



**Resolutions adopted at the 39th General Assembly
14th – 17th April 2016, Istanbul, Turkey**

1. Resolution 1

2. *Human Rights Before Immunity*

3. Submitted by the Young Liberals of Norway (NUV)

4.

5. Noting that:

6. • the American policewoman and whistleblower Kathryn Bolkovac in 2001 discovered the
7. organized human trafficking and sexual abuse of women by UN peacekeepers in Bosnia
8. and Herzegovina.

9. • Bolkovac was threatened, pressured to keep silent and was forced to leave her job in the
10. UN.

11. • a secret UN report was leaked to French legal authorities in the summer of 2014 by the
12. swede Anders Kompass.

13. • Sexual abuse by UN Peacekeepers was first documented in Bosnia and Herzegovina and
14. Kosovo in the early 1990s, and there have been similar reports of human trafficking into
15. brothels by UN peacekeepers since then.

16.

17. Recognising that:

18. • the report Kompass leaked withheld evidence of sexual abuse against young boys at a
19. centre for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Central African Republic by the hand
20. of French UN soldiers.

21. • Kompass was suspended from his job at (OHCHR) the Office of the High Commissioner for
22. Human rights, and that he risks losing his job permanently.

23. • Refugees have been sexually exploited for food rations, and that women and children
24. have been exposed to brutal violence and rape in Haiti, Darfur and the Democratic
25. Republic of the Congo.

26. • during the last two decades multiple reports have been put forward on sexual violence
27. committed against defenceless civilians by the soldiers sent to protect them.

28. • the crimes have seldom resulted in a just trial, and there is bound to be undiscovered
29. abuse.

30.

31. Aware of:

32. • the fact that the UN charter of 1945 gives all UN employees protection under the principle
33. of immunity from criminal prosecution.

34. • the fact that immunity only can be lifted by the UN Secretary-General.

35. • the fact that the UN does not have legal jurisdiction over soldiers sent by member-states,
36. and that the member-states in general have been unwilling to take legal action on their
37. own soldiers.



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38. • the fact that the immunity, if not lifted, will pose an obstruction for countries that want to
39. prosecute abuse by their own officials, because they will not be able to interview UN
40. employees who have been aware of the abuse and other criminal activities.
41. Believing that:
42. • Immunity all too often leads to UN employees not being held responsible for their own
43. illegal actions in the field.
44. • The UN Secretary-General should use his power to lift the immunity of UN personnel,
45. when there is evidence of abuse in line of duty for the UN.
46. • The UN has a moral responsibility to ensure that UN officials follow the Universal
47. Declaration of Human Rights.
- 48.
49. IFLRY calls for:
50. • the UN Secretary-General to remove immunity for UN peacekeepers, when they
51. deliberately and grossly disproportionately break universal human rights, and especially
52. when officials commit organised sexual and other abuse.
53. • the reinforcement of this obligation should be carried out by a permanent special
54. commission within the system of the International Court of Justice, having a due status to
55. carry out the necessary procedures related to each mission under the UN flag in order to
56. investigate and decide upon the claims on human rights violations by UN personnel.
57. • change in the UN's laws so that states that send troops are legally obliged to prosecute
58. their citizens when there is evidence of abuse and exploitation while in duty of the UN.
59. • the UN to continue to improve training tools for peacekeepers based on available
60. technology, particularly computer-based instruction modules.
61. • the UN to continue community awareness-raising efforts to combat the perception that
62. sexual exploitation and abuse is acceptable and educate the public about available
63. reporting mechanisms.
64. • the UN to improve the UN investigative procedures so that they meet the standards of the
65. new UN Administration of Justice system, which adjudicates UN internal disputes and
66. disciplinary matter.



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1. **Resolution 2**

2. *Resolution on development aid level*

3. Submitted by Radikal Ungdom (RU)

4.

5. *Recalling* that the UN Monterrey Consensus of 2002 on Financing for Development clearly

6. states a global target of domestic GDP to development aid to be 0.7% by 2015.

7.

8. *Concerned* that the global level of GDP given to development aid by the member countries

9. of OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) is at approximately 0.3% according to

10. OECD's numbers for 2015.¹

11.

12. *Emphasising* the importance of raising the level of GDP given to development in order to

13. have a financial ground to reach the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by

14. 2030.

15.

16. The International Federation of Liberal Youth (IFLRY) calls for:

17. The UN to encourage member countries of OECD's Development Assistance Committee

18. (DAC) to raise their level of GDP to development aid to the minimum target of 0.7%.

19. An aim to reach the global minimum level of 0.7% in the next 5 years in order to have a

20. comfortable amount of years to secure the application of the Sustainable Development

21. Goals by 2030.

22.

23. ¹ [http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/development-aid-stable-in-2014-but-flows-to-poorest-](http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/development-aid-stable-in-2014-but-flows-to-poorest-countries-still-falling.htm)

24. [countries-still-falling.htm](http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/development-aid-stable-in-2014-but-flows-to-poorest-countries-still-falling.htm)



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1. **Resolution 3**

2. *Resolution on the issue of illegal felling of the rainforest*

3. Submitted by Radikal Ungdom (RU)

4.

5. Recalling:

6. • That harvesting of protecting areas, trade of timber that are in the breach of domestic or

7. international law as well and/or given harvesting rights based on corruption are all

8. considered illegal.

9.

10. Considering:

11. • That between up to 650 million cubic meters of rainforest land are felled illegally

12. every year.

13. • That illegal felling constitute for up to 20-40% of all loggings.

14. • That estimates suggest that almost 40% of the Amazonas Rainforest will be felled by 2030.

15.

16. Acknowledging

17. • The global issue that the continuing felling of rainforest have for the indigenous people
18. and the future of our planet's nature.

14. • That the primary reason for this development is the short-term profit gained by usage of
15. the areas for farming.

16. • That long-term consequences for felling rainforests continuously are extremely damaging

17. to our nature, because overusing the land will make it useless for future agricultural

18. purposes.

19.

20. The International Federation of Liberal Youth (IFLRY) calls for:

21. • Countries' governments and civil society actors to fight for reducing the illegal felling of
22. rainforests.

23. • The UN to support with aid to promote long-term and sustainable loggings and usage of
24. the grounds.

25. • Raising awareness among the relevant actors in order to make a global agreement that

26. deals with illegal felling and impoverishment of the rain forest areas.



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1. **Resolution 4**

2. *Promoting mental health awareness*

3. Submitted by Jonge Democraten (JD)

4.

5. **Noting that:**

6. • According to the World Health Organization four out of ten leading causes of disability in

7. the developed countries are mental disorders. By 2020, major depressive disorder (MDD)

8. will be the leading cause of disability in the world for women and children.

9. • Stigma, discrimination and social exclusion related to mental illness exist, fuelled by lack

10. of awareness and education surrounding mental health.

14.

15. **Believing that:**

16. • Social stereotypes should be actively challenged in order to promote acceptance, create

17. understanding and take action on mental health issues.

18. • Because cultural stereotypes are assimilated from an early age, young people should be

19. the target for mental health awareness campaigns, since they are the next generation to

20. eliminate stigma and discrimination.

21. • Providing young people with basic knowledge for understanding mental health issues is

22. vitally important for detecting mental illnesses and offer care at an early stage.

23. • Mental health awareness is supportive to emotional well-being and inclusion.

24.

25. **Calls upon IFLRY and its MOs to:**

26. • Increase its lobby and advocacy efforts to stress the need for health awareness and the

27. education of young people on mental illness.

28. • Encourage its member organizations to actively promote the need for mental health

29. awareness in their national contexts and among their mother parties.

30. Promote increases in the availability of personnel trained in mental health counselling in

31. schools, and higher education institutions.



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1. **Resolution 5**

2. *Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights: Liberalizing Women's Sexual Rights*

3. Submitted by Jonge Democraten (JD)

4.

5. **Recognizing**

6. • the distinction between sexual and reproductive rights and health, whereby

7. ◦ (1) sexual rights are those rights related to the individual's sexual freedom. This includes

8. the right to abortion and the protection against practices such as genital mutilation,

9. forced marriage, and rape.

10. ◦ (2) sexual health focuses on the protection of the individual against and appropriate

11. treatment of HIV/AIDS;

12. ◦ (3) reproductive health focuses on the available medical care for pregnant women;

13. • **that SRHR contributes to the emotional and physical wellbeing of women and girls.**

13.

14. **Considering that**

15. • the current development in conflict zones and the subsequent refugee movements create

16. additional threats to vulnerable groups, including young and adolescent girls and their

17. protection of SRHR.

18. • urbanization and a growing population in developing countries increases challenges posed

19. to reproductive and sexual health problems of women.

20.

21. **Believing that**

22. • Freedom of choice should be at the core of SRHR-advocacy;

23. • Access to appropriate education on SRHR is key;

24. • Men play a vital role in the safeguarding of SRHR, as they are equally responsible for the

25. protection of the women's freedom of choice and dignity;

26. • IFLRY has a unique role to play as global progressive youth-led platform.

27.

28. **Calls upon IFLRY to**

29. • increase its lobby efforts on SRHR through international platforms, such as Liberal

30. International, ICMYO, UN ECOSOC and other appropriate and governmental organizations;

31. • encourage its member organizations to prioritize SRHR-advocacy in their national contexts

32. and among their mother parties.



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1. **Resolution 6**

2. *Assisting LGBTQ2+ Refugees*

3. Submitted by Young Liberals of Canada

4.

5. Noting that:

6. as of July 2015, seventy two countries still have laws that persecute LGBTQ2+ people.

7. the United Nations Human Rights Council passed A/HRC/RES/17/19 in 2011, expressing grave

8. concern at acts of violence and discrimination, in all regions of the world, committed against

9. individuals because of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

10. the United Nations Human Rights Council passed A/HRC/RES/27/32 in 2014, welcoming

11. positive developments at the international, regional and national levels in the fight against

12. violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

13. the UNHCR launched a training campaign in 2015 directed at educating UNHCR staff,

14. protection and humanitarian workers on international law, operational protection,

15. conducting interviews, determining health and refugee status, which were focused on

16. practical guidance when assisting LGBTQ2+ refugees and asylum seekers.

17.

18. Recognising that:

19. LGBTQ2+ refugees fleeing persecution still face a wide and complex array of challenges and

20. threats at all stages of displacement, including discrimination, prejudice, violence, difficulty

21. accessing humanitarian services, and barriers to articulating their protection needs during

22. asylum procedures and other interactions with protection and humanitarian workers.

23.

24. Calls upon IFLRY and its MOs to:

25. work with their UN partners, governments and stakeholders to advocate for the

26. establishment of a UN Envoy on LGBTQ2+ Rights, with a focus on LGBTQ refugees, and other

27. LGBTQ human rights issues.

28. to advocate for immigration policies within their respective liberal parties which recognise

29. the specific needs of LGBTQ2+.



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1. **Resolution 7**

2. *Eliminating coal-fired energy by 2030*

3. Submitted by Young Liberals of Canada

4.

5. WHEREAS, 195 countries' parties to the UNFCCC agreed in Paris to limit global average

6. temperature increase to 2 degrees Celsius, striving for 1.5;

7.

8. WHEREAS, developed countries, under the provision of the UNFCCC's common but

9. differentiated responsibilities, are required to assist the least developed, developing, and

10. rapidly industrializing countries with climate mitigation and adaptation;

11.

12. WHEREAS, the single largest impact to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions is the

13. elimination of coal-fired plants;

14.

15. WHEREAS, coal-fired energy is still widely in use around the world, with many countries with

16. existing and new applications for coal-fired power;

17.

18. BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Federation of Liberal Youth encourages its Member

19. Organizations to work with the parties of the UNFCCC to eliminate coal-fired energy

20. generation around the world by 2030.



1. **Urgent Resolution 1**

2. *IFLRY Resolution on the 2016 Nagorno-Karabakh border incidents*

3. Present by: IFLRY Caucasus Programme, JOVD (Jongeren Organisatie Vrijheid & Democratie)

4.

5. Noting that:

6.

7. armed engagements in the Nagorno-Karabakh region in early April 2016 have led to over a

8. hundred casualties, both local civilians & military, on both Armenian & Azerbaijani sides,

9.

10. Considering that:

11.

12. territorial conflicts between the two Caucasus nations are long standing, however a single

13. engagement has not resulted in such high loss of life since the 1994 ceasefire,

14. ceasefire violations have continuously hindered resolve of this frozen conflict,

15. although negotiations are arranged through OSCE Mink Group led by Russia, USA and

16. France as co-chairs, Armenia, Azerbaijan & the autonomous region of Nagorno-Karabakh do

17. not have formal diplomatic relations amongst each other,

18. in addition to small arms & artillery used in the conflict, a significant increase in the use of

19. armed drones has in turn increased in the deployment of defensive measures,

20.

21. IFLRY:

22.

23. condemns the violence on the Nagorno-Karabakh border which resulted in such unnecessary loss of

24. life,

25. calls on Armenia & Azerbaijan to uphold ceasefire agreements to prevent further violence,

26. calls on the respective governments to decrease their arms presence on the border.

27. calls on the respective governments to engage in meaningful dialogue, in which the establishment of

28. formal diplomatic relations is vital.



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1. **Urgent Resolution 2**

2. *Free Böhmi! There Are No Limits to Satire*

3. Present by: Junge Liberale (JuLis)

4.

5. Considering:

6. The current lawsuit of Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan against German comedian

7. Jan Böhmermann for a defaming poem claiming that Erdoğan enjoys hostile actions towards

8. Kurds and Christians as well as zoophilia and child porn.

9. Erdoğan called in the German ambassador early this year for another satire video aired by the German

10. public-service broadcaster ARD.

11. Turkish critics of the Turkish president face horrendous charges and that there are currently more

12. than 1,800 open lawsuits against people accused of insulting the Turkish president.

13.

14. Acknowledging:

15. IFLRY's commitment to freedom of speech and freedom of the press as sacrosanct pillars of

16. liberal civil society.

17. The importance of satire, controversy, and public discourse to an open society.

18. The increasing censorship and repression of minority opinions in Turkey.

19. The importance of the debate on the limits of satire in Germany and Europe.

20.

21. The International Federation of Liberal Youth (IFLRY) calls for:

22. The German government to abstain from persecuting Jan Böhmermann on behalf of Recep

23. Tayyip Erdoğan and to acknowledge that giving in to such official limitations is on par with

24. formally imposing censorship.

25. Its Member Organizations to condemn putting boundaries on satire and freedom of speech

26. and to lobby for the abolishment of related legislation concerning satire and public figures.

27. (e.g. in Germany: §103 and §90 StGB.)



**Resolutions adopted at the 2015 Executive Committee
13th – 15th November, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic**

And reaffirmed at the 39th General Assembly, 14th – 17th April 2016, Istanbul, Turkey

1. Resolution 1

2. *Integrating non-formal education in school*

3. Presented by the Liberal Cooperation Project (Future Youth, 3H and NUV)

4.

5. Considering that:

6. • Formal education monitors and assesses the students' progress with grading. And that it is
7. recognized by certificates and diplomas. Further that formal education adapts slowly to the
8. socio-economic changes.

9. • Non-formal education emphasizes an interactive approach to teaching, and that the
10. students themselves take an active role in their own learning.

11. • Non-formal education is a way of building bridges through intercultural learning in a
12. multicultural society.

13.

14. Recognizing that:

15. • People learn in different ways, hence schools should emphasize having different types of
16. education available.

17. • Formal education is in excess based on "one-way" education, which does not encourage
18. critical thinking and active partaking in learning.

19. • There is low consideration for the students' needs, and that learning aims are only achieved
20. through teaching the curriculum.

21.

22. Believing that:

23. • Education in most countries needs reform to create a better atmosphere for learning.

24. • The greatest issue in a formal education system is the lack of engagement of the students,
25. which leads to decrease of interest, lowered feeling of mastery, and high dropout rates.

26. • A greater use of Non-formal Education, by combining it with Formal, will benefit students
27. whom learn through practical techniques.

28. • The society benefits from Non-formal Education through creating interactions between
29. separate groupings, social classes and students from different backgrounds.

30. • More interactions will benefit areas where conflicts are visible in the communities, and
31. where this conflict is a hinder for communication between youth from different sides

32.

33. IFLRY calls for:

34. • Implementation of more non-formal education in school, to ensure a diverse way of
35. learning which benefits all students.

36. • Governments to establish capacity-building courses for teachers and trainers to integrate



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37. more non-formal education methods in schools, and to start promoting collaboration
38. between NGOs who work on non-formal education, and schools.
39. • Activities like peer to peer education, field trips, community projects to be a part of school
40. curriculum, furthermore to expand on the civic education for the students
41. • Students to have a way of evaluating teachers and the curriculum through forms to create
42. a better dialogue between the students and the school.



1. **Resolution 2**

2. *Resolution to combat tax avoidance and tax evasion among foreign investor in developing countries*

3. Presented by Svensk Ungdom – Swedish Youth of Finland

4.

5. Noting that:

6. • The subject of tax avoidance and tax evasion in developing countries needs to be addressed
7. as the United Nations has initiated the work on the Post-2015 development agenda.

8. • The United Nations 2030 development agenda addresses economic growth in developing
9. countries with their sustainable development goal nr 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and
10. sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

11. • To ensure the successful implementation for the development goal, states need to demand
12. accountability and transparency from investors that operate in developing countries.

13.

14. Considering that:

15. • As tax revenue loss undermines development opportunities it is important to make sure
16. that increased business opportunities for foreign investors in developing countries do not
17. harm the local economy, e.g. by means of tax avoidance and evasion.

18. • Trade with and investments in developing economies should be encouraged and bring
19. mutual benefit, but it should also be based on good and lawful practices.

20. • Aggressive tax avoidance or tax evasion by foreign investors does not set a good example
21. for developing economies trying to establish a stable internal revenue service.

22. • In order to promote good and lawful practices in developing economies foreign investors
23. need to show integrity and transparency.

24. • In a recent study published by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
25. (UNCTAD) the financial losses to developing countries caused by tax avoidance and evasion
26. are estimated to be hundreds of billions of dollars. Africa received special mention as
27. foreign affiliates contribute a high percentage to the government budget, which adds to
28. their power to influence the economy.

29. • As Aid for Trade grows more important as a means to develop markets and increase tax
30. revenue of developing countries, it is the responsibility of every state to ascertain that their
31. development effort is not undermined by tax avoidance and evasion.

32.

33. Believing that:

34. • Tax avoidance and tax evasion limit the capacity of developing countries to raise money and
35. implement their economic and social policies.

36. • Therefore stakeholders should practice and promote sustainable economic development to
37. the benefit of both stakeholders and recipients, by demanding accountability and
38. transparency from investors operating in developing countries.

39.

40. IFLRY:



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41. • calls for states to demand accountability and transparency of investors operating in
42. developing countries, by:
43. • calls for foreign investors to provide country by country reporting (CBCR).
44. • calls for country-by-country reporting would require each investor to provide the state the
45. following information:
46. (1) The name of each country where it operates.
47. (2) The names of all its subsidiaries and affiliates in these countries.
48. (3) The performance of each subsidiary and affiliate, without exception.
49. (4) The tax charge in its accounts of each subsidiary and affiliate in each country.
50. (5) Details of the cost and net book value of its fixed assets in each country.
51. (6) Details of its gross and net assets for each country.
52. • calls for CBCR to be required of all foreign investors. CBCR should be mandatory especially
53. if the investors are fully or partially state-owned or state-financed. In this case the report
54. should also include data which can be used to evaluate the impact of the investments on
55. the economy as well as the overall development impact.
56. • calls for governments and foreign investors to openly share financial statements with civil
57. society institutions and organisations. This should strike a fair balance between the public
58. interest in tax justice and the investor's interest in protecting critical trade secrets.
59. • in case the above mentioned practises or legislation exist in some states, IFLRY call for the
60. governments to enforce them.



1. **Resolution 3**

2. *Legalize it! Legalizing Marijuana as an Important Step Towards More Sensitive, Modern-Day Drug Policies*

3. Presented by Junge Liberale (JuLis) from Germany

4.

5. Considering:

6. • The vast amount of especially young people that are charged for possessing or consuming
7. illegal substances and therefore face a criminal record (or worse) that severely impacts their
8. future life chances.

9. • The costs of the so-called “War on Drugs”.

10. • The impact of failed drug policies especially in Central and South America, such as the
11. formation of powerful drug cartels, unparalleled violence, and widespread bribery.

12. • The unscientific justification of the current categorization of “hard drugs”, “soft drugs”, and
13. actually commercially available drugs such as alcohol, tobacco, etc.

14.

15. Acknowledging:

16. • IFLRY’s commitment to a holistic understanding of self-determination and civil liberties—
17. and their importance on human flourishing.

18. • The change of public opinion on the prohibition of marijuana—reflected in e.g. the 2015
19. Federal Election in Canada or the state elections on this particular issue in the United States
20. (see Colorado or Washington).

21. • The similarities between current drug policies and “The Noble Experiment” in the United
22. States in the 1920, which created comparable problems (violence, black markets,
23. criminalization) and was ultimately abandoned.

24.

25. The International Federation of Liberal Youth (IFLRY) calls for:

26. • A centrally planned and executed “Legalize It”-campaign by IFLRY.

27. • The preparation (led by the IFLRY board) of an amendment to IFLRY’s manifesto on the
28. importance of modern-day drug policies.

29. • A call to all IFLRY member organizations to advocate for the legalization or decriminalization
30. of so-called “soft drugs” within their organizations, mother parties, and countries.

31. • The change of the United Nations drug control regime (e.g. the Single Convention on
32. Narcotic Drugs, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances and the Convention against
33. Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances) in order to avoid a clash
34. between international law and changing domestic legislation on marijuana, facilitate the
35. legalization of marijuana and shift the focus from prohibition towards prevention.



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1. **Resolution 4**

2. *Resolution on the Presidential Election in Belarus*

3. Presented by LUF from Sweden

4.

5. On the 11th of October 2015 a presidential election was held in Belarus, Alexander

6. Lukashenko who has been in office since 1994, won the election and will continue to rule the

7. country. Let there be no doubt that this was not a fair election. The government of Belarus is

8. an authoritarian regime that is massively violating human rights in terms of restricting media,

9. pursuing the opposition and more.

10. Ahead of the election some of the main oppositional politicians was prevented to candidate.

11. During the elections, massive frauds were committed in a non-transparent counting and

12. election observers point to the fact that this was indeed a rigged election, there were never

13. any doubt about who was going to win and the winner was in fact decided long before the

14. "election" took place.

15.

16. Considering this we urge IFLRY to:

17. • Condemn the lack of transparency in the counting of votes

18. • Consider the results illegitimate and not representative of the people of Belarus

19. • Urge the European Union not to ease sanctions on the Belarusian government



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1. **Resolution 5**
2. *Time to save lives*
3. Presented by LUF from Sweden
- 4.
5. Acknowledging that:
6. The world is right now experiencing the largest refugee crisis since WWII, more than 60 million people has been forced to leave their homes due to war, dictatorship and poverty. Most notably from Middle Eastern countries such as Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq. People are leaving their homes, not just in the pursuit of a better life but simply to survive.
7. It is at these moments in history that our humanity is being tested and so far The International community as a whole has failed substantially. Most refugees are in their neighboring countries who has taken a responsibility far beyond what most would deem possible. Every fourth person in Lebanon is now a Syrian refugee, Jordan has received way above a million refugees and the same goes with Turkey and a few others. At the same time, most countries in the world are doing close to nothing in order to save those fleeing and many times the discussions are about how to stop refugees rather than the contrary.
8. The refugee camps are growing and the situation is worsening, the few countries that has done the most are reporting that they no longer have the capacity to help more people and UNHCR is reporting that they no longer have the finances to feed everybody living in their camps.
9. At the same, the root of the problems, the wars and unstable situations is not looking to get better and the number of people leaving their countries of origin are not becoming fewer.
- 10.
11. Considering the above:
12. We ask IFLRY member organizations to urge their governments to take responsibility in accepting refugees.
13. We ask IFLRY member organizations to urge their governments and/or mother parties to raise their financial support to UNHCR if possible.
14. We urge IFLRY to demand of the United Nation to allocate more resources to UNHCR and the helping of refugees.
15. We urge IFLRY to work towards an international policy in order to handle the crisis



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1. **Resolution 6**

2. *For a Free Venezuela*

3. Presented by the IFLRY Bureau, the Latin America and Human Rights Programmes

4.

5. Appalled by:

6. • The abuse of authority by President Nicolás Maduro, resulted in the systematic violation of

7. human rights through repression, torture and imprisonment, and evidenced in the violation

8. of the right to freedom of assembly, freedom of expression, among others;

9. • The persecution to opposition leaders as María Corina Machado, leader of Vente Venezuela,

10. who was illegally expelled from the Venezuelan National Assembly and has been accused

11. of treason and other crimes, without any evidence;

12. • The absence of independent and impartial judiciary; reflected in the unjust and illegal

13. detention of leaders and citizens as Leopoldo López, Antonio Ledezma and Daniel Ceballos,

14. among others;

15. • The intimidation of journalists by verbal and physical attacks and the seizing of equipment;

16. • The high level of corruption leaving the Venezuelans with a lack of resources and access to

17. education, basic services and medical care; experiencing a serious economic, political and

18. social crisis translated into a shortage of food and medicine, with the highest inflation

19. around the world;

20. • The absence of rule of law, clearly evident in an institutional crisis with the destruction of

21. basic institutions that any country should have;

22.

23. Alarmed by:

24. • The misunderstanding of international organizations such as the UN Office of the High

25. Commissioner for Human Rights in the CCPR/C/VEN/4 report where the human rights

26. developments are evaluated positively;

27. • The continuing reports by INGO's about the vulnerability of the electoral system, translated

28. into a lack of confidence in the Electoral Branch, in the inviolability of the secrecy of the

29. vote, in the manipulation of voter registration and voting machines and, in general, the

30. automation of the entire process, with the real possibility of a fraud in the legislative

31. elections of next December;

32.

33. Acknowledging that:

34. • Venezuela is close to a humanitarian crisis that will only bring more misery and hunger if is

35. not urgently resolved through deep reforms in an environment of economic and political

36. freedom;

37. • Venezuela is an important actor in Latin America, and what happens there affects the entire

38. region and the future of democracy and freedom;

39. • the Venezuelan opposition and its youth have been in constant struggle against the regime

40. that for 17 years has governed their country;



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41. • Vente Venezuela and its youth, Vente Joven, have raised the banner of the ideas of freedom
42. and has undertaken a genuine struggle for the conquest of freedom and democracy, with
43. citizens and other political movements and parties;
44. • The upcoming electoral process is central to the rescue of democracy in that country and
45. requires the attention of the world, with an international observation qualified, fair and
46. transparent;
47. • Respect for human rights, rule of law and freedom are fundamental for the progress and
48. development of the countries.
- 49.
50. Believing that:
51. • As a Federation, we are committed to expressing solidarity with abuses of totalitarian
52. governments and dictatorships, such as Venezuela is living today, and should fight for liberal
53. values.
- 54.
55. Calls upon:
56. • The IFLRY Latin America Programme to keep a close eye on the evolvement of the situation
57. in Venezuela and take appropriate action as the situation requires, especially by informing
58. and answering to the IFLRY membership;
59. • The IFLRY Human Rights Programme to speak out against and raise awareness on the issue
60. at the appropriate international organizations, via Liberal International and the UN ECOSOC;
61. • All IFLRY member organizations to organize a global campaign in support of the Venezuelan
62. human rights activists, by raising awareness and addressing national and international
63. politicians from their respective mother parties;
64. • The IFLRY membership to accompany the Venezuelan people that are fighting to regain
65. their freedom and democracy, expressing our solidarity and commitment to their mission.
66. • The international community, including the United Nations (UN), the Organization of
67. American States (OAS) and the Mercado Común del Sur (MERCOSUR) to join the efforts of
68. IFLRY about the situation in Venezuela.