



AUXILIUM INTRA
MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2018

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

AGENDA:

“SITUATION OF RELIGIOUS MINORITIES WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE GLOBAL REFUGEE CRISIS”

“MANY COMMIT THE SAME CRIMES WITH A VERY DIFFERENT RESULT, ONE BEARS A CROSS FOR HIS CRIME, ANOTHER A CROWN.” -JUVENAL

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dear Delegates,

At the outset, we would like to tell you that it will be our honor to serve as your Executive Board for the stimulation of the United Nations Human Rights Council at ACS Intra Model United Nations Conference 2018.

We must mention that you have been entrusted upon a task which is much more important than winning a prize. And that is to do justice to the responsibility of finding solutions to one of the most critical and challenging problems we face as humanity.

It is our wish that you take this responsibility with utmost seriousness. We want you to know that it is more about what you understand and learn through this process than anything else. Thus, with utmost sincerity we have tried to prepare this background guide so that you can best represent your country's government. Utilize this document as a guide and most importantly, prepare yourself in such a way that you make your presence felt in the committee through active participation, peaceful negotiations, deliberations and healthy debates. We assure you that the two days of the conference is going to be challenging and rewarding for each one of you. As you will put into the shoes of delegates, your global interactions will rejuvenate your vigour and enthusiasm.

Please do not refrain from getting in touch with any of us if you have any questions. Looking forward to seeing you all at ACS Intra MUN 2018 and hope to have a brilliant time, learning, debating and knowing each other.

Hope for the Best but be prepared for the Worst!

Regards,

Team HRC ACSMUN 2018.

Aditi Agarwal

President

Atullya Baid

Special Rapporteur

NOTE TO THE DELEGATES

- Refer to the UN Charter and UN Today for the mandates of various organs of the UN.
- Refer to the structure of the UN System.
- Do not quote this guide as evidence or as an answer to a question or claim. This is simply to guide you, and the bedrock of your research, but should not form the source or corpus of your research.
- The proof you need to submit when it comes to validity of claims is in this order of priority:
 - 1) Reuters report, Amnesty International report, UN chronicles,
 - 2) Reports of UN Offices,
 - 3) State/Government Sources.
- Under no circumstances will sources like Wikipedia, Human Rights Watch or newspaper like the Guardian, Times of India, etc be accepted as PROOF; but maybe used for better understanding of any issue and even be brought up in debate, if the information given in any such sources is in line with the beliefs of a Government.
- Usage of laptops and other electronic devices would be allowed, during the committee to make work easier for you, and to save you from carrying enormous amounts of paper, however the use of internet, need we say it, is strictly forbidden inside council and any infringement of this rule will make you liable to be debarred from the committee.
- Please be aware that you are representing your country and its policy and not your own.

INTRODUCTION

The United Nations developed a number of norms, procedures and mechanisms concerned with minorities. In particular, the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the 1992 Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic minorities (hereinafter: United Nations Minorities Declaration) recognize and protect the rights of minorities. In practice, however these rights are far from being realized. The promotion and protection of the rights of minorities require particular attention to be paid to issues such as the recognition of minorities' existence; efforts to guarantee their rights to non-discrimination and equality; the promotion of multicultural and intercultural education, nationally and locally; the promotion of their participation in all aspects of public life; the inclusion of their concerns in development and poverty-reduction processes; disparities in social indicators such as employment, health and housing; the situation of women and the special concerns to children belonging to minorities.

Minorities around the world are also often the victims of armed conflicts and

internal strife. The situation of refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from minority backgrounds, in particular women and children, is of special concern.

The world is witnessing the highest levels of displacement on record. An unprecedented 65.5 million people around the world have been forced from home by conflict and persecution at the end of 2016. Among them are nearly 22.5 million refugees over half of whom are under the age of 18. There are also 10 million stateless people, who have been denied a nationality and access to basic human rights such as education, healthcare, employment and freedom of movement.

SITUATION TODAY

Currently, dozens of countries are being investigated for alleged violations of the above mentioned right. The violations have increased not only in number, but also in complexity. One of the most known examples would be that of Saudi Arabia, where adopting a religion other than Islam is considered a terrorist attack. Additionally, Saudi Arabia was accused of deporting foreigners for worshipping privately. Similar cases take place in countries such as Yemen Qatar, UAE, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, and Afganistan where the Sharia law is applied predominantly or entirely. There is little doubt that religious freedom is under serious threat in many Muslim countries .Some of the world's most oppressed religious minorities include Egypt's Christian Coptic Minority; The Baha'i in Iran; the Ahmadis in Pakistan; and Christians, Hindus, Buddhists and Shiite Muslims in Saudi Arabia in these places, religious oppression has been an omnipresent fact of life for years, irrespective of a person's creed.

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WHO IS TO BLAME?

Although many governments in Christian-majority have religious freedom records that rival those of the most oppressive governments | Muslim majority countries violence by Islamic extremist such as Boko Haram the self proclaimed Islamic state (also known as ISIS) and an al Qaeda against non-Muslims is increasing and is considerably more severe than any comparable acts by Christian against religious minorities. But to blame only Muslim Extremists for declining religious freedom in the world would be a mistake. They certainly are among the most visible violators of religious freedom, but the greater danger is from the governments across the world and across religious traditions. Only 9 out of 177 governments have maintained complete religious freedom since 1990: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Guinea-Bissau, Namibia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Suriname. There are few governments with clean hands but safe heavens do exist for various religious traditions. Among Christian-majority countries, the most tolerant countries are often found in the developing world, particularly within sub-Saharan Africa. And on average, Latin American countries are more tolerant than western democracies. Among Muslim-majority countries, several sub Saharan African countries, mostly in western Africa-Burkina Faso ,Gambia ,Niger ,Senegal and Sierra Leone – provide a safe space for worship, as they place no limitations on religious minorities that are not also placed on a majority religion.

EFFORTS TAKEN BY THE UNHCR

The principal role of the UNHCR is to provide international protection for persons who have been forced to flee their country of origin. The organization ensures that the international standards of refugee protection

Guaranteed in the 1951 Convention, its 1967 Protocol, and various regional instruments and declarations including the 1969 Convention governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, of the Organization of African Unity, and the 1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees, Colloquium on the International Protection of refugees in Central America, Mexico and Panama, are respected. Among the rights UNHCR works to protect is the fundamental right not to be forcibly returned, or refouled, to a territory where the refugee's life, liberty or physical security may be threatened. The 1951 Convention also requires a non discrimination in the application of its provisions and guarantees a certain standard of treatment in relation to education, housing and employment.

The governing Executive Committee of UNHCR has adopted conclusions on international protection which relate to minority issues. In conclusion No 68 and no 71 the Executive Committee acknowledges that ethnic intolerance causes forced migration and conclusion no 80 states that upholding human rights for minorities is one way to combat displacement. Conclusion no 102 stresses the importance of identifying the particular protection risks of minority refugees in order to protect all refugees. Although not formally binding the Executive Committee's conclusions constitute "soft law" which is relevant to the international protection regime, as they express opinions that are broadly representative of the views of the international community

GLOBAL REFUGEE CRISIS

Refugee is people who have had to flee their country because of armed conflict, serious human rights abuses or persecution. Just over 21 million people- or 0.3% of the world's population – are refugees right now. This includes 5.2 million Palestinians many of whom have been refugees for decades. The vast majority of refugees hosted in low and middle income countries, with one quarter (about 4.2 million people) living in least developed regions

As of 2015 Jordan hosted the largest number of refugees in the world. Turkey hosted the second largest refugee population, 3 million, including the highest number of refugees from Syria. Both Pakistan (1.6 million) and Lebanon (1.5 million) is home to more than 1 million refugees while Iran (979400), Ethiopia (736100), and Kenya (553900) all hosted more than half a million each. In Lebanon nearly 1 in 5 individuals is refugee.

Around the world, new conflicts and crisis are forcing more people to leave their countries. The crisis In Burundi has pushed over 265000 people into neighboring Rwanda Tanzania the DRC, Uganda and Zambia. Armed conflict in south Sudan has driven 1 million people to leave their country for Uganda a Ethiopia and other countries in the region

Humanitarian appeals to support major refugee crisis such as Syria, Burundi, and Afghanistan are consistently and severely underfunded. As of 2016 , the Burundi response plan was only 37%funded , the Syria regional refugee and resilience plan was only 48% funded , and the 2016 regional and refugee and migrant response plan was only 27% funded

SYRIA AND ITS NEIGHBOURS

The conflict in Syria continues to rage seven years after its outbreak following anti-government forces and non-state armed groups have committed war crimes and violated international humanitarian law.

The deadly conditions in Syria have led almost 5 million people, half of whom are children, to seek refuge outside the country the majority of these refugees are being hosted in the region, in Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt, while over 2.7 million are in Turkey. According to the UNHCR data, as of July 2016 states had pledged fewer than 250,000 resettlements places or other forms of entry for Syrians. The entry of US and Russian led forces into a fray has seen hundreds of civilians fall victim to air and naval strikes. The UN special envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura has estimated that around 400,000 people who have been killed since the start of the conflict.

LEBANON

Lebanon hosts more than 1.1 million refugees from Syria, 53% of whom are children, in addition to a pre-existing Palestinian refugee population of just under 450,000 people.²² According to the UN, over 55% of Syrian refugees in Lebanon live in substandard conditions in informal settlements, overcrowded buildings, and densely populated poor neighborhoods, and 70% of households live below the poverty line.²³ Assistance from UN agencies and NGOs is limited due to a lack of funds. By mid-July, the inter-agency appeal for Lebanon was only 41% funded²⁴ and the UN has been forced to cut the numbers of refugees receiving support and the amount of assistance provided. The populations of Lebanon, New Zealand and Ireland are almost exactly the same. But Lebanon is infinitely smaller than both countries, and has a much smaller economy. There are 1.1 million refugees from Syria in Lebanon.

JORDAN

At the end of 2015 Jordan was hosting close to 2.7 million refugees, 2.1 million of whom were Palestinians. Most of the other refugees (664,100 in 2015) were from Syria. Some 115,000 refugees from Syria live in two camps - Zaatari and Azraq.³⁰ The majority of refugees from Syria live in urban areas in towns and cities.

TURKEY

At the end of 2015 Turkey hosted some 2.5 million refugees. That number has risen during 2016 and the country now hosts more than 3 million of the world's asylum-seekers and refugees. The majority of them – about 2.7 million – are from Syria, but the country is also host to approximately 400,000 non-Syrian asylum-seekers and refugees – mainly Iraqis and Afghans as well as significant numbers of Iranians, Somalis and Palestinians.³⁹ Despite its broadly welcoming attitude towards refugees, such large numbers have inevitably placed a considerable strain both on Turkey's nascent asylum system and its capacity to meet refugees' basic needs.

AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN AND IRAN

Currently an estimated 2.7 million Afghans are refugees, a reduction on numbers in the early 2000s. Between 2002 and 2015, more than 5.8 million Afghan refugees were returned to Afghanistan, with the vast majority arriving between 2002 and 2008. UNHCR reports that these people can experience significant difficulties in rebuilding their lives in Afghanistan. The numbers of voluntary returns dropped dramatically in 2014 and 2015. Moreover, the Afghan refugee population is once again growing as people flee the country in the face of an intensifying conflict as the Taliban and other armed groups continue their deliberate attacks on civilians and civilian objects. In 2015 some 178,000 Afghans undertook hazardous journeys to Europe. This is quadruple the number of people who undertook the same journey the year before.

As of 2015, most of the world's Afghan refugees lived in Pakistan (1.6 million) and Iran (951,100). In both countries, the majority of the refugee population is second and third generation.

SOMALI REFUGEES IN KENYA

Kenya is home to the two largest refugee camps in the world: Dadaab hosts more than 300,000 people, mostly from Somalia; and Kakuma hosts over 150,000 from a wide range of countries including South Sudan, Sudan, Burundi, Ethiopia and the DRC.⁵² Some refugees have been hosted by Kenya for over two decades with no prospect of returning to their countries and with limited humanitarian support or options for livelihoods or other durable solutions available to them. International support to Kenya as a refugee host country has been limited. Only relatively few refugees are resettled from Kenya to other countries, of which the USA offers to resettle the largest number. In 2015 fewer than 8,000 refugees were resettled.⁵³ As of July 2016 UNHCR's funding appeal for Kenya was just 28% funded

Somalia is experiencing ongoing conflict and instability. Fighting between government forces and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) on one hand, and clan-militias and Al-Shabaab on the other, has resulted in gross human rights violations carried out against the civilian population. Many people continue to flee from the country as a result

ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia hosts the largest number of refugees in Africa. There are approximately 740,000 refugees in the country, mostly from Eritrea and South Sudan, and but also from Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.⁶⁶ Most refugees live in one of 25 camps run by UNHCR and the government; some live in urban areas, particularly around the capital, Addis Ababa. Ethiopia has allowed refugees to enter but does not allow them to work and they cannot obtain permanent residency. Resettlement to another country is the only durable solution for the vast majority, according to UNHCR.

Most refugees in Ethiopia lack adequate access to food, shelter and basic services. For example, only 7% of school-age refugee children are enrolled in secondary

education. In 2015, Ethiopia was hit by a devastating drought, affecting 80% of the areas hosting refugees.

BURUNDI

Burundi has been in a state of political crisis since President Nkurunziza's decision to stand for a third term in April 2015, which many saw as unconstitutional. Since then, hundreds of people have been killed. The worst violence erupted on 11 December 2015 when, following coordinated attacks on three military installations by unidentified armed men, security forces carried out cordon-and-search operations in perceived opposition neighbourhoods of the capital, Bujumbura, and killed dozens of people before allegedly burying some of them in mass graves. In 2016 the human rights situation continued to deteriorate and as of writing there has been no accountability for horrific acts of violence.

Over 300,000 people have fled the country, most of them to refugee camps in neighbouring Rwanda and Tanzania. The situation in these camps is difficult, with limited resources available. Only 37% of the Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan 2016 has been funded to date.

People trying to flee Burundi have been beaten, had money extorted and been sent back by members of the ruling party youth wing, the Imbonerakure. As a result, many Burundian refugees leave the country with no, or very few, possessions – either deliberately, in order not to attract attention, or because their belongings have been taken.

SOUTH SUDAN

The majority of those leaving South Sudan have fled to Uganda, which as of September 2016 hosted 373,626 South Sudanese refugees. Other countries in the region, including Kenya, Sudan, Ethiopia, Central African Republic and the DRC, are also hosting large numbers. Only 20% of UNHCR's funding requirements requested for the South Sudan refugee crisis had been met as of 28 August 2016.

MYANMAR AND BANGLADESH

The UN has called the Rohingya, an ethnic and religious minority living in Myanmar, one of the most persecuted minority groups in the world. Over 1 million Rohingya live in Myanmar's Rakhine State in the west of the country. Former governments have denied even the existence of the Rohingya – insisting on referring to them as “Bengalis”, a term that implies that they are migrants from neighboring Bangladesh.

For several decades, discrimination, violence and human rights abuse by state and non-state actors have led hundreds of thousands of Rohingya to leave the country and to seek refuge elsewhere.

UNHCR has estimated that 94,000 refugees and migrants have left from Rakhine State and its border areas with Bangladesh. During their journeys out of Myanmar and Bangladesh, thousands have fallen prey to the abusive and extortionate practices of people smugglers and human traffickers. Some have been kidnapped and held for ransom, raped and suffered other severe physical abuse. Many have gone missing or died during their journeys at sea, or while being held in human trafficking camps in Thailand and Malaysia. In South and Southeast Asia, the largest concentration of Rohingya refugees is in Bangladesh and Malaysia, and to a lesser extent Thailand and Indonesia. In Bangladesh, 31,759 UNHCR-registered refugees live in the official camps of Nayapara and Kutupalong. Unofficially, there are an estimated 200,000 Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, many living in dire conditions with minimal access to basic services and humanitarian assistance.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Despite the work of the UN and NGOs, the human right to freedom of religion or belief is still being violated in countries around the world. There are many areas in which this committee can develop possible solutions to protect and promote the freedom of religion or belief. But there are several issues in particular that the UN has focused on in recent years:

1. **Eliminating Intolerance:** Dozens of countries are being investigated for allegations of violating the rights of citizens to practice the freedom of religion or belief. In 2010, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief released a report on the promotion and protection of freedom of religion or belief. But how can the international community better protect those whose rights are being violated? Can the international community work with governments that are accused of human rights violations?
2. **School Education:** In 2011, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief released a report about school education, including how religion and belief is being taught in schools, and how schools can promote the freedom of religion or belief. But the report cautioned that “Freedom of religion or belief and school education require a very careful handling. The main reason is that the school, besides providing a place of learning and social development, is also a place in which authority is exercised

TACKLING THE REFUGEE CRISIS

Efforts to address the global refugee crisis have failed to address even a small fraction of the actual needs. Moreover, they are often based on measures to ensure that the wealthiest countries face the least disruption. Many of the world's wealthiest countries have devoted significant resources to ensuring that refugee populations remain in less wealthy countries - shirking rather than sharing responsibility.

States have undertaken to work towards a Global Compact on refugees by 2018. This Compact must include a means to overcome the ad hoc nature of resettlement. But refugees cannot wait until then, and so Amnesty International is calling for individual states to show leadership and significantly increase the number of resettlement places available globally. States that currently run resettlement programmes should look to increase the number of refugee resettlement places they offer annually. States that do not have a resettlement programme should establish one. All states offering resettlement should consider the number of people in need according to UNHCR, which presently stands at approximately 1.2 million, and consider how their offer of places looks against this number.

Countries should open up more safe and legal routes for refugees so they can seek asylum without having to cross dangerous seas in overcrowded boats or walk hundreds of miles carrying their children and all their belongings. Instead of handing over their life savings to smugglers, they could spend their money on starting a new life. Fully meeting resettlement needs will not relieve the pressure on countries hosting hundreds of thousands of refugees. More is needed.

States' respective contributions to refugee responsibility-sharing should be proportionate to an objectively defined capacity to host and support refugees. National wealth (for example, GDP or GNI¹⁸²), population size and unemployment rates are all factors that affect a country's ability to host and integrate refugees. While states might add to or modify these criteria, and assign different weighting to each one, they should focus on agreeing a relatively small number of relevant, broadly applicable, common-sense criteria that enable responsibility-sharing.

A new global refugee transfer mechanism to transfer refugees from countries where the refugee population has reached a certain threshold. In situations of

large movements of refugees, even full resettlement of all vulnerable people is not sufficient to ensure both the rights of refugees and an equitable sharing of the responsibility among states to protect and assist refugees.

The refugees should be guaranteed full and protective rights so that they do not feel the need to seek asylum in any other place. The refugee host countries should be given full support whether it is financial or social. Guaranteeing full, flexible and predictable funding for refugee protection can lead to a big step which would be towards solving this problem of refugee crisis.

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SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR MODERATED CAUCUS

- The right to education
- Genocide and anti-Semitism
- Blasphemy and apostasy laws
- Illegal Organ Harvesting
- Global Refugee Crisis

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CONCLUSION:

International national law is not entirely a deal with group o individuals, is unable to provide a comprehensive definition of a minority group [including those of a religious leaning] and lacks a definitive list of rights that may be applicable to all groups in all situations. So rather than looking for definitions, we should perhaps focus more on how a more effective defensive mechanism for religious minorities may be established. We must, at the same time, keep in mind that minority rights have been both collective and individual dimensions. Ultimately, however, they are largely a group concept. Furthermore, religious freedom should not be vilified in the name of paranoid secularism. Moreover, a close eye should be kept on SR and HRC policy around the world, such that a sufficient and a effective mechanism for minorities[in broader sense] is apt and does not deteriorate particularly for religious ones [in a narrow sense]. If states provide religious education in public schools, it should certainly be carried on neutral and objective manner.

There are 193 countries in the world and 21 million refugees. Almost half of these refugees – 12 million people –are living in just 10 of these 193 countries. This is inherently unsustainable. Countries hosting such high numbers of refugees cannot provide for them. The problem is not the number of refugees but that the vast majority are hosted in low and middle-income countries. Many refugees are living in grinding poverty without access to basic services and without hope for the future. Not surprisingly, many are desperate to move elsewhere. And some are willing to risk dangerous journeys to try and find a better life. The global refugee crisis is growing. It is a crisis that can be managed, and fair sharing of responsibility globally is the most effective means of managing it.

“We are not developed nations,

We are not developing nations,

We are the UNITED NATIONS”

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