



**UoBDMUN**

PER AD ARDUA ALTA

**20  
25**



Background guide  
European Union  
UoBDMUN - 202

## Welcome letter

### Esteemed Delegates,

We extend our warmest greetings from the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC). It is with great excitement that we, Tejal and Yazan, welcome you to this year's committee.

Together, we will explore the agenda Protecting the Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Host Countries—a vital topic that calls for innovative solutions and meaningful collaboration.

Being university students, our shared passion for Model UN since school stems from the transformative role it has played in our own journeys. Both of us bring years of Model UN experience, which has shaped our approach to leadership and diplomacy. This conference is not just a platform for debate but an opportunity for all of us to learn from one another and grow as individuals. Though being in the UNHRC may be daunting, our goal is to make this experience as rewarding as possible, regardless of your experience, by ensuring that each of you feels welcomed and valued. As your chairs, we are committed to creating a supportive and inclusive environment where every delegate can express their ideas confidently. We believe that strong debates thrive in a collaborative setting. With this in mind, we encourage you to take risks, engage actively, and embrace the spirit of diplomacy. The skills you develop here will extend far beyond this conference, preparing you to tackle real-world challenges with confidence and empathy. As we approach the conference, here are a few reminders:

- Thorough research is key to representing your country's stance effectively.
- Familiarity with the Rules of Procedure will help ensure smooth debates.
- Most importantly, approach this experience with an open mind and a willingness to learn.

We are here to guide and support you during our committee sessions, and we look forward to witnessing the dedication, creativity, and passion you will bring to the committee. This, along with our own fun, will make this conference an unforgettable and impactful experience for everyone involved!

Best regards,

Tejal Gupta & Yazan El Asala

## **Committee Introduction**

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), established in 2006, serves as the principal intergovernmental body within the UN system responsible for promoting and protecting human rights globally. Comprising 47 Member States elected by the General Assembly, the Council addresses violations and works to prevent human rights abuses through dialogue, capacity-building, and technical assistance. It convenes regular sessions in Geneva, where thematic and country-specific human rights issues are examined. The UNHRC's mandate includes the Universal Periodic Review, assessing human rights situations in all UN Member States, and the deployment of Special Procedures—-independent experts tasked with reporting and advising on human rights from thematic or country-specific perspectives. Through these mechanisms, the Council endeavors to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights worldwide, addressing situations of concern and making recommendations for their improvement.

## Topic Introduction

As of 2025, the global displacement crisis has reached unprecedented levels, with over 43 million individuals forcibly displaced due to conflict, persecution, and human rights violations. Among them, refugees and asylum seekers face significant challenges in host countries, including limited access to basic services, discrimination, and legal uncertainties. Host nations, while often demonstrating remarkable solidarity, encounter economic and social pressures in accommodating displaced populations.

The protection of refugees' rights is enshrined in international instruments such as the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, which outline the obligations of states to safeguard the well-being of refugees and asylum seekers. Despite these frameworks, gaps persist in their implementation, leading to vulnerabilities among displaced individuals. Recent geopolitical developments, including conflicts in regions like Syria and Venezuela, have exacerbated displacement, underscoring the urgency for comprehensive strategies to protect the rights of refugees and asylum seekers.

The UNHRC plays a pivotal role in monitoring and advocating for the rights of these populations, striving to ensure that host countries uphold their international obligations while addressing the legitimate concerns of their own citizens.

## Topic History

The plight of refugees has been a persistent issue throughout history, with significant international attention following World War II. The establishment of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in 1950 marked a concerted effort to address refugee crises, leading to the adoption of the 1951 Refugee Convention, which set the legal framework for refugee protection.

Over the decades, various conflicts and political upheavals have resulted in mass displacements, including the Syrian civil war, which has produced over 14 million displaced persons since 2011, making it one of the largest refugee crises in history. Similarly, the Venezuelan crisis has led to over 6 million refugees and migrants fleeing the country due to political and economic instability. Host countries have shouldered the responsibility of providing asylum, often facing challenges in resource allocation and social integration.

In recent years, the international community has sought to enhance refugee protection through initiatives like the Global Compact on Refugees, aiming to improve mechanisms for burden-sharing and support to host countries. Despite these efforts, the increasing scale of displacement in 2025 highlights the need for renewed commitment to protecting the rights of refugees and asylum seekers, ensuring their safety, dignity, and access to essential services in host nations.

## Topic Analysis

Every day, all over the world, people make one of the most difficult decisions in their lives to leave their homes in search of a safer, better life. Millions of people escape violence, crises, and armed wars looking for a safe country to reside in but, some people no longer feel secure after being targeted due to their identity, actions, or beliefs, for instance, their political views, sexual orientation, religion, or race. Some refugees are detained by the authorities as soon as they arrive in a new country (amnesty). By the end of 2023 over 117.3 million people were forcibly displaced, this equates to more than 1 in 69 people on earth (UNHRC, 2023). Host countries carry the responsibility to safeguard the basic rights and dignity of individuals who are forced to flee their countries due to war, persecution, or human rights abuses. While there is substantial protection at the level of international legal frameworks, their implementation remains inconsistent. While the 1951 Refugee Convention, the 1967 Protocol, and other legal instruments developed under the watchful eyes of the UN Refugee Agency, many countries never applied. This inconsistency in the application of those legal protections results in significant differences in the way host countries treat refugees and asylum seekers. Some examples include, the Syrian refugee crisis, one of the most significant humanitarian crises. Ever since the outbreak of the conflict in 2011, over 6.8 million Syrians have fled their country (UNHCR, 2023). Neighbouring countries like Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan host the majority, but these nations faced overwhelming pressure on their resources like in Turkey, which was home to around 3.6 million Syrian refugees, many of them lived in very poor conditions, without any easy access to formal employment and decent housing. Equally, Afghan refugees, fleeing the Taliban since 2021, have crossed into border countries like Iran and Pakistan. Here, however, crowded camps and infrastructures have made qualitative aid difficult to provide (International Rescue Committee, 2024), even developed nations also come under criticism. In the United States, policies like Title 42, introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic, allowed the expulsion of asylum seekers at the border without proper hearings. Repealed in 2023, its legacy underlines the political challenges in balancing national interests with international obligations (American Immigration Council, 2023). It is necessary to develop legal frameworks, together with complete integration policies concerning social, economic, and political obstacles for refugees, to secure the rights of refugees. Countries that shelter refugees should recognize their moral and legal responsibilities toward refugees and asylum seekers and take steps toward their rights being respected and upheld.

## Questions for the resolution

1. How can host countries address discrimination, xenophobia, and social integration challenges faced by refugees and asylum seekers?
2. What policies can be introduced to prevent the exploitation and trafficking of refugees and asylum seekers?
3. What strategies can be employed to ensure refugees and asylum seekers have access to equal opportunities and access to healthcare?
4. How can the global community strengthen the implementation of the 1951 Refugee Convention and other international frameworks

## Starter sources

University of Minnesota Human Rights Center (n.d.) *Study guide: The rights of refugees*. Available at: <http://hrlibrary.umn.edu/edumat/studyguides/refugees.htm> (Accessed: 6 January 2025).

UNHCR (n.d.) *Global trends: Forced displacement in 2022*. Available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/uk/global-trends> (Accessed: 6 January 2025).

George Washington University (2022) *International obligations of asylum countries to protect refugees*. Available at: <https://studentbriefs.law.gwu.edu/ilpb/2022/04/29/international-obligations-of-asylum-countries-to-protect-refugees/> (Accessed: 6 January 2025).

UNHCR (n.d.) *Rights and duties of refugees and asylum seekers*. Available at: <https://help.unhcr.org/faq/how-can-we-help-you/rights-and-duties/#:~:text=These%20rights%20are%20written%20down,and%20family%20among%20othe%20issues> (Accessed: 6 January 2025).



## Bibliography

1. International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) 2025, Who protects human rights? The United Nations Human Rights Council, viewed 2 January 2025, <https://ishr.ch/about-human-rights/who-protects-human-rights/the-united-nations/un-human-rights-council/>.
2. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) 2025, Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2025, viewed 2 January 2025, <https://www.unhcr.org/us/global-trends>.
3. UN Refugees 2024, Syria Refugee Crisis Explained, viewed 2 January 2025, <https://www.unrefugees.org/news/syria-refugee-crisis-explained/>.
4. International Organization for Migration (IOM) 2024, Venezuelan Refugee and Migrant Crisis, viewed 2 January 2025, <https://www.iom.int/venezuelan-refugee-and-migrant-crisis>.
5. Reuters 2024, UN seeks \$47 billion in aid as donor appetite shrinks while crises multiply, viewed 2 January 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/world/un-seeks-47-billion-aid-donor-appetite-shrinks-while-crisis-multiply-2024-12-04/>.
6. Associated Press (AP) 2024, The warm Turkish welcome for refugees is ending and Syrians are worried, viewed 2 January 2025, <https://apnews.com/article/e5ea4587b0d010d5319667897a52ff51>.
7. American Immigration Council (2023) *Title 42 and its impact on asylum seekers*. Available at: <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/guide-title-42-expulsions-border> (Accessed: 6 January 2025).
8. International Rescue Committee (2024) *Millions of Afghans endure crisis three years after Taliban takeover*. Available at: <https://www.rescue.org/article/millions-afghans-endure-crisis-three-years-after-taliban-takeover> (Accessed: 6 January 2025).
9. Amnesty International (n.d.) *Refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants*. Available at: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/refugees-asylum-seekers-and-migrants/> (Accessed: 6 January 2025).