



# United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)



# Topic:

# The Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the Context of Global Conflicts and Displacement

**Committee:** United Nations Human Rights Council

**Topic:** Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the Context of Global Conflicts and Displacement

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## **I. Quorum**

-Australia	-Jordan	-Sweden
-Bangladesh	-Kenya	-Switzerland
-Brazil	-Lebanon	-Syria
-Canada	-Malaysia	-Turkey
-France	-Mexico	-Uganda
-Germany	-Netherlands	-United Kingdom
-Greece	-Norway	-United States
-India	-Pakistan	
-Iraq	-South Africa	
-Italy	-Spain	

## **II. Committee Background**

Global conflicts, environmental crises, and human rights violations have led to a significant increase in the number of people seeking refuge and protection around the globe. Global structures, governments, and non-profit organizations tasked with addressing the wants and entitlements of displaced folks have been strained by this occurrence. The 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol define refugees as individuals who have fled their home country due to fear of persecution based on factors such as race, religion, nationality or membership in a particular social group. Asylum seekers are people who seek international protection and have not yet been recognized as refugees under international law.

The ongoing global conflicts, such as the civil wars in Syria, Afghanistan, and Yemen, ethnic and political persecution in Myanmar and South Sudan, and the intensifying crisis in Central America, make this issue even more pressing. Climate change-induced displacement is also increasingly contributing to the global refugee



crisis. Asylum seekers often face significant challenges as they attempt to find safety and security, navigating legal, social, and economic barriers in countries of refuge.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which plays a central role in protecting and assisting refugees, estimates that over 100 million people.

The number of people worldwide fleeing their homes due to war and persecution is the highest ever recorded. Considering these numbers, safeguarding the rights of displaced persons and those seeking protection has emerged as one of the most pressing concerns in contemporary international law and diplomacy. In addition to the 1951 Convention and its Protocol, the UNHCR adheres to the tenets of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that "everyone has the right to seek and enjoy in other countries protection from oppression." Legal frameworks for asylum seekers can be provided by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and regional agreements.

### **III. History of Topic**

Asylum seekers and refugees are tied to other world problems that have come before, like the aftermath of World War I. There were some actions taken with all the devastations. All of those actions were destroyed by World War II, which then led to the Refugee Convention that made rights for refugees to protect them and give them a place to live, making extensive rights for them. Refugees have suffered a lot over the years from the devastating fights and wars around the world, making them a pressing issue.

Asylum policies were used as ideological tools in the battle between the US and the SOVIET Union. Meanwhile, after all of this, more refugee problems occurred in Africa and Eastern Europe, making it even more important to protect refugees. During this time, countries were beginning to understand and get worried about the vulnerable women, men, and kids in harsh environments. They made broader understandings, which then included the internally displaced persons.

### **IV. Topic Information**

Several factors, including armed conflict, persecution, political instability, and global



warming, have led to an unprecedented rise in the number of displaced people and those seeking protection around the globe. Over 110 million people are forcibly displaced worldwide, with millions fleeing countries in search of safety, human rights, and dignity, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Living in overcrowded camps, being exploited, and struggling with limited access to basic services like education, health care, and work opportunities are some of the things these folks often find themselves in. The impact of climate change on displacement patterns, particularly in regions like sub-Saharan Africa and the Pacific Islands, highlights the urgent need to address the underlying causes of displacement and defend the rights of these vulnerable populations.

Refugees and asylum seekers are protected by several international legal instruments, most notably the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, which outline the fundamental rights of refugees. The right to seek asylum, the principle of non-refoulement, and the right to access education, work, and healthcare in their host countries are all included. Many refugees and asylum seekers continue to face significant barriers to accessing their rights due to restrictive asylum policies, rising nationalism, and xenophobic attitudes in many host countries. Many are subjected to detention, deportation, and denial of basic services, further exacerbating their vulnerability and marginalization.

Ensuring respect for human rights is at the heart of the refugee and asylum seeker issue. The most basic freedoms, such as movement, access to justice, and the ability to work or study, are often denied to refugees and asylum seekers. Many host countries view refugees as burdens rather than individuals with rights to protection and dignity. Border militarization, long detention periods, and push backs at sea are some of the restrictive measures implemented by this mindset. Furthermore, the lack of comprehensive and equitable policies for integrating refugees into host societies has left many living in perpetual uncertainty, unable to rebuild their lives or contribute to their new communities. Furthermore, the lack of comprehensive and equitable policies for integrating refugees into host societies has left many living in perpetual uncertainty, unable to.

## **V. Current Issues**

The refugee and asylum seeker crisis is a global problem, with millions of people



forced to flee their homes due to war, political unrest, and climate change. According to the United Nations, there are more than 110 million people worldwide who have fled their homes, including over 35 million individuals who have fled their homes. Many refugees face serious challenges and lack proper support, despite international agreements to protect them.

Every year, more and more people are fleeing their homes. Thousands of people have fled their homes due to ongoing wars in places like Syria, Ukraine, Afghanistan, and Sudan. Millions of people have fled to neighboring countries like Poland and Romania because of the conflict in Ukraine. Many women and children who are at risk of violence have fled Afghanistan after the Taliban returned.

The situation is getting worse in some countries due to anti-immigrant attitudes. Leaders in countries like Hungary, Poland, and Italy have used scathing remarks about displaced people to garner support, passing laws that make it harder for them to enter or stay. Refugees in these countries often face violence and discrimination, as well as discrimination.

The international community has not done enough to help the situation. Many richer countries haven't kept their promises to share responsibility for hosting refugees, even though the Global Compact on Refugees encourages countries to share responsibility. Millions of refugees have been hosted in countries like Lebanon, Turkey, and Jordan, which have repeatedly asked for more help. The ongoing conflict in Syria has led to millions of refugees fleeing the country since 2011.

Over 3.6 million refugees, primarily from Syria, are hosted in Turkey, which faces resource and political challenges. During the 2015 crisis, Germany welcomed over a million displaced persons and implemented integration initiatives, despite the issue remaining politically contentious. Foreign actions sometimes contribute to displacement in the United States, even though its policies vary by administration.

## **Lebanon**

Lebanon has been struggling with refugee children over the last few decades due to its location in the Middle East regional conflicts and their neighbor countries' refugees traveling to Lebanon. Their refugee issue is also guided by their economic and political



crisis. The largest population of refugees comes from Syria because of the Civil War. It made millions obligated to flee the country, hoping to find a new home. Lebanon has over 6 million refugees, and 1.5 are Syrian.

## **Bangladesh**

Bangladesh shelters over a million Rohingya refugees in overcrowded camps, facing significant economic and environmental challenges, and faces significant economic and environmental challenges. There are internal divisions over refugee quotas and border control in the European Union, which coordinates refugee policies among its members. Bangladesh has been widely affected because it is a low-income country, making it more challenging to accommodate refugees.

## **Australia**

Australia accepts refugees through resettlement programs but has controversial policies, including offshore detention of asylum seekers. These countries play critical roles, either contributing to or responding to global refugee crises, with varying impacts on displaced populations. Their refugee and asylum seekers problem has traditionally been a popular destination for refugees seeking protection. They have a more or less good economic status that makes it easier for them to allow refugees in their country.

## **VI. UN Actions**

Legal frameworks, humanitarian aid, and global partnerships have been used to respond to the global refugee and asylum seeker crisis. Refugee rights and the principle of non-refoulement are defined in the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, which prohibit the forced return of refugees to dangerous situations. Providing emergency assistance such as shelter, food, and healthcare, and facilitating access to education and livelihoods for displaced populations are some of the duties of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)



Key initiatives introduced by the UN include the Global Compact on Refugees, adopted in 2018, which aims to enhance burden-sharing and improve the resilience of both refugees and host communities. This compact has spurred regional and international action plans, such as funding mechanisms for host countries and private-sector partnerships to support refugee integration. UN peacekeeping missions in conflict zones like South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Mali have sought to stabilize regions and create conditions for safe returns, though these missions often face logistical and political challenges.

Specialized agencies such as UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP) collaborate closely with the UNHCR to address the multifaceted needs of refugees. For instance, UNICEF provides educational opportunities for children in refugee camps, ensuring they don't lose access to learning during prolonged displacement. The WFP delivers food aid to millions of displaced individuals in crisis areas such as Syria, Yemen, and Rohingya camps in Bangladesh, mitigating hunger and malnutrition.

## **VII. Conclusion**

Over 110 million people have been displaced worldwide due to armed conflicts, human rights violations and environmental disasters, which has reached unprecedented levels. As they flee violence, persecution, and instability in their home countries, these displaced individuals face immense challenges. Despite protections guaranteed under international law, particularly through the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, refugees continue to face significant barriers, including restrictive asylum policies, rising nationalism, and xenophobia in many host countries.

The strain on resources and infrastructure in countries like Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan is often overwhelming. Conversely, affluent nations, despite global commitments such as the Global Compact on Refugees, have frequently failed to share the burden of welcoming displaced individuals fairly and equitably. This lack of solidarity is compounded by increasingly harsh immigration policies in regions like



Europe and North America, where refugees face detention, deportation, and discrimination.

International organizations like the UNHCR play a crucial role in providing protection and support to displaced populations, but the need for more comprehensive, sustainable solutions is clear. The lack of effective integration policies, as well as the lack of political will in many host countries, leaves refugees in a state of uncertainty, often trapped in camps or detention centers, unable to rebuild their lives. In addition, climate change is emerging as a key driver of displacement, with millions more expected to be affected in the coming years. As the world faces an ongoing crisis of displacement, the upcoming Model UN discussions will provide a critical platform for finding collaborative, long-term solutions that prioritize the rights and well-being of displaced populations.

### **VIII. Guiding Questions IX.**

1. What has your country done to solve this problem?
2. What other organizations are helping with refugees?
3. Does your country have an overpopulation of refugees?
4. How has the UN helped your country?
5. What are some other organizations working on this matter?

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