

# Organization of American States

Chair: Ella Teegen



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Dear Delegates,

My name is Ella Teegen and I am your chair for the Organization of American States. I am a senior here at Lyons Township High School and I have been involved in MUN since my freshman year. Along with MUN, I also participate in SAVE, class board, and I play for the tennis team. MUN has helped me improve my speaking skills and has enhanced my knowledge about the world we live in. I have also made many amazing memories and have met many incredible people along the way!

In this committee, you are faced with two current issues that are affecting many. It is extremely important that as a delegate you research how these topics affect your country, along with possible solutions. For awards, I am looking for people who stick to their country's policy and contribute to this committee through speaking and writing.

This is my second conference as a chair for OAS at LYMUN. Additionally, I was the vice chair for Pacific Islands Forum at LYMUN IV and worked at LYMUN III the previous year, so I am very familiar with this conference. My goal for this committee is to make it as enjoyable and productive as possible for all. I strongly encourage every delegate, new or experienced, to be engaged in the discussions throughout our day together. I am very excited to work with you all in this committee, and if you have any questions please contact me at [tee506517@d204.lths.net](mailto:tee506517@d204.lths.net).

Best of luck!

Ella Teegen

## Members in Committee:

Argentina

Afghanistan

Brazil

Chile

Colombia

Costa Rica

Cuba

Dominican Republic

Ecuador

El Salvador

Guatemala

Haiti

Honduras

Jamaica

Mexico

Nicaragua

Panama

Paraguay

Peru

United States

Uruguay

Venezuela

A Brief History of Your Committee:

The Organization of American States is the world's oldest regional organization. It dates back to the First International Conference of the American States held in Washington D.C. in the late 1800s. The OAS came into being in 1948 with the signing of the Charter of the OAS. The organization was established in order to achieve among its member states “an order of peace and justice, to promote their solidarity, to strengthen their collaboration, and to defend their sovereignty, their territorial integrity, and their independence”.

Today, the OAS brings together all 35 American independent states and has granted permanent observer status to 69 states, as well as the EU. Together they constitute the main political, juridical, and social governmental forum in the Hemisphere using a four-pronged to effectively implement its essential purposes: democracy, human rights, security, and development. These prongs are intertwined through political dialogue, inclusiveness, and cooperation.



## Topic A: Drug Trade

Many drugs and the specific trade of them have been an unfortunate issue in many parts of the world, especially Latin America. Not only does it threaten the general stability of a nation's government and society, but it also tends to leave "violence and destruction" behind (OAS). Overall, the committee of the OAS forces this as a very strong issue where nations must come together to combat this problem as a committee. Not only does it focus on supply and demand restrictions, but anti-drug institutions may be installed as well.

The United States Federal Government is a strong opponent of illegal drug trade; despite the government's best efforts, it is a pertinent issue affecting many countries. In 2013, the OAS estimated that the cocaine revenue in the United States was approximately \$34 billion and \$100 billion worth of illegal drugs were sold. The global drug market has led to drug trafficking becoming the world's primary revenue source for organized crime and the illicit drug industry. US authorities estimate that nearly 90% of the cocaine entering the country crosses the US/Mexico land border, majority entering Texas. Authorities also estimate that 70% of the cocaine leaves Colombia via the Pacific.



In Latin America, momentum is currently building to explore less punitive measures that would reduce the economic, social and human costs of the war on drugs. The countries of Colombia, Peru and Bolivia are the world's main cocaine producers, while Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean have become the principal corridors for transporting drugs into the

United States and Europe. The countries of the region have suffered greatly with issues such as: environmental and community damage caused by forced eradication of coca crops, violence, corruption, and human rights violations. Mexico’s drug war has turned incredibly violent in recent years, resulting in tens of thousands of deaths. However, no matter how violent the situation becomes, it is inevitable that drug trade will continue.

Central America now holds some of the world’s most dangerous cities, with the highest global homicide rate found in Honduras, at 82.1 murders per 100,000 inhabitants. The region has become unsafe for human rights defenders and journalists, politicians, and citizens that expose the violence. Several Latin American policymakers are now speaking out against prohibition and are highlighting its devastating effects on the hemisphere.



The United States and the United Nations maintain a criminal justice rather than health-oriented approach. They also promote ineffective eradication and interdiction policies in countries where drugs are produced. This sets the overall tone for global drug policy, so that the international community is influenced by a model that promotes lucrative illicit markets dominated by organized crime. Most of the countries in Central America have recently established special anti-narcotic and/or organized crime units within the police and the prosecuting authorities to handle complex cases of illegal drug trade and other crimes.

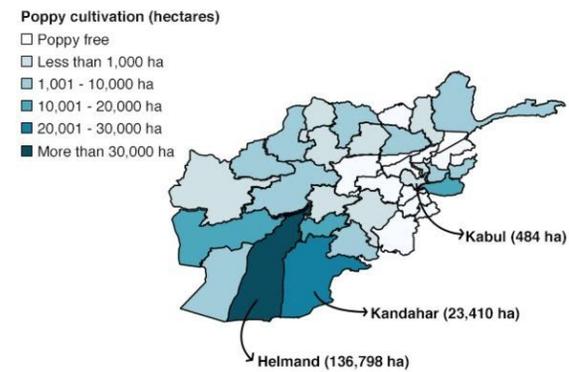
Reducing the demand for illicit drugs and other substances of abuse means preventing initial use of drugs, intervening early with occasional or non-dependent drug users, and treating the negative health and social consequences of dependency through various treatment programs. The OAS has given priority to the education and



training of professional individuals who manage prevention programs and deliver treatment services in the member states. The mission of the Supply Reduction Unit (CICAD/SRU) is to increase the capacity of OAS member states to address the production and trafficking of illicit drugs and reduce their availability. The CICAD/SRU has become a leading point of reference in counterdrug intelligence for the control of narco-trafficking, control of precursor chemicals, synthetic drugs, and NPS, and counterdrug maritime cooperation and port narco-trafficking control.

Another important factor to note is the drug trade in the nation of Afghanistan specifically. Since 2001, Afghanistan has been the world's leading producer of illicit opium, with opium poppy harvest supplying 90% of the world's amount of illegal heroin, and 95% of

**Opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan by province (2018)**



Source: UNODC Afghanistan Opium Survey 2018



Europe's. Although much of its cultivation is placed in government regions, lots of the poppy growing also takes place in areas controlled by the Taliban and supports a large portion of their income. The Taliban earns money from taxes imposed at several stages of this process. Not only is a 10% tax collected from opium farmers, but they are collected from laboratories converting opium into heroin. The Taliban receives an annual

share of the illicit drug economy ranging from \$100m-400m. The US military believes that as large as 60% of the Taliban's funding may come from narcotics. Even though the US claims that an air campaign in August of 2018 destroyed over half of the Taliban drug



laboratories, many still remain in the southern Helmand province. As of 2017, opium production also provides 400,000 jobs in Afghanistan, which is even more than the Afghan National Security Forces. The nation is also the world's leading producer of illegally-sold cannabis. This conflict specifically should be taken into consideration when delegates research. Considering national sovereignty, what can be done to prevent illegal drug trafficking surrounding the Taliban specifically? What can be done about Afghani civilians involved in opium farming?



Should incentives and/punishments be involved?  
National policy is a very important factor when discussing solutions.

Another subject that needs to be considered by delegates are the effects that drug trafficking have on civilians themselves. Addiction that stems from drug trafficking is an extremely large

threat to young people of a nation, as addiction can be traced back to initiation during adolescence. The international epidemic of drug trade is led by criminals and business interests that tend to target children and youth with highly addictive substances, such as cocaine or unregulated psychoactive substances. Prescription drug diversion for non-medical misuse is rooted in many different origins, but the risks of medication misuse can be far greater than illegal drugs.

### Questions To Consider:

How does this issue affect your country directly?

What are your country's policies regarding drug trade and use?

What responsibility does the government hold when confiscating the gains of drug traffickers?

Should the government unequivocally pursue drug trafficking at every level?

How may the youth be involved in creating effective and safe solutions?  
Should technology be used when discovering possible solutions?  
How can nations come together to find effective and moral solutions?  
How can public health be coordinated in relation to the public drug trade?

Additional resources:

[http://www.cicad.oas.org/Main/Template.asp?File=/fortalecimiento\\_institucional/planesnacionales/default\\_eng.asp](http://www.cicad.oas.org/Main/Template.asp?File=/fortalecimiento_institucional/planesnacionales/default_eng.asp)

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-46554097>

<https://www.sanpatignano.com/narcotics-problems-solutions-global-issue/>

<https://www.history.com/topics/crime/history-of-drug-trafficking>

<https://digitalcommons.law.yale.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1174&context=yldr>

<https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/thematic-areas/transnational-threats/drug-trafficking/>



# Topic B: Immigration

## General Background:

Immigration is the international movement of people to a specific country to where they are not native to and do not possess specific citizenship, especially as permanent residents or



naturalized citizens, and they may take up employment as a migrant worker or temporarily as a foreign worker. In terms of economics, studies find that migration is beneficial to both the receiving and sending companies.

Generally, immigration has positive effects on the native population of a country, but also mixed on how low-skilled immigrants may affect low-skilled natives. Delegates should note that elimination of barriers to migration would have large effects on the world GDP, with gains between the range of 67 to 147 percent. Many economists argue that reducing barriers to labor mobility between developing and developed economies would be an effective tool for poverty reduction.

As for crime, there are mixed relationships between crime and immigration worldwide. Research shows that a country of origin may matter for speed and depth of immigrant assimilation, but there is also a considerable assimilation overall for first and second generation immigrants. It is also



important to note evidence of discrimination against foreign and minority population, especially within criminal justice, business, the economy, housing, health care, media, and politics.

## The Issue at Hand (Worldwide):

Currently, immigration is one of the largest political issues seen in the general media.

Much has been written about it in recent years considering Brexit, Trump's election, and political movements surrounding immigration in nations such as Italy, Germany, and Sweden. The majority of immigrants originate from southern parts of the globe, with nations Mexico and India containing the highest numbers. While many of the immigrants in general may migrant by choice, many others migrant by necessity. The number of globally forcibly displaced people topped 70 million in 2018, the largest amount that the UNHCR's data recorded in 70 years. This number includes asylum seekers, refugees, and internally displaced persons.



Another topic vital to discussion is the discrimination typically seen of immigrants within



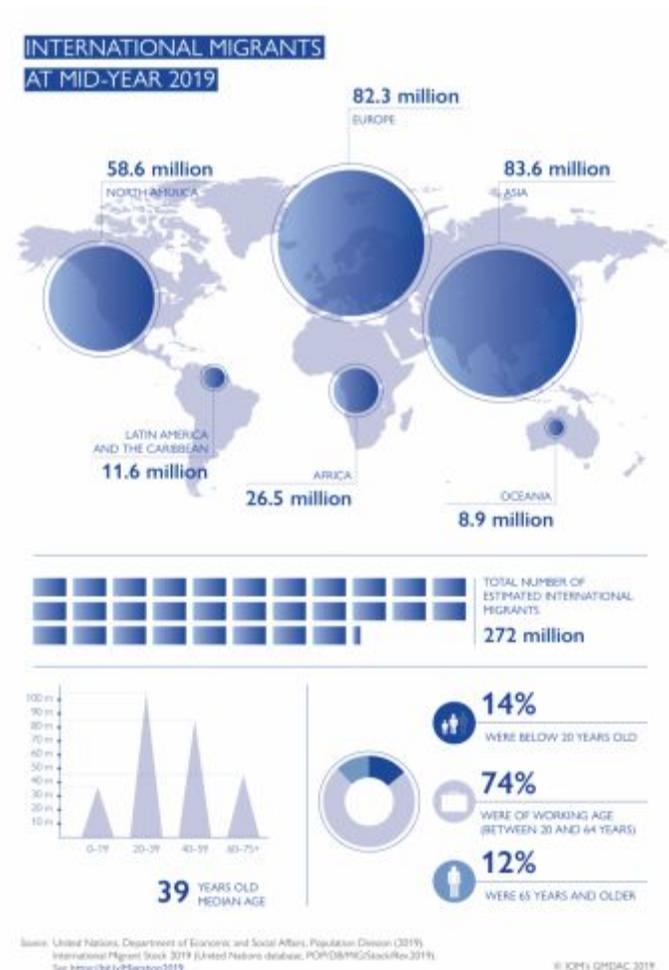
a nation. Not only discrimination that forces migrants to leave their country of origin, but oppression that immigrants may receive within the nation they arrive in. The Durban Declaration constitutes that “ xenophobia against non-nationals, and in particular, migrants, constitutes one of the main sources of contemporary racism. Migrants are

often discriminated against in housing, education, health, work or social security. It is a global issue affecting the countries of origin, countries of transit and countries of arrival.”

## Data Recorded by the UN

The United Nations constitutes a broad amount of statistics on the topic of migration that may contribute to delegate research. In 2019, the number of international migrants worldwide – people residing in a country other than their country of birth – reached 272 million (from 258 million in 2017). Female migrants constituted 48 per cent of this international migrant stock. There are an estimated 38 million migrant children, three out of four international migrants are of working age, meaning between 20 and 64 years old. 164 million are migrant workers. Approximately 31% of the international migrants worldwide reside in Asia, 30% in Europe, 26% in the Americas, 10% in Africa and 3% in Oceania [Source: Global Migration Data Portal].

It can be a challenge to make sense of available migration data, as this is often scattered across different organisations and agencies, and not easily comparable. IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre runs the Global Migration Data Portal, which serves as a unique access point to timely, comprehensive migration statistics and reliable information about migration data globally. The site presents migration data from diverse sources and aims to help policy makers,



national statistical officers, journalists and the general public interested in migration to navigate the increasingly complex landscape of migration data.

## Immigration into the United States

Illegal immigration is on the rise in the United States among other nations. Throughout US history immigration has been a major source of population growth and cultural change, which has caused the country to hold the largest immigrant population. In 2015, authorities accounted for 47 million immigrants.

In 2016, the US admitted 1.18 million legal immigrants into the country; many of them were relatives of citizens, others were family-sponsored, workers, or refugees. Immigration has caused controversy regarding maintaining ethnice homogeneity, job opportunities, settlement patterns, crime, and voting patterns.



Civil Wars in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua drove emigration to the US in the 1980s. Additionally, natural disasters in Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador made those countries eligible for Temporary Protection Status (TPS) in the US. However, in 2017 and 2018 the Trump Administration refused to renew TPS for those three countries. Central Americans flee poverty from crop failure to the United States. In 2018, 58% of unaccompanied minors and 49% migrating were Guatemalan.



The Census Bureau estimates the US population will grow from 317 million in 2014 to 417 million in 2060 with immigration. A survey of leading

economists shows a consensus behind the view that high-skilled immigration makes the average American better off. A survey of the same economists also shows strong support behind the notion that low-skilled immigration makes the average American better off. Immigrants may often do types of work that natives are largely unwilling to do, contributing to greater economic prosperity for the economy as a whole. Research indicates that immigrants are more likely to work in risky jobs than U.S.-born workers, partly due to differences in average characteristics. Research also finds that migration leads to greater trade in goods and services.

Immigrants attempting to enter the United States are often kept in camps located at border lines. Specifically, a camp in Clint, Texas is housing thousands of young children and teenagers. There, the majority of children have not bathed since crossing the border and they are forced to wear dirty clothes they arrived in. They have no access to toothpaste, shampoo, or soap at the camp and the conditions are increasingly uncomfortable as more immigrants are admitted. Unfortunately, this camp is not the only one with issues like these. In May, a camp located in El Paso was housing 900 migrants in a center designed for 125. Additionally, cells made for 35 people were holding 155.



Figure 3. Overcrowding of families observed by GIG on June 11, 2019, at Border Patrol's Westaco, TX, Station. Source: ORJ

### Questions To Consider:

How does this affect your country directly?

What are some possible compromises?

Should immigration be defined as global issue or one confined to specific nations?

How should discrimination of immigrants be addressed?

How should an open-door policy be addressed?

Has your nation received or sent immigrants? Has your nation seen positive or negative results?

How can the amount of legal immigration be increased with the amount of illegal immigration be decreased?

Additional Resources:

<https://quillette.com/2019/01/01/anxiety-about-immigration-is-a-global-issue/>

<https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/migration/index.html>

[https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Discrimination/Pages/discrimination\\_migrants.aspx](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Discrimination/Pages/discrimination_migrants.aspx)

<https://cis.org/Report/Record-445-Million-Immigrants-2017>

<https://www.latimes.com/opinion/editorials/la-ed-migrants-dead-drowned-rio-grande-el-salvador-mexico-trump-20190626-story.html>

<https://www.cato.org/blog/are-cbeps-filthy-inhumane-immigrant-detention-camps-necessary>

<https://couragetoresist.org/immigrant-camps/>

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<http://www.oas.org/en/topics/migration.asp>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/21/us/migrant-children-border-soap.html>