



"NON DUCOR, DUCO"

Manipal Model United Nations India- MMUN

January 17 - 20, 2020

MMXX

Background Guide
to the United
Nations Human
Rights Council
Committee

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Manipal Model United Nations

A LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Shivank Chandra
Secretary-General

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Director-General

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Sincerely,

Shivank Chandra
Secretary-General
Manipal Model United Nations India 2020

History of the Committee

MANDATE

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is mandated to promote and protect the enjoyment and full realization, by all people, of all rights established in the Charter of the United Nations and international human rights laws and treaties. OHCHR is guided in its work by the mandate provided by the General Assembly in resolution 48/141, the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent human rights instruments, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights, and the 2005

World Summit Outcome Document.

The mandate includes preventing human rights violations, securing respect for all human rights, promoting international cooperation to protect human rights, coordinating related activities throughout the United Nations, and strengthening and streamlining the United Nations system in the field of human rights. In addition to its mandated responsibilities, the Office leads efforts to integrate a human rights approach within all work carried out by United Nations agencies.

Achieving gender equality and empowerment of rural women and girls

1. LAND RIGHTS AND ACQUISITION –

Globally women own less land and have less secure rights over land than men. Women make up on average less than 20 per cent of the world's landholders, but make up an estimated 43 per cent of the agricultural labour force. Globally, more than 400 million women work in agriculture. In sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, 60 to 70 per cent of employed women work in agriculture. Despite women's crucial role in agriculture, food production, and land-based livelihood, there is no consistent national or global data on the full scope of women's land rights or access to land to enable them to monitor and enforce their rights. Land

household or assign ownership to the “head of household” most frequently defined as a man. Since women are typically not considered as land-owners or farmers, they are excluded from most support programmes which are necessary for effective use of land. The above occurs as people fail to mention the details of women while registering the paperwork for the land.

Women's land rights are essential for achieving substantive equality and eradication of many forms of discrimination against women and are a fundamental precondition to the realization of the rights to an adequate standard of living, including food and housing, health and life, work, cultural identity, and participation in civic and



political life.

Furthermore, the global goals set by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognize women's land rights as an explicit cross-cutting catalyst for ending poverty and achieving gender equality and women's empowerment. The New Urban Agenda also stressed the security of land tenure for women as key to their empowerment. Despite all these international support and commitments, women continue to be denied equal rights to access, use, inherit, control, and own land.

2. EDUCATION –

The right to education is a fundamental Human Right. Education is crucial for the development of women. Rural women's access to education and training can have a significant impact on their potential to access and benefit from income-generating opportunities and improve their overall well-being. Education, without any doubt, positively impacts the well-being of women in rural areas by enhancing their entrepreneurial skills and income.

Education among rural women also benefits the rural economy in the form of increased agricultural productivity.

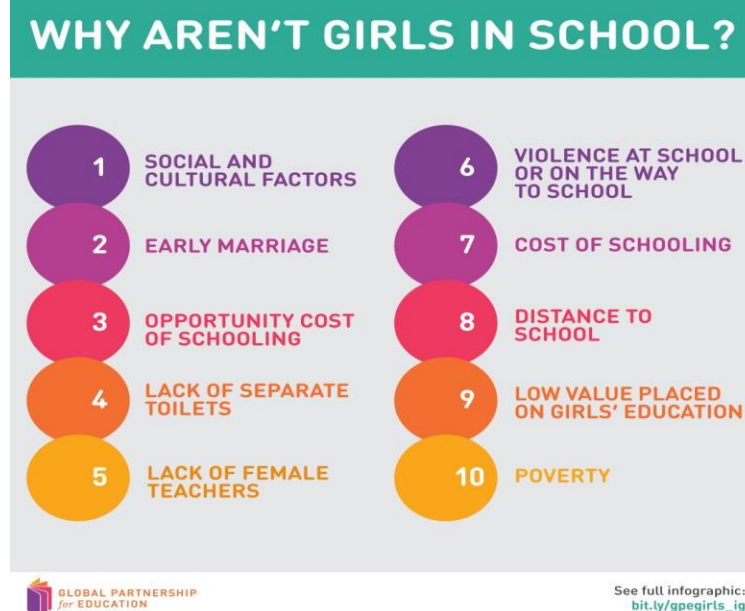
In developing countries, limited or no access to education for women is one of the barriers that hinder overcoming hunger and providing a healthy life for children. Education for All Global Monitoring Report in 2009 indicated that globally around 776 million adults, of which almost two-thirds were women. The majority the women mentioned above lived in South and West Asia, East Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

Female education in Rwanda –

Strengthening education is one of Rwanda's core objectives for rebuilding, reconciliation and development. One of Rwanda's most significant advantages is that multiple players, including Government, NGO's, International organizations are committed to improving the education system.

The breakthrough in terms of literacy rate among

women came when in 2003, the Government



abolished primary school fees leading to a rise in primary school attendance by 94%. In Rwanda, the literacy rate rose both for males and females. The 2012 Population and Housing Census in Rwanda observed that the percentage of persons with a secondary education level rose considerably from 6.1% in 2002 to 12.4% in 2012 among the entire population.

Still, literacy remained high for males than females. In 2012, males were more literate (72%) than females (65%). Both men and women residing in urban areas had higher literacy rates than those residing in rural areas. Higher levels of education see lower female participation.

3. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN –

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) represents all abuse directed against a person based on gender or sex. It includes domestic violence, rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, intimidation at work and school, human trafficking and forced prostitution. While anyone at any age can be a target, women and girls are the primary victims of sexual and gender-based violence.

Female genital mutilation (FGM) includes procedures that intentionally alter or cause injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. This harmful traditional practice is most common in the western, eastern, and north-eastern regions of Africa; in some countries in

Asia and the Middle East; and among migrant and refugee communities from these areas in Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States of America. FGM is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights of girls and women. The above violate human rights such as those to health and security, to mention a few.

CASE STUDY: Discrimination against women in Senegal

A. Sexual abuse of girls

A large percentage of the girls are subjected to sexual violence, particularly at school, which is often followed by early pregnancy. It is intolerable that at school, which is supposed to be an educational and protective environment, girls are being sexually abused, and often by their teachers. Over half, the raped victims who become pregnant are between ages 11 and 15. These girls often drop out of school and are subject to complete social exclusion and are confined to the home environment. Pregnancy ends the girl's life as a child. Aggressors are often a relative or someone close to the family. Only a small number of convictions are made for sexual abuse. Proceedings involving minors are not held in camera. This reinforces the stigmatization of female victims and increases their chances of victimization and exclusion. There are doubts about the transparency of proceedings and victims are not systematically provided access to qualified legal counsel.

B. Female genital mutilation

Putting an end to female genital mutilation has, in recent years, been a priority objective of the Government's policy on protecting women's human rights and combating gender-based violence. Despite efforts undertaken at the legal, institutional and political levels, and a slight decrease in the prevalence of the practice, 25 per cent of women aged 15 to 49 reported having been a victim of excision — a rate that rose to as much as 92 per cent in some localities. Thirteen per cent of girls under the age of 15 have been excised.

Eleven per cent of girls who are currently between the ages of 1 and 4 years and nearly twice as many of those between the ages of 5 and 9 (21 per cent) have been excised. Twenty-five per cent of girls currently between the ages of 10 and 14 have been excised.

Despite the adoption of a law prohibiting excision in 1999 and many prevention campaigns, the practice persists, especially in the most remote areas. Some leaders and marabouts have been pushing for the continuation of excision. Drastic measures must be taken to eradicate this form of violence. It is vital to encourage women to report this practice and to punish severely those responsible for it, even if the mutilation was carried out abroad.

QUESTIONS:

- 1) How to ensure equitable distribution of property between male and female children?
- 2) what steps can be taken to ensure more female participation in education?
- 3) how to ensure and protect the rights of women who undergo any form of abuse?

Human Rights abuses and violations against ethnic and religious minorities

DEFINITION

Refugee crisis can refer to difficulties and dangerous situations in the movements or reception of large groups of forcibly displaced persons. These could be either internally

displaced, refugees, asylum seekers or any other vast groups of migrants.

A crisis can occur for a group of refugees or an asylum country. According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, as of January 2019, 70.8 million (41.3 million internally, 25.9 million

registered (20.4 million under UNHCR, 5.5 million under UNRWA), 3.5 million asylum seekers) were displaced worldwide.

HISTORY

The origins of the so-called ‘Global Refugee Crisis’ can be traced back to World Wars, particularly the Second War (1939-45). Almost eight decades after the beginning of the Second World War, an average of 44,400 people are being forced to flee from their homes every day in 2017. “Today 1 out of every 110 people in the world is displaced”, the report says. A brief reading of history will divulge the evolution of the global refugee crisis.

Second World War and Post-war Years

Forced displacement, mass evacuation, deportation of people, expulsion and subsequent genocides, ethnic cleansing, human rights violations and targeted civilian killings were the reasons behind the displacement of around 40 million people in Europe.

As the aftermath of General plan Ost (GPO) in Poland, the Nazis plan for the genocide and ethnic cleansing resulted in millions of Poles expelled. In the early 40s, estimates say that Soviets deported around 1.5 million Poles in four mass waves. The Soviet Union also deported the Volga Germans, Lithuanians, Estonians, Latvians, Ingrian Finns, Crimean Tatars, Kalmyks, Chechens, Ingush, Balkars, Karachays, and Meskhetian Turks (1940-44). Some examples in Europe include Serbian genocide, Kosovo & Metohija ethnic cleansing, Istrian-Dalmatian exodus, Continuation War, Lapland War and massacres in Backa (ethnic cleansing of Hungarians).

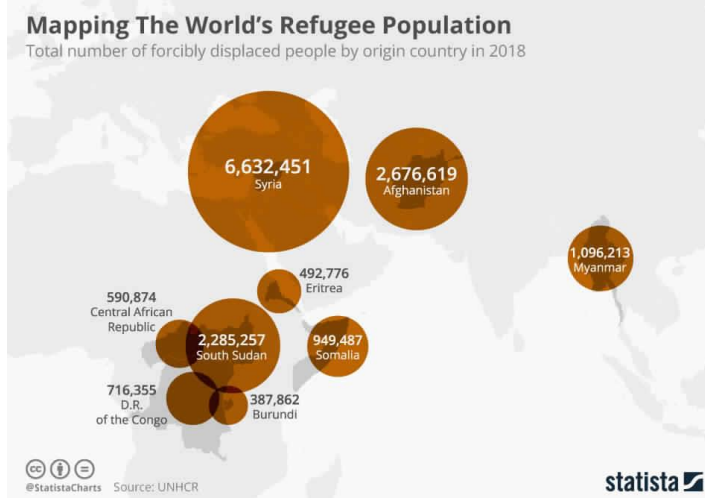
Even though the World War ended in 1945, the conflicts and violations continued, which resulted in more displacement of people. These conflicts

displaced 1 million Russians, Ukrainians and Belarusians (1948-50) and 13 million Germans displaced from the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia and Poland (1945-50). During the same period, an estimated 11.3 million forced labourers were displaced from European countries to Germany. A decade later in Hungary, 200,000 Hungarians fled to Austria and Yugoslavia when the Soviet army suppressed the Hungarian Uprising in 1956.

The independence of India which coincided with the partition of the “Raj” into two nations displaced 14 million Indians and Pakistanis in 1947.

The formation of a Jewish state after a bloodshed war in Palestine led to an exodus of 750,000 people to nearby West Bank, Gaza Strip, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon between 1948 and 1950. The Palestinian issue is not yet solved and a separate agency, UNRWA, was set up to aid and assist them. West Asia, one of the most politically unstable regions in the world where every form of violations and violence exists now. The Palestinian exodus and the ensuing Arab- Israel conflicts and other civil conflicts cause unrest in the West Asian region. During the Chinese Cultural Revolution, 385,000 political dissidents took flight from China to Hong Kong in the early 50s.

In 1954-56 periods, Roman Catholics, nearly 1 million, went to South of Vietnam following the formation of the Communist Government in North Vietnam. The years between 1945 and 1960, the disarticulations above occurred around the world.



Decolonization, Cold War and post- Cold War period

The latter half of the 20th century began with decolonization movements in Asia and Africa, which resulted in the displacement of people. The Algerian War of Independence (1960), Belgian-supported Hutu coup d'état in Rwanda (early 60s), Biafran War in Nigeria (1967), Somali invasion of Ethiopia (1977-79), Ethiopian

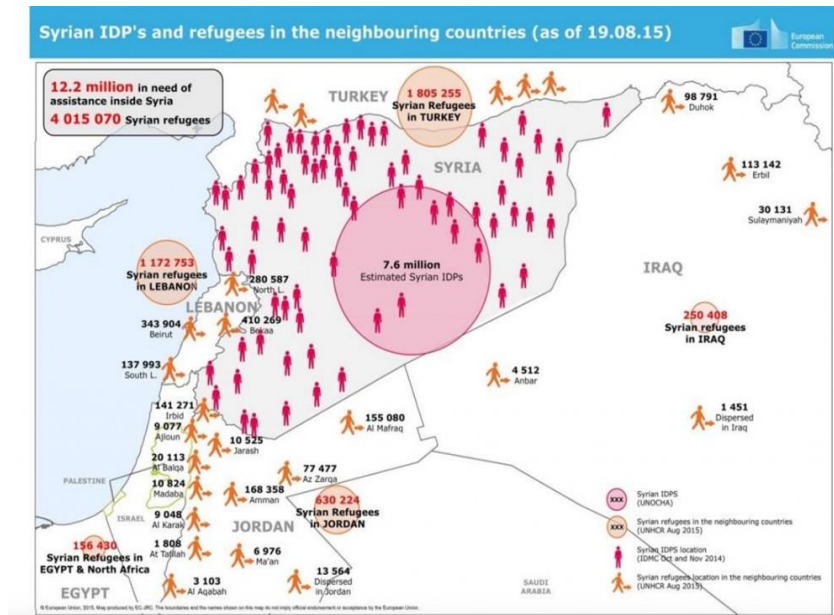
invasion of Eritrea (1978-84), the rebellion against white nationalist rule in Rhodesia (1979), Civil War in Mozambique (1976-92) and the Rwandan genocide (1994) made the continent a perpetually volatile with massacres, targeted civilian killings, militant attacks, genocides and ethnic conflicts. These violent and bloodshed conflicts often displaced people continuously from one place to other. The eight-year period between 1981 and 1989 was of Civil Wars in Central America, which displaced 2 million people from Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala to Honduras, Belize Costa Rica and Mexico. South-East Asia has also experienced civil wars and conflicts. Principal among them was the Vietnam War, which displaced 2.7 million Vietnamese from the South to North who were fighting the war (1965-72). Following this 800,000 Vietnamese from Vietnam went to Hong Kong, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia in the post-war decades (1975-95). The role of the U.S in Vietnam was criticized globally. Civil Wars in Laos (1976) and Cambodia (1976-85) and the Burmese expulsion of Rohingyas from 1978 (still an issue in Arakan regions) were other episodes of massive displacements in the sub-region.

- Bangladesh War of Independence in 1971, liberation from Pakistan with the help of India, thousands of people from the then East Bengal fled to India (approximately 10 million). The Six Days War or the Arab-Israeli war in 1967 further created 300,000 Palestinian refugees who find refuge in nearby countries. The Black September (1970) conflict in Jordan and the Gulf War (1991) became the reasons for other refugee crises in West Asia.

Iran- Iraq war in the 1980s displaced 600,000 people from Iraq to Iran, and the Iraqi suppression of rebel movement displaced 1.82 million, including Iraqis and Kurds, in 1991. After Korea and Vietnam, Afghanistan was the arena for Cold War-proxy wars.

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan created one of the biggest refugee crises in history. The mayhem that began in 1979 displaced 6.3 million people so far. The century started with a decline in the global displacement levels in the early 2000s. However, the U.S invasion of Iraq in 2003, called

Operation Iraqi freedom, shattered the dream of perpetual peace and end of forced displacement disasters. The massive displacement of 1.9 million Iraqis in the Second Persian Gulf War (2003-11) and the non-state actors led violence which followed the war created an atmosphere of terror in Iraq. The political game of U.S, “global war on terror”, and the interventions in domestic politics of many countries in the region gave rise



to militant activities and violence. The region became a battleground for state and non-state actors to fight. The instability of the region made civilian life dreadful and terrible.

At present, there are 3.3 million Iraqis displaced. Syria was an asylum for many of the refugees from Palestine, Iraq and other countries. It was the largest refugee-hosting country in the first decade of this century. The clouds of misery appeared in the sky of Syria. The Arab Spring made a significant influence on Syrians. The peaceful demonstration against the regime was the beginning of the biggest refugee crisis since the Second World War. “After war erupted in March 2011, it took two years for 1 million people to be displaced. Another million were displaced within six months. Now seven years on, more than half of the pre-war population has been internally displaced or forced to seek safety in neighbouring countries. That is more than 11 million people on the run, including some 6.3 million people who have escaped across the

borders” (Mercy Corps). “As of the end of 2017, there were 12.6 million forcibly displaced Syrians, comprising around 6.3 million refugees, 146,700 asylum-seekers, and 6.2 million IDPs”, says the UNHCR.

In South America, especially in Colombia, the fight between the rebel forces and the Government made the country the second-largest displaced population with 7.9 million victims of conflict. The military regime’s persecution of ethnic minorities, Rohingya, in Myanmar which according to UN the textbook example of “ethnic cleansing”, led to a flow of refugees to nearby countries, Bangladesh in particular. The Rohingya population is stateless people because of the citizenship law of Myanmar, which denies the right to them. Over 2017, 655,500 arrived in Bangladesh, mainly concentrated in 100 days from the end of August. The act of repression by the military in Myanmar invited worldwide condemnation from other countries. African countries are simultaneously countries of origin for refugees and host other refugees. The Democratic Republic of Congo has the third-largest displacement situation in the world with 5.1 million Congolese forcibly displaced. The refugees of 2011 Libyan Civil War fled to neighbouring countries and Europe via

Mediterranean (the ‘boat people’). The flow of Somali refugees to Kenya due to domestic violence and poverty is another issue in Africa. Civil war that broke out in South Sudan in 2013 has already displaced more than 4.4 million people. According to UNHCR, “some 4.8 million Afghans remained forcibly displaced in 2017 and other large displaced populations at the end of 2017 included people from South Sudan (4.4 million), Iraq (3.3 million), Somalia (3.2 million), Sudan (2.7 million), Yemen (2.1 million), Nigeria (2.0 million), and Ukraine (2.0 million).”

QUESTIONS:

- 1) what rights should refugees be entitled to, and what rights should the hosting nation be entitled to?
- 2) under what circumstances should refugees be sent back, if they are to be returned.
- 3) how to ensure execution of any resolution

Suggestions for Further Research

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