Delegate: Kate Pittignano

Committee: Arab League

Delegation: United Arab Emirates

School: Pearl River High School

Topic: Syrian Conflict

47 years from its independence, the United Arab Emirates has accomplished a great deal. The nation has a 93% literacy level, world class health care, and 70% of its college graduates are women. It even holds the largest building in the world, the Burj Khalifa, and has been dubbed the “Culture Capital of the Arab World” by UNESCO. In some aspects, it has accomplished more than some of the worlds “super powers”. Therefore, it may not come as a surprise that the UAE has a long standing relationship with the United States which sometimes dictates many of its actions. Every state in the US exports to the UAE, therefore the UAE must always maintain a good relationship with the nation.

However, the UAE has taken a rather neutral position regarding the Syrian conflict. It has contributed to both US and Russian efforts in Syria. Emirati Foreign Minister Anwar Gargash officially stated "Our position on the Syrian crisis is very clear: a few years ago we had a choice — to support Bashar Assad or the opposition, which was joined by jihadists and even many terrorist elements, and we chose to be somewhere between. We confirm the need for a political solution in Syria. It is impossible to achieve stability in this country through a military solution". Nevertheless, the UAE has recently taken a non-military stance and has emphasized rebuilding infrastructure and, more importantly, diplomatic relationships. In December of 2018, the nation re-established its embassy in Damascus and is preparing to send diplomats to the troubled Syrian governments. To underscore all of this, the UAE has dedicated a great deal of time and money to helping the innocent who have been effective by the seemingly total war that has been taking place. The nation is already home to 100,000 Syrian refugees and yet it still helps run other refugee camps like Marajeeb Al Fhood camp in Jordan. The UAE has also given $530,000,000 to humanitarian aid in Syria and this doesn’t include the money it has donated to refugee camps that it doesn’t run. Although, there is a great deal of controversy about the Syrian refugee crisis, especially in Europe, the UAE has taken a clear stance. It just wants the violence to end and to help support stability and peace in the Middle East.

First, the UAE proposes readmitting Syria to the Arab League. Without this platform, there are very little other ways to communicate and make large deals with Syria. Then, more and more nations need to begin to rebuild their relationship with Syria. The best way to solve this crisis is to make a compromise between all sides and all countries. A new government should be established; one that comes from and represents the people. The National Coalition for Syrian Revolution and opposition forces, which is recognized by many countries, including the GCC, should be the source and/or highly involved in the decision. While this may be opposed by some, there must be other ways to make a compromise that is amenable to all in the Arab League. In addition, according to US President Donald Trump, Saudi Arabia has already pledged to fund a portion of rebuilding the roads and infrastructure of Syria. Other countries should help in this. In addition, the Sudanese government has made the effort to reconnect with Syria by flying diplomats to the nation's capital. Actions like these must take place in order for Syria to heal. The Syrian government will be able to defeat rebel groups when they are able to make their people feel like they are safe because of their government. When that feeling is securing, there will be much less fuel and support for rebel groups and Syria will begin a finally clear path to stability.