



UNHRC

Study Guide

Committee: United Nations Human Rights Council
(UNHRC)

Food Security In Refugee Camps

Letter from the chair:

Dear distinguished delegates,

It is our distinct pleasure to welcome you to the United Nations Human Rights Council at BDMUN 2022. To begin with, our names are Divyansh Bindal and Yashvi Agrawal, and we will be chairing the UN Human Rights Council. We are both looking forward to engaging debate sessions throughout the duration of the conference. Prepare yourself for two days of intense yet constructive discussion, mind-numbing crises, and an incredible committee experience. This committee is, by definition, fast-paced, solution-oriented, and crisis-overloaded.

A peaceful uprising against Syria's ruler ten years ago escalated into a full-fledged civil war. The battle has killed 500,000 people, destroyed cities, and drawn in other countries. There has been a grave effect on Human rights and UNHRC aims to address and find solutions to such problems.

We understand that MUN may be daunting for some of you. Because of the competitive nature of this conference, it is essential that you not only read the study guide and research your country's foreign policy, but also go above and beyond what is required of you. Ensure that you are well researched, and confident in order to make the most out of the committee. For first timer delegates, our advice is to speak as much as possible and participate in the committee. You can always approach the DAIS in case you have any queries.

We encourage each of you to put your best foot forward and have a good time throughout the conference.

- Yours sincerely,
Divyansh Bindal & Yashvi Agrawal Chairs of UNHRC
BDMUN 2022

Introduction to the committee:

The Human Rights Council was formed in 2006 by UN General Assembly Resolution 60/251, following the United Nations Human Rights Commission, which was established in 1946. In order to advance and defend human rights worldwide, the Human Rights Council is required to examine "situations of violations of human rights, including gross and systematic violations, and make recommendations thereon."¹

¹ General Assembly resolution 60/251, Human Rights Council, A/RES/60/251 (3 April 2006), available from <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N05/502/66/PDF/N0550266.pdf?OpenElement>.

The Council is intended to act as a platform for interstate discussion. The Council may pass resolutions requiring a state or states to carry out certain measures or support specific values as well as formulating procedures for looking into concerning issues.²

The Human Rights Council has a number of subsidiary organizations that keep an eye on the state of human rights all around the world, despite the fact that its judgments are not legally enforceable. The committee is also tasked with keeping an eye out for particular cases of human rights abuses, putting together a Universal Periodic Review of the human rights situations for all United Nations members, and submitting a list of recommendations to those nations that, if accepted by the state, are expected to be implemented. The Human Rights Council works toward achieving its objective of safeguarding and advancing Human Rights across the globe via a variety of methods, including those mentioned above, as well as advisory committees and other working groups.

According to its founding charter, the UNHRC was mandated to conduct a review of its operations in 2011. The Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group On The Review Of The Work And Functioning Of The Human Rights Council is the outcome of this review. Unfortunately, the response from the involved nations wasn't quite positive. Many nations expressed disappointment about the vagueness of some sections, while others believed the issues covered went beyond what had been previously agreed upon.³

Sustainable Development Goals:

Human rights are fundamental to the social, environmental, and economic aspects of sustainable development and are necessary to ensure that no one is left behind. This is reflected in the 2030 Agenda's transformational vision, which is to "realize the human rights of everyone" and is firmly based on human rights norms and principles, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights treaties.

With a commitment to "leave no one behind" and "reach those furthest behind first," two specific goals (SDG 5 on gender equality and SDG 10 on inequalities within and between countries), as well as a cross-cutting commitment to data disaggregation, the 2030 Agenda places the principles of equality and non-discrimination at its core.⁴

² International Justice Resource Center. *Human Rights Council*. <https://ijrcenter.org/un-human-rights-council/>.

³ United Nations General Assembly Human Rights Council, *Report of the open-ended intergovernmental working group on the review of the work and functioning of the Human Rights Council*. A/GRC/WG.8/2/1. (4 May 2011), available from <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G11/130/43/PDF/G1113043.pdf?OpenElement>.

⁴ "OHCHR and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." *OHCHR*, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/sdgs>. Accessed 18 September 2022.

Introduction to the topic:

At least 580,000 people have died since the armed war in Syria between the government and rebel factions started in 2011. Between 1 March 2011 and 31 March 2021, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights estimates that 306,887 civilians will have died in Syria. Since 2011, more than 130,000 arbitrary detentions, abductions, or disappearances have been documented by the UN Human Rights Council-mandated Commission of Inquiry (CoI) on Syria, the majority of which may be attributed to the Syrian government. There have been over 13 million displaced people, including 6.7 million Syrian refugees. Twelve million Syrians still need access to food, and 14.6 million more still require humanitarian aid.⁵

Background information:

Syria's refugee crisis is still the biggest refugee crisis in the world after ten years. Since 2011, more than 6.8 million Syrians have been compelled to escape their nation, while another 6.9 million people are still displaced inside their own country. The bulk, or 5.2 million refugees, have taken up residence in neighboring nations, mostly in Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan. More than 620,000 Syrian refugees are being hosted in Germany, the largest non-neighboring host country.

The harsh government crackdown on public protests in favor of a group of adolescents who were detained for anti-government graffiti in the southern town of Daraa in March 2011 is what led to the refugee crisis in Syria. The arrests provoked widespread protests in Syria that the government security forces ruthlessly put an end to. Rapid conflict escalation led to a civil war that uprooted millions of Syrian families from their homes. In spite of the passage of eleven years, there are still more than 13.4 million people in need of humanitarian aid, including 5.9 million who have an urgent need. The number of Syrian refugees has hardly decreased.

This winter, the country's northwest region has been battered by torrential rains, strong winds, and floods that have destroyed tents and food supplies and rendered tens of thousands of displaced Syrian families homeless during the coldest months. At least 25,000 tents have been destroyed, and more than 140,000 individuals have been impacted.

An additional million people were forced to leave their homes as a result of violent outbreaks in Idlib in December 2019 and February 2020. Around 80 percent of those who have escaped Idlib and its environs are women and children.

⁵“Syria.” *Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect*, 1 September 2022, <https://www.globalr2p.org/countries/syria/>. Accessed 18 September 2022.

More than 130 nations have taken in Syrian refugees, although the majority of them now reside in the region's surrounding nations, including Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt. Most people live in Turkey, where there are 3.6 million people.

Only about 5% of refugees who have fled to neighboring countries reside in refugee camps; the majority live in rural and urban areas. However, success or stability are not always associated with residing outside of refugee camps. More than 70% of Syrian refugees live in poverty, with little options for basic services, education, or employment, and little hope of ever going back.

The COVID-19 outbreak has made poverty and unemployment among the greatest problems Syrian refugees face even worse. More than 70% of Syrian refugees are considered to be living in poverty, and according to a World Bank and UNHCR report, the pandemic may have contributed to the poverty of an additional one million Syrian refugees as well as 4.4 million members of their host communities in Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq. Millions of people have lost their jobs and are struggling to satisfy their basic requirements, such as getting access to clean water, energy, food, and medicine, as well as paying their rent. The slump in the economy has also made children more vulnerable to many dangers to their personal safety, including child labour, gender-based abuse, child marriage, and other types of exploitation.

Children in Syria have suffered greatly from the turmoil for the past ten years. They have experienced violent and indiscriminate attacks, losing all of their previous familiarity along with their loved ones, homes, goods, and homes. They have only ever known the crisis as they have grown up. Over a third of the Syrian refugees in the area today—roughly 47 percent—are under the age of 18 and lack access to schooling.

Daily violations of children's rights occur during the crisis. Child labour cases in Lebanon have nearly doubled in only one year as more and more Syrian children are becoming victims of it.

Important Countries for committee:

- USA
- Syria
- Canada
- Australia
- UK
- Belgium
- Central African Republic
- China
- France
- Russia
- Germany
- Turkey

- Saudi Arabia
- Qatar
- Jordan
- Iran
- Iraq
- DPRK

Bibliography:

General Assembly resolution 60/251, Human Rights Council, A/RES/60/251 (3 April 2006), available from <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N05/502/66/PDF/N0550266.pdf?OpenElement>.

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United Nations General Assembly Human Rights Council, *Report of the open-ended intergovernmental working group on the review of the work and functioning of the Human Rights Council*. A/GRC/WG.8/2/1. (4 May 2011), available from <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G11/130/43/PDF/G1113043.pdf?OpenElement>.

HMUN procedure:

This study guide and all material in it is only for reference purposes for delegates and affiliates of BDMUN 2022

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