

**Committee:** Security Council (SC)

**Topic:** Addressing the threat of uncontrolled Refugee Influx

**Student Officer:** Tommaso Alocci

**Position:** President

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## Personal Introduction

Dear Delegates,

My name is Tommaso Alocci, I have the honor to serve as the President of the Security Council in the 8th session of the Campion School MUN conference. Currently, I am an 11th grader or IB Year 1 student at ACS Athens. I am from Italy, but I have lived in four different countries around Europe, which are: Italy, Germany, Sweden, and Greece. I enjoy reading up on politics, current affairs, and more importantly: entertain political discussions with my peers. I familiarized myself with MUN when I was in 7th grade and attended my first conference that same year. Since then I have attended 10+ MUN conferences around the world and truly nurtured my passion for MUN.

This study guide will provide a thorough and holistic overview of the topic, nevertheless, it shouldn't be the sole research you expose yourself to. In addition, it is important to note that each country's stance is different, and it is the burden of each delegate to investigate their stances. Any circumstance in which questions may arise, please contact me at [aloccit22@stu.acs.gr](mailto:aloccit22@stu.acs.gr). My inbox is open for any type of questions,



and those can entail country specific questions, committee specific questions, topic specific questions, or even conference specific questions.

Yours truly,

Tommaso Alocci

## Topic Introduction

The issue of uncontrolled refugee influx is a rather diverse and complicated one. Comprised of many different facets, it is imperative to acknowledge every single one of them. The question of what a refugee is, which will extensively be answered further in the study guide, leads to the question of: Why do refugees exist? There are many reasons as to why a person acquires the status of a refugee, with the main reasons being persecution (many different types which will be further explained), political turmoil in the country of origin, and/or war. The uncontrolled influx of refugees can create a myriad of different issues for the host nation that encompass a variety of sectors one of which is national security. As this is the security council, all security issues will be scrutinized to a higher degree, however, it is also important to maintain a holistic view of nations. Other issues that arise are economic, social, and political.

The economic impact of uncontrolled influx of refugees is great due to the following reasons. Host nations have to front the cost of refugee camps, and other services provided to aid the refugees. This act is greatly debated upon, as there are some that believe that the aid and services provided to refugees should go to a minimum. Said argument goes as follows (in layman's terms): the money used to fund the services comes from tax paying citizens, and they proclaim that that money should be used for the bettering of their lives, instead of the lives of people who do not contribute through taxes. The basis of this argument is that refugees do not pay taxes, or aren't employed, as they aren't contributing the countries economy. The issue of

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employment in the refugee community is also vastly important. It is crucial to understand that employment opportunities for refugees are a necessity as—ultimately—are what lifts them from their refugee status.

Socially the issue of refugees is extremely polarizing and divisive. The two aisles of the topic are divided amongst individuals whom believe that it is the moral responsibility of host nations to let in as many refugees as possible, and on the contrary, people believe that the host nation doesn't have that burden and shouldn't be spending funds on people that don't contribute on the economy of the host nation. These two extremely contrasting opinions have created severe social and political divides.

The uncontrolled influx of refugees has affected our world heavily and has existed for a large amount of years. The importance of this issue is largely influenced by the fact that the continued developments of the issue have a direct impact on the livelihood of human beings. Furthermore, because the issue is so intertwined with people it is important to consider certain consequences that some solutions might entail.

## Definition of key terms

### Refugee

“[A refugee is] someone who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion.”<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. “What Is a Refugee?” *UNHCR*, UNHCR, [www.unhcr.org/afr/what-is-a-refugee.html](http://www.unhcr.org/afr/what-is-a-refugee.html).



## Migrant

“someone who changes his or her country of usual residence, irrespective of the reason for migration or legal status”<sup>2</sup> The change can be both short-term, or long-term.

## Immigrant

“a person who comes to a country to take up permanent residence.”<sup>3</sup> This term is often coupled with the word ‘Illegal’ when a person isn’t legally allowed to permanently reside in a country.

## Standard of Living

“The degree of wealth and material comfort available to a person or community.”<sup>4</sup> This term is typically used to describe the quality of life within a nation.

<sup>2</sup> “Definitions | Refugees and Migrants.” *United Nations*, United Nations, [refugeesmigrants.un.org/definitions](https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/definitions).

<sup>3</sup> “Immigrant.” *Merriam-Webster*, Merriam-Webster, [www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/immigrant](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/immigrant).

<sup>4</sup> “Standard Of Living: Definition of Standard Of Living by Oxford Dictionary on Lexico.com Also Meaning of Standard Of Living.” *Lexico Dictionaries | English*, Lexico Dictionaries, [www.lexico.com/definition/standard\\_of\\_living](https://www.lexico.com/definition/standard_of_living).



## Asylum/Asylum Seeker

“The grant, by a State, of protection on its territory to persons from another State who are fleeing persecution or serious danger.”<sup>5</sup> An asylum seeker is a person that seeks asylum.

## Internally Displaced Person (IDP)

“[A] person or group of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border.”<sup>6</sup>

## Refugee Camp

“[Refugee Camps] are temporary facilities built to provide immediate protection and assistance to people who have been forced to flee due to conflict, violence or persecution.”<sup>7</sup>

## Background Information

<sup>5</sup> “Glossary.” *UNHCR*, United Nations, [www.unhcr.org/449267670.pdf](http://www.unhcr.org/449267670.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> “Emergency Handbook.” *UNHCR*, [emergency.unhcr.org/entry/67716/idp-definition](http://emergency.unhcr.org/entry/67716/idp-definition).

<sup>7</sup> “What Is a Refugee Camp? Definition and Statistics: USA for UNHCR.” *What Is a Refugee Camp? Definition and Statistics | USA for UNHCR*, [www.unrefugees.org/refugee-facts/camps/](http://www.unrefugees.org/refugee-facts/camps/).



## History of the issue

It is well known that war causes an intense amount of distress, which has many different repercussions, one of which is the creation of refugees. After the end of WWI there were initial waves of refugees that had their possessions destroyed during the war. That led to the League of Nations to establish the League of Nations High Commission for Refugees.<sup>8</sup> The establishment of the organization was needed due to the 10 million plus refugees and IDPs that were created during WWI.<sup>9</sup> A couple decades later WWII broke out and became the largest war known to mankind, which led to the creation of even more refugees. Throughout the duration of the war there are estimates placing the number in between 11-20 million.<sup>10</sup> A few years after the end of the war in 1950 the United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees was founded and one year later The Refugee Convention was created. The UNHCR would initially focus on Europe but then transitioned to Africa and Asia. Until now, there have been an immense amount of developments on this issue, and due to the sheer size and diversity of the incidents, it is important for each delegation to thoroughly research the statuses of their nation in relation to uncontrolled refugee influx. Some of the most prominent events that led to uncontrolled refugee exchanges include: The partition of India, Venezuelan Refugee Crisis since 1998, Mozambican Civil War, and more.

<sup>8</sup> “League of Nations High Commission for Refugees: UIA Yearbook Profile.” *League of Nations High Commission for Refugees | UIA Yearbook Profile | Union of International Associations*, [uia.org/s/or/en/1100056208](http://uia.org/s/or/en/1100056208).

<sup>9</sup> “Refugees.” *New Articles RSS*, [encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/refugees](http://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/refugees).

<sup>10</sup> Wyman, Mark. *DPs Europe's Displaced Persons, 1945-51*. Cornell University Press, 2014.



## The constant creation of refugees

The creation of refugees is in a constant cycle which produces more and more refugees by the minute. Firstly, to understand how there is constant re-generation it is crucial to fully understand how a refugee is created. Using the aforementioned definition of refugee, it is possible to decipher that conflict, and persecution are the main causes that lead to the creation of a refugee. There are several types of persecution, and those are due to: political orientation, gender, sexual orientation and more. Due to all of these conditions' refugees are created. The non-mitigation of conflict and persecution are what lead to the constant creation of refugees. This vicious cycle has left millions of families without possessions. That is why it is important to try to fix this issue from the root of the problem.

## Security issues created by uncontrolled influx of Refugees

Security issues, as it pertains to uncontrolled refugee influx, is comprised of two different angles the first one being the security of the refugees themselves. When a large number of people with little to no documentation move from nation-to-nation, it opens up a lot of windows for crime. Due to the vulnerability of refugees and their complicated legal status one they are extremely susceptible to human trafficking.<sup>11</sup> In addition to Human Trafficking, refugees are prone to their entrance in prostitution rings, which also could encompass minors. The second angle is the security of the nation. And, the biggest threat to national security is terrorism. As a basic framework, in the 1951 Refugee Convention under Article 32 it states that countries are allowed

<sup>11</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. "Human Trafficking." *UNHCR*, [www.unhcr.org/unhcr-human-trafficking.html](http://www.unhcr.org/unhcr-human-trafficking.html).



to expel refugees if they pose a threat to national security.<sup>12</sup> An anecdotal example of terrorism posing as a barrier to safer refuge for refugees is the 2015 Paris Terrorist Attacks. The men that carried out the attack had arrived in Europe through large refugee boats, and from Turkey and Greece traveled to Paris and committed those despicable acts.<sup>13</sup> This is an example of why nations are hesitant on opening borders to whomever, and is why there is a thorough amount of screening needed before legally entering a country.

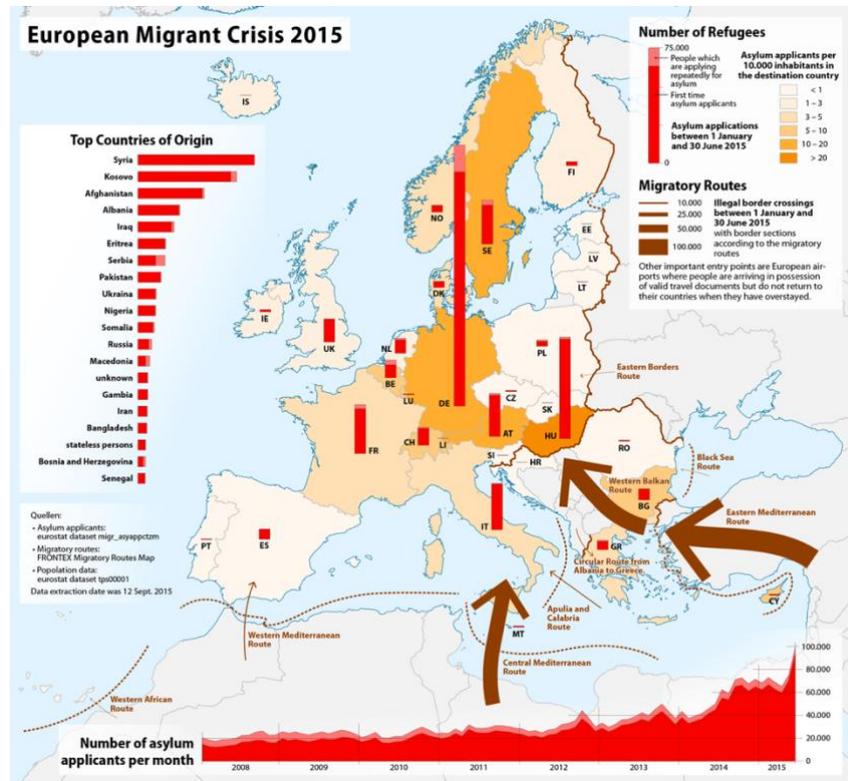
<sup>12</sup> Kkienerm. *Counter-Terrorism Module 3 Key Issues: International Refugee Law*, [www.unodc.org/e4j/en/terrorism/module-3/key-issues/international-refugee-law.html](http://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/terrorism/module-3/key-issues/international-refugee-law.html).

<sup>13</sup> “Paris Attacks: Who Were the Attackers?” *BBC News*, BBC, 27 Apr. 2016, [www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34832512](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34832512).



Current refugee situations around the world 14

As this issue affects the world there is no sole hotspot where the issue exists, however, there still are areas that are affected more than others. Currently the area that is being affected the most is the migration of refugees from the Middle East (mainly Syria and Afghanistan) and Africa to the European Continent.



The current situation—which is labeled as a crisis—started in 2011 when the Civil War in Syria broke out and has gotten exponentially worse since 2015. Since then the number of refugees produced has been increasing. The figure to the right show statistics on asylum seekers in European nations and their provenance.<sup>15</sup> Another major refugee crisis is the Venezuelan Refugee Crisis.

<sup>14</sup> Dörrbecker, Maximilian. “Map of the European Migrant Crisis 2015.” *File:Map of the European Migrant Crisis 2015.Png*, Wikimedia Foundation, 15 Sept. 2015, commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Map\_of\_the\_European\_Migrant\_Crisis\_2015.png#filehistory.



## The situation in Syria

The nation of Syria has been going through constant war and political turmoil during the past decades. The destruction of infrastructure, houses, and lives, that has been going on in Syria led to a large portion of the population to become a refugee. The reason for the destruction of infrastructure is the conflict in Syria (the Syrian Civil War) as well as terrorist organizations. Since 2011 over 5.6 million people left Syria and became refugees in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, and more.<sup>16</sup> As of now there are around 13.1 million people in need, 6.6 million IDPs, and 2.98 million in hard-to-reach areas.<sup>17</sup> The most common country of refuge for Syrian Refugees is Turkey as they hold the largest population of registered Syrian refugees; at 3.6 million.<sup>18</sup> Turkey is first to Lebanon which hosts more than 1 million Syrian refugees. However, life in Lebanon is a constant struggle for refugees as Lebanon doesn't have a formal refugee camp. This forces refugees to scatter around the nation with nothing to their name, and due to this around 70% of Syrian refugees in Lebanon live below the poverty line.<sup>19</sup> The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (the head of the UNHCR) , Filippo Grandi said: "Syria is the biggest humanitarian and refugee crisis of our time, a continuing cause of suffering for millions which should be garnering a groundswell of support around the

<sup>16</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. "Syria Emergency." *UNHCR*, UNHCR, [www.unhcr.org/syria-emergency.html](http://www.unhcr.org/syria-emergency.html).

<sup>17</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. "Syria Emergency." *UNHCR*, UNHCR, [www.unhcr.org/syria-emergency.html](http://www.unhcr.org/syria-emergency.html).

<sup>18</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. "Syria Emergency." *UNHCR*, UNHCR, [www.unhcr.org/syria-emergency.html](http://www.unhcr.org/syria-emergency.html).

<sup>19</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. "Syria Emergency." *UNHCR*, UNHCR, [www.unhcr.org/syria-emergency.html](http://www.unhcr.org/syria-emergency.html).



world.”<sup>20</sup> The situation has been going on since 2011 and it was commenced by civil unrest in Syria.<sup>21</sup> Syria is under constant and repetitive duress and it is important for delegates to acknowledge that Syria should be considered a priority.

### The situation in Venezuela

In the South American continent Venezuela is the nation with the largest refugee crisis. Currently, there are 4.5 million refugees and migrants from Venezuela worldwide. <sup>22</sup> The current UN estimates bring the total of refugees created to 6.5 million by the end of 2020.<sup>23</sup> In addition, Venezuela has produced over 650,000 asylum-seekers.<sup>24</sup> Needless to say the situation in Venezuela is very dire. The factors that led this situation include but aren't limited to a lack of medication, a lack of essential services, and a shortage of food. Furthermore, the current political climate of Venezuela is creating more and more refugees. Due to the poverty in Venezuela and dangers in South America, it is complicated for Venezuelans to leave. The refugees

<sup>20</sup>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. “Syria Conflict at 5 Years: the Biggest Refugee and Displacement Crisis of Our Time Demands a Huge Surge in Solidarity.” *UNHCR*, UNHCR, [www.unhcr.org/news/press/2016/3/56e6e3249/syria-conflict-5-years-biggest-refugee-displacement-crisis-time-demands.html](http://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2016/3/56e6e3249/syria-conflict-5-years-biggest-refugee-displacement-crisis-time-demands.html).

<sup>21</sup>“Syria Refugee Crisis Explained.” *How to Help Refugees - Aid, Relief and Donations*, UN Refugees, [www.unrefugees.org/news/syria-refugee-crisis-explained/](http://www.unrefugees.org/news/syria-refugee-crisis-explained/).

<sup>22</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. “Venezuela Situation.” *UNHCR*, UNHCR, [www.unhcr.org/venezuela-emergency.html](http://www.unhcr.org/venezuela-emergency.html).

<sup>23</sup>Bahar, Dany, and Meagan Dooley. “Venezuela Refugee Crisis to Become the Largest and Most Underfunded in Modern History.” *Brookings*, Brookings, 10 Dec. 2019, [www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2019/12/09/venezuela-refugee-crisis-to-become-the-largest-and-most-underfunded-in-modern-history/](http://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2019/12/09/venezuela-refugee-crisis-to-become-the-largest-and-most-underfunded-in-modern-history/).

<sup>24</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. “Venezuela Situation.” *UNHCR*, UNHCR, [www.unhcr.org/venezuela-emergency.html](http://www.unhcr.org/venezuela-emergency.html).



that leave are highly susceptible to human trafficking, sexual exploitation, violence and more. The precarious situation in Venezuela marks the worldwide perspective needed to solve the issue. Uncontrolled refugee influx isn't only in Europe, but instead is an issue recurring around the world.

## COVID-19

The Coronavirus pandemic has completely altered the 'normal' way of life and to a higher degree the life of a refugee. The contraction of COVID-19 can happen when one isn't distancing themselves correctly, doesn't have public health resources like masks and hand sanitizers, or doesn't have access to clean water and soap. All of these factors are drastically present in the lives of a refugees. Refugee camps are densely populated spaces which makes social distancing difficult or next to impossible. In addition, there is poor access to public health resources due to lack of funds and poor economic availability for refugees. Lastly, the medical resources are even more limited than the aforementioned, and if one were to contract the virus (aside from potentially infecting many others) their health could seriously be at risk. It is important to keep in mind what is happening around the world when creating solutions. A practical example of how the UNHCR, Greece, and the United States, have tried to confront this issue is through increasing funding to refugee camps in Greece, to better equip the camps. <sup>25</sup>

<sup>25</sup> Info@kathimerini.gr. "US Raises Assistance to Greece for Covid-19 Fight in Refugee Camps: Kathimerini." *Kathimerini English Edition Ethnarhou Makariou Avenue & 2, Falireos Street, Kathimerini English Edition Ethnarhou Makariou Avenue & 2, Falireos*



## Major countries and organizations involved

### Syria

As extensively mentioned above, the nation of Syria under a great amount of duress, due to the political turmoil in the nation. There aren't any major policies implemented by the Syrian Government to accommodate persons that are unable to stay, and on the contrary, have made it hard for persons to leave. To exit Syria, one is required to obtain an exit visa from government authorities. Nevertheless, during these rough years, the government of Syria has tried to halt the spread of refugees by mitigating the conflict. This is done with the external help of military superpowers like the United States.

### Venezuela

The situation in Venezuela is underway mainly due to their Humanitarian Crisis. Due to the lack of jobs, shelter, and food, many Venezuelans have fled. On the contrary to Syria, neighbouring countries like Brazil are offering asylum to those whom seek it. As the Humanitarian Crisis is homegrown, and created by the oppressive socialist dictator: Maduro, there are no real strides in helping Venezuelans improve their situation. Which is why humanitarian organizations like the UNHCR have intervened.

Street, 30 July 2020, [www.ekathimerini.com/255273/article/ekathimerini/news/us-raises-assistance-to-greece-for-covid-19-fight-in-refugee-camps](http://www.ekathimerini.com/255273/article/ekathimerini/news/us-raises-assistance-to-greece-for-covid-19-fight-in-refugee-camps).



## Turkey

The nation of Turkey is extremely relevant but for a different reason. In comparison to the already mentioned nations. Turkey is primarily a host nation. As a host nation Turkey's involvement in the issue is different. The Turkish government has the burden to help the refugees and assume certain responsibilities that host nations need to assume. The state of Turkey is compliant with the 1951 Refugee Convention and has been striving to offer suitable opportunities for refugees. Turkey has been trying to build a national asylum system that would help refugees retain legal status in Turkey. These efforts are significant as Turkey is considered to not be the final destination for refugees but instead their gateway to Europe and the rest of the world. This was demonstrated when on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Turkey stated that it would no longer halt refugees from going over to European countries.<sup>26</sup> This infuriated Greece, as that would be the next country for many refugees. This predicament that has led to the suffering of many, needs to be examined closely when researching for the conference.

## Uganda

The nation of Uganda is a pillar of refugee acceptance in Africa. Through its open-door policy, Uganda has been able to accept many refugees, and has also been providing them with quality care. Uganda is the largest refugee host country in Africa, hosting about 1 million refugees, and counting, with the growth of this number at about 200 asylum seekers a day. <sup>27</sup> These refugees come from countries such as: Burundi,

<sup>26</sup> “What's Happening at the Greek Borders?” *Amnesty International*, [www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/03/greece-turkey-refugees-explainer/](http://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/03/greece-turkey-refugees-explainer/).

<sup>27</sup> “Uganda Stands out in Refugees Hospitality | Africa Renewal.” *United Nations*, United Nations, [www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2018-march-2019/uganda-stands-out-refugees-hospitality](http://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2018-march-2019/uganda-stands-out-refugees-hospitality).



Somalia, The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and South Sudan. The refugees flee those nations due poverty, war and more. Thus, it is important to consider the effort that the Ugandan government is putting in, to be able to sustain such an influx of refugees. As a less economically developed country (LEDC), Uganda has set the bar rather high, even higher than some more economically developed countries (MEDCs).

### United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR)

The United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees is a UN body that was founded in 1950. The UNHCR had a three-year mandate to help tackle the refugee crisis in Europe after the war, yet, its work wasn't finished. In 1956, the UNHCR was a major contributor in the refugee wave exiting Hungary after the Soviet demised their revolution.<sup>28</sup> As an organization the UNHCR offers first response services to refugees that include but aren't limited to: drinking water, blankets, basic and emergency healthcare, and more. Another form of aid through which the UNHCR helps refugees is their involvement in refugee camps, and more specifically, their work in helping refugees receive proper registration at camps. Moreover, the UNHCR assists refugees who are willing and able to return to their country of origin. <sup>29</sup> All of these actions are performed under the goal of providing refugees with rights and safety, and leading them through a path to asylum.<sup>30</sup> The UNHCR has been taking significant strides in

<sup>28</sup>“History of UNHCR: Humble Origins - UNHCR Central Europe.” *UNHCR*, UNHCR, [www.unhcr.org/ceu/169-en/about-ushistory-of-unhcr-html.html](http://www.unhcr.org/ceu/169-en/about-ushistory-of-unhcr-html.html).

<sup>29</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. “Integration of Resettled Refugees: Essentials for Establishing a Resettlement Programme and Fundamentals for Sustainable Resettlement Programmes.” *UNHCR*, UNHCR, [www.unhcr.org/52a6d85b6.html](http://www.unhcr.org/52a6d85b6.html).

<sup>30</sup> “Mission Statement.” *UNHCR*, United Nations, [www.unhcr.org/4565a5742.pdf](http://www.unhcr.org/4565a5742.pdf).



solving the issue, and it is important for delegates to understand that the UNHCR is an incredible asset that needs to be taken into consideration when producing a resolution.

### International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The IOM or International Organization for Migration was founded in 1951 and since then has become the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration. With 173 members IOM focuses on humane management of migration and to promote international cooperation for migration. In addition, it offers humanitarian aid for migrants in need. IOM has four broad areas of migration management, and they go as follows: migration and development, facilitating migration, regulating migration, and forced migration.<sup>31</sup> Through the four areas IOM works with Internal migration law, country policy, and migration health. <sup>32</sup>

### Timeline of events

Date of Event	Description of Event
27 June 1921	The League of Nations created the High Commission on Refugees after WWI.
1939-1945	World War II led to the displacement of 11-20 million people.

<sup>31</sup> “About IOM.” *International Organization for Migration*, IOM, 23 Jan. 2020, [www.iom.int/about-iom](http://www.iom.int/about-iom).

<sup>32</sup> “About IOM.” *International Organization for Migration*, IOM, 23 Jan. 2020, [www.iom.int/about-iom](http://www.iom.int/about-iom).



<u>1947</u>	The Partition of India led to the displacement of 14 million people.
<u>December 14th 1950</u>	UNHCR founded to help refugee crisis after WWII.
<u>July 28th 1951</u>	Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees.
<u>December 1951</u>	International Organization for Migration founded.
<u>1956</u>	First emergency handled by the UNHCR: flight of refugees from Hungary.
<u>1971</u>	Bangladesh Liberation War led to 10 million refugees created.
<u>1978-1989</u>	Soviet-Afghan war led to the displacement of 6.3 million individuals.
<u>1998-present</u>	Venezuela Refugee Crisis, resulting in 4.0-6.0 million refugees.
<u>2011-present</u>	Syrian Civil war resulting in 6.7 million refugees as of 2019.
<u>2015</u>	Rohingya Refugee Crisis: fleeing of the Rehingya people from Myanmar to Bangladesh. <sup>33</sup>
<u>2015-present</u>	Commencement of the European Refugee crisis.

<sup>33</sup> “Rohingya Refugee Crisis.” *OCHA*, 18 Apr. 2019, [www.unocha.org/rohingya-refugee-crisis](http://www.unocha.org/rohingya-refugee-crisis).



## Previous attempts to solve the issue

### The Refugee Convention of 1951

Signed in 1951 the Refugee Convention marked the formalization of the issue and placed it at the ‘adults table’ of issues. As the main reference for international Refugee Law, the document is extensively used when there are legal matters influencing the issue. The convention includes the legal definition of a refugee, the kind of legal protection offered to a refugee, other assistance and social rights a refugee should receive from a host nation that has signed the convention.<sup>34</sup> With 145 members of the convention this legal document is of the utmost importance and is needed when formulating solutions.<sup>35</sup> The convention was solely focused on and outlined the bettering of European refugees due to the fact that it was a by-product of the second world war. As the first legislation on solely refugee matters, this convention is highly effective in presenting definitions, and also how to handle legal matters regarding refugees.

### Protocol Regarding the Status of Refugees of 1967

The Protocol Regarding the Status of Refugees of 1967 was essentially a re-iteration of the 1951 convention but modernized. The protocol accepted the fact that the refugee landscape had changed from 1951 and needed updated legislation that would help solve the issue. The main change and adaption from the 1951 Refugee

<sup>34</sup> “What Is a Refugee? Definition and Meaning: USA for UNHCR.” *Definition and Meaning / USA for UNHCR*, USA for UNHCR, [www.unrefugees.org/refugee-facts/what-is-a-refugee/](http://www.unrefugees.org/refugee-facts/what-is-a-refugee/).

<sup>35</sup> “States Parties to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol.” *UNHCR, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*, UNHCR, [www.unhcr.org/protect/PROTECTION/3b73b0d63.pdf](http://www.unhcr.org/protect/PROTECTION/3b73b0d63.pdf).



Convention is the scope in which the refugee issue was viewed. As previously stated, the 1951 Convention focused on Europe and the crisis there, but, in 1967 member states looked at the issue from a broader and more inclusive perspective. This led to more framework and legislation on how to combat the issue at hand.

## European Union

The European Union is heavily invested in the issue of uncontrolled Refugee influx as their member nations are some of the host nations with the greatest numbers of refugees. Throughout this decade there have been five main strides the EU has taken in mitigating this issue. Firstly, it's The Revised Asylum Procedures Directive. This directive helps EU nations make better and faster decisions granting asylum. Furthermore, it will target asylum seekers with special needs and help them make their case for asylum, and also will work closely on asylum for unaccompanied minors.<sup>36</sup> Secondly, the Revised Reception Conditions Directive. This directive focuses on EU nations to ensure a humane reception of refugees, which includes shelter, food, first aid, and fundamental Human Rights.<sup>37</sup> Thirdly, the revised Qualification Directive. This directive improves access to rights for refugees, and also with help with integration strategies for refugees. Another stride is the revised Dublin Regulation. This regulation has to do with the security of refugees and asylum seekers. It enhances the protection of asylum seekers while seeking asylum. The last major stride is the revised EURODAC Regulation. This regulation is necessary for the security of the host

<sup>36</sup> Anonymous. "Common European Asylum System." *Migration and Home Affairs - European Commission*, EU, 6 Dec. 2016, [ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/asylum\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/asylum_en).

<sup>37</sup> Anonymous. "Common European Asylum System." *Migration and Home Affairs - European Commission*, EU, 6 Dec. 2016, [ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/asylum\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/asylum_en).



country. This regulation allows law enforcement access to the EU database of fingerprint of asylum seekers. This is necessary when trying to identify, investigate, and most importantly prevent serious crimes like murder, human trafficking, and terrorism. <sup>38</sup>

The European Union has also helped through other means such as Humanitarian Aid both in war-torn nations (from which refugees are created), and in refugee camps. In the recent years the EU has significantly helped Syria, Yemen and the Sahel region through Humanitarian Aid.<sup>39</sup>

Another Policy implemented by member states of the EU is closing borders. Turkey, came to an agreement with the EU, to limit the flow of refugee's coming into the EU.<sup>40</sup> Due to the fact that Turkey has a border with Syria, and then the opposite border with EU nation: Greece, the flow of refugees that pass through Turkey is rather large. However, this deal hasn't been viewed well from the UN as it claims that denying the right to asylum could be breaking international law.

## Relevant UN Resolutions, Events, Treaties and Legislation

### UN Resolution: New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants

September 19th, 2016 was when the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants was signed at the Summit for Refugees and Migrants. All 193 member states

<sup>38</sup> Anonymous. "Common European Asylum System." *Migration and Home Affairs - European Commission*, EU, 6 Dec. 2016, [ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/asylum\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/asylum_en).

<sup>39</sup> Pat. "Humanitarian Aid." *European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations - European Commission*, European Union, 12 June 2020, [ec.europa.eu/echo/what/humanitarian-aid\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/humanitarian-aid_en).

<sup>40</sup> Mohdin, Aamna. "These Are the Routes Being Closed off to Refugees Fleeing into Europe." *Quartz*, Quartz, 10 Mar. 2016, [qz.com/635110/these-are-the-routes-being-closed-off-to-refugees-fleeing-into-europe/](https://qz.com/635110/these-are-the-routes-being-closed-off-to-refugees-fleeing-into-europe/).



of the UN unanimously agreed to adopt the resolution. There are four new and improved elements for combatting the issue that are exhaustively mentioned in the resolution. The first aims to better and facilitate emergency responses to refugee movements and smooth the transition into the host community. Also, aiming to build resilience among the host communities for better integration.<sup>41</sup> Another aspect, is providing additional humanitarian aid and funding to host countries, in hopes to provide better living conditions for refugees. <sup>42</sup> Third, is exploring new routes for refugees to gain asylum in LEDCs for increased resettlement.<sup>43</sup> Lastly, is the application of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) which targets major refugee movements. This new framework would be put in place for new situations as well as already existing ones.<sup>44</sup>

#### UN Resolution: International Migration and Development

The adoption of this resolution occurred on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December 2016, when passed by the General Assembly. This resolution is similar to the one previously mentioned, although it takes a slightly different approach in solving the issue. This resolution promotes international cooperation and the development of fruitful synergies between nations. This is affirmed by clause 3 which goes as follows: “Also recognizes the need to strengthen synergies between international migration and

<sup>41</sup> “The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.” *UNHCR*, UNHCR, 2016, [www.unhcr.org/584689257.pdf](http://www.unhcr.org/584689257.pdf).

<sup>42</sup> “The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.” *UNHCR*, UNHCR, 2016, [www.unhcr.org/584689257.pdf](http://www.unhcr.org/584689257.pdf).

<sup>43</sup> “The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.” *UNHCR*, UNHCR, 2016, [www.unhcr.org/584689257.pdf](http://www.unhcr.org/584689257.pdf).

<sup>44</sup> “The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.” *UNHCR*, UNHCR, 2016, [www.unhcr.org/584689257.pdf](http://www.unhcr.org/584689257.pdf).



development at all levels, including the global, regional, national and local levels, as appropriate;”<sup>45</sup> This approach to global cooperation is interesting and delegates should put it under consideration. Since the issue has evolved into a worldwide problem it is important that nations cooperate and discuss the most effective ways ways in which to solve the issue.

## Possible solutions

### State provided rescue operations

An often-shadowed component of the issue is the journey of the refugee. Due to the fact, that in nations out of which refugees are produced, people aren't allowed to legally leave, therefore they go through illegal mediums to reach their destination. That journey is extremely dangerous, and many times can result in death for a countless amount of people. That is why it is necessary to provide safer mediums for refugees to leave their country and seek asylum. However, it is important to be cautious as this could infringe on the sovereignty of the country the refugees are trying to leave.

### Access to opportunities

Long-term success for a refugee is provided through access to opportunities. As delegates it is important to think of ways in which refugees can graduate from the term 'refugee' and become a citizen of a new country. This can be done through access to opportunity. There are many directions in which opportunities can be presented. Depending on the political landscape of the nation opportunities can be

<sup>45</sup>“International Migration and Development.” *United Nations General Assembly*, UN, 21 Dec. 2016, [www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A\\_RES\\_71\\_237.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_71_237.pdf).



provided from both the private and public sector. Examples of opportunities can be general education for minors, as well as job targeted education for adults. There are plenty of options that can lead to the success of a refugee in the long term.

### Integration into society

Integration into society goes hand-in-hand with the aforementioned solution of access to opportunities. When integrating someone into society there are a lot of struggles like xenophobia, racism and more, but it is crucial to understand that for a situation to progress and the issue to be mitigated refugees need to be active members of society. Integration into society can be easily facilitated when one is contributing to that society. Contributing into society can come in many forms, but the most typical is entrance and contribution to the economy. And this feat is accomplished by access to opportunities.

### Border Control

The control of influx of people through stricter border control measures is a highly efficient solution, but on the other hand, morally questionable. From its innate nature, closing down borders will automatically slow down the influx of refugees, however, that would mean sending them back into their country of origin. Aside from and outright shut down of the borders, a solution that could appeal to some nations, is one of stricter border control, and stricter measures for people entering a nation. This can both combat the issue of influx as well as the issue of security. While formulating solutions that are tied to the idea of border control, it is necessary to understand the implications that would fall upon the lives of the refugee's that are not granted asylum.



Mitigating conflict and other circumstances from which refugees are being created

The constant creation of refugees is one of the biggest contributing factors to the high refugee influx. That is why it is necessary to tackle the issue at the source. The re-generation occurs due to the situations in countries like Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Venezuela and many more. That is why it is necessary to divulge a great amount of energy and assets into solving the conflict in those states. Furthermore, as delegates you can investigate different types of persecution that persist in the previously mentioned nations and figure out ways to help mitigate those as well.

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