

OPEN EYE MODEL UN CONFERENCE 3.0

Committee: United Nations Commission on the Status of Women



Agenda: Protecting the rights of Refugee Women

Chairs: Nysa Sequeira, Vaishnavi Kethineni and Arshita Lakhani

Position: President and Vice Presidents

Letter from the Dais

Dear Delegates,

It is our esteemed pleasure to welcome you all to **the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW)** 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**.

Committee Email: unscsw.oemun@gmail.com

Looking forward to seeing you all in committee!

Regards,

Nysa Sequeira, Vaishnavi Kethineni and Arshita Lakhani (Chairs of UNCSW)

Introduction and Mandate of the Committee

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body solely dedicated to the empowerment of women and the promotion of gender equality. The UNCSW is a functioning commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which is dedicated to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. It was established in 1946 by ECOSOC resolution 11 (II).

The unit of the United Nations that supported the UNCSW since its formation was later made the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW). New UN offices were established, the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the International Training and Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW). An additional UN office was established to help with the promotion of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI). In 2011, these four units (DAW, UNIFEM, INSTRAW and OSAGI), came together to form the UN Women which serves as the Secretariat of UNCSW.

In 1996, the mandate of the Commission was expanded by ECOSOC in resolution 1996/6. The Commission was now in charge of looking over the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and monitoring other gender-related activities in the UN. When the Commission holds meetings, Member States discuss various gender-related issues concerning the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and decide on further methods through which women can enjoy their rights in various fields, these ideas are then recommended to ECOSOC.

Members of the Committee

Members are elected by ECOSOC for a period of 4 years based on equitable geographical distribution. In total there are 45 member states; 4 from Eastern Europe, 8 from Western Europe and other States, 9 from Latin America and the Caribbean, 11 from Asia and 13 from Africa.

Introduction to Agenda

Globally today, we are witnessing an “inexorable intensification of violence” in the world’s armed conflicts. The result is that there are currently 59.5 million refugees worldwide. Female refugees all over the world are extremely vulnerable to sexual and physical violence. In addition to the dangers posed by opposing armed groups, women are at risk of being brutally murdered by human traffickers or even border security forces once they leave the conflict zone. Even after leaving the conflict zone, safety can be difficult to come by. Staying in a refugee camp within the country of origin or seeking refuge elsewhere puts women's security, freedom, and health at risk. Gender-based violence (GBV), barriers to education and employment, and a lack of inclusion in decision-making are all examples of this. These difficulties are exacerbated for women and girls in forced displacement situations, who account for roughly half of the refugee and internally displaced population.

Forcibly displaced women may face violence and discrimination at various points along their journey, including in their home country while fleeing to find shelter, and in the location where they seek refuge. Women are now in even greater danger as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Refugee women and girls, on the other hand, should not be regarded solely as passive victims. They run businesses and schools, provide safe spaces for women who have been abused, manage households, and assist in the operation of refugee camps. It is critical to protect refugee women's rights and empower them in order for them to reach their full potential. The socioeconomic, psychological, and safety challenges posed by war, conflict, and displacement can have a negative impact on women and girls and their future.

These effects may have additional implications for the future of individuals, communities, and societies, as well as intergenerational ramifications for women. Hence, it is important and necessary to protect the rights of women refugees.

The international community has long pledged to put an end to this growing threat. Nonetheless, current reports show that, despite declarations and resolutions, protecting female refugees from gender-based violence remains a complex issue. This challenge is solvable, however, because it is largely a result of inadequate policy implementation, and world events demonstrate that implementation should be prioritized. Women face a variety of challenges all over the world.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS:

Refugee:

An individual who has been forced to flee their homes due to persecution, whether on an individual basis or as part of a mass exodus due to political, religious, military or other problems.

Protection:

Includes activities aimed at ensuring that human rights are respected, preventing harm and abuse, and ensuring that conditions are conducive to these goals

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):

Internal displacement occurs when people are forced to move within their home countries as a result of conflict, natural disaster, or other reasons; internally displaced persons are distinct from refugees, as they remain in their countries of origin.

Refoulement:

To return a person residing outside of her home country to that country; “non-refoulement” is a requirement of certain refugee-related treaties, such as the Convention against Torture

Resettlement Country:

A resettlement country is any country where refugees who cannot be repatriated reside permanently.

Repatriation:

To return refugees to their countries of origin at the end of the situation that caused them to leave.

Key Issues

Gender based violence

Unequal power relations create conditions for the occurrence of gender-based violence, and family individuals, community members, or authorities actors can commit or tolerate such violence. Such abuse can cause sexual, physical or mental harm and can take the form of threats, coercion, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, or honour killing. Even as they flee from conflict zones, women and children remain at threat. More than 20,000 muslim women have been raped and physically violated throughout the bosnian war in the early 1990s, even as an estimated of 250,000 to 500,000 women were raped throughout the 1994 Rwandan genocide. Survivors experience various physical and psychosocial outcomes, including accidents, sexually transmitted diseases, depression, post-traumatic strain disorder, social stigma and rejection. Smugglers often target women, especially the ones of younger age. Refugee women face the extra threat of early and compelled marriage, often because their families cannot financially support them.

Women's access to legal employment opportunity

Refugee women therefore carry the stresses and stigmas related with being a migrant, being a refugee and be valuable studies have been conducted about the experience of migration; refugee resettlement problems; gender issue; the mental health of non-english speaking women and refugee men as well. Refugee women generally employed in unorganised sectors. Casual work offers girls with little stability, either financially or psychologically. There is no provision for refugee people, union support and the insecurity of not knowing whether the activity will still exist the following day. In addition, it is very tough to get money from banks with only a casual job as security so it is hard for those women to become financially independent.

Xenophobia and discrimination

Xenophobia refers to a fear or hatred of strangers accompanied through discrimination to the equal. The scope and severity of this are increasingly obvious in reviews of abuse and discrimination against immigrants, refugees and other non-nationals in all regions of the global. Today's increasing variety of international migration is irregular and unauthorized, and this fact encourages abuse and exploitation. However, even if their actions are felony and authorized, non-citizens face an excessive diploma of discrimination. They are often targets for economic insecurity and the government's inability to offer basic services to its residents. Many african and asian foreigners who have grow to be goals of xenophobia live in groups in which mainly poor south american have restrained access to assets and employment opportunity. Official government data for the last quarter of 2019 confirmed an unemployment rate of 29.1% for refugee women.

Timeline

1917

The immigration act of 1917 required all immigrants aged 16 years and older to demonstrate they may want to read. However, government exempted from this new literary requirement all those seeking admission to the united states to keep away from religious persecution

1945

Presidential directive on displaced persons- underneath a presidential directive dated december 22, 1945, President Truman authorized the expedited admission of displaced persons and refugees inside the framework of immigration laws that have been present.

1947

The polish resettlement act of 1947 became developed to official legislate the rights of polish refugees, which included access to unemployment benefit, work and the ability to convey dependents to the United Kingdom which protected women, disabled people as properly as various ethnic identities.

1951

UN refugee convention: The intention is to make sure that all the ones people who confronted persecution in their use of a foundation could are seeking protection in other nations. Nations were encouraged to allow refugees the same rights as residents that includes welfare, property, courts, fair treatment, education, and the usage of as national citizens, and to 'as far as possible facilitate the assimilation and naturalisation of refugees'.

1961

The migration and refugee help act of 1962 provided monetary help to refugees, particularly those fleeing from the cold war communist nations.

1980

The united states refugee act created a uniform and comprehensive police to proactively address refugee admissions.

2003

The department of homeland security: USCIS became the primary agency that oversees refugee and asylum affairs in cooperation with the department of state.

Major Parties Involved

1. Syria

Approximately 6 million syrians are refugees and another 6.2 million are internally displaced in Syria. Nearly 11.1 million people in Syria want humanitarian assistance and protection. About half of the people affected by using the syrian refugee disaster for kids and a large amount are women. For millions of people, conflict has taken away their childhood, affecting their long-term physical and mental health, and their destiny prospects. Many kids in this crisis have lost family and friends due to violence, suffered physical and psychological trauma, and had to drop out of school. A large quantity of women are faced with mental and bodily violence and are forced to flee with their children.

2. Turkey

According to official statistics, by way of december 2018 more than 3.6 million registered syrian refugees are living in turkey, 7% of them are women and half of this female population is underneath the age of 18. Refugee girls and women, who are more vulnerable to exploitation, are subjected to all forms of violence in their daily lives. Additionally, services for syrian refugees in turkey are largely gender-blind, leaving a huge amount of problems unsolved. In addition to marriage cases, forced prostitution is every other essential trouble that needs to be seen. Some syrian women often become intercourse workers after escaping from domestic violence while others are forced into intercourse work by way of their partners. Others are exploited via gangs of human traffickers on the way.

3. Pakistan

Approximately 1.5 million afghans had gone to Pakistan by june of 2015 making it the second biggest host of refugees. This number represents the complete of the refugee population there. Some afghans are already dwelling in pakistan back to their homes at the same time. Women refugees are the worst off as a combined end result of their gender and refugee status. Becoming a refugee means losing legal and social status and also the traditional community-based structures, which have regularly protect girls get demolished at some stage in these situations. Due to this, refugee women are vulnerable to trauma, sexual violence, deepening poverty and an increased burden of care of their children, family and themselves. According to an estimate, one-third of afghan refugee women are widows, but little is done to address their special needs. Tribal and political leaders also limit women's mobility in a new 'alien' land, which means few girls are capable to go out in seek of employment or higher opportunity

4. Iran

Iran handiest has a small variety of refugees that flee to locate resettlement somewhere else. Iran has taken on a massive function in the refugee crisis, taking in around 979,400 refugees, most of which have fled from Afghanistan and Iraq. There are more refugees and displaced people now than ever before in history. An estimated 65.3 million people are displaced, with 21.3 million of those being refugees. As of 2016, the islamic republic of Iran was the fifth top refugee-hosting country . The secondary status of girls is mediated not simplest in their limited representation in the country’s politics and judiciary, but also in their own homes, as by their husbands who retain primary control over home affairs. Across the Iran, particularly in its more remote, impoverished areas and rural areas many women are faced with normalized patterns of coercion, physical violence and marital rape – a crime currently unrecognised in iranian law.

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

- **Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2011. 66/128, “Violence against women migrant workers.” Sixty-sixth session Agenda item 28 (a):**
 - a) Their resolutions have called upon the governments of all the member states to implement policies on international migration, labour and employment, and refugees while keeping in mind, the human rights obligations and commitments, with the sole aim of prevention and protection of migrant women workers against gender-based discrimination and violence. Effective measures are suggested, to ensure none of these policies reinforce discrimination and abuse, this can be done by conducting impact assessment studies of such programs in order to identify the effectiveness of the measures taken and the results achieved.
 - b) Has urged all governments to provide refugee women with access to emergency health care in case of pregnancy and childbirth, regardless of their immigration status. Ones affected by diseases like HIV, shall receive support in the form of HIV prevention, treatment and care facilities.

- c) Suggested to consider incorporating a gender-perspective into immigration laws in order to prevent gender-based discrimination and violence of any kind. Policies to be enforced that permit women migrant workers who are victims of violence to apply for residency and job permits independently, without the consent/permission of their abusive employers or spouses. Recruitment and deployment of the women migrant workers to take place regardless of their immigration status.
- **Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2016. 71/167, “Trafficking in women and girls.” Seventy-first session, Agenda item 27.**
 - a) According to the policies currently in motion, the countries of origin and destination for the refugees are encouraged to place penal and criminal sanctions against the perpetrators of gender-based violence towards women and girl refugees. The justice system shall be flexible and shall provide maximum support to the victims by allowing them to easily voice their concerns and views at appropriate proceedings with the consent of the victim. The victims should be provided with protection services to prevent victimization and other crimes. Governments should also implement training programs for their law enforcers, immigration officers, border officials, diplomatic and consular officials, prosecutors and service providers, in order to educate them about the necessary skills and attitudes required for the functioning of gender-sensitive interventions.
 - b) Public awareness pertaining to issues related to women refugee trafficking, gender-based violence and other crimes need to take place with appropriate measures. Discourage and eliminate the factors that make women and girls vulnerable to trafficking, and those that fosters all forms of exploitation. Laws and policies generated by the United Nations bodies, Governmental bodies and non-governmental organizations shall be publicized and emphasis shall be put on the seriousness of such crimes and the penalties provided to the perpetrators

Possible Solutions

Listed below are a few possible solutions to the problem at hand, However, the delegates are highly encouraged to further research and discover other solutions pertaining to the issue and find ways to implement them.

1) **Formulating/strengthening already-existing policies for the protection of refugee women and girls.**

The first step, in order to protect refugee women, should be the acknowledgement by the governments and public of all countries, that violence against women is a heinous crime that can result in heavy penalties to its perpetrators. These policies should be implemented in accordance with the rules set by the governments. This can be ensured by conducting routine checks on their functioning and effectiveness. These policies should be applicable for all refugee women present in that particular country, regardless of their immigration status.

2) **Providing refugee women and girls with established healthcare facilities and emergency aids.**

Refugees, in most countries, not only have a higher susceptibility to diseases but also receive compromised and limited access to public healthcare. Women in particular require professional care at the time of pregnancy and childbirth.

3) **Allowing refugee women to seek employment**

Women refugees often face many challenges and hurdles when seeking employment. Some factors that create an issue are illiteracy, limited knowledge of the local language and gender-based discrimination.

Focusing Questions:

- What are the crimes that take place against refugee women?
- Should countries be obliged to support migrant refugees?
- How can gender-based crimes, like trafficking, be prevented against refugee women?
- What are the other facilities that should be provided to refugee women for their safety and livelihood?
- What measures can be taken to help women that have been diagnosed with diseases such as HIV and AIDS?
- How should the justice system work while handling cases related to gender-based violence against refugee women?

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