

# ***GENERAL ASSEMBLY III: SOCHUM***

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The Arizona Model United Nation's 55th conference began at 10:30 am on Friday, March 17th. The social, cultural, and humanitarian committee opened the floor to delegates from all around the world to speak about their beliefs on the treatment of refugees. The delegate representing Colombia urges other delegates to consider ways to encourage the acceptance of refugees within their countries. It was this call to action that began the debate within the committee for how to properly handle people seeking asylum.

Delegates recognize that while not every country is in the economic position to help these refugees, if a country does have the ability to help they should. Colombia felt inclined to do everything in their power to help refugees, stating their plan to give refugees the opportunity to be educated in their country in order to feel more involved in their temporary home. Following several speakers, the committee called for a suspension from debate.

While the committee took a break to discuss ideas, the delegates representing Cuba and Malaysia called for a press conference regarding the advancement of relations between their two countries. For years the Cuban government has offered a scholarship to Malaysian students hoping to study medicine and gave them the opportunity to study at a school in Cuba. In 2014, however, these degrees were not regarded as valid by the Malaysian government. During the press conference, Malaysia ensured that since then their government has taken action to recognize these

degrees and let the students practice medicine in their home country. Both delegates from Cuba and Malaysia wanted to emphasize that their relationship expands past just education and healthcare; they plan on strengthening ties in regards to commerce and tourism as well.

Back in committee, the delegates welcomed two guest speakers to discuss their views on the treatment of refugees. The first speaker was from Afghanistan and explained his experience as a refugee. He stated that he enjoyed seeing programs that helped refugees adapt to the culture, and strongly believes that the public should be educated on the cultures of people fleeing to their country. The delegate from Iran asked the guest speaker how governments can make transition into their culture easier for the asylum seeker, to which the speaker explains that the best way to integrate refugees into this new culture is just by letting them live alongside the natives. David, a guest speaker from South Sudan, also fled from his country as a refugee. He was lucky enough to be taken in by his Australian cousin at the age of 22, and worked there to earn a bachelor's degree in political science. He likes to give back by working at an orphanage in Australia. His concern for other refugees can be seen through the work he has done for refugees in Australia. Both speakers believe that opportunity and equal treatment got them where they are now.

The guest speakers, coupled with the speeches from delegates, allowed for a shared view within the committee on the treatment of refugees. A resolution was passed where the ultimate goal was to effectively integrate the refugees into their new country. Essentially, the resolution provides refugees with the same rights that citizens of that nation benefit from, like the right to education, shelter, food, and job opportunities. The committee emphasized the point that refugees should feel comfortable in the country they flee to and be able to live alongside the natives of that country.

Shortly after this resolution was passed, another resolution was passed regarding a similar topic. The resolution 1-3 mainly addresses refugees and their safety, as well as their involvement within the country they are entering.