



Economic and Social Council

MACMUN 2018 | ECOSOC Background Guide

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“We live in a complex world. The United Nations cannot succeed alone. Partnership must continue to be at the heart of our strategy. We should have the humility to acknowledge the essential role of other actors, while maintaining full awareness of our unique convening power.”
– UN Secretary General António Guterres

Committee Overview

Mandate and Function of the Committee

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is the central organ of the UN responsible for advancing sustainable development.

The 1946 Charter of the United Nations states key aspects of ECOSOC's function:

“[To] make or initiate studies and reports with respect to international economic, social, cultural, educational, health, and related matters, [...] to make recommendations with respect to any such matters to the General Assembly to the Members of the United Nations, and to the specialized agencies concerned [and to] make recommendations for the purpose of promoting respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.”

Additionally, a 2013 amendment by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) expanded ECOSOC's role as:

- I. A leadership forum for policy dialogue and recommendations.
- II. The lead entity to address new and emerging challenges.
- III. A forum for the balanced integration of sustainable development.
- IV. An accountability platform for universal commitments, monitoring and reporting on progress at all levels.

The functions of ECOSOC are achieved through substantive discourse, innovative thinking, and the coordination of the activities of diverse UN agencies and bodies to achieve balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development: environmental, social, and economic. These functions are performed through a series of programs and segments throughout the year.

Importantly, ECOSOC engages a variety of stakeholders, including representatives from the private sector as well as over 3200 registered NGOs, and creates dialogue between member states and other non-state players. It functions on the United Nation's ideals of equality and cooperation amongst states, whereby decisions are made democratically by the Committee.

Members of ECOSOC are elected by the UNGA in three-year terms, with equal geographic representation. Every July, members of ECOSOC are elected by the Committee to form the Bureau, which consists of a president and four vice-presidents, with one Bureau member from each geographical region (African States, Asian States, Eastern European States, Latin American and Caribbean States, and Western European and Other States). The Bureau proposes the agenda, helps to coordinate the Council's programmatic cycle, and helps to organize meetings.

Simulation Style/Composition of the Committee

The MACMUN simulation will consist of a simplified version of actual ECOSOC procedure in order to accommodate the short duration of the conference and ensure that all students are afforded equal opportunity to engage and learn. Rather than having student delegates assume leadership roles as members of the Bureau, the function of the Bureau will be assumed by the conference Chairs. The Chairs will moderate committee meetings, wherein predetermined issues will be debated and discussed with the ultimate goal of collectively forming a resolution to address the issue. In addition to accepted delegates, non-state stakeholders may be invited to contribute to the discussion on relevant issues. Delegates are expected to research their country's stance and prepare for the issues, which are outlined in this package. Additionally, depending on the flow of the meetings, hypothetical crises may also be presented to the committee and discussed.

The ECOSOC committee will be composed of two Chairs responsible for maintaining the course of debate in accordance with the National Model UN rules and procedures. The Chairs will open and close each meeting, recognize any points or motions on the floor, set the agenda, manage the list of speakers, and facilitate the discussion. In addition, the Chairs are given the final rule on any disputed points, and will declare when motions are to be voted on by the body. It is also the decision of the Chairs to pass any draft resolution to be introduced for debate.

The committee will consist of 35 delegates representing their assigned countries. Delegates are expected to research the committee topics, submit a position paper, and be prepared to debate in accordance with their country's global stance and foreign policy.

A representative of an NGO or a non-state stakeholder may present their stance on the topic to the committee at the discretion of the Chairs during designated times in the meetings. NGOs and other non-state stakeholders do not have the same rights as full members of the committee, and will not be able to vote on substantive matters or be sponsors or signatories of draft resolutions.

One page will be present during committee meetings to pass notes between delegates. Pages will be screening notes to ensure appropriate content and to maintain a professional environment.

Sample Timeline

9:30-9:40 – Roll Call

9:40-9:55 – Setting the Agenda

9:55-12:30 – Debate on the Agenda Topic and Motions

12:30-1:30 – Lunch

1:30-4:00 – Debate on the Agenda Topic, Motions, and Draft Resolutions

4:00-4:30 – Voting on the Draft Resolutions

4:30 – Closure/Adjournment of Debate

Forming Resolutions

Resolutions represent the consolidated opinions of the United Nations body and act as proposed comprehensive solutions to the issues at hand. They are a final result of the discussions and negotiations regarding the topics, and detail recommended courses of action. A resolution is first considered a draft resolution prior to being voted on by the committee. During the course of debate, delegates may work individually or collaborate with others to write a draft resolution. The delegates writing the resolution are considered its “sponsors” and must recruit a certain number of delegates as “signatories” in order for their resolution to be introduced by the Chairs to the committee. Signatories are members who wish to bring the resolution to debate, but they do not have to support the document. Once brought to debate, amendments can be made until the final resolution is voted on by the committee.

Position Papers

The position paper is a detailed essay of your country’s policies and position on the topics that are going to be discussed in the committee. The creation of your position paper is an important task because it will help you, the delegate, to organize your thoughts and ideas about MACMUN topics so that you can successfully engage with the rest of the committee. Additionally, the position papers will be judged by the conference hosts, and the writer of the top position paper in each committee will be recognized at the conference award ceremony. Please note that to be considered for any award at MACMUN 2018, you must submit a position paper.

Your goals are to research your assigned country in depth, to examine the stance they take on the given topics, and to summarize this information in one position paper. The length should not exceed two pages in total, single-spaced.

A strong MACMUN position paper should include the following:

1. How your country is affected by the issues.
2. Your country’s policies with respect to the issues.
3. Quotations from your country’s leaders about the topics.
4. Actions that your country has taken with regard to the issues.
5. What your country believes should be done to address the issues.
6. What your country would like to accomplish in the committee’s resolution.
7. Description of your relationship with other countries as it relates to the issues at hand.

Important Notes:

- Include your name, assigned country, and committee.
- Please do not include illustrations, diagrams, decorations, national symbols, watermarks, or page borders.
- Include citations and a reference page, making sure to use a standardized citation style of your choice consistently, giving due credit to the sources used in the research. Please note that the reference page is not included in the page limit.

The deadline to submit your position paper is **January 30th, 2018** at 11:59PM. All submissions should be emailed to usgcommittees@macmun.org.

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Sustainabledevelopment.un.org. (2017). Concluding Session High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development Adopts Declaration of Commitment to Ambitious People-centred Post-2015 Agenda ∴ Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. [online] Available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?page=view&nr=865&type=230&menu=2059> [Accessed 3 Jan. 2017].

Un.org. (2017). *Chapter X | United Nations*. [online] Available at: <http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-x/index.html> [Accessed 3 Jan. 2017].

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Un.org. (2017). *UN Economic and Social Council*. [online] Available at: <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/index.shtml> [Accessed 3 Jan. 2017].

Un.org. (2017). Opening 2016 Session, Economic and Social Council Adopts Agenda Prioritizing Theme of ‘Moving from Commitments to Results’ | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases. [online] Available at: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/ecosoc6720.doc.htm> [Accessed 3 Jan. 2017].

Topic #1: The Integration of First-Generation Immigrants

"They have no idea what it is like to lose home at the risk of never finding home again have your entire life split between two lands and become the bridge between two countries"

– Rupi Kaur, *The Sun and her Flowers*

Introduction

"First-generation immigrant," refers to a foreign-born individual who becomes a citizen or permanent resident of another nation.¹ This naturally makes it more difficult to integrate them into a new society and culture.

There are a lot of reasons behind as to why people choose the life of a first-generation immigrant. It is usually due to seeking a better economic situation, opportunity for higher quality education, work, political instability, natural disasters or mere simple curiosity. In extreme cases, someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence is known as a refugee. The integration process for immigrants is not always smooth, particularly in countries where non-nationals, especially their dependants, experience language and other cultural barriers, as well as higher unemployment rates than citizens.

One of the major issues for first generation immigrants is the culture shock they receive moving to a new country and culture. Many first-generation immigrants also have language barriers which make it even more difficult to settle down. The culture shock for immigrants is a profound and long-term process and deals with issues of identity and assimilation as it is difficult to adapt psychologically, socially, culturally and economically.²

History and Description

Migration within Europe took place during the modern period as religious groups like the Jews and the Huguenots sought to escape persecution and for economic reasons as farmers migrated to find work in newly emerging industries. Following the European colonization of North and South America (as well as Australia and New Zealand), there was large scale migration of people from Europe (for example, the Pilgrim Fathers, who left Plymouth in 1620) who settled permanently in these regions. The European colonization of the Americas began in the 1500s and gathered pace during the 18th and early 19th centuries. Different countries in Europe including

¹ Source, My Visa. "The Life of First-Generation Immigrants in Canada." Open Borders: The Case. April 20, 2015. Accessed January 04, 2018. <https://openborders.info/blog/life-of-first-generation-immigrants-in-canada/>.

² Ngoc, Kim. "Culture shock for Immigrants and Refugees." Academia.edu. Accessed January 09, 2018. http://www.academia.edu/7957367/Culture_shock_for_Immigrants_and_Refugees.



Figure 1: A map depicting colonization routes in the 15th to 17th centuries. Note the large colonization flow from Europe to the Americas as well as settlements in Africa.

Britain, Spain, Portugal, Germany, the Netherlands and France promoted the settlement of their nationals abroad.³

The slave trade was one of the largest mass migrations of labor in human history. The first slave ship sailed from Africa to the West Indies in 1550 to meet the need for intensive field labor in the sugar and tobacco plantations owned by White settlers. It is estimated that over 10 million Africans were forcibly taken from mainly Western Africa to the Americas as slaves, many of whom died during the journey. The phase of international migration is linked to the rise of the United States of America as an industrial power and

the industrialization of Australia and New Zealand. Migrants sought to escape poverty and the politically repressive regimes in their home countries in Europe, and motivated by the prospect of economic opportunity settled in the Americas and the former colonies in the New World.⁴

It is estimated that approximately 48 million people left Europe between 1800 and 1930. Of these, around eight million people migrated from the British Isles, including more than a million who left Ireland following the potato famine of 1845-47. The New Zealand and Australian governments continued to offer assisted passages to migrants from Europe until the 1970s. The period of migration took place when labor was needed in the post-war reconstruction efforts in Europe and to service the economic boom in Europe, North America and Australia. Migrants from former colonies in the Caribbean and South Asia came to find work in Britain, migrants from Turkey went to Germany and those from former French colonies in North Africa went to France.⁵

Since the 1970s, the variety of sending and destination countries has grown phenomenally. In addition to the traditional immigration receiving countries in the Americas, Western Europe and Australia and New Zealand, a range of other countries attract a growing population of migrants. These include countries that have historically been nations of emigration such as Italy, Spain and Portugal. Additionally, the escalation of oil prices and the resulting economic boom in the Gulf

³ "Striking Women." A history of migration | Striking Women. Accessed January 09, 2018. <http://www.striking-women.org/module/migration/history-migration>.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

region has led to a massive immigration to these countries to meet the demand for labor, though most of this is not permanent migration. There has also been a rise in labor migration to newly industrialized countries in Asia such as Thailand, Malaysia, Hong Kong, and Singapore from poorer countries in Asia such as Burma and Bangladesh.⁶

A growing number of Governments have shown openness to regular immigration in the last two decades. In 2011, among the 195 countries with available data, a large majority of Governments (73 %) either had policies to maintain the current level of immigration or they were not intervening to change it, while 16 per cent had policies to lower it and 11 per cent had policies to raise it.⁷

At the global level, the percentage of Governments with policies to lower immigration declined from 40 per cent in 1996 to 16 per cent in 2011, while the percentage seeking to raise immigration increased from just 4 per cent in 1996 to 11 per cent in 2011.⁸

The receiving countries have shown greater selectivity towards highly skilled workers. A growing number of Governments have adopted policies to raise the immigration of highly skilled workers. The percentage of Governments with policies to raise the immigration of highly skilled workers increased from 22 per cent in 2005 to 39 per cent in 2011.⁹

Current Situation

Some immigrants face disadvantages in the labor market, especially newly arrived immigrants, as they lack contacts, necessary local work experience, knowledge, and information of the host country labor market. During the initial four years, finding employment was the most critical challenge for immigrants. Skilled workers were most likely to encounter labor market barriers.⁵ First-generation immigrant business owners face many challenges, not the least of which is adjusting to new cultural and legal climates that may be different from those in the countries from which they emigrated. For example, recent immigrants from the Middle East, South Asia, or East Asia, might be unaccustomed to western laws and societal expectations concerning gender and sexual orientation. This disconnect can lead to conflicts between employees and employers with differing understandings of workplace behavioral norms.¹⁰

Integration measures in most destination countries fall into two distinct categories: multiculturalism and assimilation. While policies within the multiculturalism approach

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ HIGHLIGHTS. 2014. Accessed January 04, 2018. http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/policy/InternationalMigrationPolicies2013/Report%20PDFs/b_Highlights.pdf#zoom=100

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Firm, The Harman. "First-Generation Immigrants Face Challenges Adjusting to New York City Employment Laws." New York Employment Attorneys Blog. August 12, 2016. Accessed January 04, 2018. <https://www.newyorkemploymentattorneysblog.com/2016/07/first-generation-immigrants-face-challenges-adjusting-new-york-city-employment-laws.html>.

encourage migrants to retain their own cultural identity, assimilation policies promote the absorption of minority cultures into the majority culture. Countries of permanent settlement, such as Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United States of America, tend to be inclusionary, making it possible for immigrants to become citizens with full rights while maintaining their cultural identities. Other examples are Lithuania and Latvia, which have a multiculturalism approach whereby educational programs have been designed to provide the immigrant pupils the option to complete school education in their mother tongue— Polish, Belorussian, or Russian. On the other hand, the Netherlands is an example where the policy has shifted from multiculturalism to assimilation by removing mother tongue teaching for migrant children and introducing mandatory Dutch language and civic integration courses for all immigrants.¹¹

Another challenge is the imminent talent shortages coexist with a reality of underutilization of immigrants' human capital. There seems to be high unemployment, downward mobility, or underemployment.¹²

Countries need a defined framework on how to integrate first generation immigrants with approaches from health, economic, and sociocultural perspectives. According to Achotegui, the most important stressors faced by newly arrived first generation of migrants are: a) social isolation, loneliness and forced separation, especially in the case when an immigrant leaves behind his or her spouse or young children; b) the sense of despair and failure of the migratory goals and absence of opportunity; c) the survival factor to feed oneself, to find a roof to sleep under; d) the afflictions caused by the physical dangers of the journey undertaken, and the typical coercive acts associated with journeys by groups that extort and threaten the immigrants; and e) discriminatory attitudes in the receiving country including in the case of undocumented immigrants, the constant fear of detention and deportation. This combination of loneliness, the failure to achieve one's objectives, the experiencing of extreme hardships and fear forms the psychological and psychosocial basis of the Ulysses Syndrome.¹³

As new immigrants deal with these factors they move through seven levels of grief: 1) grief for the family and loved ones; 2) grief due to encounter with a different language and the subsequent inability to communicate needs, feelings and ideas; 3) grief of culture, especially customs, sense of time, religion, values; 4) grief of homeland, landscape, the light, the temperature, the colors, smells; 5) grief of social status; 6) grief in relationship to the peer group along with prejudices, xenophobia or racism; and 7) grief due to risk regarding physical integrity such as dangers in the migratory journey, dangerous jobs, or changes in diet. These seven levels of grief can be lived in

¹¹ "Policies to encourage integration, naturalization and return of migrants." Accessed January 4, 2018. http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/policy/InternationalMigrationPolicies2013/Report%20PDFs/i_Ch_3.pdf.

¹² Economic Integration of Immigrants: Perspectives on opportunities, challenges, & solutions." Accessed January 9, 2018. <https://olip-plio.ca/knowledge-base/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Perspectives-on-Economic-Integration.pdf>.

¹³ "Cultural Competency: The Effects of Culture Shock and Language Stress in Health Education." Accessed January 9, 2018. http://www.ijbhtnet.com/journals/Vol_4_No_5_October_2014/4.pdf.

simple, complicated, or extreme way, as the response to the efforts of the migrant to adapt to the new environment.¹⁴

Economic integration involves “economic equality between immigrants and natives” and relates to issues such as employment, occupational status, self-employment, and income. Sociocultural integration, on the other hand, combines social integration, which Van Tubergen defines as the social interactions between immigrants and natives, and cultural integration, the level to which immigrants and natives share cultural values and patterns. Indicators for social integration are: contacts with the native population such as friendships and marriages, and membership in organizations/ Proficiency in the new language is one of the main indicators of cultural integration. According to Van Tubergen, an immigrant group is considered socially- and culturally integrated when “interethnic contacts, friendships and marriages are common, and when immigrants speak the destination language well”.¹⁵

Bloc Analysis

United States: U.S. immigrant integration has occurred essentially without policy intervention and relatively little federal funding, relying instead primarily on a strong labor market and high-quality public education. Just as previous immigrants incorporated into mainstream American life, an examination of the most recent inflow of immigrants shows they are integrating well, according to five indicators: language proficiency, socioeconomic attainment, political participation, residential locale, and social interaction. While proceeding steadily, progress among different immigrant groups in the United States is highly uneven, and the size of the unauthorized population continues to be a powerful barrier to social cohesion and full social, economic, and political integration. Additionally, the present state of public education and the weakened U.S. economy will remain areas of concern in coming years if the current laissez-faire integration approach is maintained.¹⁶

Canada: One of the main challenges to Canadian first-generation immigrants is simply finding adequate employment. Studies of Canadian immigrants over the last 25 years have shown that linguistic, cultural, and informational barriers tend to make their employment opportunities fewer and lower-paying initially. In the long-term, however, immigrants out-perform their Canadian-born counterparts. Blending into the workforce, or “economic assimilation,” is one important aspect of immigrant assimilation.⁹ Most new permanent residents end up settling in big cities like Toronto, Vancouver, and Montreal. Although several Canada immigration ministers have tried to tackle the issue, they have all been unsuccessful. There needs to be considerable joined-up thinking across all levels of government to make it happen. Provincial

¹⁴ "Cultural Competency: The Effects of Culture Shock and Language Stress in Health Education." Accessed January 9, 2018. http://www.ijbhtnet.com/journals/Vol_4_No_5_October_2014/4.pdf.

¹⁵ "MIM Working Papers Series No 14:2." Accessed January 9, 2018. <https://www.mah.se/upload/Forskningscentrum/MIM/Publications/WPS%2014.2%20Karin%20Magnusson.pdf>.

¹⁶ "Immigrants in the United States: How Well Are They Integrating into Society?" Migrationpolicy.org. August 12, 2015. Accessed January 04, 2018. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/immigrants-united-states-how-well-are-they-integrating-society>.

policy makers need to create the right conditions and consider a variety of measures for immigrants to remain there.¹⁷

Asia-Pacific: Since the 1990s, migration within Asia has grown, particularly from less-developed countries with massive labor surpluses to fast-growing newly industrializing countries. Indeed, all countries in Asia experience both emigration and immigration—and often transit migration. But it is possible to differentiate between mainly destination countries (Brunei, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan), countries with both significant immigration and emigration (Malaysia and Thailand), and mainly source countries (Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam).¹⁸

Middle East: Within the Middle East, the migrant share of the region's population grew from 7% in 2005 to approximately 13% in 2015. Put another way, about one-in-ten people living in the Middle East today are international migrants or were forcibly displaced. This growth in the Middle East's migrant population is largely the result of two factors – conflict and economic opportunity. Armed conflict in countries such as Syria, Iraq and Yemen has displaced millions of people since 2005. This increase in the number of displaced people, including those displaced within their own birth countries, accounts for the majority (60%) of the growth in the Middle East's migrant population between 2005 and 2015. Second, economic opportunity, much of it concentrated in oil-rich Persian Gulf countries, has attracted millions of non-displaced international migrants seeking jobs, mostly from countries outside the Middle East. Some 40% of the growth in the Middle East's migrant population between 2005 and 2015 can be explained by such economically motivated migration.¹⁹

Australia: An article suggests that Australia has been the most successful country in the integration of immigrants, slightly ahead of Canada but substantially ahead of most other nations. This article argues that even though Kymlicka's conceptualization of integration is constrained by a focus on the policy and institutional structures of immigrant integration that different immigrant countries adopt rather than on the outcomes and experiences of immigrant settlers in these societies, his overall conclusion about the relative success of Australian immigrant integration and the central role of multiculturalism to that outcome is well supported by the evidence.²⁰

¹⁷ Singer, Colin R. "Is Canada Doing All It Can To Integrate New Immigrants?" Canada Immigration and Visa Information. Canadian Immigration Services and Free Online Evaluation. August 21, 2017. Accessed January 05, 2018. <http://www.immigration.ca/canada-can-integrate-new-immigrants/>.

¹⁸ "Migration in the Asia-Pacific Region." Migrationpolicy.org. March 02, 2017. Accessed January 09, 2018. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/migration-asia-pacific-region>.

¹⁹ Connor, Phillip. "Middle East's Migrant Population More Than Doubles Since 2005." Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project. October 18, 2016. Accessed January 09, 2018. <http://www.pewglobal.org/2016/10/18/middle-east-s-migrant-population-more-than-doubles-since-2005/>.

²⁰ "Multiculturalism and Immigrant Integration in Australia." Accessed January 9, 2018. <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/531089/pdf>.

Europe: Immigrant integration policies that are designed for migrants to Europe, particularly newcomers, are important, but they can be insufficient over the long run to realize the full economic potential and societal participation of immigrants and citizens with an immigrant background. For this reason, several European governments have increasingly turned to the strategy of "mainstreaming" integration—an effort to reach people with a migration background through needs-based social programming and policies that also target the general population—to address areas where traditional immigrant integration policies have fallen short.²¹

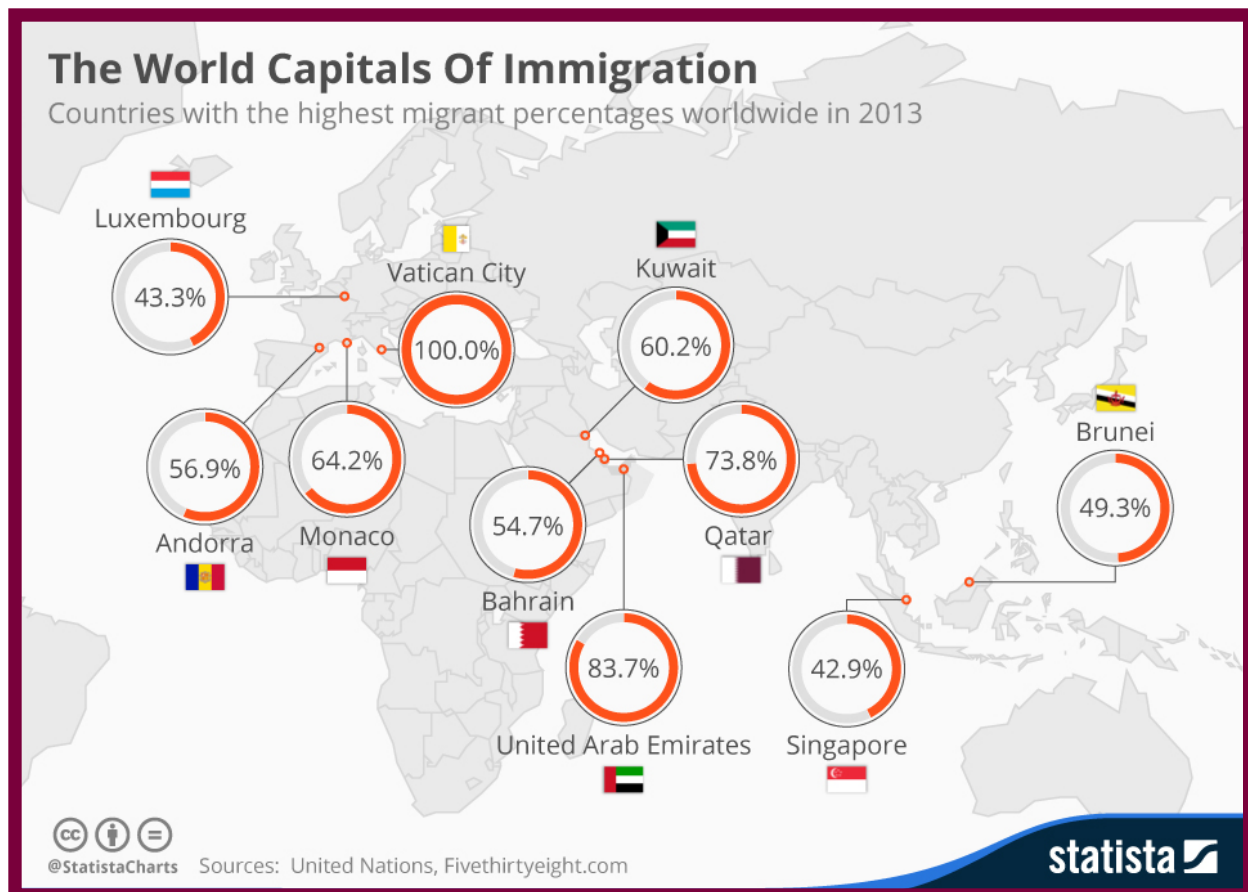


Figure 2: The countries around the world with the highest migrant percentages in 2013. Note that since no one is born in The Holy See, and thus their migrant percentage is 100% since their population is made entirely of immigrants.

Conclusion

Despite the existing initiatives to integrate first generation immigrants, it has been widely recognized that states need greater ideas to successfully help these immigrants. Due to a lot of political instability in today's world, there has been a massive increase in immigration. Thus,

²¹ The Future of Immigrant Integration in Europe: Mainstreaming Approaches for Inclusion." Migrationpolicy.org. August 11, 2015. Accessed January 05, 2018. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/future-immigrant-integration-europe-mainstreaming-approaches-inclusion>.

governments and responsible parties need to take appropriate measures to successfully integrate these first-generation immigrants who will possibly be supporting the economy.

Research Questions

1. How are governmental policies on immigrant integration developed?
2. What policies on immigrant integration have been effective in the past?
3. What are the possible benefits of immigrant integration?
4. What are the possible disadvantages of immigrant integration?
5. Can first generation immigrants be fully integrated within their new country?
6. Is it more important for a first-generation immigrant to focus on career success or social integration?
7. How should environmentally force migrants be integrated?
8. What impact does immigrating have on countries that are losing people (“brain drain”)?
9. What about people that leave developing countries to move to others, how often does that happen and is it worth discussing?
10. What are the repercussions of not properly integrating first-generation immigrants?

Topic #2: Peace-building and Post-Conflict Recovery and Development

Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures.”
– John F. Kennedy, the 35th President of the United States

Introduction

Peacebuilding is a process that facilitates the establishment of durable peace and tries to prevent the recurrence of violence by addressing root causes and effects of conflict through reconciliation, institution building, and political as well as economic transformation.²² The latest available OECD data shows that conflict-affected countries do not represent the main beneficiaries of ODA. In 2013, these countries received slightly more than 24% of total ODA from OECD members. Out of this total, only 16% was allocated for peacebuilding activities. So, what is the rest of the money used for? While the global economic losses from conflict in 2106 reached a staggering \$10.4 trillion, just \$21.8 billion was spent on peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities combined during that year. This means that the financial resources devoted to avert violence and consolidate peace constituted a mere 2% of the total cost of conflict. At such comparatively low levels, the potential impact of peacebuilding activities is hindered by the destructive effect of violence. This does not, however, mean that peacebuilding investments are futile, but rather that their levels need to be more aligned with the significantly higher cost of conflict.²³

As a matter of fact, the need to understand and invest in the most cost-effective ways to build peace is more crucial than ever. However, it is hard to gauge the cost-effectiveness of peacebuilding thus the degree to which the economic benefits arising from greater levels of peacefulness outweigh the monetary costs engendered by peacebuilding expenditure. The Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) has built a global model of peacebuilding cost-effectiveness that shows increased funding for peacebuilding would be hugely beneficial, not only to peacebuilding outcomes but in terms of the potential economic returns to the global economy. The IEP model uses Rwanda over the period of 1995 to 2015 as an example of successful peacebuilding, and thus as the basis for the unit cost of peacebuilding for all countries in the model. This allows the IEP model to estimate the current peacebuilding shortfall for each of the 31 conflict-affected countries included in the model. The data generated by IEP in its first phase of research provided an extensive set of further options to model the statistical link between peacebuilding and conflict onset, or lack thereof. Consequently, IEP's methodology can

²² Reaping the Benefits of Cost-Effective Peacebuilding José Butler-the Observatory-Katie Hintz-Gerrit Kurtz-Zekarias Abebe - <https://theglobalobservatory.org/2017/07/peacebuilding-expenditure-united-nations-sustaining-peace/>

²³ Ibid.

be used to calculate and estimate the future peacebuilding needs that exist in particular countries.²⁴

In peacebuilding, constitutions provide the general structure around which various institutions of democratic peace are formed. In the wake of conflict or in attempts to forestall violence, reforming or drafting a new constitution may be imperative to establishing the basis of state legitimacy.²⁵ The peacebuilding commission (PBS) is an intergovernmental advisory body that supports peace efforts in countries emerging from conflict, and is a key addition to the capacity of the International Community in the broad peace agenda. The peace building commission plays a unique role in:

1. Bringing together all the relevant actors, including international donors, the international finance institutions, national governments, troop contributing countries;
2. Marshalling resources
3. Advising on and proposing integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery and where appropriate, highlighting any gaps that threaten to undermine peace.²⁶

The experience of recent years has also led the United Nations to focus as never before on peacebuilding efforts to reduce a country's risk of lapsing or relapsing into conflict by strengthening national capacities for conflict management, and to lay the foundations for sustainable peace and development.²⁷ The return of normal economic activities, particularly in agriculture and food provision, and the start of reconstruction of infrastructure usually account for the initial spike in growth immediately post-conflict. But the return of agricultural productivity beyond subsistence to pre-crisis levels requires the repair of infrastructure and irrigation facilities damaged during conflict, so is likely to be a medium-rather than short-term outcome. Adult mortality tends to bounce back sharply after the end of conflict, but the recovery in infant and child mortality requires the rehabilitation of sanitation and health facilities and services which takes more time. Likewise, education indicators recover slowly because of the need for investment in schools and teachers.²⁸

History and Description

The United Nations has been at the center of expanding international peacebuilding efforts, from the verification of peace agreements in southern Africa, Central America, and Cambodia in the 1990s, to subsequent efforts to consolidate peace and strengthen states in Balkan, Timor-Leste, and West Africa, to contemporary operations in Afghanistan, Haiti and Sudan. The Economic and

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Constitutions : Constitutions & Peacebuilding Processes <http://www.peacebuildinginitiative.org/indexf414.html?pageId=1721>

²⁶ Security Council Subsidiary Bodies: An Overview Security Council Subsidiary Organs <https://www.un.org/sc/suborg/en/>

²⁷ UN economic and social council; resolutions; decisions <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/peacebuilding.shtml>

²⁸ Economic revitalization in peacebuilding and the development of service based infrastructure , " Peacebuilding Commission Working Group on Lessons Learned 22 November 2010 , , http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pdf/doc_wgll/desa_pbso_background_paper.pdf.

Social Council has played an avant-garde role in developing mechanisms to respond to the problems facing by countries emerging from conflict and thus helping to prevent the deterioration of human security.²⁹

In the last decade of the 20th century, 43 countries have been considered as countries emerging from violent conflicts. Most of them were affected by intra-state wars and civil wars, and most of these belong to the category of the poorest. These were designed to build up infrastructure, to persuade formerly warring parties to resolve conflict in a non-violent way and to contribute to economic development and participatory governance.³⁰

During most of the cold war period, international recovery operations consisted of development assistance and natural disaster relief. Indeed, it was the outbreak of several civil wars in the early 1990s that brought the post-conflict reconstruction theme back into the policy agenda. Nevertheless, the recovery needs of states emerging out of civil wars do not resemble to the needs either of countries afflicted by natural disasters, or of the Western European states following the end of the Second World War.³¹

Case Studies

In Liberia, the particular DDR process was developed to address the immediate livelihood gap created by the disarmament and demobilization processes. The specific reliance of these fighters on illegal extraction of natural resources was exacerbated by the Liberian Government's lack of adherence to regulatory frameworks put in place to control this practice. The UN mission in Liberia was mandated to work with the government to gain control over the diamond, rubber and forestry sectors – the exploitation of which funded Charles Taylor's brutal reign and Liberia's civil wars.³²

Papua New Guinea is home to one of the world's largest gold reserves in the world, as well as significant silver and copper deposits. However, this natural resource wealth has not translated to development. Rather, from the 1960s on, poorly managed mining operations polluted many areas and national policies favoured the private sector at the expense of local communities. In the late 1980s, unequal revenue distribution in the Bougainville region led to a large uprising, which led to a protracted conflict for independence. This conflict is often cited as an example of the natural resource curse theory.³³

The African Union is also looking to develop greater community involvement in the extractive sector as it takes on more responsibility for ensuring peace and security on the continent. African

²⁹ UN economic and social council; resolutions; decisions <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/peacebuilding.shtml>

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Post-Conflict Economic Reconstruction | Encyclopedia Princetoniensis <https://pesd.princeton.edu/?q=node%2F260>

³² Natural Resources: Case Studies <http://www.peacebuildinginitiative.org/index259a.html?pageId=2103>

³³ Natural Resources: Case Studies <http://www.peacebuildinginitiative.org/index259a.html?pageId=2103>

regional economic communities have also developed additional governance frameworks. Notably, the Economic Community of West African States' 2008 conflict prevention framework includes initiatives for bolstering community involvement and empowerment around natural resources. These various plans all link natural resources to conflict prevention and stress the importance of community negotiation.³⁴

The High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (HIPPO) recommended in its 2015 report that unarmed strategies must be at the forefront of UN efforts to protect civilians. A synthesis report by the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs of HIPPO, plus the other two major global reviews of 2015- on the UN's peacebuilding architecture and Security Council Resolution 1325, found that all three reports offer a critique of the current privileging of militarized solutions by UN peacekeeping operations to violent conflict is counter-productive. The report additionally noted that militarized solutions, and the resulting militarization of society, are detrimental to women's security. A secretary-general's report on sustaining peace is due in 2018, along with a high-level UN event on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. These events present valuable opportunities to address effective ways to protect civilians in a manner that sustains peace.³⁵



Figure 3: UN peacekeepers have been a tool to monitor and observe peace processes in post-conflict areas. They are well identified by their attire and are often referred to as Blue Helmets as a result.

Bloc Analysis

United States: The U.S institute of peace sees such state fragility as a complex issue that needs urgent attention. USIP strives to address the challenge of fragility through new approaches to conflict prevention and by strengthening resilience that promotes a sound social compact between the state and society. USIP has joined in convening the fragility study group, a non-partisan initiative aimed at improving the US government's approach to reducing global fragility.³⁶

European Union: In the past ten years, the European Union has increased its role in resolving conflicts and building peace in its neighboring regions and beyond. EU's peacebuilding approach

³⁴ From Curse to Blessing: How Africa's Natural Resources Can Build Peace Jonathan Rozen-the Observatory-Gerrit Kurtz-Zekarias Abebe-Nompilo Ndlovu-Alex Thurston-Lesley Connolly - <https://theglobalobservatory.org/2016/07/peacebuilding-resource-curse-conflict-mining-niger-delta/>

³⁵ Sustaining Peace Through Unarmed Civilian Protection Mel Ai-Lin-Loh-the Observatory-Elisabeth Gilmore-Alexandra Boutellis-Aïssata Taylor-Enrico Carisch-Anna Möller-Loswick - <https://theglobalobservatory.org/2017/09/sustaining-peace-unarmed-civilian-protection/>

³⁶ Fragility and Resilience <https://www.usip.org/issue-areas/fragility-and-resilience>

is different to that of other international actors, mainly due to the contextual factors regarding how it has transformed internally, how its complex institutional and multi-layered governance works and what capacities, norms and practices it invokes in dealing with external situations.³⁷

China: China sent its first cadre of peacekeeping personnel to Cambodia in 1992, while continuing to abstain on nonconsensual peacekeeping resolutions, such as those on the Rwandan genocide and ethnic cleansing in former Yugoslavia. China first voted for nonconsensual peacekeeping missions in then-East Timor in 1999, while gradually scaling up its overall troop deployment to the UN peacekeeping regime. Today, China is a fully engaged player in UN peacekeeping, voting on UN security council resolutions, drafting mandates, deploying troops to missions, and financing peacekeeping accounts. China is the second largest financier of peacekeeping budgets as of July 2016.³⁸

Conclusion

The most common type of large scale violent conflict, are long, brutal and continue to harm societies even after conclusion. Post-conflict countries face extraordinary development and security challenges as they move toward economic recovery. Case studies are needed for better insight into the relationship between security guarantees and economic stabilization.³⁹

Focus Questions

1. How do certain perceptions and a sense of justice contribute to or inhibit reconciliation and coexistence?
2. How do different parties to a conflict respond to these concepts (justice, reconciliation, and coexistence)?
3. What are the current criteria used to evaluate successful methods of reconciliation in the field of peacebuilding?

³⁷ Eli Stamnes, "The European Union and Peacebuilding," Project: "Rising Powers and Innovative Approaches to Peacebuilding", <https://brage.bibsys.no/xmlui/bitstream/handle/11250/2382111/3/EUPB.pdf>.

³⁸ China's Troop Contributions to U.N. Peacekeeping <https://www.usip.org/publications/2016/07/chinas-troop-contributions-un-peacekeeping>

³⁹ Post-Conflict Recovery and Peacebuilding Anke Hoeffler-Syeda Ijaz-Sarah Billerbeck - <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/9184>

Topic #3: Ageism: Challenging Negative Stereotypes and Improving the Life of the Elderly

Old age is not a status we choose to become; it is a status that we inherit simply by the virtue of living, not dying.
– Martha Holstein, author and former professor of aging and health policy

Introduction

Ageing is a highly individualized and complex process; yet it continues to be stereotyped, especially in Western cultures. Stereotypes about a particular group play a powerful role in shaping how we think about and interact with individuals, as well as how individuals within the stereotyped group see themselves.⁴⁰ The United Nations is marking the international day of older persons by encouraging countries to draw attention to and challenge negative stereotypes and misconceptions about older persons and ageing, and to enable older persons to realize their potential to build a life of dignity and human rights.⁴¹

The theme of the 2017 international day of older persons is about enabling and expanding the contributions of older people in their families, communities and societies at large. It focuses on the pathways that support full and effective participation in old age, in accordance with old persons' basic rights, needs and preferences.⁴²

For older people, ageism is an everyday challenge. Overlooked for employment, restricted from social services and stereotyped in the media, ageism marginalizes and excludes older people in their communities. Countries, regions, and institutions need strong leadership and commitment to create and implement policies that benefit older populations. WHO has identified a number of ways to support countries and regions committed to action:

1. Provide guidance, support, and training to local and national policymakers to help transform health and social policy;
2. Foster knowledge translation and knowledge exchange between countries and;

⁴⁰ Stereotypes of Aging: Their Effects on the Health of Older Adults Rylee Dionigi - <https://www.hindawi.com/journals/jger/2015/954027/>.

⁴¹ 'Take a stand against ageism,' says UN on International Day of Older Persons <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55182#.Wk8N3d-nFPY>.

⁴² Older persons, aging, elderly, health, security, independence, participation, care, self-fulfilment, dignity, intergenerational support systems, pensions, age discrimination, poverty <http://www.un.org/en/events/olderpersonsday/>

3. Challenge and change the way that policymakers, researchers, and people themselves think, feel and act towards age and ageing.

To support these approaches, WHO works together with a broad range of partners to:

1. Provide technical support and guidance to countries to develop evidence-based policies;
2. Build understanding and capacity of policy makers and other stakeholders on Healthy Ageing at global, regional and national levels;
3. Produce and synthesize evidence to inform the development of the global campaign to combat ageism, including its strategies and communication tools; and
4. Bring together a committed global coalition to lead the way towards a world for all ages.⁴³

History and Background

Age discrimination has existed throughout most of history in general, but like other forms of discrimination, it as considered a normal part of life until after World War II. Changes in social expectations and ideas led to a wave of reform, championed by the civil rights movement that pushed to end segregation. Widely-accepted stereotypes of elderly workers prevented their promotion or kept them from getting new opportunities. Congress asked the secretary of labor to compile a report on this issue, and the results were astounding. Applicants over 45 were barred from a quarter of available jobs in the private sector based on age alone. Applicants over 55 were barred from half of job openings, and applicants over 65 had almost no statistical chance of finding work. Congress decided to act, quickly passing the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967.⁴⁴

IAHSA is joining the World Health Organization in taking a stand against ageism on the International Day of Older Persons. As a vibrant global ageing network, IAHSA members provide quality shelter, services and supports in communities across the globe. This collaboration is done in the face of rampant discrimination against older adults-in employment, access to services and public policies. By taking a stand against ageism, there is hope to raise awareness and prompt action to end the rampant prejudices against the fastest growing population in the world.⁴⁵ The UN marked the International Day of Older Persons with a commemorative event focusing on the theme “Take a Stand against Ageism”. This event had several speeches and panels who came in to discuss the issues raised on ageism.⁴⁶

⁴³ International Day of Older Persons 2016 http://www.who.int/ageing/events/idop_rationale/en/

⁴⁴ History of Age Discrimination Christopher Muscato - <https://study.com/academy/lesson/history-of-age-discrimination.html>

⁴⁵ IAHSA Takes a Stand Against Ageism <http://globalageing.org/iahsa-takes-a-stand-against-ageism/>

⁴⁶ UN urges world to reject ageism at older persons event <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2016/10/un-urges-world-to-reject-ageism-at-older-persons-event/>

The agency notes that most of the projected growth of the older population is expected to take place in developing countries. Asia is home to more than half of the world's 901 million older persons, with 508 million people aged 60 or over. Another 177 million older persons reside in Europe, 75 million in North America, 71 million in Latin America and the Caribbean, 64 million in Africa and six million in Oceania.⁴⁷

Current Situation

This negativity towards older adults is particularly concerning, considering that older people discontent with ageing may be at risk of depression, social isolation, and living 7.5 years less than optimistic older people and not rehabilitating as well from disability as positive older adults.⁴⁸ According to the World Health Organization, the majority of people are oblivious to the stereotypes they have regarding older adults. Despite this, a large survey of 83,000 people in 57 countries exemplified that 60% of participants felt older people were disrespected.⁴⁹

One hindrance to society's fuller understanding of aging is that people rarely understand it until they reach old age themselves. Therefore, myths and assumptions about the elderly and aging are common. Many stereotypes exist surrounding the realities of being an older adult. While individuals often encounter stereotypes associated with race and gender and are thus more likely to think critically about them, many people accept age stereotypes without question.⁵⁰

Bloc Analysis

United States: According to the World Health Organization, ageism is most rampant in high-income countries, like the United States. Americans, as a whole, place great value on youth, beauty, vitality and the ability to earn a large income. Aging is, sadly, often seen as a debilitating process that robs people of these high-prized attributes. 70 percent of older Americans said they have been insulted or mistreated because of their age. This can take the form of a server asking a senior's younger companion what the senior would like rather than addressing the senior him/herself or by the numerous portrayals in popular media of elders as crabby, incompetent, and superfluous.⁵¹

⁴⁷ "Take a stand against ageism," says UN on International Day of Older Persons," , <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55182#.Wk8N3d-nFPY>.

⁴⁸ Ageism Concerns In an Ageing Population Author @healthwritingon Madeline Gilkes-Author Madeline Gilkes @healthwritingon - <https://www.ausmed.com/articles/ageism-concerns-prevalence-ageing-population/>.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Introduction to Sociology – 1st Canadian Edition William Little - <https://opentextbc.ca/introductiontosociology/chapter/chapter13-aging-and-the-elderly/>

⁵¹ Ageism in America is Hurting Us All <http://www.seniorplanningservices.com/2017/08/21/ageism-america-hurting-us/>

European Union: Legislation has an important role to play, and Age UK would like to see the EU's draft equal treatment directive put back on the table for serious debate. Leadership is also required, and the 2012 European Year Of Active Ageing provides the perfect opportunity. Standards must be set by European and national champions in political, civic and media worlds, who make the case for a positive view of ageing. Throughout Europe, age discrimination is experienced more often than other forms of discrimination based on sex or race. Across the ESS countries, age discrimination is more likely to be experienced as subtle forms of prejudice rather than blatant prejudice. In the UK, 64 percent of the respondents perceived age discrimination as a quite or very serious problem, substantially more than the European average.⁵²

Asia: Demographic change in Asia is remarkable for its speed. The improvements in survival and the declines in fertility over such a short period of time are unparalleled in other regions of the world. (Linda Martin, Population Council of New York). Even more remarkable are the growth rates of the elderly population and the concomitant increases in the sheer size of elderly populations. Pakistan, the Philippines, Malaysia and Singapore with growth rates of over 4.0 per cent per year will have double the number in less than 17 years for their older populations. In 2050, China is projected to have 100 million in the oldest-old category, followed by India with 47 million. Worldwide, according to the UN, older people will increase from 200 million in 2000 to 2 billion in 2050 – with 60% of the older population in Asia. The implications of such a rapid and compressed transition from young to old is that developing countries of Asia find themselves “ageing” on top of a very large population base, unlike the slower, long-term ageing of smaller populations in developed countries. While it took some countries in Europe a little over 100 years for their population to double during the 20th century, it will take some countries in Asia just 25 years or even less in the new century. The impact of rapid ageing has repercussions in virtually all areas of government and society, including health care, employment, social protection and economic growth. The suddenness of demographic change combined with already alarming rates of poverty and shrinking resources underscores the need for innovative approaches to increase the participation and social integration of older persons.⁵³

South Africa: South Africa may have a so-called youth bulge, but more and more of us should plan on reaching a decent age: “South Africans’ life expectancy is now 64 years, up from 53 years in 2006 and putting the country on track to achieve the National Development Plan goal of a 70-year life expectancy by 2030”.⁵⁴

⁵² Report finds fault with childhood cancer research across Europe &na; - Oncology Times UK - 2011

⁵³ International Federation on Ageing Conference Copenhagen ." Accessed January 9, 2018. https://www.ifa-fiv.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/061_Discrimination-of-Older-People-in-Asia-Age-Concern-England-DaneAge-Association-IFA-2006.pdf.

⁵⁴ The bigotry of ageism." Fin24. December 04, 2017. Accessed January 09, 2018. <https://www.fin24.com/Opinion/age-shall-not-wither-her-20171204>.

Canada: According to research, ageism is by far the most tolerated form of social prejudice in Canada, way ahead of racism and sexism. One in four of us actually admits to treating someone differently because of their age. And those are just the ones who are aware of their actions.⁵⁵

Even more concerning is that more than half of Canadians over the age of 77 say younger people assume they can't do things for themselves. More than a quarter of older adults 77 and older also say that because of their age, younger people make choices for them without asking what they want. Sure, helping out makes us feel good, but older adults say they feel controlled and annoyed when choices are made for them.⁵⁶

Research Questions

Age cases tend to be treated differently than other discrimination cases, particularly where the case involves retirement issues. The most noticeable difference from a human right perspective is the lack of a sense of moral opprobrium linked to age discrimination which, in comparable circumstances would generate outrage if the ground of discrimination were, say, race, sex, or disability.⁵⁷ While we can't stop ageism, we can work to prevent it. What will you do to change ageism, today?

Research Questions

1. What is the impact of ageism on health?
2. How can we combat ageism?
3. How can ageism affect healthcare training and service delivery?
4. What are the most commonly reported types of ageist acts?
5. What are some typical aging stereotypes?
6. How do you combat ageism in the workforce?
7. Why is ageism not addressed in diversity and inclusion conversations?
8. Why isn't ageism as important as sexism?
9. Are certain professions less prone to age discrimination than others?

⁵⁵ Wellner, Thomas G. "Ageism: Tolerating Canada's Hidden Prejudice Is Getting Old." HuffPost Canada. July 13, 2016. Accessed January 09, 2018. http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/thomas-g-wellner/ageism_b_10949080.html

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ Analysis and conclusions <http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/discussion-paper-discrimination-and-age-human-rights-issues-facing-older-persons-ontario/analysis-and-conclusions>