed December 13, 1991, includes all seven nations within Central America as well as the Dominican Republic. Designed to coordinate regional responses to collective action problems as Central American nations moved from the civil wars of the late 20th century to the drug violence of the early 21st century,¹ the organization has been unable to exercise real authority and is regarded as inept by member states.² Regional violence has yielded economic turbulence and social unrest across the region, with ramifications for the entire hemisphere, as demonstrated by the 2014 child migration crisis.³

Collectively, the member nations of CAIS form a supranational union with the economic power to combat regional issues without international aid, boasting both a population larger than Spain and a GDP higher than Sweden.⁴ The Central American Parliament (PARLACEN) serves, despite very limited power, as the organization's governing mechanism. PARLACEN has failed to pass free movement legislation, although the Central America-4 (CA-4) Border Control Agreement, signed in June 2006,⁵ allows for the free movement of citizens between Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras,

KEY FACTS

- While the individual governments of the region respect recognized borders, the drug cartels working within Central America consistently fail to do so.
- Many of the issues facing the region stem from underdevelopment and violence, two deeply rooted issues that require substantial financial investment to remedy.

and Guatemala.⁶ In sum, the piecemeal nature of CAIS prevents it from achieving its maximum potential, making a case for further economic and political integration.

Economic integration should be focused on several key components: the addition of all member states into the CA-4 Agreement and PARLACEN, the introduction of a common currency and subsequent consolidation of national debts, the bestowing of the powers required to regulate a shared currency to the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), and the expansion of the powers of the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC) to include economic regulation of the transnational agricultural sector.

ANALYSIS

Central America (including the Dominican Republic) has a population of 54 million people and a GDP of \$423 billion, with a collective governmental debt of \$193 billion. Five out of the eight nations hold a lower debt-to-GDP ratio (purchasing power parity) collectively than they do individually.⁷ As was the case for every member nation of the EU that adopted the Euro,⁸ a Central American shared currency would hold more value than any currency currently used by members (with the exception of the U.S. Dollar used by Panama.). Moreover, consolidating and collectively resolving member debt may avoid much of the volatility and instability of the Euro, which stems from the lack of a supranational political system capable of burden adjustment.⁹ In Central America, the necessary national mechanisms to strengthen CAIS already exist, and thus the region will find it easier than Europe to consolidate sufficient political power within a supranational structure to successfully manage a common currency.

TALKING POINTS

- The existing CAIS has the potential to empower member states to confront shared challenges without relying on international aid.
 - The lessons of the Eurozone suggest that a shared currency may be very successful if its member states are willing to create the supranational political structure it requires.
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In addition, the regional agriculture sector would benefit from a stronger CAIS and common currency. Agriculture's share of GDP increased in five out of eight member nations between 2011 and 2012. Cooperation on agricultural policy in member nations is the responsibility of the CAC, which convenes states' agricultural ministers to discuss shared challenges. This space for dialogue is critical in developing coordinated policies conducive to economic growth.¹⁰

Next Steps

The CAIS must enlarge the CA-4 treaty to include all member nations, and Costa Rica must join the PARLACEN. Then, CABIS should issue a single currency and purchase the national debts of each member nation. The CAC must be given the authority to implement regional agricultural policy. In today's globalized economy, greater Central American stability and economic output will lead to both a decrease in negative exports (unwanted migration, drug trafficking, violence, etc.) and an increase in positive externalities (a larger middle class, more international tourism stemming from heightened security, etc.).

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Closing Morocco's Language Gap: Incorporation of Bilingual Curriculum in Public Schools

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By using a French curriculum, Moroccan higher education favors French-taught private school students over Arabic-speaking public school graduates. Therefore, UNICEF should initiate a bilingual program in which Moroccan public school teachers receive training to teach both French and Modern Standard Arabic.

French colonialism drastically changed Moroccan language and education. In 1912, colonial authorities introduced French as the language of educational instruction, administration, and media. By establishing French as the official language, colonizers pursued their goal to rule Morocco by dividing it into distinct ethnic and linguistic groups. 58 years after decolonization, the country remains linguistically divided, especially with regard to education.¹ Like most countries, Morocco's educational system includes private and public schools. By definition, funding differentiates the two: the former are funded through charitable trusts and tuition, while the latter are maintained at public expense. The languages of Arabic and French also distinguish the schools.² During colonial rule, French became the official language of government, education, business, and sciences. Shortly after independence, the new government instituted a policy called Arabization that gradually transformed school curricula from French to Arabic. This change included public primary and secondary

KEY FACTS

- To advance from one year to the next, Moroccan college students must pass written and oral examinations and score at least 50 percent. Many public school graduates are forced to repeat a year, and many spend 6 years completing a 4-year degree.⁸
- Private school graduates in Morocco outperform public school graduates in every subject.⁹
- By the end of the sixth grade, only 5 percent of Moroccan public school students can read French, the primary language in academia, law, and medicine.¹⁰

education but excluded private and tertiary schooling. Due to this legacy, French still dominates higher education classrooms in Morocco. Therefore, the two tiers – public and private, Arabic and French – create a double linguistic standard by disfavoring Arabized high school graduates, whose education and welfare are already socio-economically disadvantaged compared to their more privileged French-speaking peers.³

To address this language gap, UNICEF should establish a program that trains Moroccan public school teachers to bilingually teach core subjects such as mathematics, science, and history. French would be introduced in public primary schools as a second language and gradually be incorporated as an instructional language parallel to Arabic. A program of this type has been used in Vietnam, with positive results that could also be achieved in the Moroccan context.

ANALYSIS

In 2007, UNICEF initiated the Mother-Tongue Based Bilingual Education (MTBBE) program, a similar idea that helped Vietnamese minority students at the primary level overcome the “language barrier” between their mother tongues and the official instructional language, Vietnamese. MTBBE uses ethnic minority languages as the main instructional language and gradually introduces Vietnamese into the core curriculum. MTBBE serves small groups of students from pre-primary to grade five in each province. Since Vietnam and Morocco share issues of native “language barriers,” Morocco’s UNICEF-sponsored program should mirror that of Vietnam.⁴ It should first

TALKING POINTS

- Rabat has 31,305 pupils enrolled in primary public schools and 14,269 pupils enrolled in private primary schools. 68 percent of the city’s overall pupils receive Arabic instruction while only 32 percent receive French instruction, the dominant language of higher education.¹¹
 - A bilingual training program similar to Vietnam’s MTBBE will lessen the language gap between private and public school graduates.
 - The results of MTBBE prove that gradually introducing a bilingual curriculum increases overall test scores.¹²
 - A program like MTBBE will increase baccalaureate scores and decrease dropout rates of public school graduates.
-

pilot in the city of Rabat for accurate measurement and review. Rabat is the country's capital and home to four public universities.⁵

Public higher education is free in Morocco, and many students would benefit from learning a secondary but academically dominant language. In UNICEF's pre-school assessment, MTBBE children scored at least 16 out of 20 in listening comprehension, understanding concepts, and understanding antonyms; non-MTBBE students received 13 as the highest score.⁶ A program like MTBBE would also improve teachers' job performance and language skills. Lastly, Morocco would benefit as inequality, in part a result of educational privatization, decreases and equal opportunity becomes the norm.⁷

Next Steps

UNICEF's next strategic plan should include training Rabat's primary and secondary school teachers to gradually incorporate French into the standard core curriculum. The program would include intensive in-service and pre-service orientation, bilingual teaching and advocacy materials, and an assessment of state-based test scores. Such a program requires funding and partnerships from donor states and organizations to reach the ultimate goal of equal opportunity. Furthermore, Morocco's government must endorse the program and counteract the push for educational privatization.

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Introducing Mobile Health to Guyana

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There is little emphasis placed on primary health care in Guyana, resulting in unnecessary health spending and the exacerbation of disease. The Guyanese Ministry of Health should require hospitals to create mobile health programs that provide health education and basic health services. This will encourage both locals and the government to prioritize primary health care.

Guyana's Ministry of Health (MOH) is responsible for the health of the nation's people. This mandate includes providing services associated with primary care, such as health education, maternal and child health care, immunizations, and chronic disease prevention and treatment. However, patients usually bypass the few primary care resources currently provided by the MOH due to their lack of appeal, accessibility, and advertisement.¹ This leaves many Guyanese with unchecked chronic conditions like high blood pressure, diabetes, STDs, malnutrition, and respiratory infections – all problems that would be best addressed in early stages through primary care. Mobile health clinics, proven successful in areas like Maryland,² Texas,³ and Canada,⁴ would not only improve healthcare but would also connect communities in Guyana to each other and their governments. To take just one example, the United States of America's roughly 1800 mobile health clinics have been proven to improve health in underserved communities by providing preventative care and disease management aid at a reasonable cost.⁵ The MOH should learn from this and many other examples and agree to pursue a similar course.

KEY FACTS

- Efforts to use community-based primary health care to improve health situations in poor, rural communities have proven successful in East Africa and Central Asia.¹²
- In the U.S., a \$4 million investment in mobile clinics saved \$81 million in other health fees.¹³
- Although health care is essentially free in Guyana, citizens still pay for medical supplies and equipment with little guarantee of quality.¹⁴

The Ministry of Health will require hospitals to create mobile health care programs to enhance primary care. These mobile health clinics will employ paid community health workers and youth program volunteers. They will travel throughout rural communities and provide both basic health services, such as monitoring vital signs and completing physical exams, and health education. Both groups of staff will receive funding from their sponsoring hospitals in order to review basic primary care practices.

ANALYSIS

The main roadblocks to successful primary care in Guyana are a lack of quality, knowledge, accessibility, and prioritization.⁶ A mandated mobile health program would overcome these challenges. By introducing highly accessible mobile clinics, people will be more able to receive checkups. Crucial health information will become readily available to an unprecedented number of people. Regular check-ups and door-to-door appointments that were previously unattainable in certain underserved areas would now be accessible. In sum, creating a mobile health care system in Guyana would solve many of the current problems facing the nation's primary care system.⁷

Guyana currently has seven hospitals. If one mobile health van costs about \$40,800 and its supplies \$4,500, three to five mobile clinics per hospital would cost the MOH about \$1,585,500.⁸ That is only .008 percent of the money used for Guyana's health expenditure from its GDP.⁹ Donations and volunteers from outside non-profit organizations like the MoorePark Foundation and Youth Challenge International could also contribute to the effort.¹⁰ This program will in fact reduce health spending over the long run, due to a decrease in emergency room visits, hospitalizations, and hospital readmissions across the country.¹¹

TALKING POINTS

- Because of the vast distances involved, Guyanese patients delay their hospital trips until absolutely necessary.¹⁵
 - Citizens, especially those in rural, indigenous areas, lack sufficient health education to make educated decisions.¹⁶
 - Most NGOs in Guyana focus exclusively HIV/AIDS rather than the whole scope of primary health care.¹⁷
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Next Steps

The first step would be to appeal directly to the Minister of Health, Dr. Bheri Ramsaran. He would next meet with members from the Regional Democratic Councils (RDC) and Regional Health Authorities (RHA) to discuss this plan and its implementation. Once the MOH money is distributed, the seven hospitals will begin to implement the new mandate by organizing the training and distribution of the mobile health clinics. In order to save time and money, current community health workers should be removed from failing local health posts and used in these new mobile clinics. Other volunteers and donors should be continuously sought out as these new clinics are developed.

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Strengthening Women's Land Tenure Security in Kenya

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Women in Kenya experience less secure land tenure than men, primarily due to the prevalence of customary practices. The Kenyan government, in coordination with NGOs, should enact a public awareness and educational campaign to inform citizens at the county level about their land tenure rights as enumerated in the 2010 Constitution.

The insecure land tenure of women in Kenya should be contextualized within the nation's colonial history and recent reforms. Prior to colonization, Kenyan patrilineal clans promoted safeguards for divorced and widowed women, but the colonial system replaced these with an absolutist role for men in solely controlling property.¹

The 2010 Constitution requires that at least one-third of all public offices be held by women, and laws such as the Land Registration Act and the Matrimonial Property Act have respectively sought to address the implementation of joint titling for land registration and legal protections for divorced women.² Despite these reforms, inequality in women's land rights persists due to the lack of localized awareness. Because of these failures, female-headed households disproportionately live below local poverty levels, and women are excluded from community governance and markets for productive resources.³

The Kenyan government, with support from NGOs, should enact education and public awareness campaigns at the village level with monitoring and implementation occurring at the county level. This policy

KEY FACTS

- **Tangible Change:** Community officials now require spousal consent for all land transactions.
- **Sustainable Policy:** The program trained 34 women in land management and alternative dispute resolution skills, and these women then held their own workshops that trained 268 additional women.¹¹

will center on educating people of their land tenure rights, similar to a Landesa pilot project that was conducted in two areas of the Mau Forest in 2010.

ANALYSIS

Scholars have found that the feasibility of a formal government-NGO partnership is high because NGOs often fill the gap in areas where the population is underserved by the government.⁴ The legitimacy of the national government and NGOs involved is greatly increased by operating jointly.⁵

The Landesa pilot project was effective in impacting critical points of intervention; it both increased community involvement and decreased land grabbing. Not only did community elders pass a constitution recognizing the importance of women's rights, but the villages also elected women to 14 out of 50 government offices.⁶ The training increased the women's knowledge of their land rights and consequently decreased land grabbing.

TALKING POINTS

- Biased local customary practices promote insecure land tenure for women in Kenya, which contributes to disproportionately high poverty levels for female-headed households.
 - Although a new constitution has espoused liberal rights for women, problems with implementation persist because of a lack of localized buy-in.
 - The Kenyan government should enact an educational and public awareness campaign in coordination with NGOs to inform women at the village level of their constitutional rights.
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Next Steps

In order to defray the high estimated costs of this educational campaign, it should be conducted for 10 years, allowing for gradual institutionalization and reassessment. NGOs like Landesa should lobby the Kenyan government to pass legislation formalizing the campaign, similar to the passage of reform acts in order to facilitate implementation of the 2010 Constitution. The United States should create a USAID budget line item within the Development Grants Program supporting technical assistance to NGOs and partnerships with the Kenyan government. In order to demonstrate its support for global human rights and bolster the NGO sector to govern the program natively, USAID should revive its NGO Sector Strengthening Program that was utilized in both Angola and East Timor in order to identify and assist targeted organizations.^{7,8} In addition to NGOs, USAID should also forge links with government institutions such as the Ministry of Lands.⁹ Through a global informational campaign, UNICEF should promote the story of Lady Justice Effie Owuor as an inspirational example of women's rights in Kenya. Kenya's first female judge, the national UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador has valiantly countered customary land practices, and Owuor would be a model candidate for generating awareness.¹⁰

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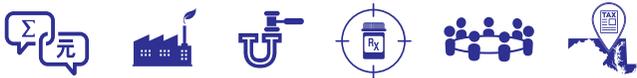
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