



Social, Humanitarian,
and Cultural Committee

SOCHUM

MUNUC 37

Model United Nations of the University of Chicago

CHAIR LETTERS

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to MUNUC XXXVII! My name is Timothy Lu, and I am so excited to be serving as your chair for this year's SOCHUM alongside Tanaka and Zoe. I'm currently in my third year, double majoring in Economics and Law, Letters, & Society (sort of like pre-law), and minoring in Cognitive Science. In the past, I served as an AC for the Ad Hoc Committee of the Secretary-General in MUNUC XXXV and then a Chair for the FCC in MUNUC XXXVI. I'm also going to be chairing the Ad Hoc Committee of the Director-General for our collegiate conference, ChoMUN, this year, and I am a vice president for our travelling MUN team. Other than MUN, I am also the Executive Vice President of the Undergraduate Student Government in the College, compete with the club fencing team, and work a very real student job at the Center for Leadership and Involvement. My hobbies primarily include yapping, napping, and snacking, and I love to remind people that I am Canadian, though Chicago is pretty cool too!

In this year's SOCHUM, we are going to be discussing a topic that is becoming increasingly relevant—the increasing number of migrants and refugees in the world. It is a phenomenon that is both universal in having a direct impact on nearly every country in the world, as well as highly specific in terms of its unique impacts on different societies. It's exciting to have the chance to hear you all discuss new, innovative policy proposals that tackle the unique blend of legal intricacies, sociocultural elements, and economic factors of this topic in the pursuit of the principles of justice and human rights.

Although we're going to have a blast in committee this weekend, I would still like to reiterate some points on the sensitivity of this committee. We will be discussing topics that require a great deal of thought, maturity,

and respect, and absolutely no behavior or talk of discrimination will be entertained, and disciplinary actions will be taken as needed.

With that being said, Tanaka, Zoe, and I are so incredibly excited to meet all of you and see the incredible speeches and ideas that you come up with. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. Looking forward to the best MUNUC ever!

Cheers,

Timothy Lu

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to MUNUC XXXVII, my name is Tanaka Nemarundwe and I am very happy to be serving as your chair along with Zoe and Tim. I am currently in my fourth-year double majoring in economics and political science and minoring in Germanic studies. In the past I have served as a Moderator for the ECOFIN in MUNUC XXXVI, an AC for the East African Federation in ChoMUN, and a Crisis Director for ChoMUN. Additionally, I am the Chief of Staff for our collegiate conference ChoMUN this year. Outside of Model UN, I currently serve as the Leadership and Development Chair of one of the civic engagement groups at the Institute of Politics and I often volunteer in the South Side community in programs aimed at improving children's literacy. Some of my hobbies include tennis, saxophone, and yoga. Additionally, I enjoy trying out new restaurants across Chicago and baking for my family and friends.

This year for SOCHUM, we will be discussing the ever-relevant topic of the large presence of migrants and refugees across the modern world. Given the current state of this issue today, we want to note the importance of keeping in mind the nature of this topic and encourage you to address this issue with the utmost respect and sensitivity. Furthermore, we encourage you to use this space as an environment in which you can brainstorm innovative ideas that lead to solutions that build a brighter future for migrants everywhere.

All of this being said, we all look forward to seeing the great ideas that you have all prepared, and wish you the best with researching, brainstorming, and of course writing your position papers. As the future generation of changemakers we cannot wait to see all of the ideas that you have in store, and with that best of luck.

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to reach out. See you soon, and once again best of luck!

Best,

Tanaka Namarundwe

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to MUNUC 37! My name is Zoe Zhu, and I'll be one of your chairs for SOCHUM this year. Tanaka, Tim, and I are all so excited to meet all of you soon, and we hope the feeling is mutual!

A bit about me! I'm in my third-year at UChicago, double majoring in Philosophy and Economics. Even though I'm based in Chicago right now, I'm originally from Toronto, so I'll always root for the Toronto Raptors and the Maple Leafs. MUNUC 37 will mark my third year with this organization — I chaired the NATO committee last year, and was an AC for the Cabinet of Manmohan Singh crisis committee at MUNUC 35. This year, I'll also be chairing the United Nations Security Council for ChoMUN, our collegiate-level conference, and will be serving as the VP of our Model UN travel team. Outside of Model UN, I work as a tour guide for the UChicago Office of Admissions, I'm a member of Delta Gamma fraternity, and I compete for the Chicago Debate Society. I love visiting new restaurants, enjoying art museums, and discovering novel Excel functions. If you see me around, feel free to ask about the best matcha spots in Hyde Park - I'm more than happy to give my list of recommendations.

I'm sure we'll have an amazing time at MUNUC 37, but a few notes before we get there. First, throughout this committee, you'll be tasked with handling issues that are as sensitive as they are pertinent, and I do hope you'll treat them as such. As well, I hope that you'll use this committee as an opportunity to consider the global issues on the docket through a lens of empathy and humanity. You are future changemakers; I hope that you'll work towards a world that serves everyone, as much as possible, as kindly as possible.

With that being said, I'll leave you to conduct your research and write your position papers. Have fun with the process, and hopefully you'll learn something along the way.

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to reach out. See you soon, delegates!

All my best,

Zoe Zhu

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HISTORY OF THE COMMITTEE

The Social Humanitarian & Cultural Issues Committee (SOCHUM) is the Third Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations.¹ SOCHUM was established in 1945 upon the adoption of the Charter of the United Nations, which created the General Assembly and its constituent committees through Articles 9-22.² In 2024, SOCHUM entered its seventy-eighth session, and is composed of all 193 United Nations member states with equal voting power.³ Its agenda items typically deal with human rights, humanitarian affairs, and social issues.⁴ As such, the committee addresses a vast array of issues, such as resolving questions involving women's rights, the protection of children and—most pertinent to this committee—the treatment of refugees and the combatting of discrimination.⁵ Of the many issues often at the center of discussion for SOCHUM, agenda items relating to the promotion and protection of human rights possess the greatest gravity, with roughly half of the Committee's work focusing on the topic.⁶ To this end, the Committee often engages with the Human Rights Council, which was established in 2006 and delivers pertinent information to the Committee.⁷ As is the case with

¹ “Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Issues (Third Committee),” General Assembly of the United Nations, accessed August 26, 2026, <https://www.un.org/en/ga/third/index.shtml>.

² “Chapter IV: The General Assembly (Articles 9-22),” The United Nations, accessed August 26, 2026, <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/chapter-4>.

³ “Workings of the General Assembly,” General Assembly of the United Nations, accessed August 26, 2026, <https://www.un.org/en/ga/>.

⁴ “Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Issues (Third Committee)”

⁵ Nicole Ruder, Kenji Nakano and Johann Aeschlimann, “THIRD COMMITTEE” in *The GA Handbook*, ed. Johann Aeschlimann and Mary Regan, (New York: Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations, 2017), 73, https://www.eda.admin.ch/content/dam/mission-new-york/en/documents/UN_GA_Final.pdf.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ “Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Issues (Third Committee).”

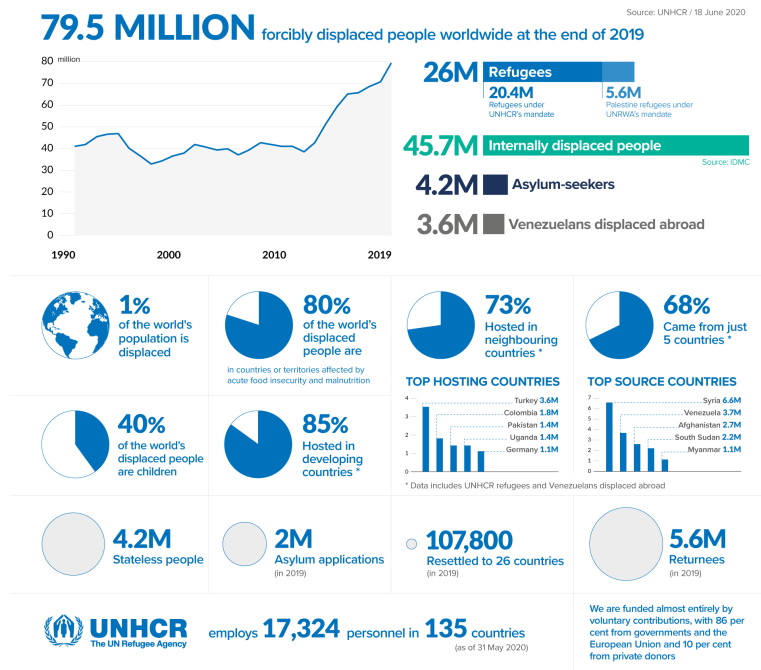
all resolutions passed by General Assembly Committees, the decisions made within SOCHUM are non-binding,⁸ but nonetheless serve an important role in guiding future international discourse.

⁸ Maya Krainc, “What makes a UN decision binding?,” Responsible Statecraft, last modified Apr 03, 2024, accessed August 26, 2026, <https://responsiblestatecraft.org/un-security-council-israel-gaza>.

TOPIC A: EVALUATING STATE RESPONSIBILITIES TO GRANT ASYLUM AND PROTECT REFUGEES

Statement of the Problem

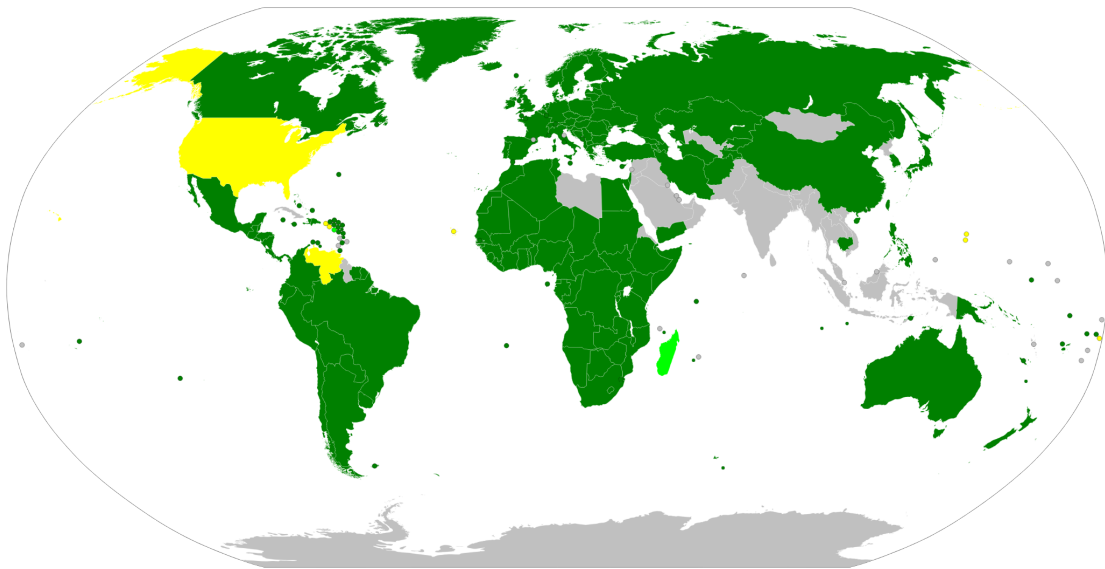
Migration is a critical humanitarian issue. As the global landscape has become increasingly complex in recent years, with increasing conflict, numerous environmental crises, and greater political instability, the issue of the responsibilities of states to grant asylum and protect refugees has only become more and more important. There are two main questions on this front; firstly, do states have an obligation to provide asylum and accept refugees? Secondly, if so, to what extent?



The number of forcibly-displaced people has been on the rise in recent years.⁹

⁹ Karin Søvik, "Tasks: Forced Migration," NDLA, October 14, 2020, <https://ndla.no/subject:1:c8d6ed8b-d376-4c7b-b73a-3a1d48c3a357/topic:9e6c9f83-32a1-4cb4-977a-7a780c4948a3/topic:216b0507-dc33-4745-86f4-445b5fab8984/resource:3ec4c812-23f1-4cbe-a7f1-7b6f788eccec>.

One cornerstone of this debate is the principle of human rights, of which one major component is the international legal framework surrounding state obligations and commitments to refugees and **asylum seekers**. There have been several declarations, treaties, and conventions on this topic, one of the earliest of which was the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), published in 1948. Article 3 of this document states that every person on Earth has the "right to life, liberty and security of person."¹⁰ More specifically as it pertains to the issue of forced migration, Article 14 declares that "Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution." The United Nations also later created the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, which together prohibit the return of refugees to a territory where their life or freedom would be threatened, in addition to detailing other rights for refugees.



¹⁰ "Universal Declaration of Human Rights," United Nations, 1948, <https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2021/03/udhr.pdf>.

*Parties to the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees; light green are parties only to the 1951 Convention, light yellow are parties only to the 1967 Protocol, and dark green are parties to both.*¹¹

It is clear that at least from a legal standpoint, nearly every state has some sort of an obligation to protect migrants, given how many are parties to either the 1951 Convention, the 1967 Protocol, or both. Furthermore, all 193 member states of the United Nations have ratified at least one part of the UDHR, further cementing the fact that they are required to play a role in protection of migrants. However, these legal frameworks face significant challenges: for one, enforcement mechanisms are weak, with many countries having mixed opinions on whether such treaties actually symbolize binding obligations on the parts of member states or merely signal commitment and intention. This lack of robust enforcement and consensus undermines the effectiveness of legal protections on the international stage, leaving many refugees vulnerable. That said, beyond the realm of pure international law, there exists also a moral and humanitarian imperative to protect migrants, rooted in a shared sense of compassion and responsibility.

It is also important to distinguish between the three terms of asylum seeker, refugee, and migrant in the most general sense. Asylum seekers are those who are seeking international protection, which all people have a right to, but are not yet legally recognized as a refugee. In contrast, refugees are recognized under international law as needing protection due to a well-founded fear of persecution, and have a right to that protection. Finally, the general term of what constitutes a migrant is more nebulous, but can generally be considered a catch-all term to be any person (though generally those who are neither asylum seekers nor refugees) who is residing in a place other than their country of origin.¹² These differences are important to understand as it pertains to crafting policies that

¹¹ Getsnoopy, "Refugee Convention Signatories," Wikimedia Commons, 2020, https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/05/Refugee_Convention_Signatories.svg.

¹² "Refugees, Asylum-Seekers and Migrants," Amnesty International, 2024, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/refugees-asylum-seekers-and-migrants/>.

address the unique needs of each group and ensuring that asylum seekers and refugees receive the protection they are entitled to as a distinct group with unique motivations and different circumstances than those of other migrants.

The contemporary refugee crisis is most often driven by one or more of the following factors of conflict: sociopolitical instability, persecution, and environmental displacement. One contemporary example of these factors is the wars and conflicts in Syria, Afghanistan, and Sudan that have forced millions to flee their homes. Another example is sociopolitical instability in countries such as Venezuela, which has contributed to mass displacement, and yet another is religious persecution, which has driven people such as the Rohingya in Myanmar to flee their homes.¹³ Finally, as climate change continues to worsen, the number of refugees created by environmental displacement and natural disasters is only increasing, particularly in countries least-equipped to deal with its consequences, further complicating and exacerbating the situation for refugees worldwide.

Yet another challenge that refugees face are conditions in temporary refugee camps, which are typically established to host refugees when there is a sudden large influx of migrants that the host country cannot otherwise accommodate. Refugee camps can often face humanitarian issues of a wide variety, including a lack of supplies for the people living there, overcrowding, and various health issues from infectious diseases. Furthermore, refugee camps are often left in a sort of “legal limbo” by host countries, who are often unwilling (or in some cases even unable) to properly enforce the rule of law within these camps.¹⁴ As a result, crime and human rights abuses are often left unchecked within the camps. Taken together, these different issues make addressing human rights issues within camps another priority issue.

¹³ Kathryn Reid, “Forced to Flee: Top Countries Refugees Are Coming from | World Vision,” World Vision, December 31, 2018, <https://www.worldvision.org/refugees-news-stories/forced-to-flee-top-countries-refugees-coming-from>.

¹⁴ Elizabeth Holzer, “What Happens to Law in a Refugee Camp?,” *Law & Society Review* 47 (4): 837–72, 2013, <https://doi.org/10.1111/lasr.12041>.

Surviving their journey is only part of the battle for refugees. Upon arrival in host countries, refugees have to face a whole host of new challenges, such as discrimination, xenophobia, and prejudice, which can be some of the biggest impediments to social integration. As the influx of refugees increases, local resources frequently become more and more strained as host countries try to accommodate them, which may in turn exacerbate the discrimination and prejudice that many of these refugees already face.¹⁵ Any policy that aims to provide comprehensive solutions to the refugee crisis must also take these long-term issues for host communities into account, in addition to the immediate needs of refugees.

The responsibility of states to grant asylum and protect refugees is a complex issue with many component parts, from the macro level, such as the international legal order, to the micro level, such as the individual circumstances of refugees. Any policies designed to address these topics must juggle a variety of considerations, such as the upholding of human rights and fulfillment of humanitarian obligations, international legal standards, the immediate needs of refugees, and the long-term success and health of host communities and the rehabilitation of places generating refugees. Only by recognizing these distinct problems can states fulfill their moral and legal responsibilities to ensure that every human being has the right to life and liberty.

¹⁵ Alice Beste, “The Contributions of Refugees: Lifting Barriers to Inclusion - Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility,” United Nations University Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility, August 28, 2015, <https://gcm.unu.edu/publications/articles/the-contributions-of-refugees-lifting-barriers-to-inclusion.html>.

History of the Problem

The Concept of Statelessness

Statelessness is deeply intertwined with the modern notion of nation-state politics, which has its origins from the 1648 Peace of Westphalia. The Peace of Westphalia created what has become known as the “Westphalian system,” under which international law and international relations are conducted between nation-states, sovereign entities with exclusive control over their own territory, and whose members typically share a common culture, language, or ethnic background.¹⁶

Unfortunately, as a result of this system, certain groups who do not fit neatly into these national identities have become more likely to be marginalized. This is because citizenship laws, which often derive from national identities, have become a key way of determining which people or groups of people belong to a particular state and who does not. Citizenship is also often required to enjoy a host of rights, freedoms and benefits provided by a government, such as healthcare, political participation, and aid; therefore, if certain marginalized groups are excluded from citizenship, then they will also consequently be excluded from these rights and freedoms.¹⁷

In today’s world, the impact of nation-state politics on the issue of statelessness cannot be overstated. While globalization has had an impact on politics and identities, the idea of national identity remains one of the dominant forces in policy-making when it comes to deciding who is, or can be, a citizen, and who is not or cannot. For example, nationality laws which are founded upon ancestral descent can easily exclude those whose ancestors

¹⁶ Stephen McGlinchey, Rosie Waters, and Christian Scheinpflug. “1.2: The Westphalian System,” Social Sci LibreTexts, January 26, 2019, [https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Sociology/International_Sociology/Book%3A_International_Relations_\(McGlinchey\)/01%3A_The_Making_of_the_Modern_World/1.02%3A_The_Westphalian_System](https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Sociology/International_Sociology/Book%3A_International_Relations_(McGlinchey)/01%3A_The_Making_of_the_Modern_World/1.02%3A_The_Westphalian_System).

¹⁷ “Statelessness - United States Department of State,” United States Department of State, 2019, <https://www.state.gov/other-policy-issues/statelessness/>.

were migrants or belonged to minority groups. These exclusions, then, create populations who can lack citizenship in any country, hence making them stateless.

Examples of Stateless People

One prominent example of a stateless group is the Bajau people, who are a nomadic maritime people residing in Southeast Asia. In the past, the Bajau have lived on the water nomadically, in ocean territories now within the borders of the Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia. Their nomadic lifestyle means that many do not have legal documents about their status, simply for the reason that they have never historically had a great need for any documentation. However, because they have not settled down in any one particular place, no country has recognized them as citizens, which, compounded with their lack of documentation, means that they face significant challenges when it comes to accessing education, healthcare, and employment. As well, without the legal recognition and status that comes with citizenship, the Bajau people face constant threats of eviction and displacement from their own homes.¹⁸

Another major example of a stateless people are the Roma people in Europe, who have faced widespread discrimination and exclusion on a systemic level for centuries. Just like the Bajau, many Roma lack proper documentation, preventing them from accessing basic services.¹⁹

A third example are the Kurdish people, or Kurds, who reside across Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and Syria. Unlike the Bajau and the Roma, the Kurds (while previously partly nomadic) have since settled into a general region that can be called “Kurdistan,” which stretches across the aforementioned countries. The Kurds have long advocated

¹⁸ Wan Shawaluddin Wan Hassan and Diana Peters, “The Vulnerability of Bajau Laut as Stateless People in Sabah,” *Jurnal Kinabalu* 26 (2): 183–83, 2020, <https://doi.org/10.51200/ejk.vi.2771>.

¹⁹ Adam Augustyn, “Roma,” In *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 2020, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Rom>.

and occasionally fought for autonomy, either in the form of independence or at least self-governance, but have yet to achieve it, and are therefore presently considered stateless.²⁰



The rough boundaries of what would be “Kurdistan,” drawn along the ethnic homeland of the Kurdish people.²¹

The Role of Colonization

Broadly speaking, the plight of the Kurds can be seen as an example of one of the myriad ways in which the current refugee crisis is another legacy of the pains of colonization. Imperialism and colonialism played a significant role in creating the circumstances for statelessness by disrupting and upending the pre-existing social

²⁰ “Timeline: The Kurds’ Quest for Independence,” Council on Foreign Relations, 2022, <https://www.cfr.org/timeline/kurds-long-struggle-statelessness>; Annette Busby, “EHRAF World Cultures,” eHRAF World Cultures, accessed September 7, 2024, <https://ehrafworldcultures.yale.edu/cultures/MA11/summary>.

²¹ Ferhates, “Kurdistan Project *En 2*,” Wikimedia Commons, 2013, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kurdistan_project_en_2.PNG.

and political structures of colonized regions, imposing foreign customs and borders that disregarded the existing cultural and ethnic realities for indigenous people.²² Specifically, European powers often drew arbitrary borders that suited their great-power interests, such as in the Scramble for Africa, which saw Africa conquered and colonized by the major European powers, with borders drawn to represent European interests and possessions rather than the interests of the people actually living there.²³



The Afghani panhandle, or Wakhan Corridor, was created by the British and Russian Empires as an agreement to separate the territories of their respective colonial spheres of influence in Asia by arbitrarily extending the border of Afghanistan to China.²⁴

²² AnnMaree Murray, “Decolonising Statelessness: Unpacking Colonial Legacies and Deconstructing Forms of Epistemic Violence,” Melbourne Law School, January 30, 2024, <https://law.unimelb.edu.au/centres/statelessness/resources/critical-statelessness-studies-blog/decolonising-statelessness-unpacking-colonial-legacies-and-deconstructing-forms-of-epistemic-violence>.

²³ Richard A. Webster, Charles E. Nowell, and Harry Magdoff, “Western Colonialism - Partition of Africa,” Encyclopedia Britannica, July 20, 1998, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Western-colonialism/Partition-of-Africa>.

²⁴ Weaveravel, “1914 Map of Afghanistan,” Wikimedia Commons, 2021, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:1914_map_of_Afghanistan.png.

As a result of these “random” borders, ethnic groups were often split between disparate states (or antagonistic ethnic groups pushed together), which inevitably led to not only marginalization and exclusion of many of these groups from citizenship in post-colonial nations (such as mentioned for the Kurds), but also many of the current conflicts that generate many of the world’s asylum-seekers (such as the present conflict in Sudan).

History of UN Action

One watershed moment in the evolution of refugee recognition and protection came in the aftermath of World War II. The conflict created millions of displaced people, and therefore there was an urgent need for international cooperation and legal frameworks to address this tremendous crisis. At this time, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was established in 1950 help oversee, regulate, and implement these frameworks, one of which was the aforementioned 1951 Refugee Convention, which defined who qualifies as a refugee and delineated both rights and obligations for refugees and host countries. The aforementioned follow-up 1967 Protocol helped to widen the scope of the 1951 Convention beyond just Europe, making it applicable worldwide. Today, the UNHCR’s mandate centers around both providing protection and assistance to refugees, as well as helping find **durable solutions** to the plight of refugees worldwide.²⁵ As well, in the decades since, more progress has been made in the field of refugee protection: in 2018, the UN affirmed the Global Compact on Refugees, designed to facilitate closer international cooperation on refugee issues.²⁶

²⁵ “UNHCR’s Mandate for Refugees and Stateless Persons, and Its Role in IDP Situations | UNHCR,” UNHCR, February 2, 2024, <https://emergency.unhcr.org/protection/legal-framework/unhcr%E2%80%99s-mandate-refugees-and-stateless-persons-and-its-role-idp-situations>.

²⁶ “The Global Compact on Refugees,” UNHCR, accessed September 7, 2024, <https://www.unhcr.org/us/about-unhcr/who-we-are/global-compact-refugees>.

Past Actions

Previous Discussions of the Rights of Asylum Seekers and Refugees

Past United Nations discussions of responsibilities regarding the granting of asylum and protecting refugees have failed to assign concrete responsibility to states and entities for these important actions. Despite this, there have been extensive discussions detailing the rights of people to seek asylum in other states. Article 14 of the 1948 Declaration on Human Rights states that as human beings everyone has the right to “seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.” Evidently, the right of humans to seek asylum is clearly addressed, but the topic of who the responsibility of supporting asylum seekers and refugees falls under is avoided.



The Universal Declaration on Human Rights, which was the first document to clearly specify fundamental human rights that should be protected globally.²⁷

Commission On Human Rights

Despite the early avoidance of the United Nations to formally define and codify responsibilities regarding the granting of asylum and the protection of refugees, it remained a topic of discussion within various bodies of

²⁷ Thomas Cizauskas, “The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948),” Flickr, September 3, 2024, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/cizauskas/38243418364>.

the UN for some time. In 1958, a draft detailing the codification of asylum seeker rights was in circulation, and finally in March of 1960 it was up for discussion and codification of the rights of asylum seekers and refugees was then delegated to the International Law commission. Despite various efforts to solidify a concrete outline of these rights and detail who is responsible for providing them, this effort was again plagued by ambiguity resulting from various concerns on the topic of sovereignty. This round of discussions then resulted in the further deferral of the topic to the 17th session of the General Assembly.



An image of the United Nations General Assembly, where many monumental documents, including the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, have been ratified.²⁸

The Third Committee

Moving forward, the issue of ambiguity persisted as the bearer of responsibility to grant asylum and offer protection to refugees still had yet to be determined and codified. In 1963, the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees added more ambiguity to the topic in efforts to protect the notion of sovereignty, remarking in regards

²⁸ “Category:United Nations General Assembly,” Wikimedia Commons, accessed September 2, 2024, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:United_Nations_General_Assembly.

to the draft declaration on Human Rights that “only to the extent that it expressed for the guidance of States, positive principles reflecting such practices as could protect and promote the right to seek asylum.”²⁹ His remarks solidified the responsibility to grant asylum and protect refugees as non-binding, and delineated the declaration as a guiding principle for states.

Today

Today the question of the responsibility of states to grant asylum and protect refugees remains similar to that of the 60s but with some new parameters, including one that excludes states from having to protect international criminals. There are other situations addressed under these new parameters that delegate responsibility to various international organizations instead of states. While the 1967 principle of **non-refoulement** maintains its heavy weight, today it ultimately remains up to the state to evaluate whether or not to grant asylum and protect refugees.³⁰

²⁹ Guy S. Goodwin-Gill, “The 1967 Declaration on Territorial Asylum - Office of Legal ...,” United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law, 2012, https://legal.un.org/avl/pdf/ha/dta/dta_e.pdf; Guy S. Goodwin-Gill, “Declaration on Territorial Asylum,” United Nations, accessed September 2, 2024, <https://legal.un.org/avl/ha/dta/dta.html>.

Possible Solutions

Improving Legal Frameworks

Currently legal frameworks are unable to fully delegate responsibility and fully protect refugees. Countries can explore better ways to assign responsibilities in regard to the protection of refugees to better address the millions of migrants that have left their home country due to major issues such as forced displacement. New legal frameworks should aim to establish a system to assign accountability and encourage states to take responsibility for the protection of migrants and create policies for better integrating migrants and refugees into society. Effective frameworks should therefore result in greater ability for migrants to enter a new country and should result in improved social and economic conditions for them.³¹

Expanding Pathways to Migration

Another issue to consider is the pathways to migration. One of the ways in which this solution could be approached would be to enhance resettlement programs by developing international frameworks. Due to factors such as continued conflict or the threat of persecution many migrants are unable to return home even after significant time has passed. In certain cases migrants sometimes are faced with the additional challenge that the country to which they initially relocated is unable to provide for the specific needs that they may have.³² In these such circumstances, enhancing the structure of resettlement programs could help tackle this challenge. Revised resettlement programs will make migration more efficient and will ensure that migrants will be able to comfortably adjust and assimilate to their new home.

³¹ Carlos Escobar, “Why Do Regular Migration Options Benefit Migrants and Countries,” ONU Migración.Americas, 2022, <https://rosanjose.iom.int/en/blogs/why-do-regular-migration-options-benefit-migrants-and-countries-create-them>.

³² “Resettlement,” UNHCR US, accessed September 2, 2024, <https://www.unhcr.org/us/what-we-do/build-better-futures/long-term-solutions/resettlement>.

Other solutions to explore in regard to expanding pathways to migration include developing programs to encourage and build self-reliance for migrants. Developing infrastructure to ensure immigrants can become self-reliant within host countries would support the long-term integration of migrants into societies. These programs could include financial support, job search assistance, and language courses among other ways to support migrants.³³ By strengthening these programs, the pathway to migration can become more efficient, effective and comprehensive.

Building Host Country Capacities

Host country capacities is another issue that must be addressed. Currently, many host countries for migrants lack the capacity to adequately support and successfully integrate potentially millions of migrants into their countries. At present, most efforts focused on capacity-building have solely focused on improving emergency responses (i.e. quick action and response after a crisis), but widening the scope of these efforts could improve infrastructure for the hosting and integration of migrants.³⁴

Addressing Root Causes of Displacement

Another major problem to address is that of instability, which could be solved through addressing the root causes of displacement and offering support early on. This could require regional or global organizations stepping in to help ensure that people living in unstable areas are supported and are not forced to flee elsewhere. This in combination with other solutions could help address the wide array of current challenges present within the overarching topic of state responsibilities to grant asylum and protect refugees.

³³ “Livelihoods: Building self-reliance and economic resilience,” UNHCR, accessed September 3, 2024, <https://www.acnur.org/sites/default/files/legacy-pdf/6115c28e4.pdf>.

³⁴ “Capacity-Building,” Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC), accessed September 2, 2024. <https://micicinitiative.iom.int/capacity-building>.



*Azerbaijani refugees displaced from their home in the Nagorno-Karabakh region due to conflict.*³⁵

³⁵ “File:Azerbaijani refugees from Karabakh during the war 4.jpg,” Wikimedia Commons, accessed September 7, 2024, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Azerbaijani_refugees_from_Karabakh_during_the_war_4.jpg

Bloc Positions

Source Countries

One potential bloc could be countries that generate more migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers than they host. Examples of such countries could include Syria, Venezuela, Sudan, Myanmar, and Yemen. These countries could focus on emphasizing the human rights of these displaced peoples, advocating for their continued protection at the international level, in order to safeguard the rights of their citizens who are forced to flee. As well, source countries might wish to push for non-refoulement, prohibiting the return of refugees to places or circumstances in which they might face threats to life or freedom. Source countries might also try to push for greater refugee status recognition, urging host countries to adopt generous asylum policies and to be more willing to recognize refugee status.

Source countries may also wish to seek aid from other countries. They may advocate for greater international efforts to address the root causes of forced migration, such as conflict, persecution, and economic difficulties, and as such might wish for greater international aid and development assistance to both improve conditions within their own countries and support refugees in host countries. To the latter end, source countries might also attempt to encourage host countries to participate more widely in resettlement programs.

Host Countries

On the other hand, another potential bloc could be countries which receive more displaced persons than they generate. Examples include Turkey, Germany, Uganda, Bangladesh, and Canada. Host countries might prioritize factors such as security and border control, needing to balance refugee protection with national security concerns, potentially advocating for measures to control and regulate the flow of migrants to avoid being overwhelmed. Host countries must also grapple with economic considerations, both in terms of the burden of

hosting refugees as well as the potential benefits of integrating refugees into local economies and societies, without neglecting the unique challenges and costs this process in itself poses.

Host countries could also try and advocate for more responsibility-sharing on the international stage. They may push for a fairer distribution of responsibility, arguing that they should not bear a disproportionate share of the refugee burden. To that end, host countries might endorse international resettlement programs to redistribute refugees more equitably across different countries. Finally, host countries might emphasize the importance of legal and social frameworks. They could argue that legal frameworks should not just protect refugees, but also emphasize the integrity of existing national asylum systems. Similarly, host countries might prioritize national social cohesion in attempting to balance the need to protect refugees with the need to respect the interests and opinions of their own pre-existing citizens.

Glossary

Asylum - Protection granted by a country or state to somebody who has fled their country of origin, typically due to persecution or some kind of danger in their home country

Asylum Seeker - A person seeking international protection, but is not (yet) legally recognized as a refugee.

Durable Solution - A solution that thinks in the long-term and that adequately considers the well-being of all relevant parties involved.

International Law - The set of systems, rules, and principles that regulate how state actors interact with each other. It can include both “hard law”, which is constituted of binding instruments such as documents like treaties, conventions, and legal frameworks, as well as “soft law”, which includes typically non-binding instruments like customary law (laws based on customs of a local community).

Migrant - A general term covering any person who is residing in a place other than their country of origin. Although a general term, it is most commonly used when not referring to asylum seekers or refugees in particular.

Non-refoulement - A principle in international law that refugees should not be returned to a country or place where they would face threats to their life or freedom.

Refugee - A person who has been forced to flee their country of origin by conflict or persecution, and is recognized by international law as needing protection.

Statelessness - The condition of not being a national or citizen of any country, often resulting in a lack of legal identity and the associated access to rights, freedoms, and legal protections.

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[4c7b-b73a-3a1d48c3a357/topic:9e6c9f83-32a1-4cb4-977a-7a780c4948a3/topic:216b0507-dc33-](https://ndla.no/subject:1:c8d6ed8b-d376-4c7b-b73a-3a1d48c3a357/topic:9e6c9f83-32a1-4cb4-977a-7a780c4948a3/topic:216b0507-dc33-4745-86f4-445b5fab8984/resource:3ec4c812-23f1-4cbe-a7f1-7b6f788eccec)

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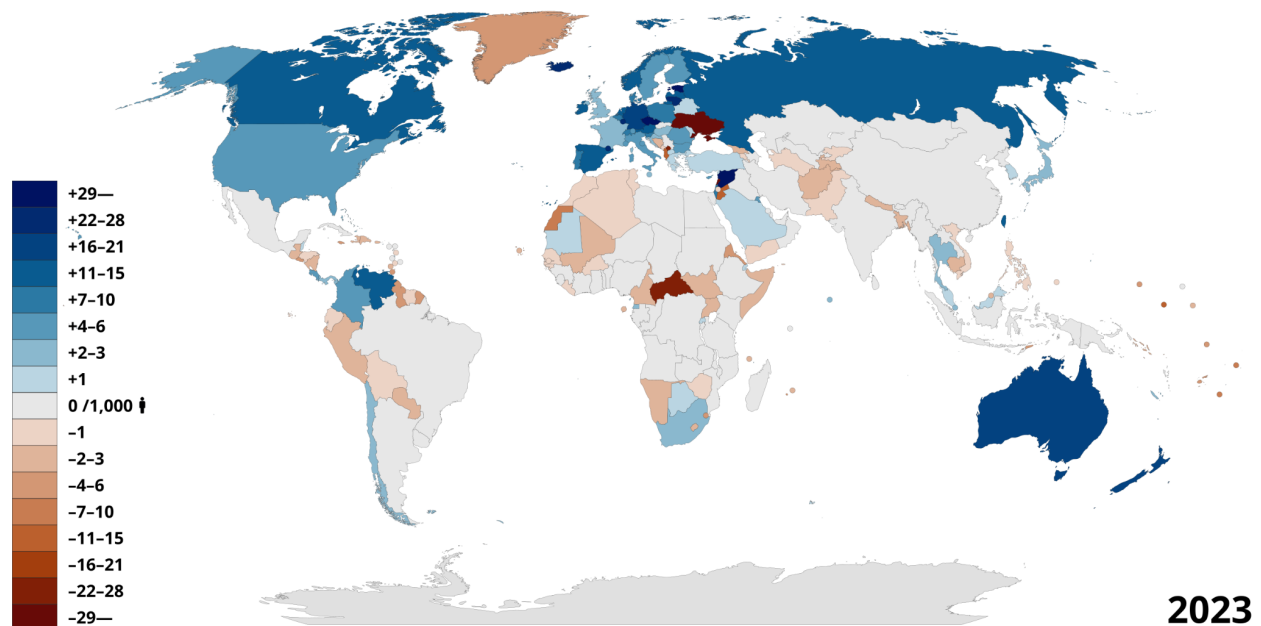
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TOPIC B: STRATEGIES FOR THE SUCCESSFUL INTEGRATION OF MIGRANTS INTO HOST SOCIETIES

Statement of the Problem

Introduction

The process of migration extends far beyond the physical act of an individual moving across borders; the issue of migrant resettlement only begins once one's physical journey ends. As such, post-migration outcomes have always been an important component of migration policy, with migrant inclusion—the process by which migrants can gain economic and social inclusion within their new homes—being an especially important part of the equation.



The 2023 net migration rate for each country, in persons per thousand.³⁶

³⁶ Net migration rate, in persons per thousand, 2023, Wikipedia, <https://tinyurl.com/mr2uv3m9>.

Migrant inclusion can be addressed by a wide array of disparate policies, united by the ultimate end goal of diverse, inclusive, and cohesive societies.³⁷ Today, the issue of inclusion is particularly complex. In the last 50 years, there has been an increase in the absolute number of migrants internationally, driven by increasing globalization and different migration incentives.³⁸ Ultimately, this means the demographics of migrants has changed drastically, resulting in more “social, cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity” in their new nations.³⁹ Thus, it becomes increasingly important to take a closer look at the relationship between States and migrants, focusing on the ways in which inclusion policies attempt to preserve social cohesion, and perhaps ways in which such policies fall short.

This section will seek to provide a comprehensive view of migrant integration, outlining how integration differs from other models of inclusion, and illustrating overarching issues delegates should consider when discussing the topic.

Models of Inclusion: Assimilation, Multiculturalism, and Integration

Though assimilation, multiculturalism, and integration are often conflated terms, there are marked differences between them. For one, integration, assimilation, and multiculturalism are all different models of inclusion—that is, frameworks by which migrants are to be incorporated within the fabric of their new society.⁴⁰ As such, all three have differing metrics of success, philosophical foundations, and mechanisms for change. The differences between the three types are shown below.

³⁷ “Migrant Integration and Social Cohesion,” *International Organization for Migration*, accessed August 26, 2024, <https://www.iom.int/migrant-integration-and-social-cohesion>.

³⁸ “Migration, Inclusion and Social Cohesion: Challenges, Recent Developments and Opportunities” in *World Migration Report 2020* (Geneva: International Organization for Migration, 2020) 167, https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/wmr_2020_en_ch_6.pdf.

³⁹ *Ibid.*

⁴⁰ *World Migration Report 2020*, 170.

Model of Inclusion	Migrant Adaptation Requirement	Societal Accommodation Requirement
Assimilation	High	Low
Integration	Medium	Medium
Multiculturalism	Low	High

*Each model of inclusion has a “migrant adaptation requirement” level and “societal accommodation requirement level”.*⁴¹

Delegates are encouraged to investigate all three types of frameworks within their research for this committee and come to their own conclusions regarding the merits and downsides of each.

Assimilation is predicated on the belief that a migrant ought to take on a new national identity and values upon entry into a new country. Hence, it requires a large degree of migrant adaptation, as such a change often comes at the cost of the migrant’s prior cultural identity. Assimilation was favored largely from the 1920s to the 1960s,⁴² and is common within Latin American countries and other states that tout a “melting-pot” approach.⁴³ A further example of assimilation is the “White Australia” policy from 1901-1966, in which “non-white” immigration, especially from China and the Pacific, was restricted, and “white immigrants” were assimilated.⁴⁴

⁴¹ Ibid, 171.

⁴² *World Migration Report 2020*, 171.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

On the other end of the spectrum, multiculturalism is the ultimate “salad bowl” of cultures, in which each migrant is encouraged to retain their previous cultural identity.⁴⁵ The resulting nation is significantly more socially diverse than assimilated ones, as migrant adaptation is not required. Multiculturalism was deeply popular from the 1970s to the 1990s, in response to the short-comings of assimilation-based policies of years past, though it has fallen out of favor in recent years.⁴⁶ Despite this, Canada is an example of a country that still champions multiculturalism to this day.⁴⁷

Both types of policies have considerable drawbacks, owing to their “one-way” approaches to inclusion which place the burden disproportionately on either migrants or the native population.⁴⁸ Assimilation is often criticized for its inability to allow for the flourishing of diverse societies, while multiculturalism, due to its high degree of accommodation on the part of the host society, is often “perceived as a threat to national identity and values.”⁴⁹ Moreover, due to the lack of emphasis placed on adapting to the new nation, it is more difficult to effectively address migrant exclusion within a multicultural framework.⁵⁰ Considering these objections, a third model has become more widespread—integration.

Integration views migrant inclusion as a “two-way” process between the host nation and migrant, with both parties being expected to contribute to the process.⁵¹ This policy forms the basis of the European Union’s

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Ibid, 172.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Ibid, 171

⁴⁹ *World Migration Report 2020*, 172.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Ibid.

2016 Action Plan in response to the migration of “Third-Country Nationals,” and places a significant importance on forming bonds between individuals of different nationalities as a mechanism for incorporating new migrants.⁵²

Despite the increasing popularity of such a policy, there has been harsh criticism of integration-based policies from some academics. They argue that the concept upholds a concept of “society as an ‘entity with an identity’”, a concept which they note could reproduce racially exclusionary migratory policies.⁵³ While such a link has not been well established, discourse regarding integration-based policies remains lively and passionate.

Problems To Consider

Inclusion is an exceptionally important aspect of the immigration process. The practical quality of life of immigrants often varies significantly from the host nation’s native population, especially in countries without robust integration policies. To this end, there are three major areas which pose significant obstacles to equity among migrants and non-migrants: language, labor market inclusion and socioeconomic status, and education.

Language

Language is a hugely important consideration when it comes to migrant inclusion. Insufficient language fluency can make it difficult for migrants to interact with significant aspects of their new host nation, as they face a natural barrier to communication.⁵⁴ The ramifications of a lack of language mastery are threefold. First, migrants can find it difficult to make social connections with others within the host nation, owing to the significant language barrier.⁵⁵ Furthermore, a language gap can cause migrants to lack access to social services meant to assist

⁵² Ibid, 171.

⁵³ Giovanna Astolfo and Harriet Allsopp, “The coloniality of migration and integration: continuing the discussion,” *Comparative Migration Studies*, no. 11, July 2023, accessed August 26, 2024, <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40878-023-00343-2>.

⁵⁴ *World Migration Report 2020*, 174.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

them - resulting in an inefficient allocation of these resources.⁵⁶ Finally, migrants without sufficiently strong language skills may find themselves unable to acquire gainful employment, even despite having requisite skills and educational background (the issue associated with migrant labor market participation is further articulated below).⁵⁷

All three of these factors can result in the formation of, and exclusive participation within, ethnic enclaves,⁵⁸ which is necessarily counter to the goals of integration. Moreover, language requirements are often necessary to gain citizenship and forms of long-term residence within the host nation, making migrant language acquisition a significant issue.⁵⁹

Migrant Participation within the Labor Market and Socioeconomic Repercussions

Differences in employment rate and wages between migrants and host populations are marked and well documented. In 2007, migrant unemployment was around 13% in the EU—around double the rate of those who were native-born.⁶⁰ Moreover, a study from the Institute of Labor (IZA) found that immigration status resulted in a significant negative effect on earnings 40% of the time.⁶¹ When additional factors such as gender, destination country, and education are considered, the total “catch-up” time for wages to equalize across the two populations is around 18 years.⁶² This difference in employment outcomes, at least initially, has vast economic ramifications,

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ Tao Song and Mate Szurop, “Immigrant Ethnic Enclaves: Causes and Consequences,” last modified, March 27, 2024, accessed August 26, 2024, DOI: 10.5772/intechopen.1004923.

⁵⁹ *World Migration Report 2020*, 174.

⁶⁰ “OECD Factbook 2010,” *OECD*, accessed August 26, 2024, <https://doi.org/10.1787/factbook-2010-8-en>.

⁶¹ Alicia Adsera, *Are There Gender and Country of Origin Differences in Immigrant Labor Market Outcomes across European Destinations?* (Bonn: Institute for the Study of Labor, 2004), 3, <https://docs.iza.org/dp1432.pdf>.

⁶² Ibid.

causing migration background to be a contributor to lower socioeconomic status. For instance, looking at Canada, there are significant and ever-widening gaps between the low-income rates for immigrants and those born in the country, with more than 34% of newcomers falling into the low-income category of the census, compared to only 6% of the native population.⁶³ Moreover, in many countries, immigrants often experience higher rates of negative health outcomes, often driven by quality of life differences due to the gaps in economic standings.⁶⁴

Migrant inclusion with regards to the labor market can therefore span a wide array of policies. From increasing access to employment opportunities, to improving policies that protect migrant workers against abuse and exploitation, to expanding vocational training resources, there is no shortage to the potential avenues solutions can encompass.

Education

Education is another significant issue faced by migrants and is “the greatest weakness in integration policies in most countries.”⁶⁵ Education itself is a fundamental human right for children, though the educational outcomes of migrant children are markedly lower than their non-migrant counterparts.⁶⁶ There are significant intersecting issues at play when it comes to a lack of educational background for migrants, inclusive of the language barriers and socioeconomic inequalities highlighted as prior issues. Moreover, the causes for a lack of positive educational outcomes could be due to the very factors which caused the individual’s migration in the first

⁶³ “Poverty in Canada,” *Canadian Poverty Institute*, accessed August 26, 2024, <https://www.povertyinstitute.ca/poverty-canada>.

⁶⁴ Signe Smith Nielsen, Nana Folmann Hempler, and Allan Krasnik, “Issues to Consider When Measuring and Applying Socioeconomic Position Quantitatively in Immigrant Health Research,” *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 10, (December 2013), accessed August 26, 2024, DOI: 10.3390/ijerph10126354.

⁶⁵ *World Migration Report 2020*, 175.

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*

place (e.g. war, poverty).⁶⁷ Some migrant children may also lack documentation, which can cause a significant barrier to their entering the traditional school system.⁶⁸ Finally, schools can also present a site for discrimination between native and non-native children, which can further negatively impact the educational experiences of migrant children.⁶⁹

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ Ibid, 176.

⁶⁹ Ibid.

History of the Problem

International migration has been a core part of human history, often in response to varying environmental, social, or economic factors. In this way, migration has been fundamental in shaping the world we live in today. This section will discuss the history of migration broadly, defining different types of migrants, and detailing historic policies enabling migrant inclusion or inhibiting it. From these discussions, delegates will be able to understand the blindspots of past policies, the inner mechanisms underlying inclusion policies, and can then work to apply these insights into future decisions.

Prior to a detailed account of migration history, it would be helpful to understand the different reasons why an individual would choose to migrate, as doing so informs what resources ought to be provided to them.

Refugees and Asylum Seekers



Refugees crossing the Mediterranean Sea in January 2016.⁷⁰

One of the prevailing causes of migration is a well-founded risk of danger. There are two types of migrants that broadly fall under this category: **refugees** and **asylum seekers**. While these two terms are often conflated, they each refer to distinct groups of individuals.⁷¹ A refugee is an individual who leaves their country due to the risk of persecution within their home countries, and who are hence entitled to international protection known as asylum.⁷² Due to this guarantee of protection, being a refugee is a legal status, and requires an application to be

⁷⁰ *Refugees on a boat crossing the Mediterranean sea, heading from Turkish coast to the northeastern Greek island of Lesbos, January 29, 2016, 2016, photograph, Wikipedia, <https://tinyurl.com/yabfa24x>.*

⁷¹ “REFUGEES, ASYLUM SEEKERS AND MIGRANTS,” *Amnesty International*, accessed August 26, 2024, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/refugees-asylum-seekers-and-migrants/>.

⁷² *Ibid.*

processed and subsequently granted.⁷³ The United States and Germany are the top two recipients of asylum claims, receiving over 730,000 and 217,000 in 2022, respectively.⁷⁴ Today, there are over 43.4 million refugees globally,⁷⁵ 40% of which are children.⁷⁶ Often, refugees have experienced armed conflict, public disorder, or even serious human rights violations within their home countries, making them an especially vulnerable population.⁷⁷ Interestingly, the majority of refugees seek to return to their home countries. This is a protracted situation, and one that 78% of refugees are currently experiencing.⁷⁸ On the other hand, asylum seekers are individuals who have not yet received a verdict regarding their refugee status.⁷⁹ In 2022, there were 2.9 million such applicants.⁸⁰

Historically, increases in asylum seekers and refugees are positively causally related to instances of conflict and warfare.⁸¹ Indeed, the largest refugee crises of the 20th and 21st centuries have been associated with wars, with significant waves of refugees following the First and Second World War, and, more contemporarily, the Russian invasion of Ukraine.⁸² Ultimately, over 14 million people were **displaced** following World War I,⁸³ over 50 million

⁷³ “Refugees,” *UNHCR*, accessed August 26, 2024, <https://www.unhcr.org/refugees>.

⁷⁴ “Migration and Migrants: A Global Overview,” *IOM*, accessed August 26, 2024, <https://worldmigrationreport.iom.int/what-we-do/world-migration-report-2024-chapter-2/refugees-and-asylum-seekers>.

⁷⁵ “Refugees”

⁷⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷⁷ *Ibid.*

⁷⁸ “Protracted Refugee Situations Explained,” *USA for UNHCR*, last modified January 28, 2020, accessed August 26, 2024, <https://www.unrefugees.org/news/protracted-refugee-situations-explained/>.

⁷⁹ “REFUGEES, ASYLUM SEEKERS AND MIGRANTS.”

⁸⁰ “Migration and Migrants: A Global Overview.”

⁸¹ *Ibid.*

⁸² *Ibid.*

⁸³ Rebekah Klein-Pejšová, “World War One Displacement: Europe on the Move,” *Refugee History*, accessed August 26, 2024, <https://refugeehistory.org/blog/2018/3/10/world-war-one-displacement-europe-on-the-move>.

were displaced in World War II,⁸⁴ and more than 9 million displaced persons have been reported since the Russian Invasion of Ukraine.⁸⁵

Labor Migrants



*Migrant workers in 2013 at the Al Ghanim Central Bus Station in Doha.*⁸⁶

A growing category of migrants, labor migrants can be broadly defined as individuals who are seeking or have previously sought work in a given nation that is not their home country.⁸⁷ Migrant workers are the drivers behind labor migration, and are individuals who “[are] to be engaged or [have] been engaged in a remunerated

⁸⁴ “What happened to people displaced by the Second World War?” *Imperial War Museums*, accessed August 26, 2024, <https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/what-happened-to-people-displaced-by-the-second-world-war>.

⁸⁵ “Ukraine Emergency,” *USA For UNHCR*, accessed August 26, 2024, <https://www.unrefugees.org/emergencies/ukraine/>.

⁸⁶ Alex Sergev, *Migrant workers at the Al Ghanim Central Bus Station in Doha, Qatar*, 2013, photograph, Wikipedia, <https://tinyurl.com/hh6mubea>.

⁸⁷ Judit Simon, Noemi Kiss, Agata Łaszewska, et al., “Definitions of labor Migrants” in *Public Health Aspects of Migrant Health: A Review of the Evidence on Health Status for labor Migrants in the European Region* (Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2015), <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK379428/>.

activity in a state of which [they are] not a national.”⁸⁸ They can be highly skilled workers, temporary workers, seasonal workers, or established workers.⁸⁹ However, “economic migrants”, who are individuals who enter a country to perform economic activities, such as business travellers or investors, are not typically included within the “labor migrant” category.⁹⁰

As of 2019, there are over 169 million migrant workers globally,⁹¹ representing an increase of 3% since 2017.⁹² These workers are often driven to leave their home countries due to systemic poverty or a lack of employment opportunities, and fill labor shortages in high, medium, and low-skilled jobs.⁹³ As such, OECD nations are hotspots for migrant workers, with the United Kingdom, United States, and Canada, welcoming 170,000, 145,700, and 135,800 migrant workers, respectively.⁹⁴

However, upon arrival in their new countries, migrant workers are often at risk for exploitation, earning 25% less than their native-born counterparts,⁹⁵ and being three times as likely to face forced labor.⁹⁶ Unlike with refugees, there is no requirement for asylum to be granted to individuals seeking migration on employment-related bases, nor is a standard of protection standardized internationally.⁹⁷

⁸⁸ “labor migration,” Migration Data Portal, last modified June 12, 2024, accessed August 25, 2024, <https://www.migrationdataportal.org/themes/labor-migration>

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ “labor migration,” *Migration Data Portal*.

⁹² “Executive Summary” in *ILO Global Estimates on International Migrant Workers*, 3rd ed, (Geneva: International Labor Organization, 2021), 12, ISBN: 9789220346570.

⁹³ “Immigration as a source of labor supply,” *Statistics Canada*, last modified June 22, 2022, accessed August 26, 2024, <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220622/dq220622c-eng.htm>.

⁹⁴ Migration Data Portal, “labor migration.”

⁹⁵ “labor migration,” *International Labor Organization*, accessed August 26, 2024, <https://www.ilo.org/topics/labor-migration>.

⁹⁶ Ibid.

⁹⁷ *ILO Global Estimates on International Migrant Workers*, 16.

Internally Displaced Persons

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are individuals who have fled their homes, but remain within the borders of their home country.⁹⁸ There are over 71 million IDPs globally,⁹⁹ making up 58% of the total population of forcibly displaced peoples.¹⁰⁰ 28.3 million internal displacements were triggered by conflict and violence,¹⁰¹ while the number of natural-disaster related displacements increased by 40% from 2021 to 2022, displacing over 32 million individuals.¹⁰² This figure represents the highest ever number of concurrent internally displaced people, driven by conflicts in Ukraine and Pakistan and environmental challenges such as climate change and food insecurity.¹⁰³ In 2022, about 75% of all IDPs lived in only 10 countries: Syria, Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ukraine, Colombia, Ethiopia, Yemen, Nigeria, Somalia and Sudan.¹⁰⁴

⁹⁸ “Internally Displaced People,” *UNHCR*, accessed August 26, 2024, <https://www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/who-we-protect/internally-displaced-people>.

⁹⁹ “All-time high of 71 million people internally displaced worldwide,” *Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre*, last modified May 11, 2023, accessed August 26, 2024, <https://www.internal-displacement.org/news/all-time-high-of-71-million-people-internally-displaced-worldwide/>.

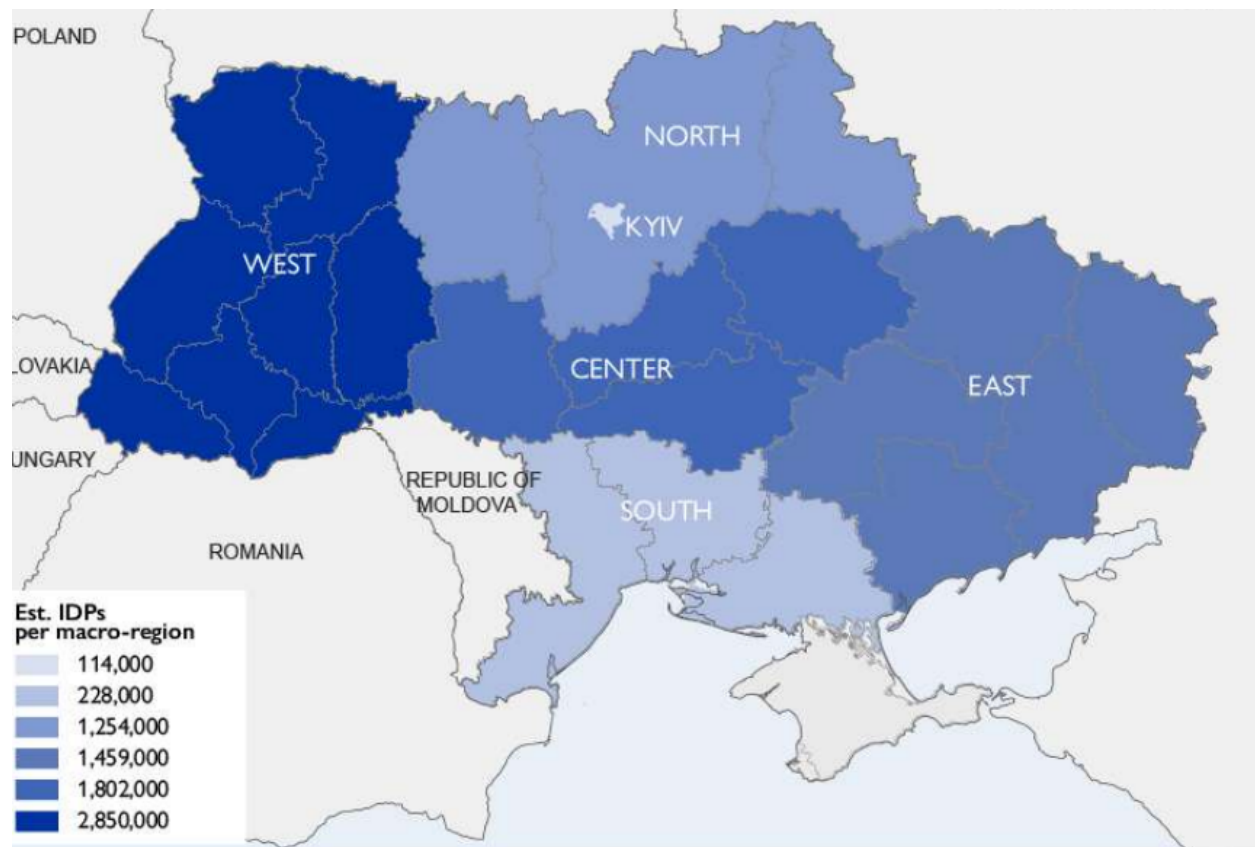
¹⁰⁰ “Internally Displaced People.”

¹⁰¹ “All-time high of 71 million people internally displaced worldwide.”

¹⁰² “All-time high of 71 million people internally displaced worldwide.”

¹⁰³ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁴ *Ibid.*



A map of the number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) living in Ukraine following the 2022 Russian invasion, as of April 2022.¹⁰⁵

Despite experiencing similar drivers of migration as refugees and asylum seekers, there is no guarantee of protection under international law, nor are specific rights afforded to IDPs.¹⁰⁶ As such, they are only entitled to protections under national legislation and constitutions, which can often fail to address specific needs,¹⁰⁷ making this population of migrants an especially vulnerable one.

¹⁰⁵ *Map representation of the distribution of displaced people within Ukraine following Russian invasion of 2022*, photograph, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/4zvzbpwz>.

¹⁰⁶ “Internally Displaced People.”

¹⁰⁷ Martina Caterina, “Foreword” in *Global Report on Law and Policy on Internal Displacement*, (Germany: UNHCR, 2022), 6, <https://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/UNHCR%20-%20Global%20Report%20on%20Law%20and%20Policy%20on%20Internal%20Displacement%20Hi-Res%20Version%20%281%29.pdf>.

Historical Integration Policies

Exclusion

Exclusionary legislation dominated Western migration policies throughout the late 19th and mid 20th centuries.¹⁰⁸ Exclusionary policies are those which serve to prevent individuals from entering a given country, and which often enable the deportation of existing migrants within the nation. These legislative policies were extremely harmful to migrants, denying them the possibility for integration or inclusion. The following section will touch on a handful of policies across a couple of nations within the late 19th to early 21st century.

A good example of an explicitly exclusionary immigration policy is the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. The Act was the first in American history to mandate restrictions on immigration,¹⁰⁹ as it prohibited the immigration of Chinese laborers for 10 years and required Chinese individuals to carry a certificate when they traveled across American borders.¹¹⁰ At the same time, due to a lack of integration policies and sinophobic sentiments, Chinese individuals faced significant discrimination.¹¹¹ Indeed, Chinese residents were often prevented from becoming naturalized citizens and faced unfair barriers to opening businesses and working.¹¹² With the Geary Act of 1892 and subsequent extensions, Chinese individuals were further banned from the Philippines and Hawaii.¹¹³ These policies remained in place until 1943.¹¹⁴

¹⁰⁸ Alyssa Girvan and Becky Taylor, "The History of British Immigration Policy (1905-2016)," *Refugee History*, accessed August 24, 2024, <https://refugeehistory.org/timeline-immigration>.

¹⁰⁹ "Chinese Immigration and the Chinese Exclusion Acts," *US Office of the Historian*, accessed August 24, 2024, <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1866-1898/chinese-immigration>.

¹¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹¹ Ibid.

¹¹² Ibid.

¹¹³ Ibid.

¹¹⁴ Ibid.

The United Kingdom provides an interesting case study of other exclusionary policies. The First World War had a significant impact on immigration policies globally. Between 1914 to 1918, there were heightened attempts to control migration across Europe, with a specific focus on the restriction and monitoring of migrant movement across borders,¹¹⁵ though even prior to the war, such policies had already begun to develop. In 1905, the United Kingdom passed the “Aliens Act” in response to the increased “undesirable” immigration of Jewish individuals due to rising anti-semitic sentiments.¹¹⁶ This Act marked the first official immigration control within the United Kingdom, which had previously enabled the migration of more than 40,000 Huguenots in 1865,¹¹⁷ 12,000 Poor Palatines,¹¹⁸ and a number of French refugees during the Napoleonic era.¹¹⁹ The 1905 Act attempted to restrict the movement of individuals who “[did] not have the means to support themselves and/or dependents” or were “convicted criminal[s],” while simultaneously codifying a legal definition of refugees and their right to asylum.¹²⁰ After the German invasion of Belgium in 1914, Great Britain welcomed 250,000 Belgians, the largest single displacement of populations into the UK.¹²¹ These refugees were provided housing in hostels, refugee camps, workhouses, and private homes, and most Belgians left Britain after the war, though not always voluntarily.¹²²

¹¹⁵ Girvan and Taylor, “The History of British Immigration Policy.”

¹¹⁶ Ibid.

¹¹⁷ Colin Yeo, “A short history of refugees coming to Britain: from Huguenots to Ukrainians,” *Free Movement*, last modified June 23, 2023, accessed August 26, 2024, <https://freemovement.org.uk/a-short-history-of-british-bespoke-refugee-schemes/>.

¹¹⁸ Ibid.

¹¹⁹ Ibid.

¹²⁰ Girvan and Taylor, “The History of British Immigration Policy.”

¹²¹ “How Belgian Refugees Kept the British Army Going During the First World War,” *Imperial War Museum*, accessed August 24, 2024, <https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/how-belgian-refugees-kept-the-british-army-going-during-the-first-world-war>.

¹²² Yeo, “A short history of refugees coming to Britain.”

At the start of World War I, the “British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act” was passed and granted the Crown the power to significantly restrict immigration, including prohibiting of migrants from entering the country, as well as preventing the movement of migrants within the country.¹²³ The Act further enabled police officers to detain, arrest, and search non-British citizens, and to deport any individual seen as a threat to Britain - often individuals of German descent.¹²⁴ After the War, these restrictive policies were upheld, with the Aliens Act of 1919 requiring the identification of all migrants and the restriction of movement into Britain to specific ports.¹²⁵ There were no attempts at integrating the migrant population at this point in time, and non-Britains were barred from the civil service.¹²⁶

These exclusionary immigration policies would continue well into the Second World War, with legislation further restricting the right to work of migrants in the 1930s,¹²⁷ and visas being required in 1938.¹²⁸

Assimilation

Assimilation-based inclusion policies are those which cause individuals to take on the practices of a dominant culture, often at the expense of the population’s original culture.¹²⁹ While assimilation is by no means only a migratory issue (indeed, the oppression of indigenous peoples through forced assimilation policies is well documented and should be independently investigated), for the purposes of this committee, it should only be investigated in this context.

¹²³ Girvan and Taylor, “The History of British Immigration Policy.”

¹²⁴ Ibid.

¹²⁵ Ibid.

¹²⁶ Ibid.

¹²⁷ Ibid.

¹²⁸ Ibid.

¹²⁹ Elizabeth Prine Pauls, “Assimilation,” Encyclopedia Britannica, last modified June 12, 2024, accessed August 24, 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/assimilation-society>.

Within the context of migrant integration, policies promoting assimilation are extremely common, and often come in the form of mandated language requirements and civic classes. It should be noted that “integration” and “assimilation” refer to different types of policies (see the “Statement of the Problem” section for a demonstration of differences), though integration policies will often integrate some aspects of cultural assimilation.

The Netherlands provides a good example of assimilation-style policies. In the mid-1990s, the Netherlands shifted from a multicultural framework of migrant inclusion to assimilation as a result of the Christian Democratic government’s “Integration Policy” of 1994.¹³⁰

With the 1998 Law on Civic Integration for Newcomers, integration courses, inclusive of language and civics classes, were made mandatory for new immigrants,¹³¹ and naturalization became contingent on passing a civics test.¹³² Moreover, from 1970 to 2002, there was a significant decline in the encouragement of cultural individuality within the Dutch education system.¹³³ As such, “learning one’s own language and ‘preserving’ one’s own identity [was] viewed mainly as an obstacle to successful integration.”¹³⁴ At the same time, the funding of single ethnic group organizations and bilingual education instruction stopped.¹³⁵ Subsequent policies in 2017 prevented individuals who “failed to integrate effectively” from accessing social services, representing a new hardline stance on assimilation.¹³⁶

¹³⁰ “Netherlands,” *Queen’s University*, accessed August 24, 2024. <https://www.queensu.ca/mcp/immigrant-minorities/resultsbycountry-im/netherlands-im>.

¹³¹ *Ibid.*

¹³² *Ibid.*

¹³³ *Ibid.*

¹³⁴ *Ibid.*

¹³⁵ *Ibid.*

¹³⁶ *Ibid.*

Multiculturalism

Multiculturalism is broadly defined as “an ideology [referring] to the acceptance of different cultures in a society and also to the active support of these culture differences by both the majority members and minority group members,”¹³⁷ with multicultural policies being those which support the existence of multiple cultures within one country. Multiculturalism is broadly embraced within the Western world due to its inclusive policies,¹³⁸ such as those which preserve minority cultures and languages. However, in recent years, the popularity of multiculturalism has waned due to rising anti-immigrant sentiments and far-right populism.¹³⁹ Despite this, multicultural policies still exist within a handful of nations, such as Canada, which will be explored below.

Canada was the first country in the world to adopt multiculturalism as an official governmental policy. The 1971 “multiculturalism policy” acknowledged both the cultural diversity of Canadians, as well as the intrinsic value of different cultures.¹⁴⁰ Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau introduced the policy by emphasizing that “there is no official [Canadian] culture.”¹⁴¹

Further, in 1982, the Canadian Constitution was changed to enshrine the preservation of multiculturalism within its charter,¹⁴² and in 1988, the government passed the Canadian Multiculturalism Act.¹⁴³

¹³⁷ Lily A. Arasaratnam, “A review of articles on multiculturalism in 35 years of IJIR,” *International Journal of Intercultural Relations* vol 37, no. 6, (November, 2013): 676-685, accessed August 26, 2024, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijintrel.2013.09.006>.

¹³⁸ Kenan Malik, “The Failure of Multiculturalism,” *Pandaemonium*, last modified February 17, 2015, accessed August 26, 2024, <https://kenanmalik.com/2015/02/17/the-failure-of-multiculturalism/>.

¹³⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁰ Jack Jedwab, “Multiculturalism,” *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, last modified March 20, 2020, accessed August 26, 2024, <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/multiculturalism>.

¹⁴¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁴² *Ibid.*

¹⁴³ David Berry, “Canadian Multiculturalism Act,” *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, last modified March 25, 2020, accessed August 26, 2024, <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/canadian-multiculturalism-act>.

The Act served as a framework to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion within Canada, ensuring that subsequent governments would “support and encourage the various cultures and ethnic groups that give structure and vitality to [Canadian] society.”¹⁴⁴ It eventually resulted in the Department of Multiculturalism and Citizenship which addresses specific barriers to equal opportunity and integration among individuals.¹⁴⁵

¹⁴⁴ Ibid.

¹⁴⁵ Ibid.

Past Actions

UN Relief and Rehabilitation Administration

Past actions by the United Nations on the issue at hand go as far back as the early days of the organization, as solutions to this issue were critical to addressing challenges that resulted from the Second World War. One such action was the creation of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) in 1946 which was initially established to coordinate the relief efforts aimed at tackling the problems of post-World War II Europe. This administration was thus responsible for the relocation of displaced European refugees, including those who did not want to return to their home countries due to various political reasons. During this relatively early effort of integrating displaced migrants into host societies, the key focus was still rudimentary in that it was mainly on the very initial stages of integrating migrants, which in this case consisted of organizing displaced persons camps for those wishing not to return to places such as Eastern Europe.¹⁴⁶



¹⁴⁶ Fiorello H. La Guardia (Fiorello Henry), and New York (N.Y.). Office of the Mayor.

“Collection Guides: the New York City Municipal Archives,” United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA), 1944-1947 | NYCMA Collection Guides, accessed September 2, 2024, https://a860-collectionguides.nyc.gov/repositories/2/archival_objects/613.

*Palestinian refugee children attending school in a camp in Jordan.*¹⁴⁷

1951 Refugee Convention & 1967 Protocol

A few years after the establishment of the UNRRA came major milestones in the recognition and protection of refugees. The 1951 Refugee Convention was the culmination of early efforts to assemble a set of guidelines, laws and conventions aimed at protecting the basic human rights and treatment of people forced to flee conflict and persecution. In this convention, the United Nations officially provided the modern internationally recognized definition of a refugee as someone who “owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, [or] membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of [their] nationality and is unable or ... unwilling to avail [them] of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country [of their] former habitual residence, is unable or ... unwilling to return to it.” In addition to providing this definition, the UN further consolidated and expanded on previous international instruments relating to refugees at the international level. When it was created, the Convention specifically pertained to only Europe, but eventually this geographical constraint was removed with the creation of the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, which was an amendment to the Convention.¹⁴⁸ To date, 149 states are party to the 1951 Convention, with most also being party to the 1967 Protocol.

¹⁴⁷ “UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA),” Flickr, accessed September 9, 2024, https://www.flickr.com/photos/un_photo/3836439313.

¹⁴⁸ “The 1951 Refugee Convention,” UNHCR, accessed September 2, 2024, <https://www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/who-we-are/1951-refugee-convention>.

The World Refugee Year and U.S. Fair Share Refugee Act

In 1960, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution designating the year ending in June, 1960 as World Refugee Year. Through this declaration, the UN hoped to recognize those experiencing adverse events including loss of homes, livelihoods, and nationalities. Ultimately, the UN was aiming to publicly acknowledge the challenges that these refugees were facing and spread greater awareness of their plight all across the world.¹⁴⁹ The World Refugee Year accomplished its goal, as it contributed to the passage of the United States Fair Share Refugee Act also in 1960, which resulted in the admission of nearly 5,000 refugees to the United States. This Act played a major role in effectively integrating migrants into the U.S. and their local societies, and the United States went on to provide means for these refugees to become lawful permanent residents after spending two years in the United States.¹⁵⁰

¹⁴⁹ “World Refugee Year, 1950-60,” The University of Chicago Press Journals, 1959, <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/640722?journalCode=ssr>.

¹⁵⁰ “Refugee Timeline,” USCIS, February 7, 2023, <https://www.uscis.gov/about-us/our-history/stories-from-the-archives/refugee-timeline#:~:text=1959%2D1960&text=To%20raise%20awareness%20of%20the,the%20attorney%20general's%20parole%20authority>.

Possible Solutions

Improving Support Programs and Legal Frameworks

In order to better respond to the unique challenges currently faced by migrants across the globe, legal frameworks must be improved. For example, international efforts must be made to revise existing migrant support programs or establish new ones to improve their effectiveness. By collaboratively working towards better support programs, ideas from a wide variety of host countries and countries aiding in the transport of refugees can be integrated to ensure that all potential needs of incoming migrants are accommodated. Furthermore, developing new support programs specifically through improving large-scale international policy frameworks would more effectively ensure that major issues such as mass migration can be properly addressed as policies for dealing with such an event would already be in place and would be enforced. Also, the international community can better support countries that are hosting and transporting migrants by providing resources to such countries that will lead to improvements to programs for refugee assimilation, ensuring that these refugees will have ample opportunities to become self-sufficient within their host countries and further integrate into society.

Additionally, new legal frameworks can be created to address concerns brought up by migrants, such as a lack of sufficient survival resources or poor treatment by immigration officials, including abuse. Legal frameworks that establish a method by which migrants can call out a country or its officials for failing to accommodate even basic needs or perpetuating harmful practices will likely lead to better migrant integration outcomes worldwide. Furthermore, additional courts can be established on a continental, regional or local level to deal with issues raised by migrants.

Incentivizing States to Improve Integration

Through developing incentives for states to focus on integration, migrants should have an easier and more seamless transition into new host societies. This sort of incentivization can be done through various methods, one of which being the creation of a benchmark to evaluate state efforts at integrating migrants, and rewarding states based on a set of criteria including their ability to meet this benchmark given their specific situation and resources. There are currently a variety of significant challenges that migrants face in their pursuit of integration, such as host countries outright rejecting hopeful immigrants with little reason and a lack of effective government action at improving the efficiency and efficacy of integration, among others.

Increasing International Cooperation

In addition to the aforementioned solutions, delegates must also address the fact that differences in the amount of resources available to migrants between countries leads to varying capacities of countries for migrants. In fact, in many cases, host countries and countries that play an active role in migrant transport are relatively resource-deficient. To re-emphasize an earlier point, establishing new programs that compile resources from many different actors within the international community can drastically improve outcomes for migrants. These resources can be put towards something such as language programs, as often migrants may not speak the official language of their host country, or job search programs that assist migrants in finding employment in their new country.

Cooperation between different countries can also reduce the burden of one specific country that has a large influx of migrants if other nations are willing to accept some migrants as well. While logistically this may be hard to coordinate, as transporting migrants from one country to another is not easy, it will ultimately lead to more effective migrant resettlement as there will be less of a concern of crowding in one country due to many migrants entering. Although sharing resources may appear to be a better alternative to this proposition, the reality

is that regardless of the number of resources a country may have, refugee camps can easily be overwhelmed by the sheer number of people that they may be forced to accommodate every day. Spreading these people out over a large area, such as across countries, will likely ensure that migrants are able to be officially processed and integrated into their new society more efficiently.



Christine Lagarde, former Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, speaks at a conference focused on improving international cooperation.¹⁵¹

¹⁵¹ “SM19 - Bretton Woods at 75 - Rethinking International Cooperation,” Flickr, accessed September 7, 2024, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/imfphoto/47581233601/in/photostream/>.

Bloc Positions

Countries Hosting Migrants

One of the key bloc positions in this session is nations who host migrants such as refugees, asylum seekers, labor migrants, skilled labor migrants, **family migrants**, and asylum seekers. As mentioned before, there has been much discussion about providing resources to nations that fall into this bloc, given that they need a significant amount of resources to support large influxes of migrants. It is therefore likely that nations in this bloc will advocate for policies that focus on providing adequate resources to countries that frequently host large numbers of migrants. The efforts of these nations to successfully integrate migrants largely varies, given that some have more resources than others to commit to migrants and also some may be more willing to provide meaningful short- and long-term support for migrants than others. Additionally, previous discussions by the United Nations on the strategies for the successful integration of migrants into host societies have pertained primarily to refugees and asylum seekers, with less of an emphasis on the topic of strategies to integrate migrants that fall into categories such as labor migrants, skilled labor migrants, and family migrants. Furthermore, some of these countries may be more well-equipped to handle one type of migrant than another, given their pre-existing societal structure and economy. Evidently, within this bloc there is a lot of variety, which may lead to diverse yet still effective policy solutions likely focused on addressing all types of migrants, especially those that have had less attention in the past, and creating frameworks that ensure that going forward, all countries will do their part to ensure that migrants are properly cared for. Examples of countries that fall into this bloc include Germany, the United Kingdom, and the U.S.¹⁵²

¹⁵² “Desperate Journeys,” UNHCR, accessed September 8, 2024, <https://www.unhcr.org/desperatejourneys/>.

Countries Aiding in Transport of Migrants

Another key bloc position is nations that aid in the transport of migrants. The importance of nations aiding in the transport of migrants is often overlooked due to discussions primarily focusing on the permanent settlement of migrants into host societies. Especially given how many refugees and asylum seekers may pass through these countries en route to their final destination, the importance of these nations to migrant settlement in general cannot be understated. These nations also vary significantly in their levels of support for migrants, and also the time that the average migrant may spend in these countries varies from one to the next. Given that these countries are often overlooked for countries that play a more active role in hosting migrants, these nations will likely advocate for policies that focus on providing resources to all countries involved in migrant transport and resettlement. They may also advocate for international frameworks that focus on expediting the transport of migrants from their original country to their final destination if they are forced to travel through some intermediary country, as this will reduce the burden on countries in this bloc. Some examples of nations within this bloc include Turkey, Jordan, Egypt, and Lebanon.¹⁵³

Countries Who Play a Small Role in Hosting or Transporting Migrants

In addition to aforementioned positions, some nations do not play a very active role in hosting or transporting migrants, which can be due to a variety of reasons including a far proximity from most migrant movements or very restrictive border policies. These countries may therefore be more focused on playing a significant role in structuring and outlining guidelines for migrant settlement. Additionally, these countries can take on a more active role in providing resources to countries that frequently host and transport migrants, as these nations often need them to ensure that migrants entering their country have basic necessities for survival. These countries can also help develop legal frameworks that focus on the prosecution of individuals or countries

¹⁵³ “Desperate Journeys.”

committing grievances against migrants, as was previously described in the “Possible Solutions” section. Nations within this bloc may include China and Russia.

Glossary

Asylum Seeker - A person who leaves their country of residence, enters another country, and makes a formal application for the right of asylum according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 14.

Displacement - The movement of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human rights.

Family Migrants - People who are accompanying migrant workers or refugees, people reuniting with family members who have migrated previously, or people forming new family units with nationals of the destination countries.

Resettlement - The selection and transfer of refugees from a state in which they have sought protection to a third state which has agreed to admit them—as refugees—with permanent residence status.

Refugee - An individual forced to flee their country due to violence or persecution.

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Map representation of the distribution of displaced people within Ukraine following Russian invasion of 2022.

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