

# **BACKGROUND GUIDE**

## **JPHS Model United Nations 2022**

**United Nations High Commissioner for  
Refugees**



**“Deliberating Upon Measures to  
Counter Statelessness with Special  
Emphasis on the Belarusian Crisis”**

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dear Delegates,

It is an honour for us to be the executive board of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at JPHS Model United Nations 2022. We as the executive board expect a good level of research from all the delegates in council. To facilitate this purpose, we have made this guide as descriptive as possible. When you go through all the aspects of this guide, you will notice certain things.

The introduction section of the guide consists of basics about the commission itself, the methods of work this commission and certain facts and figures with respect to the agenda. The guide then goes on to elaborate about the problems, ideologies and prospective solutions with respect to protection of women and children in conflict zones. This guide does not emphasize about the Peacebuilding Commission, because we leave it up to the delegate's creativity and prerogative to incorporate that into the matter. However, we suggest that you go through the mandates, structures, resolutions and different treaties and conventions. At the end, all we would say is that we expect you to eagerly deliberate the agenda, and at the same time, enjoy the ambience that a great MUN has to offer.

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Thank You,

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# HOW TO GO ABOUT RESEARCH FOR MODEL UN

There are three steps, broadly, that an ideal delegate will need to follow. These are illustrated below:



Materials prepared by the EB are not meant to be a substitute for your individual research. Instead, they should provide a starting point, inspiring you to ask yourself questions about the issues at hand. The best-prepared delegates are those that take the provided materials as the beginning of their research and delve deeper into the topic areas. Beyond these materials are a host of information services, beginning with United Nations sources. UN resources often have compiled statistics, charts, and graphs which you may find helpful in understanding the issues. Most UN document centres carry transcripts of UN meetings; perhaps the best way to understand your country's position is to see it iterated by its ambassador. Specific resources to investigate include:

- **Yearbook of the United Nations:** The Yearbook is a good starting point for your research. The Yearbook will provide you with general information on what has been done on your topic during any particular year. It also provides very helpful references to previous articles and resolutions.
- **United Nations Chronicle:** This magazine gives you general information on the proceedings of the UN. Keep an eye out for special reports on your topic area, which will inform you about the topic and nations' positions on it.
- **UN Document Index:** This index for all UN documents comes in three different versions: UNDI (1950-1973), UNDEX (1970-1978), and UNDOC (1979-present). Depending on which of the three you are using, you will find a subject index, a country index, and an alphanumeric list of all documents published (this is useful because each committee has its own unique alphanumeric prefix and thus you can find all the documents put out by a committee during a certain year regardless of the specific topic).

- **UN Resolutions:** This series is both valuable and very easy to use. The index is cumulative from 1946, which means that you need only check the most current index to find all the resolutions on your topic that the UN has ever passed. The resolution voting records (located in the front of the book) will indicate where your country and others stood on the issues.
- **Other UN Sources:** Depending on the topic, there might be additional relevant UN sources.

Beyond United Nations sources, however, are general sources of information. Investigate your school and local libraries. Check out journals, periodicals, and newspapers for more current sources. Don't forget to ask the librarians for assistance.

- **Books:** Up-to-date books are likely to give you a depth and thoroughness unobtainable from UN sources or periodicals. Make sure to check library listings for bound materials. Book research, however, can take a good deal of time, so use discretion when selecting books.
- **Periodicals:** Periodicals are useful for easy-to-understand, current information on topics (the Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature and InfoTrack serve as an index for these materials). Don't expect them to supply you with the depth of information you will need for the Conference.
- **People:** An often neglected source, people can aid you greatly in your research. Some people to keep in mind are: librarians, fellow delegates, faculty advisors, and your committee's Director, Moderator, and Assistant Directors. Not only can these people help you find what you are looking for, but they may also recommend new sources that you had not considered. Do not hesitate to call or mail your Executive Board members and Committee Director. He or she has spent the entire summer doing research for the Background Guide and will be happy to answer any questions.
- **Embassies and Consular Offices:** Contact the embassy or consular office of the country that you are representing. These places are very glad to help you in your research by mailing statistical data and other unclassified information.

### *Something to keep in mind:*

You can also log on to YouTube and look at links simulating MUNs, like [here](#). Another very useful resource is this [website](#) that carries many MUN related tutorials. Feel free to browse through the internet, and utilize YouTube and [www.bestdelegate.com](http://www.bestdelegate.com) as much as you can. [delegatepal.com](http://delegatepal.com) can be helpful for doing research.

## **SPEAKING TECHNIQUES**

### *Making MUN speeches:*

A good speech is based not only on what you say but also on how you say it!

You are trying to persuade others. To be successful, you must attend to their feelings as well as their logic. To convince others that you have a solution to a specific problem or a valid point, you first, must get their attention. Then, using appropriate oral and body language, you must maintain their attention and make them want to act upon your instructions. Don't forget: what you say and how you say it are

equally important. In fact, many think the latter is actually far more important, which is incorrect. Once you sit down, there will be many other speakers. How will you be remembered?

### *Getting Attention:*

1. Humour is a dangerous technique in debate, particularly when discussing serious topics.
2. The machine-gun: use rapid-fire examples, piling up the evidence.
3. Begin with a quotation: a short quotation, proverb, saying, poem, etc. will often sum up the situation. If you can find it from someone in your represented country, the more appropriate it will be. If you are clever, you can use this technique repeatedly.
4. Begin with a startling statement. Make it lead directly to the problem. If you do not have a specific situation to refer to, begin with: "Imagine that..."
5. Begin with a rhetorical question, something that the audience knows the answer to. Beware of this approach. It could be a weak start.
6. Begin with a specific example of the problem. Zero in on one concrete aspect and then build from there. In small-scale debates, you will have many more opportunities to speak. In large debates, however, you might not enjoy the same luxury.
7. Be aware of any time limits on your speech, and give yourself time for a strong finish before the chair cuts you off.

### *Maintaining Attention:*

1. Demonstrate the extent of the problem. Use examples, statistics, and expert opinions, etc.
2. Demonstrate the effects of the problem. How does it affect the people? Use examples and facts.
3. Demonstrate the causes of the problem. This might be difficult.
4. Demonstrate how the problem affects the others. Be vivid.
5. Present your solution or better, a joint solution from several delegates. Be clear about time, costs, people and other resources required. Try to show where similar solutions have worked.
6. Try to use visual images as opposed to dry expressions. Paint them a picture. Demonstrate how your solution will:
  - I. reduce or eliminate the cause(s) of the problem
  - II. reduce or eliminate the symptoms
  - III. help people
  - IV. result in advantages
  - V. reduce costs
  - VI. increase efficiency
7. Paint the opposite terrible scenario if your plan is not adopted.
8. Appeal for action and their motives of: fair play, desire to save, be helpful, pride, intelligence, community.
9. At the end of your speech, return to the topic sentence and revise it. Ask for their assistance by challenging them to do something, summarizing the important points, and indicating your own intention to do something. Close with a strong appeal for action.



## SOURCES ACCEPTED

Please take in serious consideration the following points regarding the type of documents that you might want to produce in the committee so as to substantiate your stand.

- **Valid and binding:**

- ◆ **All reports published by the United Nations and its agencies:** All UN Reports are considered are credible information or evidence. These include:

- I. UN Bodies like the UNSC [[www.un.org/securitycouncil](http://www.un.org/securitycouncil)] or UNGA [[www.un.org/en/ga/](http://www.un.org/en/ga/)].
- II. UN Affiliated Bodies like the International Atomic Energy Agency [[www.iaea.org/](http://www.iaea.org/)], World Bank [[www.worldbank.org/](http://www.worldbank.org/)], International Monetary Fund [[www.imf.org](http://www.imf.org)], International Committee of the Red Cross [[www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org)], etc.
- III. Treaty Based Bodies like the Antarctic Treaty System [[www.ats.aq/e/ats.htm](http://www.ats.aq/e/ats.htm)], the International Criminal Court [[www.icc-cpi.int](http://www.icc-cpi.int)].

- ◆ **Reports by governments and its agencies(with respect to their country only):** These reports can be used in support of or against any country as such but in that situation, in all circumstances, can be denied by another country. However, a nuance is that a report that is being denied by a certain country can still be accepted by the Executive Board as credible information. Some examples are:

- I. Government Websites like the State Department of the United States of America [[www.state.gov/index.htm](http://www.state.gov/index.htm)] or the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation [[www.eng.mil.ru/en/index.htm](http://www.eng.mil.ru/en/index.htm)], etc.
- II. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of various nations like India [[www.mea.gov.in/](http://www.mea.gov.in/)] or People's Republic of China [[www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/](http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/)], etc.
- III. Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Reports [<http://www.un.org/en/members/>](Click on any country to get the website of the Office of its Permanent Representative).
- IV. Multilateral Organizations like NATO [[www.nato.int](http://www.nato.int)], ASEAN [[www.asean.org](http://www.asean.org)], OPEC [[www.opec.org/opec\\_web/en/](http://www.opec.org/opec_web/en/)], etc.

- **Valid but not binding, in the order of precedence:**

- ◆ **Reuters:** Any Reuters article which clearly makes mention of the fact stated or is in contradiction of the fact being stated by another delegate in council can be used to substantiate arguments in the committee [[www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com)].

- **Not valid but can be used for reference purpose:**
  - ◆ Any report publishes by a recognized news agency or NGO.
- **Not Accepted under any condition but can be used to gain a better understanding:**
  - ◆ Wikipedia
  - ◆ WikiLeaks
  - ◆ Blog Articles
  - ◆ The Background Guide itself



# INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Office (UNHCR) form a multilateral, intergovernmental institution, established by the United Nations General Assembly on 3 December 1949 and succeeded the earlier United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. UNHCR is primarily mandated to provide international protection and humanitarian assistance and to help people primarily people who are refugees, stateless and displaced. UNHCR's original main mandate covered only refugees, that is, all persons outside their country of origin for reasons of feared persecution, conflict, generalized violence, or other circumstances that have seriously disturbed public order and who, as a result, require international protection.

However, over time UNHCR's mandate has been expanded to cover returnees and stateless persons. Its mandate is defined by the 1950 UNHCR Statute. In 2003, the General Assembly extended the organization's mandate "until the refugee problem is solved." The agency is mandated to lead and coordinate international action to protect refugees, stateless and displaced people and resolve the problem worldwide.

UNHCR is governed by the UN General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The High Commissioner reports annually to ECOSOC and the General Assembly on the work of UNHCR.

Delegates are requested to visit the given link for more information on UNHCR and its work: <https://www.unhcr.org>

## INTRODUCTION

### *Statelessness*

It is estimated that at least 10 million people worldwide today are stateless. The meaning of statelessness as underlined by the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons means "*Person who is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law.*" Stateless persons often don't have the basic rights that citizens enjoy. Statelessness affects socio-economic rights such as education, employment, social welfare, housing, healthcare as well as civil and political rights including freedom of movement, freedom from arbitrary detention and political participation. When thousands of people are stateless, the result is communities that are isolated and marginalised. In the worst cases, statelessness can lead to conflict and cause displacement. Although statelessness may in many contexts be a hidden problem, stateless people are found in all regions of the world. Statelessness due to the dissolution of former states also continues to affect many people.

### *Statelessness in Context of Human Rights*

Human rights are the basic rights that are guaranteed to every person under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, however, stateless people may be subjected to human rights violations and specific issues such as violence, discrimination on the basis of religion, xenophobia and education. However, any form of discrimination is prohibited, whether it's based on colour, race, caste, sex, religion, nationality etc. The 1951 convention's article 3 obliges States parties to apply its provisions without discrimination as to race, religion or country of origin.



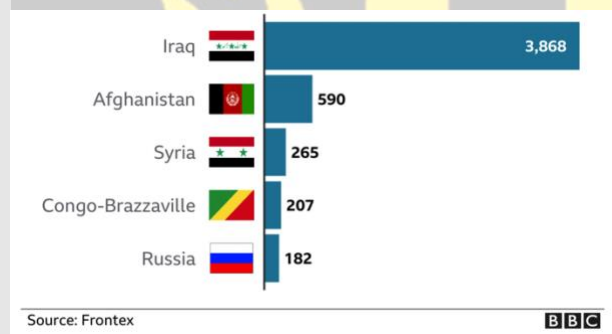
## Impact of Xenophobia & Discrimination

Discriminatory and xenophobic activities create difficulties in the process of integration of these stateless people in the society and culture of the host nations.

Mostly it is the fear of “new” or “other” people being in the society which often invokes this fear. However, other factors may include a sudden increase in economic downfall, rising unemployment, and urbanization. The problems are further increased and impacted when refugees are mischaracterized as criminals, illegal migrants, “queue jumpers” or even as terrorists. This can polarize the attitudes of the regular people and increase the risks of racism and intolerance.

## THE BELARUSIAN CRISIS OVERVIEW

The Belarusian border crisis is a migration crisis consisting primarily of an influx of tens of thousands of immigrants from the Middle East and other regions, with small groups originating from other parts of Asia. The crisis was triggered by the sharp deterioration of relations between Belarus and the European Union after the 2020 Belarus presidential election. The crisis began around July 7, 2021, when the Belarusian president threatened to “flood” the EU with traffickers, drug smugglers and armed migrants. Later, Belarusian authorities and state tourism companies, along with several airlines operating in the Middle East, increased the number of connections from the Middle East and, on the surface, issued Belarusian visas to buyers for hunting purposes to Belarus. Started promoting the tour.



The social media group also provided fraudulent advice on border crossing rules to immigrant candidates. Those who arrived in Belarus were then given instructions about how and where to trespass into the European Union border. Migrants said that Belarus provided them with wire cutters and axes to cut through border fences and enter the EU; however, those who did not manage to cross the border were often forced to stay there by Belarusian authorities, who were accused of assaulting some migrants who failed

to get across. Belarus refused to allow Polish humanitarian aid for the migrants, which would have included tents and sleeping bags. Some nations have described the crisis as hybrid warfare, calling the crisis an incident of human trafficking of migrants, waged by Belarus against the EU. Poland also approved an estimated €353 million in spending to build 60 kilometres border. Human rights groups have expressed concern about inadequate food, water and shelter for migrants. Human Rights Watch accuses Belarusian authorities of causing a crisis due to violence, inhumane and degrading treatment and coercion of Belarus' border guards, and Polish border guards have pushed migrants back to Belarus.

## RESPONSE OVERVIEW

Some air routes to Belarus are being restricted or closed off by the EU. Turkey's civil aviation authority has said that until further notice, Iraqi, Syrian and Yemeni nationals will not be allowed to fly from Turkish airports to Minsk and the UAE has also barred those nationalities from flights to Minsk from its airports. Belavia has announced that it will no longer accept citizens of these countries on its flights out of Turkey and it's said that it's strengthening its passenger checks for all flights from Dubai.

The EU condemned the use of migrants as weapons, threatened to impose further sanctions on Belarus, and pressed Iraq to suspend migrant flights between Iraq and Belarus. The head of the European Council on Foreign Relations noted that *"Poland has an ongoing battle with Brussels over the rule of law situation, and so Poland is trying to show that it can manage the problem alone. Asking the EU for help would not necessarily be an easy thing for the Polish government to do."*

## UNHCR's WORK WITH SOME OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

- UNICEF helps in the health, nutrition and education rights of children, protection of unaccompanied children and also working on their education and development.
- ILO programmes to enhance self-reliance and sustainable livelihoods of refugees in the contexts of integration and return, labour mobility and migration outcomes for refugees.
- UN ECOSOC gives funds and introducing development and education programmes for refugees.
- OHCHR helps in the integration of human rights into relevant UN bodies and nations and helps in monitoring and field implementation of activities, programmes and efforts to improve the scenarios.
- WHO helps in the improvement of health, nutritional, sanitary, hygienic and environmental conditions of refugees and returnees.
- UNDP helps in enhancing linkages between humanitarian and development programmes.

Other relevant UN organizations may also be used to help in implementation of solutions

## QUESTIONS THE COMMITTEE MUST ANSWER

1. How can stateless people be integrated in other nations?
2. How can different legalities regarding stateless people be addressed universally?
3. Methods through which xenophobia, discrimination and prejudice against stateless people being integrated in new nations can be stopped?
4. How can the security, well-being and human rights be ensured for the migrants on the Belarus border?
5. What is to be done with the migrants in Belarus?
6. How can a crisis like the Belarusian one be prevented in the future?

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

It's crucial to bear in mind that your success in the committee will highly depend on how well you prepare yourself beforehand, as this is one of the core aspects you will need to fulfil if you're yearning for success in this committee. This topic is one which is in urgent need for solutions and really widespread. Having said this, it is not enough to read the study guide as this is a simplified overview of the matter and there are more aspects which you should explore when dealing with the agenda. At the end of the day, the most that we, like chairs, will be looking at, is your ability to solve the problem and provide analysis using feasible, original and grounded solutions.

