



jmun
2024



U.S. COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS

DELIBERATE. DEFEND. DELIVER.



AGENDA:

Deliberating upon the
need for creating a
new nation to resettle
the world's refugee
population with
special emphasis on
the 2015 proposal for
'Refugee Nation'

INDEX

1.Letter from the Executive Board.....	5
2.Important Concepts	6
a. Rules of Procedure (ROP)	
b. Foreign Policy	
c. Refugee Crisis	
d. WAR : a major contributor to the refugee crisis	
3.About the U.S. Committee for refugees and immigrants.....	8
4.Important note regarding the workings of the committee.....	9
5.Guidelines for the position paper.....	10
6.Why the need to resettle the world refugee populations?	12
7.Requirement for a refugee nation.....	13
8.The wars resulting in the refugee crisis around the world:	14
a. Syrian Conflict	
b. Russia-Ukraine War	
c. Taliban's takeover : Afghanistan	
d. Venezuela displacement crisis	
e. South Sudanese Civil War	
f. Israel-Palestine War	
g. Rohingya Refugee Crisis	
9.Case Studies :	17
a. IRAN	
b. TÜRKIYE	
c. GERMANY	
d. PAKISTAN	
10.Other concerns addressed by the refugees.....	21

11. ‘ 2015 PROPOSAL’ for a refugee nation.....	22
12.The washington post about the 2015 Proposal.....	24
13.The creation of a new nation.....	25
a. Sovereignty and Governance	
b. Economic and Social Infrastructure	
13.A SLIGHT ACHIEVEMENT: Refugee Team at the 2016 Rio Olympics.....	26
14.Refugee Convention 1951(Listing articles).....	27
15.What does the committee expect? (MANDATE).....	28
16.Questions to consider	29
17.Links for Reference.....	30



jmun
2024

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Welcome back to the twelfth edition of the most awaited conference in town, Jaipuria Model United Nations 2024. We have returned with an even more intriguing proposition, and yes, we have missed you. With some complex propagandas and imminent concerns enclosed, we introduce to you the United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants.

The Yugoslav Wars, the Vietnam War, the Iraq Uprisings, the Civil Wars in Sudan and Libya, the Crisis in Venezuela, the turmoil between Russia and Ukraine, the Rohingya Killings, and the tried and tested Israeli-Palestinian conflict of the century; these are merely narratives of the 20th century, the century we think we are proud to live in. Feeling overwhelmed? This is not the time. It is not time to think when you need to act and address the lives of 50 million and counting. This number just features recognized rebellions and conflicts; we are yet to address natural disasters, inhabitable conditions, no access to healthcare, and a host of other issues that contribute to the millions of people who lack the bare necessity you and I call "home."

The world first became privy to the visionary proposal of a "Refugee Nation" in 2015, which offered optimism despite the chaos of displacement. For people who have lost everything, this innovative idea promises self-determination and dignity in addition to a place to call their own. Imagine a sovereign nation based on the values of humanity and solidarity that is devoted to curing the wounds of displaced lives.

It has been nearly a decade since the proposal, with not only rising numbers but also more illicit matters of man turning against man. Delve into the nuances of international cooperation and sovereignty law. Let the need to leave a hopeful legacy for future generations serve as an incentive for your arguments, to be tempered by compassion and driven by the facts.

The management and assistance of refugees in the United States is fraught with difficulties. These include limited resources, red tape in the asylum procedure, and controversy surrounding immigration laws. The U.S. of A., who have taken in more than three million refugees since 1975, are now in a static state. Hence, it is their cry for help that led to the establishment of the U.S.C.R.I. .

Now, my dear delegates, we shall rest this committee in your hands. Remember, the decisions taken within these walls shall hold the power to shape lives.

We do ask though, will you be the ones to give millions a place they shall call home?

Let's restore humanity. Unleash creativity.

Regards,
Bhavya Mishra- President
Dhrati Tewari- Vice President
Vansh Raj Seth- Rapporteur

IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

Before we even dive into the main agenda of the committee, we would like to go over a few jargons of United Nations and important concepts to make sure that we are all on the same page. Let us have a quick look:

RULES OF PROCEDURE: To make sure that we do not draw swords and guns at each other while discussing refugee rights, we all agree on Rules of Procedures to ensure everyone can voice their opinions and concerns. We will be officially following the UNA-USA ROPs. More about this on the day of the conference. (You will also find a document outlining all RoPs we'll be following on the website under the resources section. You're welcome!)

FOREIGN POLICY: A country's foreign policy is its attitude towards other countries. MUNs tend to oversimplify this term to generalize a country's Foreign Policy (FP) to mean that when two countries disagree on a certain issue, they tend to cut all communication on all other issues. Understand that FP is not set in stone, countries form and cut ties with other countries on certain issues while continuing to be BFFs with that country on a different issue. Take for example, Japan & USA. Considering the US dropped the A-bomb on Japan, you would think they would have a pretty long "break-up" right? That was certainly not the case, because they both saw the unlimited potential to form a "friendship" in trade. Basically, form ties and cut ties wisely.

REFUGEE CRISIS: To understand what the term 'refugee crisis' means, let's first understand what the term 'refugee' means.

A refugee is a person fleeing war, violence, or other conflict or peril into another country because they are unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin for fear of persecution or danger.

The 1951 Refugee Convention defines a refugee as *"any person who owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of their nationality and is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail themselves of the protection of that country"*.

It is estimated that there are 110 million displaced people around the world, including roughly 43.3 million refugee children. Children often bear the brunt of a refugee crisis, and by 2030, 80% of the world's poorest people will be living in places that are very dangerous for children.

A refugee crisis is defined as when many displaced people move from their home country to another, in a difficult or dangerous way. The term refugee crisis can refer to displacement happening in the country of origin, the country of arrival, or to problems and dangers facing refugees whilst they are on the move.

Refugee problems deprive children of their homes and security and deprive parents of the means to support their children. Sadly, this leaves families in extreme poverty and leaves many child refugees vulnerable to abuse, exploitation and child marriage.

WAR: A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO THE REFUGEE CRISES: Conflict and war are the most common cause of mass displacement of people, leading them to become refugees. In some cases, people can become refugees literally overnight when violence erupts in a country due to war or political unrest.

Large groups of people are forced to flee their homes for many reasons, not just war or conflict. The violence and instability it creates directly threatens civilians, forcing them to flee. Furthermore, war destroys infrastructure and livelihoods, making it impossible for people to return home even if the fighting stops. The Syrian conflict and the recent war in Ukraine are stark examples of this. These situations not only create new refugees but also worsen existing refugee problems in neighboring regions.

This is a very crucial aspect of this agenda and of the committee as a whole therefore we will be discussing this more elaborately further in the background guide.



jmun
2024

U.S. COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS

Agenda: Deliberating upon the need for creating a new nation to voluntarily resettle the world's refugee population with special emphasis on the 2015 proposal for 'Refugee Nation'.

ABOUT U.S. COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS:

Before head first deep-diving into the MUN universe, let's first completely understand what an MUN is. In simple terms, an MUN is a simulation of committees of the original United Nations where participants gather as representatives of a certain country or "delegates" and defend their country's policies and stance around a specific topic being discussed or an "agenda" just like actual sessions of UN committees.

Now, it is very important for us to know what our committee, United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, is about.

Well, the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI), established in 1911, is a non-governmental, not-for-profit international organization dedicated to addressing the needs and rights of refugees and immigrants. USCRI advocates for the rights of refugees and immigrants both nationally and globally, helping to drive policies, practices and law. USCRI, working with its affiliates, provides legal services, social, and health services to refugees, unaccompanied migrating children, trafficking survivors, and other immigrants in all 50 states, El Salvador, Honduras, Kenya, and Mexico but wait! Put a break on your reading vehicle!

There is something important to note here: Due to conference purposes and for maintaining a better flow of debate, the composition of this committee has been slightly altered. As this organization is non-governmental, this gives us flexibility of introducing other countries to be a part of the deliberation too in USCRI!

I mean think about it, the Refugee problem is not just prevalent in a certain section of the world map. Rather, it is widespread. It runs from Myanmar to Ethiopia, from South Sudan to Israel, from Russia to Iran and so many more places. That makes it more than essential that all these countries are well represented in the committee. And who will do that job if you may ask? Any guesses? Well, it is you guys! Congratulations, you've got a ton of researching to do, but don't stress about it, we've got you covered! Read this Background Guide thoroughly and I assure you, you will have a better clarity of the agenda and the working of the committee by the end of it.

IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING THE WORKING OF THE COMMITTEE:

1. *This committee will work in accordance with the standard **UNA-USA procedures**.*
2. *Since Non-profit organizations come under the category of non state actors, they are principally accountable to their donors. Now, there is something important to note here- Since this organization is based out of The United States of America and because America is the biggest donor of this non profit organization, there is a special status that is allotted to the U.S.A. in this committee. This special status comes with a special power i.e. the power of **'prohibitory injunction'**. A prohibitory injunction is an order that requires a party/country to refrain from doing a specific act. It's basically like a veto power however, in this committee only U.S.A. gets it.*



jmun
2024

GUIDELINES FOR THE POSITION PAPER:

A position paper is a piece of paperwork submitted by delegates prior to the conference.

It is used by the Executive Board to ratify a delegate's research, stance, and solutions before the conference.

A position paper is nothing to be worried about or scared from. It is rather an opportunity for you to present before the chair, a preview of what you're going to be doing in the committee on the 3 days of the conference. It allows the board to have a meet and greet of sorts with you before we actually meet. It is a golden opportunity for you, as a delegate, to solidify your place in the committee and the EB's eyes before being present on the platform on d-day!

A few pointers to keep in mind while making your Position Paper-

- Mail your Position Paper to us at uscri.jmun@gmail.com with the subject line reading as "Position Paper of the Delegate of XYZ".
- The document should be in PDF format with the font being Times New Roman and the font size 12.
- The Position Paper should not exceed a limit of 2 pages and in case of an extreme surge of passion, not more than another 250 words.
- All Position Papers must reach us by the 11th of July, 2024.
- Personalisation of Position Papers with quotes and flags is always a happy surprise though it is only appreciable when it doesn't tamper with the actual content of the Position Paper.
- It is a request to refrain from using any watermarks.
- Please mention all your credentials in the mail body as well.

Remember to focus on solutions more than giving an extensive introduction in your document. It is never necessary to cover the entire agenda and its longevity in a document as small as a Position Paper. Focus on the aspect that speaks the most to you and that which is most important from your portfolio's perspective. That's all there is to it. Can't wait to read what you have in store for us!

Format for Position Papers

Committee: Your committee

Agenda: The decided agenda

Country: Your country

Delegate: Your Name

Make sure you include-

- An introduction to the agenda
- Your country's stance and/or policy
- Proposed solutions to the issue
- Conclusion



jmun
2024

WHY THE NEED TO RESETTLE THE WORLD REFUGEE POPULATION ?

“No one leaves home unless home is the mouth of a shark.”

About seventy-six percent of refugees worldwide are hosted by low-income and middle-income nations, which often face significant domestic hardships that complicate their ability to offer adequate protection. These host countries struggle with their own economic, social, and political challenges, making it difficult to provide the necessary resources and support for refugees. As a result, many refugees are forced to live in camps or substandard shelters for extended periods. These temporary living conditions are often inadequate, lacking basic amenities, security, and the stability needed for refugees to rebuild their lives. The lack of lasting protection in these environments means that refugees remain vulnerable and unable to fully integrate into society.

In many regions, the fundamental rights of refugees are not upheld, exacerbating their plight. These rights include access to education, healthcare, employment, and freedom from discrimination. When these basic human rights are not respected, refugees cannot achieve self-sufficiency or regain a sense of normalcy. Resettlement offers a potential solution by providing refugees with the opportunity to move to countries where their rights are more likely to be protected. This process can help them regain their lost rights and voices, offering a path to dignity and empowerment.

Moreover, resettlement can serve as a critical lifeline for many refugees, offering them the stability they desperately need. By relocating to a country that can provide adequate support and opportunities, refugees can begin to rebuild their lives and regain control over their future. This stability allows them to plan for the long term, pursue education and employment, and integrate into their new communities. Ultimately, resettlement not only benefits the refugees themselves but also contributes to the social and economic fabric of the host countries, fostering mutual growth and understanding.

REQUIREMENT FOR A REFUGEE NATION

Refugee nation is one of the ultimate solutions to ensure that displaced people get permanent residence because of the overload in the current systems. This will make every lost home find a refuge for its occupant.

Present global resettlement systems are, therefore, unable to meet these needs as they depend on each country's ability and willingness to accept refugees. Such an approach would guarantee protection and assistance for those who are at particular risk without being limited by existing frameworks.

It would provide political representation for displaced persons thereby giving them a voice at the international level. They could advocate for their rights through their sovereign state and highlight peculiar challenges faced by refugees. By having this political presence, refugees will be able to influence global policies concerning their lives.

Another important advantage of a refugee nation is that it helps in the preservation of cultural heritage. Dispersed refugee communities often struggle to maintain their cultural identities. Through the creation of societies based upon these principles

THE WARS RESULTING IN REFUGEE CRISES AROUND THE WORLD:

Syrian Conflict

The conflict in Syria reaches back to 2011 when the Arab Spring uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt inspired many Syrians to protest against their own country's corruption and high unemployment rate. Staunch government opposition created further unrest and violence, giving way to a brutal war that has evolved into a long-term, complex civil conflict. The result is an economic crisis, rampant poverty, and widespread displacement – all of which are driving millions of people into hunger.

The situation for Syrian refugees living in neighboring host countries has deteriorated as well. Economic challenges in neighboring countries like Lebanon have pushed Syrians in the country into poverty with more than 90 percent of Syrian refugees reliant on humanitarian assistance to survive. In Jordan, more than 93 percent of Syrian households reported being in debt to cover basic needs. Ninety percent of Syrian refugees living in Türkiye cannot fully cover their monthly expenses or basic needs.

Millions of refugees have lost their livelihoods and are increasingly unable to meet their basic needs - including accessing clean water, electricity, food, medicine, and paying rent. The economic downturn has also exposed them to multiple protection risks, such as child labor, gender-based violence, early marriage, and other forms of exploitation.

Russia-Ukraine War

In early 2014, armed conflict broke out in eastern Ukraine following Russia's annexation of Crimea. Fighting has simmered since despite efforts at diplomacy and cease-fires. Since Russia launched a full-scale military invasion into Ukraine in February of 2022, more than 5 million people have been internally displaced. Inside Ukraine, 11 million people are facing hunger.

Almost 6 million people have fled to Europe, in neighboring countries like Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary, and Belarus as refugees, while millions more are displaced within Ukraine and in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. Many are stranded or are unable to leave Ukraine due to increasing violence, destruction of bridges and roads, and a lack of resources or information on where to find safety and accommodation.

Numerous deaths, and destruction of houses and firms caused by missile and rocket attacks throughout Ukraine have led to a widespread demise. The crisis is making it impossible for people in general to access clean water, electricity, heating facilities, medical care services, education facilities as well as social security. A lot of Ukrainians are staying in buildings that are either damaged or not equipped well enough for severe cold that may cost lives. As the war continues the humanitarian needs increase and scatter far and wide. By 2024, there will be an estimated 14.6 million people in Ukraine who will require humanitarian assistance.

Taliban's Takeover: Afghanistan

Decades of conflict and insecurity have derailed Afghanistan's economic growth and torn communities apart. The withdrawal of international troops in 2021 upended the lives of millions of Afghan families who are now facing uncertainty and extreme hunger. 15.3 million Afghans are facing food insecurity.

The events leading up to the Taliban's takeover of Kabul in August 2021 intensified instability and violence in Afghanistan – causing even more human suffering and displacement.

Today, more than 8 million Afghans have been driven out of their homes or their country by conflict, violence, and poverty. At least 3.2 million Afghans are displaced within their own country. As the humanitarian crisis continues, the resilience of Afghans and their host communities is being stretched to the limit.

Venezuelan Displacement Crisis

Millions of Venezuelans have been forced to flee their homes after years of hardship, and an estimated 2,000 people are still leaving the country every day. In 2014, the country suffered a startling economic collapse while political opposition to the ruling government caused great unrest.

Rampant violence, inflation, gang warfare, soaring crime rates as well as shortages of food, medicine, and essential services have forced millions to seek refuge in neighboring countries and beyond.

The majority of Venezuelans lack documentation to stay regularly in nearby countries and are not guaranteed access to basic rights. The situation for Venezuelans on the move is dire. They are exposed to heightened risks of exploitation, trafficking, violence, discrimination, and xenophobia.

South Sudanese Civil War

After 20 years of struggle, South Sudan gained its independence from Sudan on July 9, 2011. High hopes for the future of the world's newest country were shattered in 2013 when conflict within the ruling Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) plunged the country into war. Ongoing waves of violence have raged on since.

The majority of those fleeing South Sudan are women and children. They are survivors of violent attacks and sexual assault, and in many cases, children are traveling alone.

The South Sudanese refugee population, more than 65% of whom are children, remains extremely vulnerable. Many cross the border alone, weak and malnourished. This protracted situation is the largest refugee situation on the African continent. Over 2.2 million refugees hosted in neighboring countries often live in precarious conditions that are exacerbated by factors such as extreme drought and the food insecurity situation in the region.

Israel-Palestine War

The Palestinian refugees began on Nov. 29, 1947, when the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution that recommended a partition of Palestine. In direct response to this resolution, war broke out in 1948 between the Arab world and Israel, and in the first months over 100,000 Palestinians fled the violence, beginning the first wave of Palestinian refugees. Since that time the number of Palestinian refugees has grown to over 5 million, and yet continued support for a two-state partition by the international community has had little effect in bringing about any resolution to this conflict.

Today, there are nearly 7 million Palestinian refugees around the world. Israeli authorities have committed repeated abuses and violations against Palestinians, and the Palestinian authorities in the West Bank and Hamas in Gaza are also responsible for significant human rights violations.

Palestinian refugees represent the longest protracted refugee situation in modern history. For 75 years now, they have been forced to live as a stateless population without the ability to return to their homeland.

While the current refugee crisis in Gaza has raised global concern over Palestinian displacement, this is not the first time Palestinians have endured the hardships of forced migration. Long before the latest upheaval, Palestinians who today live in Gaza and throughout the Middle East were forced from or fled their homes in what became the state of Israel.

Rohingya Refugee Crisis:

The Rohingya are a Muslim ethnic minority group who have lived for centuries in predominantly Buddhist Myanmar - formerly known as Burma. Despite living in Myanmar for many generations, the Rohingya are not recognized as an official ethnic group and have been denied citizenship since 1982, making them the world's largest stateless population.

As a stateless population, Rohingya families are denied basic rights and protection and are extremely vulnerable to exploitation, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and abuse.

The Rohingya have suffered decades of violence, discrimination, and persecution in Myanmar. Their largest exodus began in August 2017 after a massive wave of violence broke out in Myanmar's Rakhine State, forcing more than 742,000 people - half of them children - to seek refuge in Bangladesh. Entire villages were burned to the ground, thousands of families were killed or separated and massive human rights violations were reported.

More than 1 million Rohingya refugees have fled violence in Myanmar in successive waves of displacement since the 1990s. Now, more than 960,000 Rohingya refugees are living in Bangladesh.

CASE STUDIES

IRAN

Iran experienced the largest growth in refugee population on record in 2023, going from 840,000 refugees to over 3.4 million. With the exception of over 11,000 Iraqi refugees and a handful of asylum-seekers from Kuwait, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan, this is overwhelmingly due to an increase in refugees from neighboring Afghanistan. It is estimated that since the upheaval in Afghanistan in August 2021, a total of 1,000,000 Afghans have fled to Iran.

It is estimated that 99% of refugees in Iran live in cities, towns, and villages side by side with the Iranian host community.

Challenges

Life for refugees in Iran is no easy task as their future and present lives are tampered with by a variety of factors. One issue that stands out is the economic burden of international sanctions and internal economic problems which makes it difficult for Iran to adequately support her large refugee population. Therefore, due to this economic stress, there are limited resources for important services such as healthcare, education, and housing. Moreover, these difficulties are compounded by legal and social uncertainties. As a result, many refugees in Iran including those without proper documentation have an insecure legal position that restricts their access to formal employment thereby increasing the risk of their exploitation. There is also a significant obstacle posed by social stigma leading to discrimination against the refugees thus reducing their chance to integrate into Iranian society. Iran remains unable to cater to its refugees' needs, especially after the Afghan War when waves of new arrivals further strained already over-stretched resources.

TÜRKIYE

Over 3.36 million refugees are currently being hosted in Türkiye. The majority—3.33 million—are “Syrians under temporary protection.” Most Syrians in Türkiye live in host communities instead of informal tented communities, although many still live at bare-minimum conditions. Türkiye is also host to refugees from Iraq (over 12,000), Afghanistan (nearly 13,000), and Iran (over 5,300).

Challenges

Türkiye is home to one of the greatest numbers of refugees in the world, a large number of whom are from Syria. Consequently, both the host country and refugees have experienced a lot of difficulties. In terms of the economy, Türkiye’s resources and public services including healthcare, education, and housing are being under severe pressure as a result of huge influxes of refugees. This results in a lack of stable jobs for the refugees thus leading to high levels of unemployment as well as underemployment among the refugee population. Moreover, there are legal and bureaucratic barriers that prevent them from accessing formal labor markets. Most often, they face social discrimination and xenophobic attitudes which slows down their integration into Turkish society. Additionally, the political atmosphere may be unstable due to changing attitudes towards refugees depending on internal or external circumstances. The mental health state of these refugees is another critical issue because many have had awful experiences hence they live in stressful conditions full of uncertainty too. Nevertheless, Türkiye has made significant advancements towards dealing with its refugee problem.

GERMANY

In recent years, out of the top countries that take in the most refugees, Germany was the only high-income country on the list. This changed in 2022 with the escalation of conflict in Ukraine, which has made large host communities out of Poland and Russia. It also made Germany the second-largest host community in the world, nearly doubling its refugee population in less than a year. At the beginning of 2022, Germany hosted 1.2 million refugees. In 2024, the latest UNHCR data records 2.5 million. This includes over 1 million people from Ukraine, nearly 693,000 from Syria, 240,000 from Afghanistan, and over 150,000 from Iraq.

Challenges

There has been a surge in the number of refugees traveling to Germany, particularly since the 2015 European migrant crisis. Refugees in Germany despite having strong support systems face many difficulties. One major issue is the complexity of bureaucratic processes surrounding asylum that leave applicants waiting for decisions on their status in uncertainty and stress. Another challenge arising from this uncertainty is language barriers which make it difficult for refugees to access basic services such as employment, education, and more. Refugees face other hurdles because they have to try to fit into societies with different cultures due to integration problems as well as experiencing cases of discrimination or xenophobia among others that may prevent them from completely assimilating into German society. The situation around housing can be precarious too; initially, many refugees are put into overcrowded and temporary accommodation thus affecting their lives' quality and mental health. Employment is also a big concern since most refugees fail to get jobs that suit their skills and qualifications partly because their foreign qualifications are not recognized here. These challenges restrict the possibility of refugees creating a stable life full of worth living in Germany.

PAKISTAN

Pakistan is host to approximately 2.08 million refugees, almost entirely from Afghanistan (2,079,989). Many have lived in the country for decades, initially fleeing the decadelong Soviet-Afghan War. The country experienced a dramatic increase of Afghan refugees in 2001, many settling in the Balochistan province just across the border. The protracted nature of these displacements means that many refugee families have lived in compromised living circumstances for generations

Challenges:

Pakistan is home to many refugees who face several problems that often worsen their already difficult situations. One major challenge is the absence of legal identity and protection. A huge proportion of refugees are not formally registered with the state, leaving them open to various forms of abuse and bias. This also bars them from access to essential services such as education and health.

Further still, economic difficulties cut across the board in all refugee communities. Few job opportunities coupled with limited access to funds have made it hard for refugees to get into permanent employment or set up business enterprises. Consequently, a majority of families go through hardships trying to afford basic needs like food and shelter.

Inadequate housing is yet another major concern. Refugee camps in Pakistan are usually overcrowded and without proper amenities hence making unhygienic living conditions causing more contagious diseases. Moreover, constant displacements due to wars or natural calamities exacerbate this problem which makes many refugees homeless by denying them permanent settlement.

OTHER CONCERNS ADDRESSED BY REFUGEES:

Many refugees are subject to xenophobia, the attitudes, prejudices, and behavior that reject, exclude, or vilify persons based on the perception that they are outsiders or foreigners to their community, society, and national identity and are often ill-treated for their nationality. In many countries, race or national descent is invoked as grounds to deny or withdraw citizenship, leaving individuals stateless and stripped of the enjoyment of their human rights.

Since 1948, Palestinians in Lebanon have faced severe restrictions on work, education, and health. Treated as an unwanted population in the country, their presence has been a source of significant divisions in Lebanon and a factor in numerous conflicts, including the Lebanese Civil War and the War of Camps between Syrian-backed militias and factions within the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

The vast majority of refugees are racialized as non-white, and one implication of this is that exclusion of refugees or discrimination against refugees is overwhelmingly exclusion or discrimination along racialized lines. Often, many refugees fall victim to slavery and forced labor – including sexual slavery; kidnapping; or extortion, perpetrated by criminal gangs, partly as a result of failures of protection by the State.

In Europe, refugees and asylum seekers were punched, slapped, and beaten with truncheons, weapons, sticks, or branches, by police or border guards who often removed their ID tags or badges. People on the move were subject to pushbacks, and expulsion from European states, either by land or sea, without having asylum claims heard.

2015 PROPOSAL FOR A ‘REFUGEE NATION’

“Jason Buzi, an Israeli-born entrepreneur living in the USA, has proposed that a ‘Refugee Nation’ should be created to solve the world’s refugee problem. Let us call this country ‘Refugia’. His solution has generated a mixed response, but his moral outrage, his diagnosis of the scale of the problem and his attempt to energize and galvanize a response adequate to the crisis have gathered at least some support,” stated Professor Robin Cohen, University of Oxford.

Refugee Nation Proposal was launched in June 2015 by Jason Buzi and received extensive media coverage in July 2015, beginning with an article in The Washington Post.

The Proposal included:

1. Buying uninhabited islands from a country such as the Philippines or Indonesia.
2. A country with a lot of habitable but unused land giving away or selling this land to establish a refugee nation.
3. A small island nation that is sparsely populated agrees to become a refugee nation. Current citizens would receive significant financial benefits.
4. New islands to be created in international waters as a homeland for refugees.
5. A Sovereign nation with a democratic system of governance.
6. Funding from the United Nations, investors, corporations, and NGOs for the development and growth of the nation.
7. People would get full citizenship and it would be completely voluntary.
8. English would be followed as the official language.

The creation of a Refugee Nation, according to Buzi, would solve the problem of stateless people not having a safe place to live and work.

Though it may sound like something from a story, some refugee experts think otherwise. Buzi’s moral outrage over the inefficacy of current refugee systems is also noticed by James Hathaway. Buzi has contributed between \$10,000 and \$15,000 to his project on the Refugee Nation and is seeking more support from rich individuals and governments. He wants to use the money to purchase or rent land if possible.

However, the logistics behind such an idea are unclear, and issues such as infrastructure, health, social welfare, and political systems remain vague which are supposed to be deliberated upon in this committee. Buzi argues that diverse populations can promote understanding while foreign investment could create job opportunities for locals. However, questions arise regarding the feasibility of establishing and running such a nation. Do refugees prefer moving to another state rather than staying close to their friends and family where they feel there are better chances for them? Forced relocations also bring up serious human rights concerns, reminiscent of Australian or Gaza Strip situations.

Skeptics notwithstanding, Buzi's proposition is an eye-opener to the drawbacks of the existing system. These include cases like Kenya, Lebanon, and Jordan which are overwhelmed by refugees as well as Western countries and international bodies that inadequately offer resettlement support or funds. The general view among experts is that there needs to be a dramatic shift in how things are done although they differ in its nature. Referring to this, some people worry that Refugee Nation is beneficial for states more than refugees; asking why it is less difficult making a new country instead of improving the existing resettlement efforts as well as conditions in the host nations.

According to Buzi, political will for present-day solutions doesn't exist due to sentiments against immigration and a lack of adequate resources for refugee agencies.



Jimun
2024

THE WASHINGTON POST ABOUT THE ‘REFUGEE NATION’:

The cause of creating a refugee nation came to the forefront with The Washington Post’s article which stated Buzi’s ideas and concepts about the refugee nation. The article stated:

‘The world is in the midst of an extraordinary migration crisis. Across the globe, chaos and violence have left nearly 60 million people displaced, largely living in difficult conditions in poor nations. These people have nowhere to go, and many are willing to risk their lives in the hope of reaching a better life somewhere else. It is a crisis with horrifyingly serious consequences. "It's almost shocking to me that nobody's talking about this as a solution," Jason Buzi says in a phone call about Refugee Nation, his plan to create a new state to house the world's refugees. "We have a lot of stateless individuals all over the world right now," he explains. "The idea is if we could give them a state of their own, at least they'd have a place to live in safety and be allowed to live and work like everybody else."

Buzi suggests that a country with uninhabited islands might be willing to let some go for a sum. Someone offered to sell him an island when he was recently in the Philippines, he says: "It wasn't even that much, compared to prices here in San Francisco anyway." He talks about countries with small populations that might be willing to let people live with them in exchange for money, such as the Caribbean island state of Dominica, but it's unclear how the process would actually happen. Even if the space could be found, how the state would function after creation is murky. Buzi says he has poured between \$10,000 and \$15,000 of his own money into setting up a team and Web site to help promote his idea of a Refugee Nation, and he plans to put in a sizable amount more to help the idea gain traction. He plans to use the exposure (and Twitter followers) he got from Hidden Cash to benefit his new cause. "I'm not a billionaire," he says. "But I'm in a place where I can spend some of my own resources to try and promote it and help it along." Buzi argues that countries with people from different backgrounds often become tolerant places and that large-scale infrastructure projects and foreign investors – who might be attracted by the publicity value of the new "Refugee Nation" – would provide jobs. Other issues, like social welfare and political infrastructure, would be worked out later, he says. One big issue is whether refugees would actually choose to move to the new state, or whether they would have to be compelled. "In a globalized world, given freedom of choice, people ultimately want to choose where they live, and are likely to seek to move to where their friends, family, and greatest opportunities lie," Professor Alexander Betts, director of the Refugee Studies Center at Oxford University says. Hathaway says, warning that the Refugee Nation could easily end up becoming like the Gaza Strip. "Is a battered woman better off in a jail than in an abusive home? I guess you would say yes but it's hardly a dignified solution."

THE CREATION OF A NEW NATION

For a refugee nation to work, the idea requires acquiring land from the host government or buying open spaces that can be used to establish an independent and sovereign country. This would be a place of safety for refugees, giving them permanent homes and an end to the precarious living conditions they have been subjected to. Establishing an agreed-upon territory within which this proposed refugee nation is located will provide room for displaced people to build their lives with dignity and security.

Sovereignty and Governance

This new state must maintain its sovereignty. It should be self-governing so that it has independence when making decisions that improve the well-being of its citizens. The government should therefore be tailored in such a way as to address the needs and experiences, particularly of refugees who left their home countries due to conflicts, persecutions, and instabilities. This would give the new nation powers to establish its laws, rules, and guidelines responsive to the protection and empowerment of its citizens

The governance of the refugee nation must be all-inclusive, actively engaging refugee communities in decision-making processes. Inclusion for prevention of exclusion or marginalization occurring within the new societies is an important element here. By bringing refugees into the governmental framework, their voices and needs come to center stage in terms of national policies and initiatives. This approach ensures that the governance structure can respond and adapt to the particular risks faced by refugees.

In citizenship matters, however, this newly formed state presents them with something they have always longed for – a home. Bestowing citizenship to refugees promotes a sense of belonging and identity, which are essential components of psychological as well as social well-being. Moreover, this new citizenship not only provides legal recognition but also promotes pride and stability which encourages refugees to participate fully in building their own country.

Economic and Social Infrastructure

A country of refugees cannot prosper without strong economic and social infrastructure. The focus of development should be on creating housing, healthcare, education, and all-inclusive employment systems. These basic components form the basis for the prosperity and continuity of a nation. The proper provision of housing guarantees everyone has a secure home to live in. Public health can only be maintained if there is access to medical care facilities because most refugees have been affected by traumatic events. There is a need to establish educational institutions to enable individuals to acquire the competencies necessary for personal development and career growth. Economic stability and self-sufficiency would require the availability of chances for employment.

A SLIGHT ACHIEVEMENT: REFUGEE TEAM AT THE 2016 RIO OLYMPICS

In August 2016, the first-ever Refugee Olympic Team competed at the 2016 Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro.

On a global scale, the Refugee Olympic Team made people the world more aware of refugees, their plights, and fortitude. They broadcasted their stories to millions who were sensitized about displaced people's predicaments and brought empathy and support from around the globe. The team's exhibition of talents and determination on the part of refugee athletes went a long way in making the larger refugee crisis faceless. It thus presented refugees not as mere victims but as individuals with visions, virtues, and capacities for good to society.

The involvement of these athletes became an inspiration for many refugees and internally displaced persons, as it proved that nothing is impossible even under difficult conditions. Many people living in hardships had hope because this message symbolized endurance and success. Additionally, with the appearance of The Refugee Olympic Team before us, there was an advocacy initiative aimed at better policies targeting migrants along with increased assistance for them which therefore underscored the necessity for comprehensive international response mechanisms to the problem of refugeehood by encouraging decision-shapers to be more proactive in terms of providing relief or sanctuary to affected individuals.

In summary, the representation of the Refugee Olympic Team in 2016 supported the idea of a refugee nation by raising awareness, humanizing the refugee crisis, providing inspiration, advocating for new solutions, fostering solidarity, and promoting the integration and contributions of refugees. This global exposure and recognition helped build the case for a dedicated and supportive homeland for refugees.

These 10 athletes were represented under one common flag and anthem, made for them. This gave representation to the many refugees who do not get their own identity and struggle to find a stable home.

It showed that the idea of a refugee nation could be a solution to the many problems faced by refugees around the world.

Those ten refugees competing under this one flag of a 'Refugee Nation' demonstrated the unity that refugees worldwide would have if a nation existed for them.

REFUGEE CONVENTION, 1951

The core principle of the 1951 Convention is non-refoulement, which asserts that a refugee should not be returned to a country where they face serious threats to their life or freedom.

The document outlines the basic minimum standards for the treatment of refugees, including the right to housing, work, and education while displaced so they can lead a dignified and independent life. It also defines a refugee's obligations to host countries and specifies certain categories of people, such as war criminals, who do not qualify for refugee status.

The rights created by the Convention generally still stand today. But the many limitations present in the Convention, and the complex nature of 21st-century refugee relationships call for a new solution for the condition of the refugees.

The limitations of the existing convention:

Articles 17-19: Even though these articles state the economic and employment rights of the refugees, these are often subject to national laws and conditions.

Refugees often face many barriers to employment and economic integration despite these rights.

Articles 20-24: These provide the refugees with the same social treatment as the nationals and treatment as favorable as possible.

Access to social services like education and healthcare is guaranteed only "in the same circumstances" as nationals. Large disparities are often seen between the quality of services received by the nationals and the refugees.

Article 31: States that refugees would not be penalized for illegal entry into the country if they are coming from a territory where their life and freedom are threatened. However, implementation of this varies from country to country and many refugees still get penalized. Refugees often face criminal charges and detention despite the convention's provision against it.

Article 34: States that the Contracting States shall **as far as possible** facilitate the assimilation and naturalization of refugees.

The non-binding language often results in countries putting in minimal and inconsistent efforts to integrate the refugees.

Considering these major flaws, and with the number of refugees increasing day by day around the world, a new solution is needed to tackle the refugee situation around the world.

In September 2023, UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman called into question the suitability of the Convention. Her view is that the Convention, which was drawn up in 1951, is no longer 'fit for purpose in the modern age'.

Considering that the Refugee Convention no longer fits or fulfills the needs and rights of the refugees, the need for a Refugee Nation increases.

WHAT DOES THE COMMITTEE EXPECT? (Mandate)

The chair of this conference shall be non-US and discrete nationality diplomats appointed by the United Nations. The United Nation asks for an informative paperwork (Draft Resolution) essentially consisting of all resources, actions and ideas that the committee has agreed upon. The mission of the USCRI is to protect the rights and address the needs of persons in forced or voluntary migration worldwide and support their transition to a dignified life and the UN wants this ideology to be adopted by all the countries in the world but let's start with the countries in attendance at this conference.

The paperwork should be one that considers religious, cultural and language differences amongst others. The final resolution shall also be binding to all countries involved and affected.

At any given time, all countries are asked to be consciously aware of the number of refugees and immigrants in their lands and waters. We do understand that we are dealing with 43.4 million refugees registered globally. UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is mandated to protect 31.6 million out of that number. Hence, a representative of the UNHCR shall be a part of the debate and shall be responsible for the protection of Human Rights of all refugees. If the representative so declares that a part of the draft resolution involves a breach of human rights, the clause shall be omitted from the final resolution. However, the representative shall be required to quote international humanitarian law that is in question.

It is all well and good until it isn't. The committee is working in real time and addressing the issues of tomorrow as and when given. With the uprisings of man against man at its highest peak that humankind has ever seen, you never know what you might be presented with.

Dear Delegates, we can only hope you are equipped to handle any CRISIS given in your hand!

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. Is your country currently involved in a war situation that causes the refugee problem? What measures is your country going to take to solve these crises and how effective are they?
2. Why did the 'Refugee Nation' Proposal of 2015 fail and what does your country plan on doing collectively with the other nations to make the dream of 'Refugee Nation' come true?
3. Where is this 'Refugee Nation' going to be settled and what will be its political constitution?
4. How can the countries work collectively to resolve the war conflict situations which are a major cause for refugee crises?
5. How will the protection of the refugee population be ensured in the 'Refugee Nation' from human trafficking, forced labour, child labour, sex trafficking, etc?
6. How to tackle the current ever-increasingly adverse situation of the refugees?
7. Is your country supportive of this cause and how is it planning to fund it?
8. How will the committee decide on a diplomatic solution to end the wars going on between superpowers of the world?
9. Is your country hosting refugees currently? What is the condition of refugees in your country? Are they getting access to basic necessities and are their human rights being looked after?
10. Is your country accepting refugees from war affected areas? How does your country ensure the safety of refugees in such a situation?

LINKS FOR REFERENCE

- <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-relating-status-refugees>
- <https://www.unrefugees.org/refugee-facts/statistics/>
- <https://www.rescue.org/en/article/what-refugee-resettlement>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/mar/30/refugees-widespread-physical-ill-treatment-council-of-europe>
- <https://www.concern.net/news/largest-refugee-crises>
- <https://apnews.com/>
- <https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/>
- <https://www.iom.int/>
- <https://www.unrwa.org/>
- <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/migration>



jmun
2024