

## **UNHCR Committee Description:**

The United Nations Human Rights committee is a unique, but common committee that is very important to the world and keeping international peace. The main mission of the council is to protect human rights around the world and address human rights abuses and make recommendations on how to approach and resolve them. The council has concerned itself with issues such as the Israel-Palestine conflict, violations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Syria, LGBTQIA+ rights, women's rights, and rights to sanitation, housing, and security.

Throughout history, those in charge have used the media to control and censor people. When governments have power over the press, they have power over the people. All around the world, freedom of speech has been infringed upon by governments that would rather harm their citizens than face their mistakes. Countries such as Russia and China, have long used journalism to push narratives that benefit those in power, not the people themselves who more often than not face the consequences for the actions of their government. Journalists who go against the government's narrative are met with strong opposition, often being unjustly vilified and punished. Currently, the UNHRC has ratified the Windhoek +30 Declaration, a new resolution on the safety of journalists. Without freedom of speech, people will only know what their government wants them to know.