

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees



Background

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United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees



Committee

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, since 1950 is a global organization dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people. It has 76 member Executive Committee and participate in its annual meetings and in Standing Committee consultations.

Functions

The main function of the UNHCR committee is to safeguard the rights and well-being of people who have been forced to flee. Together with partners and communities, we work to ensure that everybody has the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another country. We also strive to secure lasting solutions.

For over half a century, UNHCR has helped millions of people to restart their lives. They include refugees, returnees, stateless people, the internally displaced and asylum seekers. Our protection, shelter, health and education has been crucial, healing broken pasts and building brighter futures.

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Also strive to ensure that everyone has the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another State, with the option to eventually return home, integrate or resettle.

During times of displacement, we provide critical emergency assistance in the form of clean water, sanitation and healthcare, as well as shelter, blankets, household goods and sometimes food. We also arrange transport and assistance packages for people who return home, and income-generating projects for those who resettle.

Topics

Topic A: Impact of the borders reopening in Europe in the face of migrants rise.

Topic B: Consequences of Covid-19 Restrictions on Refugees in America.

Topic C: Addressing the increasing unfavorable conditions of Syrian refugees.



Topic A: Impact of the borders reopening in Europe in the face of migrants rise.

Delegates we are facing one of the largest discussions in the entire European continent, which is the borders reopening in the short, medium and long term, not only for people who visit Europe for tourist purposes, including and especially refugees from external countries such as the Middle East or Africa. Since we must remember delegates that since last year as a result of the current Covid-19 pandemic, more than 69 countries around the world have closed their borders and among them more than 15 countries are on the European continent.

And for the above named the UNHCR reports that as a result of the covid-19 restrictions in European countries, many of them have denied and stopped much of the reception of foreign refugees, which generates a problem that may worsen at the time of that countries want to resume opening their borders, not only for people who want to re-enter but even for the security of Europe.

Not to mention the risks of a possible third wave of infections by the virus, which could greatly modify the strategic plans of all the countries involved, and not only politically but even economically and in terms of health, Since delegates are reminded that the application of the vaccine is in process throughout the continent, so when the borders are reopened, the entire process of returning to normal can be greatly affected.



Finally, delegates, with the obligation to prioritize at all times the health, safety and integrity of all refugees who will make or resume the path to enter the continent, it is necessary to thoroughly discuss each of the points of the possible plan for the reopening of borders. and how to manage the way in which European and external countries will have contact with Europe, since otherwise it could worsen or return to the situation that has been experienced during all the months of the pandemic.

Guiding questions:

- How has the situation been handled within your delegation with the management of the closure and reopening of the borders by the covid-19?
- Within your delegation, how has the situation with migrants and refugees who wish to cross the border been handled?
- Based on your delegation, how do you think is the best way to manage this reopening of the borders in the delegations?
- What would be a feasible solution to face this problem in each of the delegations present?
- How can the situation of refugees and migrants who wish or wish to cross borders be helped or affected?



Topic B: Consequences of Covid-19 Restrictions on Refugees in America

As we've seen in the last year a pandemic caused a disaster in many ways such as economic, labor, scholar, and in this case it affected the refugees of many countries in America. There's over 470,000 asylum seekers and refugees from the North central America all over the world, all of this caused by the soar of the organized crime, drug cartels, among others, for example in Nicaragua the political persecution and the Human Rights violations have raised causing a wide ranging displacement of Nicaraguans. Many people from North Central America (NCA) have migrated to countries essentially Guatemala, Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras and Panama, the problematic it's that these countries are trying their best to integrate this asylum seekers but by the big increase of refugees, those countries have found full capacity and also facing the lack of services that also to the local citizens.

COVID-19 has driven Nicaraguans refugees to hunger and desperation. The UNHCR addressed that over 81,000 need supplies, also over the 63% of the refugees are eating two meals a day. Not only Nicaraguans have this problematic but also other safety seekers all over the NCA. Also situations like economic problems will make this task much harder for the host countries.



The COVID-19 pandemic is not a refugee crisis but it has created multiple crises for refugees. Refugees are among the most likely populations to suffer both the direct and secondary impacts of the pandemic. Lockdowns have affected the organizations that help refugees, which in many cases have struggled to provide the same amount and type of support as they previously had, while travel restrictions have limited the access of both aid and personnel to many regions in need mainly located in Central America.

These direct health risks as well as secondary impacts on refugee protection, rights, livelihoods, and access to asylum procedures, to name just a few, demonstrate the crucial need for increased and sustained investment in refugee protection and assistance.

Guiding questions:

- What can your delegation do to solve this problematic situation?
- Which measures has your delegation taken in this problematic?
- What could other delegations perform to solve this problem?
- How could involved governments could act?
- What factors condition refugees to seek asylum in other countries?



Topic C: Addressing the increasing unfavorable conditions of Syrian refugees

It has been 10 years since the Syrian Civil War started, a conflict that has left an uncountable number of losses and disgrace in the Middle East, as many national groups keep fighting to take control over the country. One of the most alarming consequences of this armed conflict is the growing amount of people displaced because of the insecurity that Syria faces (5.6 million until march 2021), being that the majority of them end up in neighbouring countries such as Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan or Iraq, and in a smaller proportion, Europe.

In this sense, refugee recipient countries had to adapt to the situation by creating refugee camps to encounter the ever growing migratory flow, a measure that has only solved a tiny part of the situation since the majority of Syrian refugees are still waiting for fully accessing the country. Once the Syrian displaced people arrive in the foreign country, they face hostility and poor living conditions as they lack electricity, water and food, not to mention a harsh winter that makes them choose between feeding their children or defend them from the cold. Most of them can not cost either of the two alternatives.



As this happens, recipient countries make blind eyes to the situation by not providing refugees with health or education, but to using them as a political card by accusing Syrian refugees of being responsible of the deteriorating situation that those countries are going through, which leads to a discriminatory treatment, and in some cases, violence against them. This situation has only been exacerbated by Covid-19 pandemic, as discriminatory restrictions were imposed on Syrians, which are now seen as a “risk to public health.”

This problem must be addressed since it poses a serious threat to human dignity and a human rights failure to our modern society. On opening a forum in which every country could seek for the ensurance of living conditions of displaced Syrians, a favorable change could be reached.

Guiding questions:

- Has your country taken any action or posture over Syrian refugees situation in recent years?
- To which extent the Covid-19 pandemic has worsened the refugees' living conditions?
- How could all the parts involved come to a mutual arrangement about this topic?
- Could your country come to a resolution that watches over Syrian refugees' human rights?



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