



ARIZONA MODEL UNITED NATIONS United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is a United Nations program mandated to assist and protect refugees at the request of the home government or United Nations. The main objective of this program is the protection and safeguarding of refugees' rights, which include the ability to apply for asylum, return to their host country voluntarily, and resettle and integrate into their new host country. This committee will address the large flow of refugees pouring out of Syria and plans to assist in their relocation and integration, in addition to the issue of unaccompanied children who have been displaced. Each delegation will represent a member state and one vote will be allocated per country.

UNHCR Overview:

<http://www.unhcr.org/figures-at-a-glance.html>

UNHCR Mandate:

<http://www.unhcr.org/protection/basic/526a22cb6/mandate-high-commissioner-refugees-office.html>

Unaccompanied Refugee and Migrant Children

Aylan Kurdi, a three-year-old boy, washed ashore on a Turkish beach almost a year ago and yet no comprehensive plan has been put in place to assist the protect children and their families fleeing their war-torn countries. The modern world faces an unprecedented scale of human displacement not seen since the end of the World War II. With an estimated 65.3 million persons being forced from their home with 21.3 million of those persons being under the age of 18, it is the duty of the UNHCR to act and protect the interests of these individuals. In 2008, the UNHCR published the "Guidelines on the Best Interest of the Child," which established a protocol to safeguard and assist the most at-risk group of refugees. The onset of the Arab Spring and Syrian Civil War exacerbated the flow of refugees and with that the flow of unaccompanied children with 90,000 applying for asylum in Europe in 2015 alone. Thus, it is the responsibility of the member states to create a plan to better aid these children and ensure their safety during the perilous journey from their devastated homes to their new countries.

Guidelines on the Best Interest of the Child:

<http://www.unhcr-centraleurope.org/pdf/who-we-help/children/unhcr-guidelines-on-the-best-interest-of-the-child.html>

Unaccompanied Minors in Europe:

<http://www.unhcr-centraleurope.org/en/what-we-do/caring-for-the-vulnerable/unaccompanied-minors-and-separated-children.html>

Current Event:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/nearly-90000-unaccompanied-minors-sought-asylum-in-eu-in-2015-a7010976.html>

Questions to Consider:

- What steps have been taken by your country to assist unaccompanied refugees and migrant children?
- How has your country been impacted by the current flow of refugees?
- What laws or protections does your country have to protect unaccompanied migrants or refugees?

Syrian Refugee Crisis

The dawn of the Arab Spring brought for many the hope for democracy and new freedoms, but for the people of Syria it brought a long, bloody civil war going onto its 6th year. With rebel factions, government forces, US-led coalition bombers, and ISIS all tearing their way through the country, many civilians have been forced to flee their home towns for Europe, Turkey, Jordan, and other countries that will accept them. With an estimated 4.8 million Syrian refugees fleeing the country and another 8.7 million Syrians internally displaced, urgent action on behalf of the UNHCR is required. Nearby camps in Jordan are filled over capacity, European countries are balking under the influx, and some countries have all together stopped accepting refugees. A united solution is required to ensure a global initiative is undertaken and efficiently executed to end this humanitarian crisis.

Rights of the Refugee:

<http://www.ijrcenter.org/refugee-law/>

Protecting Refugees Q & A:

<http://www.unhcr.org/publications/brochures/3b779dfe2/protecting-refugees-questions-answers.html>

UNHCR Syria Overview:

<http://www.unhcr.org/syria-emergency.html>

Questions to Consider:

- What has your country done to aid Syrian refugees?
- How did your country respond to the influx of refugees?
- What is the political environment in your country and is it reconciliatory to refugees?
- What can be done to increase education about the plight of refugees?