A CRITICAL ANALYSIS ON THE ADEQUACY OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK IN PROVIDING EDUCATION TO REFUGEE CHILDREN IN MALAYSIA.

By

Nor Azean binti Mohd Sohaini (2008370597) Norhamizah binti Kamarudin (2008558329) Umar Faiz bin Abdul Kohar (2008738173)

Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Bachelor Legal Studies (Hons)

Universiti Teknologi MARA

Faculty of Law

April 2011

The students/authors confirm that work submitted is their own and that appropriate credit has been given where reference has been made to the work of others.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This research project has been carried out by a team which has included Nor Azean binti Mohd Sohaini, Norhamizah bt Kamarudin and Umar Faiz bin Abdul Kohar.

First and foremost, we would like to show our deepest gratitude goes to Allah S.W.T. for His blessing and guidance, this project can be completed on time and smoothly.

Special thanks goes to our helpful supervisor, Madam Nadzriah Ahmad. The supervision and support that she has given truly help the progress in the preparing this project paper. The co-operation is much indeed appreciated.

We would like to carry our deepest thanks and appreciation to all who give the cooperation, encouragement, constructive suggestion towards the completion of this Honour Project Paper entitled "A Critical Analysis on the Adequacy of the Legal Framework in Providing Education to Refugee Children in Malaysia".

Last but not least, we would like to carry our gratitude to the UNHCR Malaysia for contributing useful information and knowledge regarding the issue of refugee children and right to access to education.

ABSTRACT

This research is to determine whether the current legal framework is adequate in providing education to the refugee children in Malaysia. There are two main objectives of the study, firstly, to examine whether or not the current legal framework is adequate in providing education to the refugee children in Malaysia. The second objective is to recommend any viable alternative to the current legal framework in providing better education to refugee children in Malaysia. In conducting this research, semi-structured interviews, library based research and internet based research will be conducted for the purposes of collecting the information regarding the rights to education for refugee children. For the purpose of answering the research question, relevant domestic laws have been examined in order to determine whether refugee children can have access to education in Malaysia. International instruments such as Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) have also been examined in order to ensure whether Malaysia meets the international standards. This research paper concludes that domestic law in Malaysia is not adequate in providing access to education to refugee and Malaysia should take steps to withdraw the reservation expressed to CRC.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgement				
Abstract				
Contents				
List of Cases				
List of Statute				
СНАР	TER ONE: INTRODUCTION			
1.1	Background of study	1		
1.2	Problems of study	4		
1.3	Objectives of study			
1.4	Methods used in the study			
1.5	Scope and limitation of study			
1.6	Significance of the study	6		
СНАР	TER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW			
2.1	Introduction			
2.2	Statistics of refugee			
2.3	The refugee children are not entitled to receive			
	formal education in Malaysia	9		
2.4	Action taken in providing education	10		
2.5	The effect of not obtaining formal education on refugee children	12		
СНАР	PTER THREE: LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF THE RIGHT EDUCATION TO REFUGEE CHILDREN	ТО		
3.1	Introduction	15		

3.2	Legal Framework in Malaysia			
	3.2.1	Child Act 2001	21	
	3.2.2	Article 5 of Federal Constitution	23	
	3.2.3	Article 8 of Federal Constitution	28	
	3.2.4	Article 12(1) of Federal Constitution	32	
	3.2.5	Education Act 1996	36	
	3.2.6	Article 14 and Article 15(2) of Federal Constitution	39	
	3.2.7	Article 15A of Federal Constitution	43	
3.3	Intern	ational Legal Framework	45	
	3.3.1	Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989	45	
		3.3.1.1 Article 1	45	
		3.3.1.2 Article 22	47	
		3.3.1.3 Article 2	53	
		3.3.1.4 Article 3	56	
		3.3.1.5 Article 12	58	
		3.3.1.6 Article 28(1)(a)	64	
	3.3.2	Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948 (UDHR)	68	
	3.3.3	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights		
		1966 (1CCPR)	72	
	3.3.4	International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural		
		Rights 1966 (ICESCR)	74	
3.4	Concl	usion	80	
СНА	PTER I	FOUR: FINDINGS		
4.1	Introd	Introduction		
4.2	Findir	Findings		