

Message from the Chair

Dear Delegates,

A very warm welcome to JECRC MUN 2015. A lengthy explanation isn't in order for the very name of our committee gives away its purpose- ratiocination on issues having to do with the implementation, violation and protection of human rights.

So in this regard, an articulation regarding research is in order. Research, relentlessly, for without doing so, you will not be able to say a single word in the committee, finding solutions to the issues being discussed impossibility. And of course, articulations regarding diplomacy and negotiation are in order too. Remember that the purpose of Model UN, to put it simply, is to maturely discuss the issues at hand and find global solutions to them, solutions that will be debated upon before you reach them and solutions that won't necessarily match your country policies, so learn to compromise and attempt to bring about what's best for the world.

The study guide is prepared by me (Chairperson). The case studies was formulated by Daman Mahajan (Vice-Chairperson) and Deyasini Basu (Rapporteur). So regarding any information you are free to approach us. Remember, the study guide is to **only** guide you and give you a direction for your research. In no regards shall it be used as a source of evidence in the committee.

Remember that you are a delegate, **act like one, talk like one and trigger change like one**. But more importantly, remember that you are human and have the compassion and dedication to fight for the rights that you take granted the rights that plenty around the world are deprived of.

We are always here to help.

Alif Hossain

Chair

Human Rights Council

JECRC Model United Nations 2015

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

The Human Rights Council was established on 15th of March 2006 through the resolution 60/251. It was established to replace the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. It comprises of 47 member nations that are elected by the General Assembly for a term of three years. The member nations are usually comprised of 13 African countries, 13 Asian countries, 6 east European countries, 8 Latin American and Caribbean countries and 8 for other Western European countries. The council is responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights and addresses important human right issues like freedom of expression, rights of racial and ethnic minorities, women's right, freedom of belief and religion and so on. The council is advised and helped by an advisory council during times of conflicts.

Arguably, the Council's most important powers rest in its ability to utilize the UN Special Procedures and Universal Periodic Review. Under the Special Procedures of the UN, Special Rapporteurs are able to monitor and advise on specific areas of Human Rights abuse and issue reports on thematic areas of concern. The Universal Periodic Review enables the UNHRC to evaluate the circumstances of human rights in all Member States, individuals and organizations may also evoke proceedings under the provisions of the Complaint Procedure.

“Any violence by a large population is not because these people are more violent than any other. It’s an alarm; it’s a signal that something is wrong in the treatment of this population.”

INTRODUCTION:

The definition of Extremist movement can be summarised as *any political ideology or ideologies which, in general favors immoderate uncompromising policies against the working government of that state/country/nation/region*. These extremist movements pose a threat to the fundamental values that the State sets out to defend, in accordance with its law or Statue. They rise against the government in a organized manner to state and enforce their views upon the State. These movements when trying to accomplish their goals of dismantling these fundamental values, they choose two paths:

- (i) Political approach
- (ii) Militarily approach

They either go with the political approach to accomplish their goals or the military approach or sometimes both.

In the political approach, these movements are directed in a peaceful manner and forming more of a political group or party against the working or functioning government policies. When these movements turn violent and see no hope of the ideology getting the support, they turn into the militaristic approach. The Nazi party of Germany can be the example of a part which used the political approach and then the military approach to gain their support and spread their agenda.

These movements show no respect towards the dotrine of the equality of mankind and the desirability of political and economic and social equality. Their attributes lies in the extreme ends of autonomist/separatists, patrioteer, intolerant, racilist or intransigent views. Even if these parties do not directly advocate violence, they nevertheless create a climate that encourages its development.

Since the 1990s, there has been a rise of extreme right movements and simultaneously gaining the common mass support and reaching their popularity peak after 2008. Their successes can be ascribed to disenchantment with the perceived failures of working governments, growing concern over national issues and the tightening of the world politics.

DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF EXTREMIST PARTIES AND MOVEMENTS:

- (i) **Ideological classification-** Extremist parties and movements in the states can be divided into five categories according to the ideologies they represent:
- a. extreme left-wing terrorist movements that aim to overthrow the lawful constitutional order by violent means;
 - b. armed nationalist and independence movements or anti-independence movements, seeking either to bring about or to prevent secession by particular provinces or ethnic groups;
 - c. armed religious fundamentalist movements and the branches of fundamentalist parties from external parties;
 - d. unreformed communist parties, which are opposed to any compromise with the institutions established under the democratisation process;
 - e. extreme right-wing parties and movements, which propagate mistrust of democracy combined with racism and xenophobia and anti-Semitism and revisionism, all to varying degrees.

Contrary to traditional democratic parties, extremist parties have a clear and simple message and propose a simple solution for the difficult range of problems faced by the member states. They therefore seem to offer a direct response to the wishes and questions of the population. They have now opted to use democracy's own weapons to fight it more effectively. Paradoxically, they present themselves as the sole guarantor of democracy, claiming to give people back their say and the power stolen from them by technocrats and financial oligarchies. Populism and xenophobia are the stock-in-trade of extremists, which are also united in hostility to the process of European integration.

It should be noted that, in the era of globalisation, the extremist parties have ties with ones in other continents. For example, ideological support from the far right in the United States has been crucial to the development of several extreme right-wing groups in Europe, notably the skinhead movement and groups involved in terrorist action. At present, the fastest growing political form of extremism can be found in the "post-industrial" far right, i.e., amongst parties who call for a strong central state and strong national identity. These parties often claim that only those, whose ethnic identity coincides with their national identity, use a certain language and adhere to a certain religion, can belong to that nation.

- (ii) **The far left-** It is true that extremist ideologies are most often found among the radical right, but they also exist to a lesser extent among the radical left. Although

it has been vague, it is important to note that the radical left, including autonomous movements, generally aims at the destruction of “the system”, because of the belief that this system protects the monopolies of multinational companies. In its most extreme form, the far left also accepts the legitimacy of resorting to terrorism. Recent events involving the autonomous movement have shown that there are clear links between anti-racism movements and the radical left. This is a very unfortunate alliance, which poses a threat to the general achievements and further development of the combat against racism and xenophobia in our member states.

A number of extra-parliamentary extreme left-wing movements continue to favour direct action to disseminate their anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist rhetoric. One very important development is the integration of certain extreme left-wing movements into parliamentary politics. The best example was the success of the joint list of the two French Trotskyite movements, “Lutte Ouvrière” and the “Ligue Communiste Révolutionnaire” in the European elections on 13 June 1999. The “LCR”, which belongs to the 4th International, is a group which, while formally challenging the institutions of the capitalist and liberal system, pursues democratic objectives, conducts its activities in public and has an internal democratic debate.

(iii) **The neo-nazi and fascist far right-** Avowed neo-nazis and hard-line fascists constitute a very small minority in western Europe, and have neither a social base nor any measure of electoral success, even modest. The reasons for this are many. Firstly, in the countries where they have emerged, national-populist parties have managed to tap the militant vein to the detriment of the smaller groups. Secondly, strong police repression has conspired with tough laws on revisionism and neo-nazism to crush the growth of these movements. And finally, the incessant rivalry within the nebulous world of neo-nazism has prevented any kind of unification or even lasting co-operation. To these factors must be added the total inability of the neo-nazi movement to revitalise its ideological message, which remains mired in the defence and emulation of the Third Reich.

For the past 5 years or so, moreover, we have seen a growing capacity for terrorism on the part of small neo-nazi groups, organised on the American model of “leaderless resistance”. This approach involves using small independent, highly compartmentalised cells of 2 or 3 militants, or even isolated individuals, without the intervention of a centralised, hierarchical organisation. It should also be noted that neo-nazi and skinhead movements are beginning to show an interest in satanic practices and a genre of music known as “black metal”. In several European countries, far-right Satanists have committed acts of violence, setting fire to churches and desecrating cemeteries. Their ideology is first and foremost anti-Christian, paganistic and hostile to all minorities. On the subject of violence, some

mention should also be made of the numerous extremist attacks on hostels for asylum-seekers and Jewish targets.

In Western Europe, the neo-nazi and skinhead movement is currently in crisis. It has no ideology to call its own, since the vast majority of its models and key texts come from the United States. It has, however, proved highly adept at using new technologies (CDs, internet) to preserve a genuine capacity for harm.

- (iv) **Parties with xenophobic or racist tendencies-** In many member states, extremist parties and movements operating within the democratic system, defend ideologies tending towards xenophobia and sometimes racism. Such ideologies, which have in common a hostility to one or more groups in society, target immigrants, national or religious minorities or, sometimes, marginal social groups. These extremist parties and movements breach the Human Rights articles of which provides that “the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in the Declaration shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status”. This currently represents the greatest threat to democracy to all member states.

They naturally include the parties generally considered to be on the extreme right, but also certain nationalist parties and movements. Even if they do not advocate violence directly, they nevertheless create a climate that encourages its development. Moreover, the growing support for them in certain countries is particularly worrying. For example, there has been an increase in racial and ethnic violence, as well as incitement to such acts. Religious intolerance and discrimination against Roma/Gypsies are becoming more and more commonplace (see appendix: Non-exhaustive list of racist acts and attacks in Council of Europe member states in 1999).

- (v) **Evolution of parties with xenophobic or racist tendencies in the member states-** Among these parties and movements, some have representatives in parliament and may also become members of a governing coalition. So although their principles are incompatible with democracy and human rights, in certain countries, as in the 1930s, they have the possibility of achieving power through the use of democracy. Nevertheless, these parties’ political success varies greatly from one country to another.

- **Limited manifestations-** In several countries, these political parties are almost non-existent or very marginal and in others their development has slowed down. However, the more or less disappearance, non-existence or decrease of

their political expression does not mean that xenophobia and racism do not exist in these countries.

- **Worrying manifestations-** The progress made by parties that directly or indirectly encourage xenophobia, intolerance or racism is particularly worrying in certain member countries, where their recent election results are far from marginal.

FACTORS UNDERLYING THEIR DEVELOPEMNT AND POLITICAL THEMES USED:

- (i) **Disappointment caused by other political parties' policies and practices-** Extremist parties seems to fill a gap in the political field. In the view of the electorate of extremist parties, the opposition is too weak to question and criticise the policies of the governing party and is easily prepared to make a compromise. This electorate claims that the traditional parties are not able to give a proper counterbalance to the current policy and therefore turn to the extremist parties to find a more satisfactory presentation of their ideas. Contrary to the traditional political parties, extremist parties have a clear programme on which a compromise is hardly thinkable. Simple solutions are proposed for the complicated economic and social problems. Moreover, corruption and other scandals involving traditional parties have contributed to a protest vote being given to extremist parties.
- (ii) **Main political themes-** Owing to the complexity of today's politics, the main force of extremist parties and movements is to focus on isolated issues and especially on issues that can be presented as threats, such as immigration and foreigners (far right) or corporate wealth and the political system (far left). Extremist parties bring to the political agenda controversial issues such as immigration, unemployment and the preservation of sovereignty in order to force traditional parties to debate on their terms. The right of freedom of expression is only invoked in order to justify the controversial manner in which these themes are discussed. They also seek to increase tension between generations, and between persons living in cities and rural areas, capitals and the periphery. During election campaigns, extremist parties tend to deny their xenophobic character and try to present themselves as ultra-conservative parties. This strategy distances them from their radical activities and is aimed at attracting the potential extremist supporters included in the electorate of conservative or nationalist parties.
 - **Immigration and economic difficulties-** Both are considered as the overwhelming cause of national problems. In order to restrict immigration, extremist parties promote the implementation of the principle of *jus sanguinis* and seek to restrict the conditions for naturalisation. Immigration is presented as the main reason for unemployment. According to these parties,

immigrants occupy jobs reserved or created for nationals. They maintain that this results in an increase in national expenditure on unemployment benefits. Foreign nationals are also blamed for benefiting from the social security system without fully contributing to it. Consequently, they are also responsible for high income taxes.

Economic problems are claimed to be the result of free markets and the import of products at low prices from developing countries. According to these parties, this unequal competition undermines the national economy. They therefore call for the re-establishment of frontiers and the reinstallation of protectionism.

- **National identity and security-** Immigration and reduced frontier controls are considered as a threat to national identity and culture, including language. Extremist parties fear the influence of foreign cultures, as immigrants mix their customs with those of the native population. Furthermore, they are afraid of losing their national identity by the reduction of national sovereignty and the curtailment of sovereignty by international rules. The preservation of a safe and secure nation is stressed as very important. Organised crime, terrorism and crimes related to drugs are considered a direct result of the increasing number of foreign nationals. A severe control on immigrants and refugees is therefore promoted. Immediate expulsion of foreign nationals whose situation is irregular should take place. Consequently, extremist parties hold immigration responsible for the increasing costs of public security.

These same parties advocate a policy of national preference, which would give nationals privileged rights with regard to employment, social security and housing. The slogan 'our own people first' is used in the programmes of several extremist parties.

- **Religious identity-** While religion itself plays an important role in the programme of the extremist Islamic parties, the proliferation of extremist groups throughout the world is at the same time linked with a rise in religious intolerance. Muslims and Jews are a common target for the resurgent extreme right. Prejudices against Muslim communities (Islamophobia) and the denial of the Holocaust provide a common focus for the far right.

CASE STUDY- I

EUROPE:

There are many extreme right wing groups all over Europe, for example, there are known to be at least 40 such groups just in Spain. Their ideas are habitually supported by extreme right wing organizations in America who think that even though a lot of different marginal ethnic people now inhabit America, there is still a possibility that Europe may shun being populated by so many diverse groups. There have been racist murders and fire bombings by extreme right wing groups in both Sweden and in Germany, and some extreme right wing movements in Europe have 'played-down' their true racist viewpoint in order to expand further popular support.

Democracy means that the largely admired political party rules, and with the purpose of each person who can vote has one vote each. Democracy also says that people ought to be free to state their beliefs, and this means that people who believe that minority ethnic groups are "second-rate" in some way are permissible to form political parties, and to try to get votes for their viewpoint. It is imperative to pay attention to what people have to say about things akin to racism and extreme right wing ideas, and to make sure that democracy and the rights of minority ethnic people are protected.

There is a famous quote of a Holocaust survivor which said-

"First they arrested the Communists - but I was not a Communist, so I did nothing. Then they came for the Social Democrats - but I was not a Social Democrat, so I did nothing.

Then they arrested the trade unionists - and I did nothing because I was not one. And then they came for the Jews and then the Catholics, but I wasn't a Jew or a Catholic so

I did nothing.

At last they came and arrested me - and there was no one left to do anything about it."

The type of extremism that is growing in the European side is called as Cumulative Extremism. The live example of this type of extremism can be found in the English Defense League in the UK which expresses anti-Islamic views in the name of Right of Expression. The rise of such movement can be give to Islamphobia.

Concerns have emerged about the threat of right wing extremist violence. But although large-scale attacks like that experienced in Norway in 2011 are rare, they are not unheard of. In 2007, an activist and former election candidate for the British National Party (BNP) was imprisoned for stockpiling chemical explosives as a response to his fears about 'the evils of uncontrolled immigration' and a 'forthcoming race war'. In 2010 in Germany, the authorities confiscated several improvised explosive and incendiary devices from activists linked to neo-Nazi group Kameradschaft Aachener Land (KAL).

Nowadays, all the world had to face the challenges of new political entities for example extreme right parties entered into the European Parliament following the last 2014 EU elections, after having conquered national and local institutions. It is no more a matter of extremist and extra-parliamentary movements because they became institutionalized parties. Now how can this growing support for far rights movements develop? How can we frame their role in political institutions? What is going to happen if they ever put their ideas in practice? Are human rights, and which rights in particular, at risk if we have to comply with extreme rights parties ideas?

CASE STUDY-II

ABU SYYAF

Abu ("father of") and *sayyaf* ("sword smith") is one of the most violent Islamic separatist groups operating in the Philippines. Founded in Basilan Province in 1991, it is mainly located in the Sulu Archipelago in the provinces of Basilan, Sulu, and TawiTawi. This group promotes an independent Islamic state in western Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago. Driven by the ideology of an Iranian style Islamic theocracy governance, the group led its struggle, and has gained much support ever since. And for this, every form of violent means has been used. The history of its resistance and its cultural form of governance is necessary to understand the development of the organization. This insurgent group forms a part of moro native in the southern Philippines who are particularly Muslims.

In 1565, when the Spanish had attacked Philippines, a major part of Pilipino was subjected to conversion to Christianity. The Catholic Spanish converted large portions of the northern Philippines to Catholicism, but met resistance in the Muslim south. This was the start of an unending resilience from the moros. This continued even after Philippines gained its independence in 1946, where the Muslim south felt that the government was hostile towards them and the Catholics were more favored. The moros saw this threat against their culture and felt that they were deprived of basic facilities and evolving religious differences resulted in the in what they describe as their fight for an independent Islamic province in the Philippines.

The ASG was originally founded as al-Harakatul al-Islamiyyah (AHAI), also known as the Islamic Movement, in 1989 by Abdurajak Janjalan who was a war veteran of soviet-Afghanistan war. The group was considered to be another consisting of old M.N.L.F members initially wanted to fulfill their dream of an independent state. The members of

ASG who were supportive of their community and belief in their religion led an armed struggle against the Philippines government and has waffled back and forth between criminality and terrorism. The group has carried out bombings, kidnappings, assassinations, and extortion in its struggle for a separate Islamic state.

Although ASG has committed terrorist acts, its actions did not always reflect an Islamic ideological basis and appeared to be based on monetary gains.

Many unsuccessful dialogues between the government and the ASG have led to even more differences. Although ASG doesn't have the biggest army of rebels in the Philippines, its acts are the most destructive. The group has been designated as a terrorist organization by the United Nations, Australia, Canada, the UAE, the United Kingdom and the United States. However, for the south Philippines population, the members of this group are treated as soldiers fighting in an endless battle. In regions of Basilan, where the government has very little control, ASG along with other separatist groups are working for the welfare of the Muslim communities. They not only provide them with protection but also economic assistance. In this air of silence of lack of governance in the region, these separatist groups have taken hold of authority and claimed community welfare throughout. This has helped them gain more support from the community than other major separatist groups such as MNLF. The group has connections with Al-Qaeda, who has said to have funded its activities and other terror groups such as Jeemah Islamiya and MNLF. In August 2014, senior ASG members swore an oath to the ISIS showing its more constructive support to terror and its agenda.

It is important for us to understand now that where community support is maximum and lack of governance and government support is there, the rise of such organizations is inevitable. The group has not only showed that no cooperation between people and fighters is very important. Where the ASG tend to be local citizens and the military or other government representatives do not, trustworthiness is established amongst the people.

Can Pacifism be a tool to an end to this death toll or still more innocent people are to die?

CASE STUDY- III

FARC (*Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia*)

The **Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia—People's Army** is a guerilla organization involved in the continuing Colombian armed conflict since 1964. Supporters of Marxism, the rebels have anti-imperialism and agrarianism on their agenda and want to throw away the Colombian government and establish communist rule in Colombia. Being one of the oldest, largest and most capable extremist groups in Latin America, FARC has access to more grounds than any other group in the region. Gathering its support from rural areas of Colombia, FARC has been able to create its army of well trained guerrillas around 8000 in number and around 30000 fighters.

Started as an army of the communist party of Colombia after the Colombian military attacked rural Communist enclaves in the aftermath of *The Violence*, FARC has been able to propagate its agenda through violent means. Acting as conventional army against the Colombian government, FARC carried out bombings, murder, mortar attacks, kidnapping, extortion. Drug trade has been on their list ever since and has helped them to finance most of their activities. This however invited resistance from warlords and drug mafias who became a pain for them. In 1984, the FARC, historical change of events, FARC made a truce with the Colombian government, known as the Uribe Accords, and attempted to enter the political arena through a party called the Union Patriótica (UP). The Patriotic Union (Union Patriótica - UP) was small but gained momentum as the country shifted to greater local government control of funds and projects. In its first elections in 1986, the UP won several seats in Congress and its presidential candidate garnered over 300,000 votes, a record for a leftist candidate. In the country's first municipal elections in 1988, the party won 16 mayoral campaigns and another 247 city council posts. The reaction from those who opposed the party was swift. Paramilitary groups and drug traffickers, at times working closely with the Colombian government, assassinated UP members en masse. Over 3,000 were killed in a six-year period, and the FARC returned to the mountains, where it continued its meteoric rise. This increased the level of struggle even more with the FARC expanding its territory and activities all across Colombia. This expansion continued for a long phase and the group decided to follow the strategy of combining "All forms of struggle" against the Colombian government. This helped them gather more and more support from people in and around Colombia. This phase continued for long until the government realized the increasing power of the group and started the negotiations with the group. However, the negotiations

were unsuccessful overall. A major development was made when the government considered that there is an "armed conflict" in Colombia. This was the first time when FARC was politically recognized (although partially).

The reason for the success of this organization is the leadership and the collective motive for which it has been able to operate with ease in the region. The structure of this organization unlike others are so well as if they a legitimate government. However, with time, theorists believe that the FARC's focus has shifted more towards money. The weakening motive of this organization has been detrimental to it, it is of no doubt. With the soaring drug trade in Latin American region, FARC is engaged in a range of drug trafficking activities including taxation, cultivation, and distribution. This can be seen through thousands of guerrillas who have voluntarily demobilized. But leaders of the organization still claim that their sole aim is establishment of communism in Columbia. Drug trade is just a means to finance its activities.

FARC is still very much active in the region and pose great threat to the Colombian government. It is interesting however, to see how the newly elected party in Colombia has countered its actions through strong military approach. FARC has now to see whether Guerrilla tactics are going to work in its favor or the hindered peace talks in the past where their only option of escape.

CASE STUDY- IV

Asia

Asia leads the world in religious diversity. Southeast Asia is home to two of the most religiously diverse countries (Singapore and Vietnam) as well as two of the least diverse (Cambodia and Timor-Leste). Thailand, the Philippines and Indonesia are all on the less-diverse side too. Recent communal violence in Myanmar has made headlines, as have ongoing insurgencies in southern Thailand and the Philippines. Even Singapore, the world's most religiously diverse country and a bastion of stability, was faced with ethnic unrest during the Little India riot in December 2013. Vietnam has been long been criticized for its repression of religious groups where at least 85 hill tribe people of mostly Protestant faith had fled to Cambodia after a crackdown. Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Laos and Brunei have all had their problems.

Buddhist extremism is also attempting to spread its tentacles. Sri Lanka Buddhist Nationalist group Bodu Bala Sena (BBS), which is believed to be behind anti-Muslim violence in the country, has links to both the government and nationalist Buddhist Sangha

further afield. Earlier this year, it was noted that BBS was reaching out to a network of similarly minded Buddhist groups in the region. There is an increasing risk of a strong rise in violent Buddhist nationalism, particularly in Myanmar.

As the region undergoes rapid development, the role of religion is shifting. This will ultimately affect perceptions of identity, a change that will create anxiety in many young men and women and may see them gravitate toward extremism or other positions of intolerance. Coupled with labor migration, shifting gender roles and changes to traditional social structures, creates a crucible for potential conflict. Addressing these insecurities of identity in a changing society (where identity is less likely to be prescribed by religion) will act as a key to tackle the spread of communal violence and extremism. Far-sighted approaches are needed in order to build robust, tolerant and inclusive Southeast Asian societies.

THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL POLICIES AND UNHRC:

The questions we have to ask ourselves are: What is going to happen if these movements get what they want? What role can UNHRC play in this situation?

The UNHRC devoted many efforts towards the protection of people who are now being threatened by the far-right movements. Firstly, in 2011, the High Commissioner report found that violence against LGBT people remains common, and confirmed: "Seventy-six countries retain laws that are used to criminalize people on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity". Moreover, in 2014 another resolution called for a report from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on best practices for combating discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Secondly, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families is a treaty governing the human rights' protection of migrant workers and families. Signed in 1990, it entered into force only in 2003. The Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW) monitors implementation of the convention and the UNHRC should foster its cooperation with this body in order to better protect migrants' rights.

Thirdly, the international convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination is a third-generation human rights instrument, committing its members to the elimination of racial discrimination and the promotion of understanding among all races. Controversially, the Convention also requires its parties to outlaw hate speech and criminalize membership in racist organizations. This could certainly represent a model towards the elaboration of active policies against other forms of discrimination.

Additionally, in 2011, UNHRC shifted from protecting beliefs to protection of believers. It released a 52-paragraph statement on freedoms of opinion and expression. According to paragraph 48, "Prohibitions of displays of lack of respect for a religion or other belief system, including blasphemy laws, are incompatible with the Covenant. Thus, for instance, it would be impermissible for any such laws to discriminate in favour of or against one or certain religions or belief systems, or their adherents over another or religious believers over non-believers".

Finally, even though women's rights have always received a lot of attention by the UN, there is now a tendency to see their protection under a different light. The UNHRC in Geneva inched closer to asserting abortion as a human right in 2012 when it passed a resolution endorsing a controversial new set of guidelines on maternal mortality⁶. This way of conceiving women's rights is of particular interest as far right movements usually condemn women's freedoms.

FACING A NEW CHALLENGE

Given their recent entry in institutionalized politics, right wing movements are influencing more and more governments, legislation and public opinion. UNHRC has seemingly no real game in tackling this issue. However, its position and tools can play a crucial role in the framing and control of this social and political tendency created by far right movements.

Firstly, UNHRC, following the footsteps of its previous actions in the discrimination field, should address the implications of the spread of extreme right movements on freedom of expression, of belief and religion, of association and assembly and on women's rights, rights of racial and ethnic minorities. Secondly, delegates should devote themselves to a teamwork aimed at framing the current global political situation and promote campaigns in order to raise awareness on the ideas and consequences of far right movements' power. Ultimately, UNHRC should drive Governments and public opinion's attention to the bigger picture in order to prevent damaging consequences to minorities and human rights in general.

REFERENCE:

UNHRC actions

- <http://www.uscirf.gov/news-room/press-releases/3570-uscirf-welcomes-moveaway-from-defamation-of-religions-concept.html>
- <http://www.awid.org/Library/Human-Rights-Council-establishes-Working-Group-on-Discrimination-against-Women-in-Law-and-Practise>

Recommended readings

- Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families-
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cmw/cmw.htm>
- UN 2014- A/HRC/27/L/27/REV.1 -
<http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15110&LangID=E>

Extreme right movements

- http://www.theewc.org/uploads/content/archive/20060_Publication_Far_right_EN_LR.pdf
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