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# MUNFW 2019



*April 13, 2019*

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## *A Common Humanity: Back to the Principles of the UN Charter*

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### **Making Change, One Step at a Time.**

**By: Taylor Dowler, Haiti  
& Abigail Reed, World Press Co-Editor**

As Chris Mburu began his keynote speech, he started with a poignant message. This message, in essence, was that young minds must come together in the pursuit of forming a common perspective. Many events took place throughout Mburu's life to lead him to the ideals that he shared with us. Growing up in rural Kenya, Mburu's access to education was extremely limited. His life was completely changed when a Swiss holocaust survivor asked herself what she could do to contribute to the world. With that, she picked a child's name from a list and forever changed Mburu's life by becoming his sponsor. He was then launched on a path that would eventually lead him to becoming the Senior Human Rights Advisor to the United Nations. In his position he advocates for the ideal of education as a human right, and promotes this as a fundamental issue.

Mburu has many ideas on how younger generations can get more involved in issues affecting the world today and all of them have a common theme: community. All of Mburu's work aims to answer the question, "I have passion in this, but how is that

going to help a community?" It is stressed that while our generations are different in terms of technological advancements, that does not mean the impact of our achievements will be different. All we need is a "mental shift," from the idea of solely making something better to improving something to help fix a community.

Mburu emphasized his excitement of speaking to Model UN students during his travels. He stated that all of this is simply "a matter of conceptualization and they [Model UN students] have decided, without me prompting them that they want to focus on these issues."

The current generation is coming into a world that has a lot. Do not let this change the way problems are approached and resolutions resolved. Continue to keep communities at the forefront of all decision making and innovations.



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### **Language and Cultural Differences: Julie Garfieldt Kofoed**

By: Raffaella Mueller,  
World Press Co-Editor

Julie Garfield Kofoed serves as the senior human rights policy advisor to the permanent mission of Denmark. Specifically, she focuses on work against torture and in women and girls issues. At UNITAR she stated that she has previously worked for a corporate law firm, but then realized that it was not what she wanted to do because to her “if you’re not passionate, then it doesn’t matter if you make [lots of money].”

On the issues of women and girls, she acknowledges that cultural issues do come into play when negotiating agreements. She says that cultural issues are “an issue on a lot of topic we discuss related to the rights of women.” These include, “female genital



mutilation [and] child forced marriage].” She said “A lot of that sometimes is put in a cultural context, it’s traditions, culture, religion, that you then have to try to maneuver around and be sensitive about.”

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On the other hand, she stated “it is very clear from a Danish point of view that cultural considerations cannot outweigh human rights principles.”

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She also added that these situations do occur at the UN and that this is something that must never happened. “We do have instances at the UN where paragraphs are attempted to be phrased in a way that religious or cultural traditional circumstances would be placed above human rights. And of course that can never happen.”

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### **The Issue of Refugees**

**By: Jarod Griffith,**  
**Ethiopia**

Yesterday the countries of Africa as well as the Countries of South America, during United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Executive Council (UNHCR), stood together in a united front to solve the pressing matter of the refugee crisis. Both the African Nations as well as the South American nations are seeking assistance on two main pillars, as the delegate from Ethiopia on the UNHCREC stated “We are seeking aid in both raising awareness of the struggles that the African and South American block have faced in the past years, as well as finding funding and structure for host countries that hold the refugees.” The two blocks hold that the donations that are given to them by other countries are not enough to resolve the issues, as the delegate from Tanzania put it, “the Colonial block is not giving the proper support necessary to host all of the refugees, the donations are nice, but extra structure would be helpful in getting these

refugees the proper care.” Both Blocks are working together to ensure the refugees within their respective nations receive the proper care and support that is necessary for their trying and terrifying situation.

The European nations are also seeking to give aid to all of these countries that are struggling with refugee issues, the delegate from Norway stated that “Norway provides forty million dollars in aid annually to the African block, and is willing to provide any necessary aid to the block.” They also are seeking to accept refugees into their country to relieve the burden that is placed on the countries, Norway as well as the United Kingdom are in the process of providing structural support, in the form of acceptance of refugees and educational programs for refugees, as well monetary aid to Africa and South America to beacon support for the waves of problems that the refugee crisis has brought. They hope to assist the African and South American nations to resolve their most pressing matters with the

utmost care and support. Hopefully these three sectors of the world will be able to come together to create a resolution that is both a swift and effective solution to the refugee crisis. It seems that their goals are in alignment and it is just a matter of discussing the individual contentions each nation might have with resolutions.

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-Ethiopia