

## The echo of colonialism:

The issue of the impact of colonization on indigenous peoples of different countries were raised in the junior committee of SPIMUN.



Today on March 14th, the question was raised on colonization's impact in the world, and how, despite the passage of time, it remains a major issue. Historical actions of conquest and assimilation caused significant problems for indigenous peoples, including epidemics of diseases for which they had no immunity to, genocide, prohibition of the use of their native language, economic exploitation, loss of land, and deterioration of these communities' socioeconomic situation, both then and now. This can be seen in Francafrique, as a result of France's strict economic controls on exports and imports, cultural loss, the complete use of the French language, and endless wars in countries such as Mali, Burkina Faso, and Chad. Additionally, the Sami people of Norway have been protesting against "green colonialism", which exploits them and requires them to face encroachments that threaten

their cultural and economic survival. In order to maintain justice and end the cycle of poverty, the United Nations discussed possible laws and actions to preserve native freedom and culture by focusing on four main points:

- Land and resource rights
  - In order to maintain their freedom, indigenous people need to have a voice in the international community and have an economic and military power to sustain independence. This can be done by providing land, or even a state
- Reparative economic justice and inclusion:
  - Indigenous people have had a great deal of trouble with making ends meet, due to colonization and socioeconomic restrictions.
  - Education in ex-colonies, which can be fixed by funds, free education, and providence workspace specifically for indigenous people.
- Preservation of culture and language:
  - As was mentioned about the previously colonized countries, it was a common practice for the colonizers to prohibit the use of their native language, traditions, and culture. Additionally, healthcare and social support.

Healthcare has been a severe issue for indigenous communities, since they have faced discrimination when accessing healthcare facilities, leading to the mistrust and discouragement of utilizing healthcare. Delegates discussed possible ways to fix this issue. For instance, basing it on other policies such as the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) or the World Health Organisation Global Plan of Action for the Health of Indigenous People.

The balance of opinion between delegates is primarily leaned towards the indigenous people's side to provide better aid to them with Brazil planning to establish contact between the state and the natives, by integrating them into society, without killing the language, and investing in programs. In New Zealand, the delegate's main goal is to preserve language, as a main component of culture that is the base of other aspects, and religious traditions like holy sites and traditional Māori tattoos. On the other hand, there are countries like the UK, a former colonial power, and France, which is still considered to be the biggest Neo-colonial power in Europe. These countries leaned more towards the middle ground of the situation, in order to maintain good relationships and not lose its influence in their former colonies.

There have been various predictions for the outcomes of this issue, some that it may not be "influential" enough to create major changes for the indigenous community. In Al Jazeera, it is believed that even though it might be true, it is better to take action rather than to simply sit and wait while there are people that need your help.

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