

YCCEXMUN

United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

**Agenda: Reassessing the Rights of Refugees
in the Context of the Global Refugee Crisis**

Committee Chairs:

Swara Dalvi

Swayam Kaushik

Dear Delegates,

We, the Executive Board, extend a warm welcome to you for the **YCCE X MUN**, where we will be simulating the **United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)**. The agenda for this committee is "Reassessing the Rights of Refugees in the Context of the Global Refugee Crisis". We hope that you have already begun your preliminary research on the agenda and the associated issues.

The UNHRC is a vital body within the United Nations system, tasked with promoting and protecting human rights globally. As delegates, it is crucial to understand the scope of the committee and the issues at hand. While the agenda may lead to broad discussions, it is important to remember that the council's decisions must remain within the purview of the committee's mandate. This background guide is designed to provide you with a foundational understanding of the committee, its operations, and the agenda. However, this guide should not be your sole source of information. We encourage you to conduct extensive research beyond this document to ensure a fruitful and informed debate.

The Executive Board is here to facilitate discussion, and we look forward to hearing your unique perspectives and innovative solutions to the challenges posed by the global refugee crisis. We encourage you to think critically, engage in substantive debate, and propose actionable solutions.

Regards,

Chairpersons:

Swara Dalvi

Swayam Kaushik

Understanding the Agenda

1. Introduction to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

The UNHRC is a principal body of the United Nations, responsible for promoting and protecting human rights around the world. Comprising 47 member states, the council works to address human rights violations and advocates for the respect of international human rights standards. With the ongoing global refugee crisis, the rights of refugees have become a critical focus, sparking urgent discussions about the adequacy of international frameworks in addressing the complex needs of displaced populations.

2. The Need to Reassess Refugee Rights

Several factors drive the need to reassess refugee rights in today's global context:

- **Rising Displacement:** The highest levels of displacement in history are occurring, with millions fleeing conflict, violence, and environmental disasters. Host countries' capacity to protect and support refugees is increasingly strained.
- **Outdated Legal Frameworks:** The 1951 Refugee Convention, though foundational, fails to address contemporary challenges like climate change-induced migration and complex modern conflicts.
- **Increased Vulnerabilities:** Refugees face significant barriers in healthcare, education, and employment, with issues like discrimination and sexual violence adding to their vulnerability.
- **Host Country Strain:** Countries, especially those with limited resources, face growing tensions with local populations, complicating the integration of refugees.

3. Proposed Reforms and Solutions

Several reforms aim to address these challenges:

- **Expansion of Legal Protections:** Updating the 1951 Refugee Convention and creating new agreements to include climate refugees and protect marginalized groups.
- **Fairer Burden-Sharing:** Ensuring a more equitable distribution of refugees, especially to relieve the burden on Global South countries.
- **Comprehensive Integration Programs:** Moving beyond emergency aid to focus on integrating refugees into the social, educational, and economic fabric of host countries.
- **Enhanced Resettlement:** Expanding resettlement opportunities for refugees in protracted situations and helping them contribute to host societies.

4. Challenges to Reform

Key challenges to reform include:

- **Sovereignty vs. Responsibility:** Many countries hesitate to accept refugees due to concerns over security, economic impact, and domestic politics.
- **Political and Economic Disparities:** Disagreements among nations on asylum responsibility and resource allocation make reforms difficult.
- **Geopolitical Conflicts:** Ongoing global tensions complicate refugee protection efforts and the push for reform.
- **Resource Limitations:** Financial constraints hinder effective refugee protection and support for host countries.

Delegate Preparation Guide

1. Foreign Policy & Research

- Understand your country's stance on refugee rights, asylum policies, and international positions.
- Review your country's past actions, including voting patterns, support for refugee conventions, and participation in humanitarian efforts.
- Investigate your country's role in the global refugee crisis and any relevant regional alliances.

2. Rules of Procedure

- The committee will follow UNA-USA Model UN Rules of Procedure. Familiarize yourself with speech, motion, and voting guidelines.
- Actively participate by speaking, raising points, and building alliances to push your country's position.
- Focus on diplomacy, cooperation, and offering practical solutions to key issues.

3. Role of the Executive Board

- Chairs will manage the debate and ensure order but won't influence the discussion's direction.
- Delegates should drive the debate with well-researched proposals and collaborate to achieve a resolution.

4. Citing Evidence & Sources

- Use credible sources like UNHCR, OHCHR, and government websites to support your arguments.
- Consult reliable news outlets (BBC, Reuters) for current updates and expert insights.
- Ensure all sources are relevant and up-to-date.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the issue of refugee rights requires urgent reassessment in the face of rising displacement, outdated legal frameworks, and increasing vulnerabilities. Effective reforms will require international cooperation, comprehensive solutions, and equitable burden-sharing. Delegates are encouraged to engage diplomatically, propose actionable solutions, and collaborate to ensure that refugee protection is strengthened for a more just and humane global response.

We look forward to an enriching and intellectually stimulating debate at YCCE X MUN!