**COMITES DE BALWIN MUN 2020**

**Junior Committee: Arab League: Migration and Statelessness in the MENA region (The State of Statelessness)**

Due to the multitude of conflicts in the Middle East in recent history, the region has become the site of mass forced migration, which has created a large population of stateless persons in the region. Lacking legal documents, these groups have no access to healthcare or education and have limited mobility.1 The Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA) region host almost 40% of the total estimated displaced people in the world.2 This places a social and economic burden on the region, which is only aggravated by constant war and political unrest. Most displaced people remain within the MENA region. Some of these are refugees, which are people who were forced out of their home country while others are Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) who have been forced out of their homes but remain within their home country.3 International aid has mitigated very little of the effects of this, with most refugees and IDPs living in very poor conditions.

This committee will focus on mitigating the effects of the more recent crises that have prompted statelessness: the 2003 invasion of Iraq, the Syrian Civil War that began in 2011, the humanitarian crisis in Yemen and the Civil War in Libya. Delegates will have to consider the issue of sovereignty and the role of international actors in the mitigation of this issue as well as the threat to security that this high number of stateless people presents. The goal of this committee will be to come up with solutions that ameliorate the present situation while bearing in mind the political implications that each will have on the local governments and people.

**Historic Committee: Spanish Civil War**

Between 1931 and 1936, Spain became politically polarized. On one side, are the Nationalists, composed mainly of Roman Catholics, as well as military officials, landowners, and businessmen.4 The Nationalists vouch to return to the ultra-Catholic monarchy that had long prevailed. On the other side, are the Republicans, who are urban workers and agricultural laborers. They support the established government of the Second Spanish Republic.5 Politically, these ideological differences have been manifested through parties such as the Fascist-oriented Falange and the militant anarchists. Therefore, the roots of this conflict are Spanish in nature, relating to the particular divisions that developed in the country by the early twentieth century.6 The civil war officially commenced in July of 1936, when General Franco assumed control of the military, seized control of Spanish Morocco, and crossed over into the mainland of Spain to overthrow the government.7 Since then, Franco has remained in power and tensions have continued to strengthen. Hitler and Mussolini have expressed their support for the Nationalists, whereas Stalin for the Republicans.8 Hence, the conflict has already reached the attention of the international community.

The committee will take place in the days following the siege of Madrid by the Nationalists forces in 1937. Delegates will be representing different individuals involved in the conflict in one way or another. They will be tasked with both responding to the current situation at hand, as well as preventing the conflict from escalating any further. Understanding if and how to promote security and general welfare in Spanish cities will be the overarching topic of debate.

**Crisis Committee: During Prohibition Mafia (Ad-Hoc)**

On January 16, 1919, the Eighteenth Amendment (Prohibition) was passed at the federal level, with businesses like breweries and bars given one calendar year to close down. In 1920, national prohibition was put into effect, and with it came the rise of organized crime, a never before-seen illegal business strategy. This black market is the result of the downfall of a complete corporate structure based on the buying and selling of alcohol and alcoholic beverages. Mobs and gangs had enough power to pay expensive bribes and to hire however many employees of any kind they saw fit in order to keep their business afloat. This included workers, politicians, policemen, warehouse owners, truck drivers, etc. New York City and Chicago were especially prominent in gang violence based on prohibition. Out of the two, Chicago was the most violent, with more than 700 people killed in one Chicago county alone.

This committee will be an Ad-Hoc crisis, meaning delegates will be told their delegation and role during the first committee session and will be given time to study and gather information on their delegation and the committee topic specifics. Traditional Ad-Hoc committees do not reveal their topic; however, we are disclosing that the committee will be on Mafias during the Prohibition Era in the United States. Delegates will be allowed to send crisis notes electronically, which will amount to 40% of the delegation’s final score. Additionally, there is no position paper requirement for the committee.

**Puerto Rico Committee: Post Earthquake Recovery**

On January 6th, a 6.4 earthquake shook the southern part of Puerto Rico, plunging the entirety of the island into a chaotic state. Throughout the following weeks, hundreds of replicas arising from this earthquake have continued to hit, causing major damage to essential pieces of infrastructure, and mass hysteria among the thousands who have lost their homes. The mental health of inhabitants in the southern part of the island is one of the prime issues that must be attended, with an overwhelming majority of the people who live in shacks, hills, or even their cars being mentally unstable. In a community called Barrio Barinas in the Lima sector of Yauco, located in the proximity of the center of seismic activity, inhabitants are sleeping in the yards of their homes in fear of replica waves from the earthquakes. 9 Fortunately, the Puerto Rican people have taken strong initiative and provided large amounts of short-term relief to stabilize the situation. However, this natural catastrophe shed light on an overwhelming amount of long-term problems that the government needs to address to ensure the economic and humanitarian recovery of the U.S. Territory. The electrical grid powered by the Puerto Rico Electric Power Company (PREPA) collapsed yet again, proving to still be extremely debilitated and a major liability two years after Hurricane Maria hit. The public education system suffered substantial structural damages, a major hit to an already financially weakened institution, with schools such as La Escuela Agripina Seda collapsing completely.10 Evidently, this natural catastrophe will have long lasting impacts on Puerto Rico’s fiscal situation, influencing the government and fiscal board’s respective plans for economic recovery.

This committee will mention some short-term recovery efforts, but will direct the majority of its focus towards addressing the issues involved with the island’s long term recovery.

**Economic Committee: Russian Economic Crisis 2014**

In 2014, Russia annexed Crimea, instigating a violent conflict that to this day remains unresolved. A combination of this illegal involvement, falling oil prices, and interests centered in the U.S. market at the time led NATO affiliated nations to impose economic sanctions on Russia that are estimated to have cost Russia $26.7 billion USD in 2014 alone.11 This combination of factors caused the Russian ruble to be devalued, and many citizens resorted to purchasing capital to reduce their currency risk.12 Restrictions were also imposed on the regions annexed by Russia (Crimea and Sevastopol); these include tourism bans, import and export bans, and investing bans. The European Union prohibited the buying or selling of new bonds, equities, similar financial deals with major Russian banks, energy corporations, and defense companies.13 These factors all contributed to the devaluing of the ruble and the beginning of an economic crisis in the region from 2014-2015.

This committee will take place during 2014, allowing delegates to assume the roles of Russian leaders at the time and propose solutions to the national crisis at hand, while still protecting their interests abroad. As leaders of Russia, delegates need to consider the impact of the sanctions on an economic and political level, as well as noting the response the government must have and the role Crimea’s illegal annexation plays in the crisis.

**General Assembly: Climate Change & Tourism**

"Climate change can be understood as all forms of climatic inconstancy, regardless of its statistical nature or physical causes." 14 Thus, it impacts not only biodiversity but the economic stability of nations. Tourism is an economic sector that is both affected by climate change and contributes to it. “The data released by the World Tourism Organization (2008) revealed CO2 emissions in three tourism sectors: transportation, accommodation, and leisure tourist activities.” According to this data, the emissions generated by tourism in these three sectors represent 4.9% of global GHG emissions. Thus, to mitigate the negative effects, the concept of sustainable tourism has emerged. 15 Furthermore, natural disasters and changes in climate affect the influx of tourists in certain areas as it motivates tourist flows and trends. Climate change has consequently affected many tourist destinations where extreme events of drought, storm, rain, hurricanes, and more have become much more common. As a result, many regions and global communities have suffered a loss of tourism, a large portion of the economic income. Moreover, tourism segments exposed to extreme weather conditions may also be affected by climate change because of impacts on infrastructure, and the need for emergency preparedness measures, maintenance costs, and the possible disrupting of commercial activity.16 Consequently, in such conditions, the “profitability and viability of tourist destinations are partially influenced by the climate.17” For example, increased global temperatures may shorten winter, and thus shorten the tourism season of ski resorts.18

This committee will focus on both the effects of climate change on tourism, and the impact tourism has had on climate change. Delegates will need to come up with creative, feasible, and sustainable solutions to maintain and foster the tourism sector of the economy.