UN Human Rights Council: Mandate on Human Rights and “Toxics”
Activities and priorities of the mandate

• Annual reports
  – 2015: right to information
  – 2016: rights of the child
  – 2017: good practices
  – 2018: worker rights
  – 2018: stronger global controls
  – 2019: principles on worker’s rights (Sept.)
  – 2019: right to freedom from exposure (Oct.)

• Country visits
  – Kazakhstan, South Korea, Germany, United Kingdom, Denmark & Greenland, Sierra Leone, Canada (upcoming)

• Priorities
  – Childhood exposure
  – Workers
  – Indigenous peoples
  – Business and human rights
  – Awareness raising

• Cases of alleged violations
  – Communications with States & businesses
The Human Rights Narrative
# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

## Human rights of every* child
- Highest attainable standard of health
- Physical (bodily) integrity
- Life, survival and maximum development
- To be heard
- (Among others …)

## Duties of every* State
- Prevention of childhood exposure to toxics
- Child’s best interests as a primary consideration in relevant laws & policies

* Every country except the United States is a party to the CRC
Case study:
Korean Humidifier Sterilizers
Human Rights as *Rights*
Rights, not privileges

- Life
- Health, highest attainable standard of
- Clean & safe water
- Safe & nutritious food
- Adequate housing
- Child’s rights to survival, health & maximum development
- Information & participation
- Freedoms of expression, association & assembly
- Safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment
- Physical (bodily) integrity
- Safe & healthy work
- Prior informed consent
- An effective remedy
- Dignity and equality, self-determination
- Non-discrimination: people in poverty, children, older persons, different genders, indigenous peoples, migrants, minorities and otherwise marginalized communities

- Among others …
What is safe, clean and healthy?

To what extent do we have a right not to be exposed to toxics?

Mr. Dewayne Lee Johnson, glyphosate claimant
Case Study: London Air Pollution
Case Study:
Exports of banned pesticides
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