



SOCHUM

Study Guide

Committee: Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian
Committee(Sochum)

Topic: Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Related
Intolerance

Agenda: Xenophobia and Racial Discrimination in the 21st Century.

Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

It is our honour and privilege to welcome you all to the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee in the 2022 edition of the BD Somani Model United Nation conference. We are certain that every single one of you will be able to excel in this committee and develop as individuals and delegates, regardless of whether you have experience with MUN or this is your maiden experience. From dealing with social and humanitarian issues to addressing cultural disparities present in the world, we are confident that taking part in SOCHUM at this year's BDMUN will give you new interpersonal, research, and leadership abilities which will not only support you as delegates but also give you easily transferable life skills for the future.

You will not only broaden your perspective and dive into one of the most important humanitarian crises of our day at this MUN, but also develop and demonstrate your research, communication, teamwork, and leadership abilities there. MUN provides a venue for students to collaborate and make a difference. You will probably encounter a number of difficulties in committee, but as a delegate, you must demonstrate the perseverance and problem-solving abilities required by MUN. Newfound allegiances, clashes of foreign policy, and crisis at the committee will ensure that this MUN is an experience for you like no other before.

We strongly advise you to carefully go over the study guide and use the pertinent information offered there to jump-start and direct your research. The executive board, however, also advises you to simply take it as a reference point and carry out independent research to expedite the process and potentially lead you to discover intriguing facts about your nation and other nations. The best delegates, after all, are only able to perform at that level thanks to their impeccable preparation. We also encourage everyone to take part since MUN is only as enjoyable as you make it for yourself.

MUN has unquestionably occupied a significant portion of our life, assisting us in connecting with people, developing skills, and learning a lot about ourselves that we were unconscious of. The executive board is thrilled to have the chance to assist you on your MUN voyage, and we are eager to meet each and every one of you in committee!

Your Executive Board,

Rushil Patni and Niya Jain

Introduction to the Agenda

SOCHUM in BDSIS MUN 2022 aims to tackle the world's issues with xenophobia and racial discrimination, which has been a prominent issue in the world for a long time. The fear and dislike of strangers, foreigners, or anything else unfamiliar or foreign is characterized as xenophobia. Xenophobia refers to the fear of refugees, immigrants from other nations, and other foreign people or objects, as well as the resultant marginalisation of these groups.

Xenophobia, often known as the phobia of foreigners, is a general name that can be used to describe any fear of a person who is different from oneself. In many cases, animosity toward strangers is a response to fear. Typically, it entails the notion that an individual or a group are at odds with another individual or group due to differences. Although there are significant differences between xenophobia and other types of prejudice, such as racism and homophobia, there is occasionally overlapping. Xenophobia often stems from the idea that individuals of the outgroup are alien to the ingroup society, whereas racism, homophobia, and other types of prejudice that are based on particular qualities. The validity of xenophobia as a diagnosable mental disease is still up for dispute.

The definition of racial discrimination set by the UN in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination is “any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life” (<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/cerd.pdf>). However, racism still exists in the modern day, as can be seen in many cases such as islamophobia, discrimination against black people, and other such ideologies.

Racial and ethnic discrimination, as well as xenophobia and associated intolerance, take place on a regular basis, impeding growth for millions of citizens worldwide. The United Nations has prioritised the eradication of racism since the introduction of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965). Much has been achieved, yet much remains to be done.

History of the Problem

Over the last few years, it has been impossible to ignore the steady resurgence of xenophobia. Xenophobia refers to the condition of disliking or fearing individuals or groups considered to be foreign this could be 'groups' consisting of: an entire continent, family of immigrants possibly even migrants from another part of the country. Xenophobia most often takes an ethnic form where its most extreme and widespread forms may reflect the paranoid state of those in power, as it did with Hitler and Stalin. Xenophobic attitudes and movements, increasingly takes the form of acts of violence in multiple countries.

Prejudices are often aggravated by a rise of unemployment which almost all countries are facing, these are supported by statements of economic nature like, foreign workers are said to be taking jobs which could go to nationals, of a social nature like foreign workers are accused of enjoying social benefits and taking housing which could be allocated to nationals, of a moral nature foreign like workers are said to be the reason for increased violence and delinquency; and of an educational nature like the children of foreign workers are accused of slowing the progress of the classes they attend. The recent pandemic has also led to an increase in acts and displays of Sinophobia and a general increase in xenophobia.

Current Situation

Implications of COVID 19 - By utilising anti-Chinese discourse, politicians and senior government officials have in certain cases either directly or indirectly fostered hate crimes, bigotry, or xenophobia. Several political parties and groups have used the Covid-19 disaster to enhance anti-immigrant, white supremacist, ultra-nationalist, anti-semitic, and xenophobic conspiracy theories that demonise refugees, foreign people. Asians and individuals of Asian origin have been the subject of disparaging terminology in media coverage, remarks by officials, and on social networking sites, where hate speech relating to Covid-19 seems to have spread widely. The usage of the terms "Chinese virus" by US President Donald Trump and "Wuhan virus" by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo may have increased the amount of hateful speech in the US. Although Trump withdrew his use of the word and posted a tweet in favour of "our Asian-American community," he has not mandated any particular federal action to safeguard Asians and individuals of Asian origin.

Past UN Resolutions

12th november 2021 “Third Committee Approves 10 Drafts on Refugees, Indigenous Peoples, Women Migrant Workers as Delegates Denounce Attempts to Exploit Crises for Political Gain. Russian Federation, United States Trade Barbs over Text on Trafficking in Persons Presented by Belarus. In an intensive stretch of action, the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian, Cultural) sent 10 draft resolutions to the General Assembly today, as delegates engaged in lengthy dialogue over the rights of migrants, indigenous peoples, internally displaced persons, ethnic minorities and efforts to combat the glorification of Nazism. Four draft resolutions passed by the Committee focused on aspects of migration or the global movement of peoples, more broadly. Three of them — on violence against women migrant workers, on internally displaced persons and on improving coordination of efforts against human trafficking — were approved by consensus.”

15th november 2021 “The Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian, Cultural) approved 13 draft resolutions today amid heated discussions on migrants and the elimination of racism in the context of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. In one of two recorded votes today, the Committee approved a draft resolution on the global call to eliminate racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia and on the follow-up to the 2001 Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, which mark their twentieth anniversary this year. Passed by a recorded vote of 125 in favour to 17 against, with 35 abstentions, the text would have the Assembly call on States that have not done so to accede to and/or ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination.”

17th november 2021 “Third Committee Approves 6 Drafts on Human Rights in Iran, Syria, Ukraine amid Separate Calls to Abolish Country-Specific Texts, Uphold Rule of Law. ‘We Are Fighting for Justice,’ Says Myanmar’s Representative in Appeal for Global Support Following February Coup. The Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) approved six draft resolutions today, five of which focused on country-specific situations, while the last drew attention to the precarious conditions of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa. A draft resolution on human rights conditions in Myanmar approved by consensus would have the Assembly call on the country’s security and armed forces to respect people’s democratic aspirations, to allow the democratic transition, fully respect the rule of law and end the state of emergency declared on 1 February.”

Questions Committee Should Answer

- What measures can the international community take to ensure that the problems of xenophobia and racism are mitigated?
 - How can conflicts of interest on the bases of religion and culture be resolved via peaceful means?
 - How can countries be held accountable for any violations of human rights under the UDHR?
 - What efforts and pressure from the international community can help resolve issues in areas of concern?
 - What are the main factors increasing racism and xenophobia against minority communities in different nations?
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Country Positions and Blocs

Xenophobia and racism in South Africa - UN condemns xenophobic violence and racial discrimination against all foreign nationals by GENEVA (15 July 2022), current experts condemn the reports of escalating violence against foreign nationals that are in South Africa and call for accountability against xenophobia, racism and hate speech that were faced by the refugees, migrants, asylum seekers as well as citizens perceived as foreign throughout the country. Recent reports even indicate that discrimination and xenophobic violence have increased, including under the banner of “Operation Dudula”- a pro South African patriotic organisation- originally a social media campaign that later became an umbrella for mobilisation of vigilante violence, arson targeting migrant-owned homes and businesses, violent protests, and even extreme crimes such as the murder of foreign nationals.

Xenophobia and racism in USA - xenophobia has surged dramatically since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, hate crimes against Asian Americans in major U.S. cities, there have been about 3,800 firsthand reports of anti-Asian hate in the U.S. Actual numbers are assumed to be even higher, as many hate crimes often go unreported, due multiple factors ranging from cultural and language barriers to a lack of trust in law enforcement which can also be due to demonstrated racism. Racial discrimination is a severe human rights problem in the United States that intersects with all of the domestic issues of USA from the over-incarceration of Black and Latin people fueled by the

disproportionately harsh sentences handed out for all categories of crime, including violent offenses, to prosecution and bail policies that exist to coerce people into guilty pleas, to the surveillance of specific ethnic groups or minority groups, like Muslims or political activists from other ethnic or religious minorities, to immigration policies that use immigrants as scapegoats in crimes, or subject refugees to disparate treatment based on their ethnicity or religion or race .

Xenophobia and racism in china - China has been accused of committing crimes against humanity and genocide against the Uyghur muslims population and other mainly-Muslim ethnic groups in Xinjiang, the north-western region. Multiple police files obtained by the BBC in 2022 revealed details of China's use of these 'learning' camps and have described the routine employment of armed officers and an existence of a shoot-to-kill policy for anyone trying to escape the camp. The leading human rights groups Human Rights Watch and Amnesty have even published reports that accuse China of committing crimes against humanity. In the late summer of 2018, the United Nations had revealed that at least one million Uighurs had been unlawfully detained in these "counter-extremism centres" in Xinjiang province, China, this thrust the treatment of the once mostly obscured Muslim ethnic group into the spotlight. Furthermore the report also revealed that two million Uyghurs had been "forced into these so-called re-education camps for political and cultural indoctrination" beginning in the middle of 2017. The detentions, forcible training as well as alleged abuses inside enclosed government facilities were later described by the United States and many international human rights groups as a form of genocide constituting "crimes against humanity.

Xenophobia and racism in russia - The course of Russian development over the past decade has clearly shown that both internal environment and foreign policy domain have expressed staggering signs of radicalization and growing division between "us" - being ethnic Russians- and "them" -being non-Russian citizens and foreigners-. Russian government does not have strict laws against racism or xenophobia. Since the mid-1990s, scholars, human rights groups, media and the government agencies in the Russian Federation have recorded a great increase of group and individual acts of violence, destruction, or intimidation targeting certain ethnic and religious groups "others." Russia has witnessed, in recent years, skinhead riots and street raids by thugs; desecration of Jewish cemeteries; torchlight marches and attacks on other ethnic groups places of worship, mosques and synagogues; beatings and murders of foreign residents as well as diplomats; and intimidation of Chinese traders. Xenophobia in russian politics is a major issue however one must also consider the recent increase in xenophobia against Russia caused by the recent invasion of Russia into Ukraine. Social media platforms in this case have served as means to amplify hate, rampant boycotts and kinds of racial and social divides that are often underlined by political

self-posturing. This way of attacking every individual of a certain nationality can be seen by Eric Swalwell's suggestion that all Russian students should be 'kicked out' of US universities.

Research Guidance

Research is the most important part to any MUN - forming the basis of all of your speeches and arguments. Make sure the research conducted is using credible sources and the information is varied and detailed. Some credible sources that can be used for research include:

- Reuters, Amnesty International, Bloomberg
 - State Operated News Agencies (more for your own country)
 - UN Reports and Articles
 - Reports from the official websites of organisations - IMF Website, etc.
 - Official governmental websites and reports.
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Position Papers

Position papers are a vital part of MUN. They help kick start your research and let not only you but also the directors gain a clear understanding of your country's stance and alignment on the issue. Here are some guidelines to adhere to while writing your paper:

- Please mention the country name, committee name, agenda, and your name in 4 consequent lines in this very order.
- Make sure your position paper is no more than 800 words. We will stop reading at 800.
- Font: Times New Roman, font size: 12.
- Ensure that you include citations at the end of the paper. In text citations are not required.
- Name the file as follows: FirstnameLastname_SOCHUM_Countryname. Eg:
RushilPatni_SOCHUM_Panama.
- Send the paper as a PDF to

HMUN Procedure

Concluding Remarks

At BD MUN 2022 the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee will be discussing issues stemming from racism and xenophobia seen in countries around the world. We will discuss in committees how prevalent the issues stemming from xenophobia and racism and their impact on individuals. The committee will explore potential solutions for issues arising from xenophobia and racism, in advisory terms. Our committee will review what actions can be taken to stop and prevent discrimination amongst people due to their ethnic groups religion or skin color. Delegates please feel free to reach out to us chairs if you have any doubts on the topic in committee or any doubts about formal procedure. Do properly research the stance of your countries and past actions of your countries and try to come up with creative solutions to issues and what your country can be challenged for, do not plagiarise any of your work. All the best and hope you all reach your full potential in committee.

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