

OPEN EYE MODEL UN CONFERENCE 3.0

Committee: European Union

Agenda: Supporting the Social Inclusion of refugees entering the European Union Nations

Chairs: Raahil Qureshi, Savani Varpe & Sahil Saxena

Position: President and Vice Presidents

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## Letter from the Dais

Dear Delegates,

It is our esteemed pleasure to welcome you all to **the European Union (EU) at Open Eye Model United Nations 3.0 (OEMUN 3.0)** along with the Secretariat.

This Background guide will never be enough for research, however, it will give you enough insight into the agenda. Also, embedded in this study guide, are a series of hints, at which direction your research should be heading. The Dais encourages you to research further about the agenda, foreign policies and intricate details.

We hope that every delegate has a great time during the conference. An MUN is not only about battling out your foreign policy but also meeting new people, fostering friendships, learning new things and having a time to remember.

Feel free to drop your queries to the executive board. If this is your first MUN, it is highly encouraged that you should contact the dais and come to pace with the intricacy of the committee, agenda and the procedure of the MUN conference. Feel free to contact us.

Just to conclude, the background guide aims to make an effort to give delegates a better understanding of the agenda and give them a base to build their research upon. We will be following **UNA - USA Rules of Procedure**.

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Looking forward to seeing you all in committee!

Regards,

**Raahil Qureshi, Savani Varpe & Sahil Saxena (Chairs of European Union)**

## Introduction and Mandate of the Committee

The European Council was established by the Lisbon Treaty in 2009. It is located in Brussels (Belgium). It acts as a voice to twenty-seven member states in European Union. Many institutions around the globe like the European Parliament, the European Court of Justice, and the European Commission are part of this.

The European council sets the general policy and the political orientation of the European Union. It does not have any legislative functions or neither adopts EU laws.

### Roles of European Council:-

- Decides political priorities and gives European Union overall direction.
- Sets the EU's common foreign and security policy.
- Resolve the complicated and intricate issues that cannot be resolved at a lower level of intergovernmental cooperation.
- Promote peace, its values and the well-being of its citizens
- Offer freedom, security and justice without internal borders
- Sustainable development based on balanced economic growth and price stability, a highly competitive market economy with full employment and social progress, and environmental protection
- Combat social exclusion and discrimination
- Promote scientific and technological progress
- Enhance economic, social and territorial cohesion and solidarity among EU countries
- Respect its rich cultural and linguistic diversity
- Establish an economic and monetary union whose currency is the euro.

## Introduction to Agenda

Increasing Refugees is a very crucial issue that exists in today's world with conflicts and persecution being very common issues which is leading to an increase in the number of refugees in the world annually. Acceptance and Social Inclusion of asylum seekers or refugees is really important to reform their identity and help recover from several damages whether it be physical or mentally. Social Inclusion of refugees can be divided into many forms such as being treated and given all rights like other citizens, employment opportunities, and access to services like education, healthcare, housing etc. Social Inclusion allows people to fully become part of the community and form a new sense of identity for themselves.

Social Inclusion of Refugees is not an easy process and requires the international community to work together with a lot of cooperation and understanding. Social Inclusion can pose as a massive challenge in countries where the people reject people from other cultures, religions or ethnicity. This leads to a massive disruption in their integration and inclusion into the community which affects their social, economic and political life. Many issues such as Xenophobia and lack control over resources, inclusion in the economy and access to basic facilities which are important for human survival also serve as barriers to the social inclusion of refugees which is directly linked to their economic and political aspects of their presence in the society.

The European Union nations are one of the top refugee hosting countries with about 26 million refugee's and. 45.7 million internally displaced persons accepted into European Union till now. Sweden has the most generous refugee policy amongst the European Union Nations and has actively welcomed refugees. It accounts for about 2.6% of all the refugees accepted into Europe. European Union has also gone through a refugee crisis in 2015 which was a period where a large number of refugees approximately 1.2 million entered Europe to seek refuge.

## DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS:

### **Resettled refugees:**

Some refugees are permanently resettled to a third country because they are classified as highly vulnerable and are unlikely to be able to go back to their country in the near future. Each year, resettled refugees constitute less than one percent of the total number of refugees. Resettlement

also carries with it the opportunity to eventually become a naturalized citizen of the resettlement country

### **Refugees in protracted situations:**

Most refugees are hoping to go back home but they cannot because there is a war ongoing in their countries. 78 per cent of refugees live in protracted situations, which means that they have been in exile for over 5 years.

### **Internally displaced people:**

50 million people were displaced within their own countries at the end of 2019. IDPs reside in their own country and remain under the protection of their government, but they may also face challenges to be included by communities in other regions.

### **Asylum-seekers:**

An asylum-seeker is someone who is seeking refuge and international protection in a new country but whose status is not determined yet. Each year, around one million people seek asylum and wait for an answer for months or years. Some are kept in detention centers.

## **Key Issues**

### **Health Concerns**

Refugees often come from countries facing war or poverty and they embark on long and exhausting journeys to seek international protection. Migration itself does not count as a risk factor for health, but the circumstances of migration are often associated with physical, mental and social health disorders. Furthermore, refugees and migrants come from very different regions to Europe; therefore, the range of expectable diseases and health problems varies considerably. Furthermore covid-19 has resulted in a much direr situations. Even before the covid-19 pandemic, the camps and centers were overcrowded; now, we have found ourselves in a situation when we need to respect social distancing or more sanitary measures in places which are totally overcrowded with not enough sanitation facilities. Most refugees have very limited access to healthcare facilities and the funds needed to access treatment. It is essential that refugees are fit and are able to contribute actively to the development of their host community.

### **Inclusion in the Education System**

Currently the number of children and adolescents born outside Europe (including recently arrived refugee and migrant children) who leave school early is nearly twice as high compared to native-born children. Children of pre-primary and upper secondary ages (3-5 years and 15+

years) are typically beyond the scope of national legislation on compulsory education and consequently often excluded from school integration programs. We can't deny the fact that many refugee children from many parts of the world face discrimination. According to UNHCR, 3.7 million refugee children are out of school. These refugee children have run away from the trauma of persecution, displacement and violence. Thus, Education can assist them from recuperating from the trauma they faced, to sustain themselves financially to break the chain of dependency and to provide them a sense of purpose. It frees them from the risk of economic dependency and social exclusion.

### **Inclusion In the economy**

The inability to find work is a significant barrier for refugees' successful integration into society. Refugees can be supported in many ways through economic inclusion. It allows them to seek their needs in a safe, sustainable and dignified manner; avoids aid-dependency and negative coping mechanism. The right for refugees to work is embedded in the 1951 refugee convention. Nonetheless, refugees are not allowed to work in 50% of the countries and they face numerous challenges along the path of being economically included in host community. Some of the challenges being political discourse, labour exploitation, discrimination etc. The difficult economic situation of refugees has been exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Migrant Smuggling and Sex and Gender based violence (SGBV)**

Migrant smuggling is a profitable business for criminal networks with an estimated annual turnover reaching multiple billion euros worldwide. Smugglers use land, sea and air routes to facilitate irregular migration both into and within the European Union. Migrant smuggling is increasingly associated with serious human rights violations and deaths, in particular when it occurs by sea. Smuggled migrants are vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. Their safety and even their lives are often put at risk and it becomes hard for them to be socially accepted. Many prominent migration smuggling routes leading to Europe, make it a humanitarian obligation for the EU nations to see those illegal forms of border crossing and migration smuggling don't take place. The UNHCR has identified Sex and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) as a major evil to be tackled with special emphasis on refugees. This is a problem faced both at camps as well as outside of camps. The most common groups of people subjected to such violence are young girls, unaccompanied minors, disabled women, elderly women, and victims of sexual/physical abuse.

## **Timeline**

### **1999-2005: The creation of the first laws**

- In 1999, the European Council committed to work towards establishing a Common European asylum system, based on full and inclusive applications of the Geneva Convention.

- Between 1999 and 2005, six legislative instruments establishing *minimum* standards for asylum were adopted: the Eurodac Regulation, the Temporary Protection Directive, the Reception of Asylum Seekers Directive, and the Dublin Regulation replacing the 1990 Dublin Convention, the Qualification Directive and the Asylum Procedures Directive.

### **2008-2013: First Reforms**

- After the completion of the first phase, a period of reflection was necessary to determine the direction in which the CEAS should develop. The situation across EU Member States was still too varied and the levels of protection still not strong enough. This led to the European Commission's Asylum Search presented in June 2008, which set the basis for building a system of common and uniform standards for protection.
- Along with the Plan, the Commission presented a set of reformed EU asylum laws, which were completed in 2013. Among the novelties, the European Asylum Support Office was established specifically to assist Member States in implementing EU asylum law and to enhance the practical cooperation.

### **2015: Arrival of large number of refugee and irregular migrants**

- The European migrant crisis, also known as the refugee crisis, is a period characterized by high numbers of people arriving in the European Union (EU) overseas from across the Mediterranean Sea or overland through Southeast Europe. In total, EU countries received over 1.2 million asylum applications in 2015, two-thirds of which were made in four states (Germany, Hungary, Sweden and Austria).

### **2019: The European Union records the lowest number of migrant arrivals in five years.**

### **2020: Long-term EU budget 2021-2027 for the support for migration reinforced**

## **Major Parties Involved**

### **1. France**

France is one of the largest asylum accepting country. It is considered as a legal right to take asylum in France. In 2017 there were 337,143 refugees registered, and up to the end of 2018, 20,710 new asylum seekers had been given legal status to reside in France. On 2 July 2020, the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) condemned France for the “inhuman and degrading living conditions” of three asylum seekers. France refugee statistics for 2019 was 407,915.00, a 10.74% increase from 2018.

## 2. Germany

The right to asylum is a constitutional right in Germany and granted to everyone who flees political persecution. The Asylum Act and the Residence Act are the two most important immigration laws in Germany that provide rules for the admission and handling of refugee claims. In 2020, Germany's Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) decided the asylum applications of 145,071 people, close to 40,000 fewer than in 2019. Of those, 26% (37,818) were recognized as refugees under the Geneva Refugee Convention. Germany refugee statistics for 2018 was 1,063,835.00, a 9.63% increase from 2017.

## 3. Italy

Italy has adhered to or ratified the most important international treaties providing for the protection of refugees and their families. Italy has adhered to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, whose article 14 provides that “everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.” Once granted protected status, refugees may avail themselves of all the education, work, health care, housing, and other benefits established by law for Italian citizens. Between 2014 and 2020, the number of migrants setting foot in the country peaked in 2016 at 181 thousand individuals.

## 4. Spain

Spain's Law Regulating the Right of Asylum and Subsidiary Protection provides three types of international protection: conventional asylum for refugees, subsidiary protection, and exceptional protection for humanitarian reasons. Spain also has a program for resettlement of refugees. 118,088 asylum applications by refugees were received in 2019 in Spain - according to UNHCR. Most of them came from Venezuela, Colombia and from Honduras.

## Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

- **Convention Relating the Status of Refugees (1951):**

This was the first international agreement covering the most fundamental aspects of a refugee's life. It spelled out a set of human rights that should be at least equivalent to freedoms enjoyed by foreign nationals living legally in a given country and in many cases those of citizens of that state. It recognized the international scope of refugee crises and necessity of international cooperation including burden-sharing among states in tackling the problem. As of 1 October 2002, 141 countries had ratified the Refugee Convention.

- **New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants:**

On a global level, in September 2016 the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, a landmark political declaration aimed at improving how the international community responds to large-scale movements of refugees and migrants and to protracted refugee situations. As a result, two global compacts were adopted in 2018, for refugees and for other migrants. The New York Declaration sets out a Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), defining specific actions needed to ease pressure on host countries, enhance refugee self-reliance, expand access to third-country solutions and support conditions in countries of origin that allow refugees to return in safety and dignity. Based on these four key objectives, on 17 December 2018, the United Nations General Assembly affirmed the Global Compact on Refugees.

## **Possible Solutions**

### **1. Businesses:**

- Businesses can provide educational services to refugees. For example, Vodafone has partnered with UNHCR to establish the Instant Network Schools to address educational resource needs throughout marginalized refugee communities in Africa by providing them access to the internet and digital learning content.
- Businesses can employ refugees. During the pandemic, global companies have joined the Tent Partnership for Refugees, a network of 130 major private businesses, to hire refugees, support refugee entrepreneurs or create financial services that are more accessible to refugees.

### **2. Governments:**

- Governments can revise their laws to include refugees in society. For example in January 2019, Ethiopia's parliament revised its refugee law to enable refugees to obtain work permits, access primary education, obtain drivers' licenses, legally register life events (such as marriages), and access financial services.
- Governments can include refugees in their public healthcare systems. For example, Jordan allows refugees to access national health services and has included them in its response to COVID-19.
- Governments can create economic integration programs. For example, Sweden and Norway have state-sponsored integration programs along with housing and employment assistance.
- Governments can increase the capacity of their national educational systems to accommodate additional refugee students.



### 3. NGOs and Civil Society

- NGOs can create encounters between refugees and host communities and encourage contact between refugees, migrants and host communities. For example, Jusoor NGO in Lebanon gives Lebanese young adults the chance to volunteer at educational centers across Lebanon. In Denmark, the Red Cross' Buddy program pairs newly arrived refugees who hold residence permits with a buddy in their host community in order to nurture friendships and ties.
- NGOs can help reduce tensions between refugees and host communities. In 2014, Search for Common Ground supported UNHCR to reduce tensions caused by the arrival in Niger of refugees fleeing Boko Haram. The organization created better information channels to reduce rumors about the distribution of humanitarian aid and supported community initiatives such as soccer games and theater performances.

### Focusing Questions:

- How can we fight xenophobia, hate speech and disinformation about refugees? How can we ensure that refugees who are victims have access to justice and psychological counselling?
- How to ensure that refugees are properly integrated and how can the local people of the host community play to support refugees?
- How to ensure the social and economic inclusion by providing adequate Education, jobs and healthcare facilities to refugees?
- Seeing as migrations smuggling is becoming a serious concern, in what way can the EU nations ensure the progressive decline of activities related to migration smuggling?
- How can businesses support the inclusion of refugees in their communities?
- How can we ensure refugee's inclusion in health systems?
- How can we ensure refugees access to education in host countries?

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