

QTMUN 2024



International Organization for Migration

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Equity Disclaimers

Throughout this committee, delegates will be engaging in complex debates and discussions covering a wide array of topics. As UTMUN seeks to provide an enriching educational experience that facilitates understanding of the implications of real-world issues, the content of our committees may involve sensitive or controversial subject matter for the purposes of academia and accuracy. We ask that delegates be respectful, professional, tactful, and diplomatic when engaging with all committee content, representing their assigned country's or character's position in an equitable manner, communicating with staff and other delegates, and responding to opposing viewpoints.

This Background Guide and International Organization of Migrants presents topics that may be distressing to some Delegates, including but not limited to the following: the Syrian Refugee Crisis, Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, World War I and II, the Colombia Crisis, US Detention Centers, Haitian Earthquake and more. Great care will be taken by staff in handling any/all of these topics should they arise.

UTMUN recognizes the sensitivity associated with many of our topics, and we encourage you to be aware of and set healthy boundaries that work for you. This may include: refraining from reading certain parts of the background guide, preparing yourself before reading this background guide, doing some self-care or seeking support after reading the background guide, or anything that can help make you feel more comfortable. We ask that all Delegates remain considerate of the boundaries that other Delegates set.

UTMUN expects that all discussions amongst delegates will remain productive and respectful of one another. If you have any equity concerns or need assistance in setting boundaries or navigating sensitive subject matter or have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or our Chief Equity Officer, Harvi Karatha, at equity@utmun.org. We want you to feel safe and comfortable at UTMUN!

If you wish to switch committees after having read the content warnings for this committee for purely an equity-based concern, please do the following:

1. Fill out the UTMUN 2024 Committee Switch Request Form, <https://forms.gle/EVf1kp6r6ACnBooR6>.

If you have any equity concerns, equity-based questions, or delegate conflicts, please do any of the following:

1. Email equity@utmun.org to reach Harvi Karatha or email deputy.equity@utmun.org to reach Iva Zivaljevic or reach out to me at uncct@utmun.org.
2. Fill out the (Anonymous if preferred) UTMUN Equity Contact Form: [UTMUN Equity Contact Form](#)
3. Notify/Ask any staff member to connect you to Harvi Karatha or [Iva Zivaljevic](#)

Model United Nations at U of T Code of Conduct

The below code of conduct applies to all attendees of UTMUN 2024 for the entire duration of the conference, and any conference-related activities (including but not limited to committee sessions, conference socials, committee breaks, and the opening and closing ceremonies).

1. Harassment and bullying in any form will not be tolerated, the nature of which includes, but is not limited to, discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, ethnicity, colour, religion, sex, age, mental and physical disabilities, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression,

a. Harassment and bullying include, but are not limited to, insulting and/or degrading language or remarks; threats and intimidation; and intentional (direct or indirect).

discrimination and/or marginalization of a group and/or individual;

i. The above prohibition on harassment, bullying, and inappropriate behaviour extends to any and all behaviour as well as written and verbal communication during the conference, including notes, conversation both during and outside committees, and general demeanour at all conference events;

ii. UTMUN reserves the right to determine what constitutes bullying and/or inappropriate behaviour toward any individual and/or group;

b. Attendees must not engage in any behaviour that constitutes physical violence or the threat of violence against any groups and/or individuals, including sexual violence and harassment, such as, but not limited to,

i. Unwelcome suggestive or indecent comments about one's appearance;

ii. Nonconsensual sexual contact and/or behaviour between any individuals and/or groups of individuals;

iii. Sexual contact or behaviour between delegates and staff members is strictly forbidden;

2. UTMUN expects all attendees to conduct themselves in a professional and respectful manner at all times during the conference. Specific expectations, include, but are not limited to,

a. Attendees must, if able, contribute to the general provision of an inclusive conference and refrain from acting in a manner that restricts other attendees' capacity to learn and thrive in an intellectually stimulating environment;

b. Attendees must adhere to the dress code, which is Western business attire;

i. Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis depending on the attendees' ability to adhere to the previous sub-clause;

ii. Attendees are encouraged to contact Chief Equity Officer, Harvi Karatha, at equity@utmun.org with questions or concerns about the dress code or conference accessibility;

- c. Attendees must refrain from the use of cultural appropriation to represent their character and/or country, including the use of cultural dress, false accent, and any behaviour that perpetuates a national or personal stereotype;
- d. Delegates must not use music, audio recordings, graphics, or any other media at any time unless approved and requested to be shared by the Dais and/or the Chief Equity Officer, Harvi Karatha at equity@utmun.org;
- e. Attendees must abide by instructions and/or orders given by conference staff, members;
 - i. Attendees are exempt from this above sub-clause only if the instructions and/or orders given are unreasonable or inappropriate;

3. Delegates, staff, and all other conference participants are expected to abide by Ontario and Canadian laws and Toronto by-laws, as well as rules and regulations specific to the University of Toronto. This includes, but is not limited to,

- a. Attendees, regardless of their age, are strictly prohibited from being under the influence and/or engaging in the consumption of illicit substances, such as alcohol or illicit substances for the duration of the conference;
- b. Attendees are prohibited from smoking (cigarettes or e-cigarettes, including vapes) on University of Toronto property;
- c. Attendees must refrain from engaging in vandalism and the intentional and/or reckless destruction of any public or private property, including conference spaces, venues, furniture, resources, equipment, and university buildings;
 - i. Neither UTMUN nor any representatives of UTMUN is responsible for damage inflicted by attendees to property on or off University of Toronto campus;
 - ii. Individuals will be held responsible for any damages.

4. The Secretariat reserves the right to impose restrictions on delegates and/or attendees for not adhering to/violating any of the above stipulations. Disciplinary measures include, but are not limited to,

- a. Suspension from committee, in its entirety or for a specific period of time;
- b. Removal from the conference and/or conference venue(s);
- c. Disqualification from awards;
- d. Disqualification from participation in future conference-related events.

5. UTMUN reserves the right to the final interpretation of this document.

For further clarification on UTMUN's policies regarding equity or conduct, please see this [form](#). For any questions/concerns, or any equity violations that any attendee(s) would like to raise, please contact UTMUN's Chief Equity Officer, Harvi Karatha, at equity@utmun.org or fill out this anonymous Equity Contact Form: <https://forms.gle/Psc5Luxp22T3c9Zz8>.

Letter from the Director

Hello, delegates and welcome to UTMUN 2024 International Organization of Migrants (IOM). My name is Victoria Toscano, and I am very excited to be your director for this committee during the upcoming conference. I am in my 2nd year and I am doing a double major in History and Political Science with a minor in Diaspora and Transnational studies. This is my second year doing UTMUN and my first year as a Director for a committee.

Joining me on the dais is Braden Chau as the Vice Director and Patrick Mikkelsen as the Moderator. Braden is in his first year at Rotman Commerce and is planning on specializing in accounting and Patrick is also in his first year and is currently in the Munk One program at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy. He is planning on pursuing a double major in Peace, Conflict and Justice and Public Policy, and has a passion for equity (though this is “subject to change without notice” as he puts it). Patrick participated in UTMUN for the last two years as a delegate and is excited to join the Dias this year.

For this year, the committee IOM will be discussing two very important and sensitive topics: Forced Migration and Comprehensive Approaches to Migrant Empowerment and Inclusion. For this committee, delegates are expected to be going about these topics through the lens of your country. Make sure sufficient research is done about your country to be able to properly discuss them during the committee. Additionally, please remember that the IOM is an organization created to help migrants around the world despite any political battles or conflicts going on.

Please go through the background guide as it is here to help start your research for the topics of this committee. The guide also has resources that will help guide your independent research. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact anyone on the Dais. The Dais and I are looking forward to meeting you all and wish you the best of luck for the conference!

Sincerely,
Victoria
IOM@utmun.org

Position Paper Policy

At UTMUN 2024, position papers are required to qualify for awards. Each committee will also give out one Best Position Paper award. Only delegates in Ad Hoc are exempt from submitting a position paper. To learn more about position paper writing, formatting and submission, please check out the position paper guidelines. Please read through the guidelines carefully as this page will describe content recommendations, formatting requirements and details on citations. If you have any questions about position paper writing, feel free to contact your Dais via your committee email or reach out to academics@utmun.org.

Abbreviations:

AWID- Association for Women’s Rights in Development

CPC- Care Processing Centre

CRS- Comprehensive Ranking System

CSO- Civil Society Actors

DACA- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

EU- European Union

FWP- Foreign Worker Program

GCM- Global Compact for Migration

GCR- Global Compact on Refugees

GRO- Grassroots Organization

ICMPD- International Centre for Migration Policy Development

IDP- Internally Displaced People

IOM- International Organization of Migration

IRC- International Rescue Committee

IRO- International Refugee Organization

MENA- Middle East and North Africa

MOU- Memorandum of Understanding

Abbreviations:

MSF- Medecins Sans Frontieres

NGO- Non Governmental Organization

OECD- Organizations for Economic Cooperation and Development

PTSD- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

UDHR- Universal Declaration of Human Rights

UN- United Nations

UK- United Kingdom

UNHCR- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNICEF- United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

UNRRA- United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration

UNRWA- United Nations Relief and Works Agency

USA- United States of America

WHO- World Health Organization

Definitions:

Anti-Discrimination

Opposed to or intended to prevent discrimination.¹

Assimilation

The process through which individuals and groups of differing heritages acquire the basic habits, attitudes, and mode of life of an embracing culture.²

Asylum-Seekers

Is a person who has left their country and is seeking protection from persecution and serious human rights violations in another country, but who hasn't yet been legally recognized as a refugee and is waiting to receive a decision on their asylum claim. Seeking asylum is a human right.³

Axis Powers

Coalition headed by Germany, Italy, and Japan that opposed the Allied Powers in World War II.⁴

Common Law Partner

Is when a couple have lived together for at least one year in a conjugal relationship.⁵

Conjugal Partner

Is when partners are financially, socially, emotionally and physically interdependent, where they share household and related responsibilities, and where they have made a serious commitment to one another.⁶

Cultural Identities

Is a part of a person's identity, or their self-conception and self-perception, and is related to nationality, ethnicity, religion, social class, generation, locality or any kind of social group that has its own distinct culture.⁷

Dehumanization

The process of depriving a person or group of positive human qualities.⁸

¹ Cambridge Dictionary, "Anti-Discrimination," English meaning - Cambridge Dictionary

² Elizabeth Prine Pauls, "Assimilation," Encyclopedia Britannica, July 20, 1998,

³ "Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants," Amnesty International, March 5, 2021,

⁴ "Axis Powers Summary," Encyclopedia Britannica

⁵ "Assessing a Common-Law Relationship," Canada.ca.

⁶ "Conjugal Relationships," Canada.ca.

⁷ Victoria Wilson, "What Is Cultural Identity and Why Is It Important?," Exceptional Futures, June 29, 2021,

⁸ "Definition of Dehumanize," accessed November 21, 2023,

Definitions:

Dependent Child

When a person is under 22 years old and does not have a partner or spouse. If a person is over 22 then they must be dependent on their parents for financial support since before they were 22 and they must not be able to financially support themselves because of a mental or physical condition.⁹

Domestic Violence

Can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, psychological, or technological actions or threats of actions or other patterns of coercive behaviour that influence another person within an intimate partner relationship.¹⁰

Egregious

Outstandingly bad.¹¹

Far-Right Populist

Is a political ideology that combines right-wing politics and populist rhetoric and themes.¹²

Forced Migration

Is an involuntary or coerced movement of a person or people away from their home or home region.¹³

Globalism

A national policy of treating the whole world as a proper sphere for political influence compare imperialism, internationalism.¹⁴

Internally Displaced People

Are people or groups of people who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized border.¹⁵

Holocaust

Was the genocide of European Jews during World War II. Between 1941 and 1945, Nazi Germany and its collaborators systematically murdered six million people across German-occupied Europe, around two-thirds of Europe's Jewish population.¹⁶

⁹ "Dependent Children," Canada.ca, accessed November 21, 2023, /

¹⁰ "Domestic Violence," Domestic Violence, November 1, 2022,

¹¹ "Definition of Egregious," accessed November 21, 2023.

¹² "Right-Wing Populism," ECPS, accessed November 21, 2023.

¹³ "Forced Migration or Displacement," Migration data portal, accessed November 21, 2023.

¹⁴ "Definition of Globalism," accessed November 21, 2023.

¹⁵ "About Internally Displaced Persons," OHCHR, accessed November 21, 2023,

¹⁶ Michael Berenbaum, "Holocaust," Encyclopedia Britannica, July 20, 1998,

Definitions:

Humanitarian Aid

It is material and logistic assistance to people who need help. It is usually short-term help until the long-term help by the government and other institutions replaces it.¹⁷

Human Trafficking

Is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of people through force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them for profit. Men, women and children of all ages and from all backgrounds can become victims of this crime, which occurs in every region of the world.¹⁸

Illegal Migration

Is the migration of people into a country in violation of that country's immigration laws, or the continuous residence in a country without the legal right to.¹⁹

Immigration

Is the international movement of people to a destination country of which they are not natives or where they do not possess citizenship in order to settle as permanent residents or naturalized citizens.²⁰

Immigrant Integration

Is the process of economic mobility and social inclusion for newcomers and their children.²¹

Inherent Dignity

Is the right of a person to be valued and respected.²²

International Cooperation

The collaboration between governments, businesses or individuals in which it is agreed to work together on similar objectives or strategies.²³

Irish Potato Famine

Was a famine that occurred from 1845-1849, in Ireland, due to the failure of potato crops, leaving many people with no food.²⁴

¹⁷ "Humanitarian Aid, Explained: 5 Things to Know," Concern Worldwide, accessed November 21, 2023.

¹⁸ "Human-Trafficking Noun - Definition, Pictures, Pronunciation and Usage Notes," Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary at OxfordLearnersDictionaries.com, accessed November 21, 2023.

¹⁹ "What's the Difference between Legal and Undocumented Immigrants?," DSHS, accessed November 21, 2023.

²⁰ Cambridge Dictionary, "Immigration," English meaning - Cambridge Dictionary, accessed November 21, 2023.

²¹ "Immigrant Integration," migrationpolicy.org, accessed November 21, 2023.

²² "INHERENT DIGNITY Collocation," meaning and examples of use, accessed November 21, 2023.

²³ "International Cooperation," Global Pact Website, accessed November 21, 2023.

²⁴ Joel Mokyr, "Great Famine," Encyclopedia Britannica, February 5, 2000.

Definitions:

Legal Frameworks

The set of laws, regulations and rules that apply in a particular country.²⁵

Migration

Is the movement of people from one place to another with intentions of settling, permanently or temporarily, at a new location.²⁶

Multiculturalism

The presence of, or support for the presence of, several distinct cultural or ethnic groups within a society.²⁷

Objectification

The action of degrading someone to the status of a mere object.²⁸

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

Is a mental health condition that's triggered by a terrifying event — either experiencing it or witnessing it.²⁹

Prejudice

A preconceived opinion that is not based on reason or actual experience. Repatriation- The return of someone to their own country.³⁰

Refugees

A person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster.³¹

Stateless People

Is someone who is not considered as a national by any state under the operation of its law.³²

Social Movements

Is an organized effort by a large number of people to bring about or impede social, political, economic, or cultural change.³³

²⁵ "What Is Legal Framework," IGI Global, accessed November 21, 2023.

²⁶ "About Migration," International Organization for Migration, accessed November 21, 2023.

²⁷ "Multiculturalism - an Overview," ScienceDirect Topics, accessed November 21, 2023.

²⁸ "Objectification Noun - Definition, Pictures, Pronunciation and Usage Notes," Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary at OxfordLearnersDictionaries.com, accessed November 21, 2023.

²⁹ "Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) - Symptoms and Causes," Mayo Clinic, December 13, 2022.

³⁰ Cambridge Dictionary, "Prejudice," English meaning - Cambridge Dictionary, accessed November 21, 2023.

³¹ "Definition of Repatriation," accessed November 21, 2023.

³² "What Is a Refugee? Definition and Meaning," USA for UNHCR, accessed November 21, 2023.

³³ "About Statelessness," accessed November 21, 2023.

Definitions:

Terrorist

A person who uses unlawful violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims.³⁵

Mw

The scale used to measure the intensity of an earthquake.³⁶

Visas

An endorsement on a passport indicating that the holder is allowed to enter, leave, or stay for a specified period of time in a country.³⁷

³⁵ "Terrorism," Oxford Reference, accessed November 21, 2023,

³⁶ "Earthquake Magnitude, Energy Release, and Shaking Intensity," U.S. Geological Survey, accessed November 21, 2023,

³⁷ Cambridge Dictionary, "Visa," English meaning - Cambridge Dictionary, accessed November 21, 2023,

Introduction

The International Organization of Migrants (IOM) was established in 1951. Its inception was a direct response to the Second World War in which the organization aimed to aid the people who lost their homes and those that were displaced by the Second World War. Over its lifespan, the IOM has changed its name twice—once in 1980 to the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration and then again in 1989 to the International Organization for Migration. In 2016, they officially joined the United Nations (UN) as a committee.³⁸ Bolstering 175 current members, its focus is on working together to help migrants around the world find a new place to settle down and start life anew. Since its inception in 1951, there are now 171 IOM offices around the world that promote the safe, humane, and orderly migration of individuals.³⁹ The IOM is headquartered in Grand-Saconnex, Switzerland.⁴⁰

Structurally, the IOM is led by the Director General who is elected once every five years. Members who are nominated are brought forth for a secret ballot which requires $\frac{2}{3}$ majority consensus. Currently, the eleventh presiding Director General is Amy E. Pope of the United States of America. Following the Director General and appointed by them are the Deputy Director General for Operations, Deputy Director General for Management and Reform, and the Chief of Staff. Together, they lead the IOM in promoting international cooperation on migration issues, assisting migrants in need, and developing practical solutions to solving migration problems. Globally, they work directly with immigrants, foreign governments, and other intergovernmental and non-governmental partners.⁴¹ As a committee of the UN, the IOM is also bound to follow the Charter of the United Nations. In summary, the UN Charter includes but is not limited to maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights, and being a center for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.⁴² Additionally, in 2007, during the 94th session, the IOM aggregated strategies toward achieving their goals. Once again, these include but are not limited to: participating in coordinated humanitarian responses, being a primary reference point for migration information, research, best practices, data, collection, compatibility and sharing, and enhancing the humane and orderly management of migration. It is imperative that delegates bear these clauses in mind whilst developing solutions and frameworks for this committee.

³⁸ “IOM History,” International Organization for Migration, accessed November 21, 2023,

³⁹ “IOM Council to Elect the Director General.” International Organization for Migration. Accessed October 30, 2023.

⁴⁰ “Contact Us,” International Organization for Migration, accessed November 21, 2023,

⁴¹ “IOM Organizational Structure,” International Organization for Migration, accessed November 21, 2023,

⁴² “Chapter I: Purposes and Principles (Articles 1-2),” United Nations, accessed October 30, 2023,

In this committee, there will be two primary topics that delegates will be discussing, debating, and creating solutions for. These two topics address: forced migration and comprehensive approaches to migrant empowerment and inclusion. In the first topic, delegates will focus on the safety of migrants, solutions for migrant inclusion, psychological and mental health needs, and humanitarian aid and international cooperation. Subsequently, the second topic will focus on the reunification of dispersed families, recognition of foreign qualifications, social and economic inclusion, access to the improvement of their health and well-being, media representation and illegal migration. As a reminder, we urge delegates to use this background guide as a starting resource to propel them toward their own research.

Historical Background:

Topic 1: Addressing Forced Migration

Forced migration, also known as involuntary migration, refers to the movement of people from their homes or countries against their will. This phenomenon has deep historical roots and has occurred throughout human history for numerous reasons such as war, persecution, economic instability, environmental disasters, and political conflicts. Addressing forced migration has always been a significant challenge throughout human history, and there is no universally agreed-upon solution to tackle this issue.

The response to forced migration has evolved over time, reflecting changes in societal attitudes, legal frameworks, and global politics. Civil society actors like non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) have played a central role in the provision of protection, assistance, and solutions to displaced persons throughout history.⁴³ The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) states that it “intends to provide a basis for predictable and equitable burden- and responsibility-sharing among all United Nations Member States, together with other relevant stakeholders as appropriate,” and further describes the duty of governments, NGOs, and civil society actors play in aiding displaced persons and refugees.⁴⁴ Social cohesion is another issue facing forced migrants and displaced persons. The World Bank outlines the correlation between forced displacement, inequalities, access to services, policies, and social cohesion between forcibly displaced persons and their host communities in a variety of low, middle, and high-income countries across Africa, Asia, Central and South America, and Europe. Their report states, “by mid-2021, an estimated 84 million people worldwide were forcibly displaced, including over 20 million refugees,”⁴⁵ signifying the importance of integration in recent years.⁴⁶ Legal frameworks are also critical in addressing forced migration. A forced migration article highlights how legal and normative frameworks are critical to the security of people threatened by climate change and a broad range of humanitarian crises that have migration consequences.⁴⁷ There are well-established international, regional, and national legal instruments, covenants, and norms to ensure that rights should not be violated by displacement.⁴⁸ Overall, it is evident that societal attitudes, legal frameworks, and global politics have all played a significant role in shaping the response to forced migration over time.

⁴³ People forced to flee - UNHCR - The UN Refugee Agency, accessed October 30, 2023,

⁴⁴ Civil Society and the politics of the Global Refugee Regime - UNHCR, accessed October 30, 2023,

⁴⁵ “Forced Displacement and Social Cohesion,” World Bank, accessed October 30, 2023,

⁴⁶ 2021-2025 - World Bank, accessed October 30, 2023,

⁴⁷ Susan F. Martin, “Forced Migration and Refugee Policy,” SpringerLink, January 1, 1970,

⁴⁸ Susan F. Martin, “Forced Migration and Refugee Policy,” SpringerLink, January 1, 1970,

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is a legal framework developed by the United Nations that countries are expected to follow. The UDHR includes two specific laws that aim to ensure the proper treatment of forced migrants in the countries they are relocating to. The first law is “inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family [which] is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world” and the second one is “Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration’.” These regulations were implemented to highlight the principle that individuals, irrespective of their nationality or the necessity to seek refuge from their home country, are equally entitled to fundamental human rights.⁴⁹ Social movements are another way to influence a country's stance on forced migration as it shows how society feels in certain situations. One example of that is in Germany, in 2018, an organization called Grassroots (GRO) was created to challenge the new restrictive refugee laws that were put in place. They protested in front of parliament to try and get the laws to be rescinded.

Various organizations have initiated programs to tackle the pressing concern of forced migration. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is an intergovernmental organization that provides services and advice concerning migration to governments and migrants, including internally displaced persons, refugees, and migrant workers.⁵⁰ The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is a United Nations program that protects refugees, forcibly displaced communities, and stateless people, and assists in their voluntary repatriation, local integration, or resettlement to a third country.⁵¹

The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) was established in 1943 to provide relief to areas liberated from Axis powers during World War II. It was later replaced by the International Refugee Organization (IRO), which was established in 1946 to address the needs of refugees displaced by World War II.

⁴⁹ OHCHR | Home, accessed October 30, 2023,

⁵⁰ Refugees and Citizenship Canada Immigration, “Government of Canada,” Canada.ca, August 17, 2023,

⁵¹ “Action Hub on Covid-19 and Displacement,” Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, June 13, 2023,

One of the most prominent instances of compelled human displacement in history is the Transatlantic Slave Trade, which witnessed the enforced relocation of millions of Africans to the Americas, where they were subjected to forced labour as slaves. This abhorrent trade was part of the broader Triangular Trade network, a complex system of commerce involving Europe, Africa, and the Americas, where enslaved individuals were one of the commodities exchanged. As commodities, those who were traded endured treacherous conditions during their transatlantic voyage known as the Middle Passage. With absolute disregard for the safety and well-being of those individuals, nearly 1.8 million failed to disembark on the other side of the Atlantic.⁵²

Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, a series of pivotal events, including the Irish Potato Famine, World War I, and World War II, precipitated extensive population movements as individuals sought asylum and improved prospects in foreign nations. The Irish Potato Famine saw a massive decimation of Ireland's staple crop, the potato. Brought forth by an aggressive onset of fungal infection, this blight led to a ¾ reduction in potato crop output over seven years. In total, an estimated 1 to 2 million Irishmen emigrated from the island to escape poverty, starvation and imminent death. In the dispersion, many of these displaced individuals landed throughout various cities in Great Britain and North America.⁵³

The 20th century saw significant forced migration due to political ideologies, such as during the Holocaust, where millions of Jews, along with other minority groups, were forcibly displaced and killed by the Nazi regime.⁵⁴ Additionally, after World War II, there were massive population transfers and forced migrations in Europe as borders were redrawn and ethnic groups were relocated.⁵⁵ The profound consequences of these two world wars extended well beyond the physical upheaval, as evidenced by the staggering estimated figure of 65 million individuals affected in Europe alone. For the first time in history, there was also an emphasis on ethnic cleansing—the deliberate and systematic removal, displacement, or eradication of a particular ethnic, racial, or cultural group from a specific geographic area.⁵⁶

⁵² Aaron O'Neill, "Annual Share of Slaves Who Died during the Middle Passage 1501-1866," Statista, June 21, 2022,

⁵³ Irish Potato Famine: Date, Cause & Great Hunger - History," History.com, accessed October 29, 2023,

⁵⁴ "Introduction to the Holocaust: What Was the Holocaust?," Holocaust Encyclopedia, accessed November 21, 2023,

⁵⁵ "BBC - History - World Wars: European Refugee Movements After World War Two," World Wars: European Refugee Movements After World War Two, accessed November 21, 2023,

⁵⁶ "Forced Migration or Displacement," Migration data portal, accessed November 21, 2023,

In contemporary times, regional conflicts in areas such as Syria, Afghanistan, and Sudan have precipitated substantial involuntary population movements, subsequently giving rise to refugee crises and presenting complex humanitarian dilemmas for the global community.⁵⁷ Forced migration remains a worldwide concern, underscoring the imperative need for international collaboration and humanitarian endeavours to provide essential assistance to those impacted by these circumstances.

Looking back, the repercussions of displacements triggered by both human and environmental factors have unquestionably inflicted considerable hardship upon those directly affected. The mission of the IOM is to prevent the recurrence of past displacements and ensure that those who are forced to relocate are afforded every opportunity not just for survival but for prosperity in their new environments.⁵⁸

⁵⁷ “UNHCR - UNHCR Global Trends 2019,” UNHCR Flagship Reports, June 15, 2020,

⁵⁸ “Who We Are,” International Organization for Migration, accessed November 21, 2023,

Historical Background:

Topic 2: Comprehensive Approaches to Migrant Empowerment and Inclusion

As international sentiments evolve and progress, there has never been more of an emphasis placed on the inclusion and empowerment of migrants who have been forcibly displaced. Compared to years past when nations sought to assimilate migrants without regard for their native language and culture; the progression of acceptance has come a long way to making migrants feel welcome.

However, it is still imperative to understand the history of assimilation in regard to migration. Assimilation policies started in the 19th and 20th century. During these times many of the receiving countries implemented assimilation policies aimed at eradicating the cultural identities of migrants.⁵⁹ This approach sought to integrate migrants into the dominant culture. A significant factor behind these policies was the initiation of labour migration programs in various Western nations in the post-World War II era to alleviate labour shortages. During this period, migrants were predominantly considered as a source of temporary labour, and the emphasis was placed on their economic input rather than their social and cultural contributions. Regrettably, this approach often fostered a less than favourable perception, positioning migrants as a subordinate class.⁶⁰

Fortunately, nations have embarked on a transformative path, implementing policies aimed at fostering migrant integration and well-being. As aforementioned, these initiatives represent a shift toward a more multicultural approach, emphasizing diversity and inclusivity. This shift began in the latter part of the 20th century, with countries such as Canada and Australia adopting and embracing multiculturalism in the 1970s and 1980s.⁶¹ Multicultural policies recognized and celebrated cultural diversity, emphasizing the equal rights of all citizens, including migrants, to preserve their cultural heritage. Going further beyond, multiculturalism has provided opportunities for families of migrants to reunite in their new host countries.⁶²

⁵⁹ Elizabeth Prine Pauls, "Assimilation," Encyclopedia Britannica, July 20, 1998,

⁶⁰ Elizabeth Prine Pauls, "Assimilation," Encyclopedia Britannica, July 20, 1998,

⁶¹ "Integration and Social Cohesion: Key Elements for Reaping Benefits of Migration," United Nations Network on Migration, accessed November 21, 2023,

⁶² Jeremy Rayner and Michael Howlett, "Introduction: Understanding Integrated Policy Strategies and Their Evolution*," Policy and Society 28, no. 2 (July 1, 2009): 99–109,

In the 21st century, an increasing number of countries are introducing policies designed to enhance the inclusion of migrants, building upon developments from the late 20th century. Central to these efforts is the promotion of integration, with a strong emphasis on encouraging the active participation of migrants across social, economic, and political domains. Integration policies encompass the provision of language classes, employment assistance, and cultural awareness programs.⁶³ Additionally, many nations are presently implementing anti-discrimination legislation to safeguard migrants from racial or ethnic biases. These laws are designed to ensure equitable opportunities and foster social inclusion for migrants.⁶⁴

In essence, historical approaches to migrant empowerment and inclusion have transitioned from assimilation to multiculturalism and, more recently, to integration and human rights-based policies. As the world embraces globalism, current trends emphasize the holistic development of migrants, ensuring they have access to education, employment, and social services while being active participants in their host communities. Ongoing challenges include combating discrimination, ensuring equal opportunities, and promoting understanding and acceptance between migrant and host communities.

⁶³ Graeme, Hugo. *Migrants in society: diversity and cohesion*. Geneva: Global Commission on International Migration, 2005.

⁶⁴ "Anti-Discrimination," www.mipex.eu, accessed November 21, 2023

Topic 1: Addressing Forced Migration

As of 2022, as per the UNHCR's data, a staggering 108.4 million individuals have experienced forced displacement, marking a 21 percent surge from the preceding year—representing the most substantial annual increase ever documented.⁶⁵ These displaced populations are categorized into distinct groups, with refugees accounting for approximately 35.3 million, and asylum-seekers numbering 5.4 million, collectively constituting roughly 38% of the overall 108.4 million forcibly displaced persons. The majority, amounting to 58%, find themselves internally displaced within their own countries, while the remainder fall within other categories. It is crucial to recognize that forced displacement does not exclusively entail individuals or families leaving their nation; more frequently, it signifies the loss of their homes, resulting in displacement within their own borders.⁶⁶

Subtopic 1: Protection and Safety of Forced Migration

Protection and safety of forced migration concern the effectiveness of the international human rights framework in safeguarding individuals compelled to undertake migration, whether across national borders or within the confines of their own country. The act of migration often exposes individuals to considerable risks and prejudice, stemming from discriminatory regulations and biases encountered during their journey. However, it is worth noting that there are legal provisions designed to ensure safer migration. Various categories of protective policies are implemented to facilitate the movement of migrants to new destinations, as well as policies that come into play to secure their well-being and rights upon settling in these new locales.

⁶⁵ “Global Trends,” UNHCR - The UN Refugee Agency, accessed November 21, 2023,

⁶⁶ “Global Trends,” UNHCR - The UN Refugee Agency, accessed November 21, 2023,

The protection and safety of forced migrants, including refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs), and asylum seekers, are crucial aspects of international humanitarian efforts.⁶⁷ Ensuring their safety involves a combination of legal frameworks, humanitarian assistance, and cooperation between governments, international organizations, and NGOs. Internationally, many legislations outline the provisions of such efforts. For example, the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, colloquially known as the Refugee Convention saw the development of a ratified set of refugee laws. Apart from outlining the term refugee and the rights of the displaced, it obliged the 146 party States who consigned to protect those refugees.⁶⁸ Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights prescribes the following, “everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution”.⁶⁹ These are just two examples of the many different responses towards the everso progression of acceptance in forced migration.

Contrastingly, physical perils may pose a more immediate and severe risk to forcibly displaced individuals in comparison to the challenges of prejudice and discrimination. In the year 2022 alone, a total of 3,789 fatalities were documented, marking an 11% escalation when contrasted with the preceding years.⁷⁰ This statistic encompasses the lives lost along migration routes within the Middle East and North African regions (MENA).

In response to these pressing concerns, numerous provisions have been implemented to address the physical safety and well-being of forced migrants. These measures encompass a wide range of initiatives aimed at mitigating the risks and protecting the lives of those compelled to undertake arduous journeys. Internationally, many countries have pledged to assist those migrants in the form of humanitarian aid.⁷¹ Humanitarian assistance plays a pivotal role in the protection of forcibly displaced individuals. A fundamental aspect of humanitarian aid involves the provision of shelter, sustenance, clean water, and medical care to refugee camps or temporary settlements, ensuring the fulfillment of essential prerequisites for survival among those in dire need.⁷² Humanitarian aid is quintessential towards the successful process of relocation as it relieves the threat of basic survival, often found within the initial stages of displacement; whilst providing time to plan their next steps.⁷³

⁶⁷ United Nations, “Deliver Humanitarian Aid,” United Nations, accessed November 21, 2023,

⁶⁸ “International Legislation Governing Forced Displacement,” Physiopedia, accessed October 30, 2023,

⁶⁹ “Universal Declaration of Human Rights,” United Nations, accessed October 30, 2023,

⁷⁰ “Deaths on Migration Routes in Mena Highest since 2017: IOM 2022 Data Reveals,” International Organization for Migration, accessed October 30, 2023,

⁷¹ “MICIC Guidelines in Action - G 11: Provide Humanitarian Assistance to Migrants without Discrimination,” April 4, 2019.

⁷² “MICIC Guidelines in Action - G 11: Provide Humanitarian Assistance to Migrants without Discrimination,” April 4, 2019.

⁷³ Emmaline Soken-Huberty, “15 Reasons Why Humanitarian Aid Is Important,” Human Rights Careers, April 2, 2022,

Following the mitigation of the immediate dangers faced during the early stages of displacement, the subsequent phase involves not only guaranteeing safety but also securing the protection of migrants within their newly adopted environments. Once more, in order to uphold these measures, the international community must exhibit a readiness not only to receive but also to actively facilitate the integration of these displaced individuals. This transitional assistance takes the shape of affording access to essential public services, encompassing healthcare and government-provided housing.

Unfortunately, another common cause of displacement comes in the form of domestic violence and abuse. As defined, “domestic abuse as an incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and violent behaviour, including sexual violence, in the majority of cases by a partner or ex-partner, but also by a family member or carer. It is very common.”⁷⁴ Recent statistics show that 73% of refugee and displaced women reported an increase in domestic violence, 51% a rise in sexual violence and 32% observed growth in early and forced marriages.⁷⁵ While not mutually exclusive, the majority of domestic cases primarily involve women and younger children, and the perpetrators are often individuals from their immediate circle of friends, family, or relatives. There are many NGOs and international agencies that offer protection services, legal aid and support for survivors of gender-based violence, and child protection initiatives. For example, the Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID) is an international organization specifically dedicated to achieving gender equity internationally, and advocates for victims of gender-based violence. The vision of AWID is “a world where feminist realities flourish, where resources and power are shared in ways that enable everyone, and future generations, to thrive and realize their full potential with dignity, love and respect, and where Earth nurtures life in all its diversity.”⁷⁶ Another example is UNICEF, the United Nations organization devoted to the protection of children around the world.⁷⁷ Some of their focus areas include migrant and displaced children, family separation during crisis, and sexual exploitation and abuse.⁷⁸

The subtopic comprises specific areas for committee delegates to consider. Key areas of focus encompass the identification of protective measures enacted in various countries, the examination of safety protocols, and the exploration of additional relevant solutions. We urge delegates to consider inclusive approaches that encourage a comprehensive exploration of various policies and practices.

⁷⁴ “What Is Domestic Abuse?,” Women’s Aid, October 10, 2023,

⁷⁵ “New Report Finds 73% of Refugee and Displaced Women Reported an Increase in Domestic Violence Due to Covid-19,” The IRC, accessed October 30, 2023,

⁷⁶ “Who We Are & What We Do,” AWID, accessed October 30, 2023,

⁷⁷ “Child Protection,” UNICEF, accessed October 30, 2023,.

⁷⁸ “Child Protection,” UNICEF, accessed October 30, 2023,.

Case Study: Colombian Internal Displacement

Colombia has consistently ranked as one of the world's most affected countries by internal displacement for several decades.⁷⁹ This crisis traces its origins to the protracted civil conflict, commonly referred to as "La Violencia," which took root in 1948.⁸⁰ The conflict initially emerged as a response to government policies, spawning a complex and enduring confrontation involving an array of armed groups, paramilitary forces, and government troops. Over time, this struggle evolved into a broader armed conflict, encompassing communist guerrilla movements in opposition to the government. The consequences were far-reaching, spanning from widespread violence, and drug-related activities, to egregious human rights violations.

In the year 2022 alone, Colombia experienced more than 176 significant displacement events, leading to the forced relocation of approximately 215,000 individuals. Notably, this marked the highest figure recorded since the signing of the peace agreement in 2016.⁸¹

Displaced populations often lack access to basic services such as healthcare and education. They also faced increased vulnerability to poverty and exploitation. Displaced individuals, especially women and children, face protection risks, including recruitment into armed groups, human trafficking, and sexual violence.⁸²

As a response, Colombia implemented laws and policies to protect the rights of internally displaced persons, including the Victims' Law of 2011, which aimed to provide reparations, land restitution, and psychosocial support.⁸³ Similarly, organizations such as the Unit for the Comprehensive Attention and Reparation of Victims have extended aid to displaced communities, emphasizing initiatives encompassing land restitution, psychosocial support, and livelihood assistance.⁸⁴

While far from resolving the root causes of displacement, nations like Colombia have undertaken significant strides in providing assistance to those impacted by internal strife. Extensive policy frameworks and legal endeavours have been dedicated to safeguarding both the displaced individuals and their land. It is imperative for committee delegates to persist in the development and augmentation of these legal foundations.

⁷⁹ "Colombia," IDMC - Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, accessed October 30, 2023,

⁸⁰ "Colombia's Civil Conflict," Council on Foreign Relations, accessed October 30, 2023,

⁸¹ "Colombia Situation," Global Focus, accessed October 30, 2023,

⁸² "IDP Health in Colombia: Needs and Challenges - ProQuest." Accessed November 22, 2023.

⁸³ "Colombia's Measures for Armed Conflict Victim Reparations and Land Restitution," Pathfinders, May 17, 2023,

⁸⁴ "Colombia's Measures for Armed Conflict Victim Reparations and Land Restitution," Pathfinders, May 17, 2023,

Subtopic 2: Durable Solutions for Forced Migration

This subtopic encourages the exploration of resolutions for the predicaments encountered by migrants who are compelled to relocate, and the incorporation of these solutions into the fabric of society. As defined, a durable solution signifies a state in which displaced individuals no longer possess distinct requirements for assistance and protection that are directly associated with their displacement. Such solutions aim to grant these individuals the ability to fully exercise their human rights, free from discrimination or the fear resulting from their forced displacement.⁸⁵ The approach to durable solutions varies from one country to another, with nations worldwide adopting unique strategies. For instance, the United States of America has notably identified three distinct durable solutions: the voluntary return to their place of origin with safety and dignity, local integration, and resettlement to another region or country.⁸⁶

These types of solutions for forced migration refer to long-term strategies that provide sustainable outcomes for displaced populations. These solutions aim to address the root causes of displacement, promote stability, and enable refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) to rebuild their lives in safety and dignity. There are three main durable solutions recognized by the UNHCR: voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement.

Voluntary repatriation occurs when refugees or internally displaced persons return to their home country voluntarily, based on their own free will and informed choice. Durable reintegration assistance, such as housing, livelihood support, and access to basic services, is often provided to facilitate their successful reintegration into their communities.

Local integration involves displaced individuals becoming permanent residents in the country to which they have fled. They acquire the legal status, rights, and entitlements akin to those of the host population. Local integration can apply to both refugees and internally displaced persons.⁸⁷

⁸⁵ Policy brief: Housing, land and property in the context of climate , accessed October 30, 2023,

⁸⁶ “Durable Solutions - United States Department of State,” U.S. Department of State, December 1, 2020,

⁸⁷ “Local Integration, Local Settlement and Local Solutions: Disentangling the Conceptual Confusion,” Forced Migration Review, accessed November 21, 2023,

Resettlement involves the selection and transfer of refugees from the country where they have sought protection to a different country that has agreed to admit them as refugees. Resettlement is typically reserved for vulnerable populations for whom neither voluntary repatriation nor local integration is a feasible option.⁸⁸

Several challenges warrant consideration, including the development of comprehensive legal frameworks and policies aimed at safeguarding the rights of forcibly displaced individuals while facilitating their access to lasting solutions. Equally crucial is the adequate allocation of resources to support reintegration, social services, and infrastructure development in areas earmarked for return or resettlement.⁸⁹ Fostering cultural understanding and nurturing social cohesion between displaced populations and their host communities is a vital facet of this endeavour. Additionally, the imperative of addressing the root causes of conflicts and ensuring stability in regions vulnerable to displacement cannot be overstated.⁹⁰

Efforts to establish sustainable solutions necessitate a collaborative and multi-faceted approach that actively engages governments, international entities, non-governmental organizations, and local communities. Such solutions must be rooted in a deep understanding of the needs and aspirations of displaced populations, fostering self-sufficiency, stability, and a profound sense of belonging.⁹¹

⁸⁸ “What Is Refugee Resettlement?,” UNHCR Canada, July 6, 2020,

⁸⁹ Building better futures - global focus, accessed November 22, 2023,

⁹⁰ “World Bank. 2022. Social Cohesion and Forced Displacement: A Synthesis of New Research. © Washington, DC: World Bank. <http://hdl.handle.net/10986/38431>

⁹¹ Ehab Badwi, “Integration and Participation of Refugees and Migrants: Building Inclusive Societies,” Medium, October 7, 2023,

Case Study: US Detention Centers

US detention centers are institutions that effectively serve as holding facilities for migrants arriving in the United States. Akin to jails, these detention centers are the most egregious in terms of quality, livability, and human rights violations. Inmates are comprised of undocumented immigrants intercepted at the border, asylum seekers, families, unaccompanied minors, and individuals awaiting deportation due to criminal offences. Currently, approximately 200 of these immigration facilities are in operation, collectively detaining tens of thousands of individuals.⁹²

Numerous grievances have arisen concerning the treatment of individuals within these detention centers. Particularly concerning are reports of subpar healthcare services, unsatisfactory hygiene conditions, and restricted access to necessary medical treatment in certain facilities. Unsurprisingly, those migrants who are detained are most often the ones in need of medical attention as a result of their treacherous journeys. These concerns have raised profound apprehensions about the overall well-being and human rights of detainees.⁹³

In some instances, detainees have reported challenges in obtaining timely and appropriate medical care, which has a direct impact on their physical and mental health. Inadequate healthcare services within the facilities can lead to delayed diagnosis and treatment of medical conditions, exacerbating health problems and causing suffering for those in detention.⁹⁴

Furthermore, issues related to poor hygiene and overcrowding can lead to unsanitary and unhygienic conditions, which, in turn, may contribute to the spread of diseases and further health concerns among detainees. The limited access to medical treatment compounds these challenges, making it imperative to address these critical issues to ensure the humane treatment and well-being of those within the detention system.⁹⁵

⁹² “Detention Statistics,” Freedom for Immigrants, accessed October 30, 2023,

⁹³ Brianne Hansen, “Living Conditions in United States Immigration Detention Centers,” Ballard Brief, June 10, 2019,

⁹⁴ Brianne Hansen, “Living Conditions in United States Immigration Detention Centers,” Ballard Brief, June 10, 2019,

⁹⁵ Amelia Cheatham, “U.S. Detention of Child Migrants,” Council on Foreign Relations, August 28, 2014,

Efforts to address these concerns are essential to uphold the human rights and dignity of all individuals, regardless of their legal status. It is crucial that detention centers meet established standards of care and provide detainees with access to adequate healthcare services and sanitary living conditions.⁹⁶

Numerous legal actions initiated by advocacy groups have led to court rulings that have influenced detention policies and conditions. Concurrently, a multitude of communities have raised ethical questions about the presence of these detention centers, with concerns about the morality of subjecting migrants to conditions resembling those of criminal detainees.⁹⁷ Consequently, there is a growing consensus among various segments of the population advocating for reforms, and, in some instances, the complete abolition of such detention centers in the United States.⁹⁸

Subtopic 3: Psychological Effects on the Mental Health of Forced Migrants

This topic delves into the psychological repercussions of compelled migration on individuals and the array of mental challenges they confront as a consequence of their experiences. As defined psychological impact is the effect caused by environmental and/or biological factors on an individual's social and/or psychological aspects.⁹⁹ Coincidentally, psychological effects within migrants are often seen in symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) garnered from their journeys abroad.¹⁰⁰

⁹⁶ “Conditions in Migrant Detention Centers,” American Oversight, July 5, 2020,

⁹⁷ “Conditions in Migrant Detention Centers,” American Oversight, July 5, 2020,

⁹⁸ Sruthi Palaniappan, “Protesters Demand the Closure of Immigrant Detention Centers,” ABC News, July 3, 2019,

⁹⁹ Alexandra Martini de Oliveira et al., “Psychosocial Impact,” Springer New York, January 1, 2013,

¹⁰⁰ World Health Organization: WHO, “Mental Health and Forced Displacement,” World Health Organization: WHO, August 31, 2021,

These difficulties include the traumatic incidents that compelled their move, the challenges faced during their travels, and the struggles encountered while establishing new lives in unfamiliar places. A significant element of these difficulties emerges upon reaching these new destinations, where some migrants confront adverse treatment or placement in facilities like detention camps.¹⁰¹ It is imperative to meet these needs to ensure their overall well-being and effective integration. Several crucial aspects concerning the psychological requirements and mental health of forced migrants exist. Among them, PTSD, grief, loss, and trauma in children are exceedingly common and pertinent issues.¹⁰²

Trauma and stress is a huge cause of mental health challenges. Forced migrants often experience trauma, including violence, loss of family members, displacement, and persecution, which can lead to PTSD and other mental health disorders. Another reason can be that the process of adapting to a new culture and society can cause stress, leading to anxiety and depression, especially when faced with language barriers, discrimination, and social isolation.¹⁰³ According to the University of Texas at Austin, there are several strategies that can help individuals cope with the adjustment process. These include being open-minded and curious, using observation skills, asking questions, and recognizing that reactions to cultural differences are common.¹⁰⁴

Grief and loss is another cause for psychological and mental health problems. Displacement often involves the loss of one's home, community, and social networks. Coping with these losses is crucial for mental well-being. Also, some forced migrants experience ambiguous loss, where the fate of missing family members remains unknown, leading to unresolved grief.¹⁰⁵

Some of the most affected people are the children and the youth. Refugee children often face trauma, which can impact their emotional and cognitive development. Access to education and psychosocial support is crucial. Also, adolescents may experience acculturation challenges, identity crises, and discrimination, requiring specialized support.¹⁰⁶

¹⁰¹ World Health Organization: WHO, "Mental Health and Forced Displacement," World Health Organization: WHO, August 31, 2021,

¹⁰² Angela Burnett and Tracy Ndovi, "The Health of Forced Migrants," *BMJ* 363 (October 24, 2018),

¹⁰³ World Health Organization: WHO, "Mental Health and Forced Displacement," World Health Organization: WHO, August 31, 2021,

¹⁰⁴ "A Guide for International Students," Cultural Adjustment, accessed October 30, 2023,

¹⁰⁵ World Health Organization: WHO, "Mental Health and Forced Displacement," World Health Organization: WHO, August 31, 2021,

¹⁰⁶ L. J. Kirmayer et al., "Common Mental Health Problems in Immigrants and Refugees: General Approach in Primary Care," *Canadian Medical Association Journal* 183, no. 12 (July 5, 2010): E959–67,

To help and make sure that migrants are getting the help they need and they need a lot of support and intervention. Mental health services need to be trauma-informed, recognizing the impact of past traumas and integrating this understanding into therapeutic approaches.¹⁰⁷ Mental health professionals also must be culturally competent, understanding the cultural context of their patients, including religious beliefs and traditional healing practices. Lastly, there must be community-based initiatives that involve cultural and linguistic understanding that can provide mental health support, promoting trust and acceptance.¹⁰⁸

Addressing the psychological needs and mental health of forced migrants requires a holistic, culturally sensitive approach that involves collaboration between mental health professionals, social workers, community leaders, and policymakers. Providing comprehensive support and empowering forced migrants to rebuild their lives can significantly contribute to their mental health recovery and overall well-being.¹⁰⁹

Case Study: Syrian Refugee Crisis

The Syrian refugee crisis is a forced migration crisis because of human conflict and, in this case, war. Millions of people have been displaced because of the war going on. In 2023, around 6.8 million Syrians were displaced within Syria, and this is the most significant number in the world and the highest since the start of the conflict.¹¹⁰ The refugee crisis later turned into a both man-made one and a natural one. In 2023 Syria was hit with an 8.8 magnitude earthquake. The earthquake caused the number of displaced people to increase.¹¹¹

¹⁰⁷ "Immigrant and Refugee Mental Health," CAMH, accessed November 21, 2023,

¹⁰⁸ Diana L. Swihart, Siva Naga S. Yarrarapu, and Romaine L. Martin, "Cultural Religious Competence in Clinical Practice," NCBI Bookshelf, July 24, 2023,

¹⁰⁹ Cécile Rousseau, "Addressing Mental Health Needs of Refugees," Canadian Journal of Psychiatry. Revue Canadienne de Psychiatrie 63, no. 5 (May 2018): 287–89,

¹¹⁰ Kathryn Reid, "Syrian Refugee Crisis: Facts, FAQs, and How to Help," World Vision, March 16, 2023,

¹¹¹ "Syria Refugee Crisis Explained," accessed November 21, 2023,

The crisis created a humanitarian catastrophe, leading to widespread displacement, a lack of basic necessities, and a healthcare crisis. The disasters including both the war and earthquake have destroyed many essential infrastructures like hospitals, making it very difficult for people to get access to things they need, like medicine, shelter or water. The impact of the crisis on Syria had made it so that Syrians had to flee and find a new country to call their home. Neighbouring countries like Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq struggled to accommodate the large influx of refugees, straining their resources and infrastructure.¹¹² Refugees faced protection risks, including exploitation, child labour, and lack of access to education and healthcare. Many undertook dangerous journeys to reach safety and enduring such circumstances caused many refugees a significant amount of mental distress, which, in severe cases, caused irreversible and life-altering cases of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).¹¹³

Subtopic 4: Humanitarian Response and Assistance in Forced Migration

Humanitarian response and assistance for forced migration are crucial aspects of international efforts aimed at addressing the needs of refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and other forcibly displaced populations. Many civil society and international aid organizations are actively engaged in supporting forcibly displaced migrants on a global scale. Notable organizations in this field include the World Bank Group, UNICEF, the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), and the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Committees.

One significant milestone in this endeavour was the UN-hosted World Humanitarian Summit held in 2016.¹¹⁴ This summit served as a platform for world leaders, humanitarian organizations, and other stakeholders to come together, fostering collaboration and innovation in humanitarian efforts.

¹¹² “Syria Refugee Crisis Explained,” accessed November 21, 2023,

¹¹³ “Syria Refugee Crisis Explained,” accessed November 21, 2023,

¹¹⁴ “Archived,” AGENDA FOR HUMANITY, accessed October 30, 2023,

Humanitarian aid is also given through legal and documentation support. Such aid is given through providing legal assistance to help forced migrants understand their rights, including asylum procedures, and is essential for protection against deportation and persecution. Additionally, providing displaced individuals with identification documents and refugee status can help them access essential services and protection mechanisms.

Humanitarian aid is essential for helping forced migrants, but it also faces many challenges. One of them is securing enough funding for humanitarian programs, which requires ongoing international support. Another challenge is responding to complex emergencies, such as conflicts and natural disasters, which demands flexibility and innovation in humanitarian strategies.

Humanitarian response and assistance in forced migration require a comprehensive, coordinated, and human rights-centric approach. Adapting to the evolving needs of displaced populations, involving local communities, and focusing on long-term solutions are crucial for ensuring the effectiveness and sustainability of humanitarian efforts.

Case Study: 2010 Haitian Earthquake

In 2010 there was a 7.0 Mw earthquake that devastated around three-quarters of Haiti. The Haitian government estimated that the death toll of this event was around 300 000 people making it one of the worst natural disasters in history.¹¹⁵ This event resulted in widespread devastation, leaving the nation in a state of ruin. To date, the country continues its ongoing efforts to recover from the aftermath.

¹¹⁵ “2010 Haiti Earthquake,” Encyclopædia Britannica, accessed October 30, 2023,

The 2010 earthquake in Haiti caused massive damage and displacement. The UN, the Red Cross, and many countries sent humanitarian aid, including money, supplies, and personnel. However, the emergency response was hindered by the destruction of critical infrastructure, such as hospitals, schools, and government buildings.¹¹⁶ Military forces from various countries, including the United States, played a crucial role in providing logistics, search and rescue, and medical support. The international community committed to long-term reconstruction efforts and pledged significant financial aid for Haiti's recovery and development.

The disaster led to discussions about reforming international aid mechanisms and enhancing the efficiency of aid delivery in future crises. Efforts were initiated to enhance Haiti's resilience against future disasters, focusing on improved infrastructure, disaster response training, and community engagement.

Despite the huge amount of international support coordinating the influx of international aid and agencies posed challenges, requiring effective communication and collaboration between various organizations and governments. Rebuilding Haiti's infrastructure and economy proved to be a complex and lengthy process, highlighting the need for sustainable development strategies.

Subtopic 5: International Collaboration in Facilitating the Admission of Forced Migrants

Every country has its own policy when dealing with forced migrants. The policies can be about how many migrants they allow in each year, and what assistance is given to the migrants to help them get on their feet and make it a smooth transition to where they moved to.¹¹⁷ International cooperation in accepting and accommodating forced migrants is crucial for addressing the global refugee crisis effectively. Collaboration between countries, international organizations, and non-governmental entities is vital to ensuring the safety, well-being, and successful integration of forced migration.

116. "Humanitarian Aid," Encyclopædia Britannica, accessed October 29, 2023.

117. "UNHCR's Grandi: Greater International Cooperation Needed To 'Solve Multiple Crises,'" UNHCR, accessed October 30, 2023,

To cooperate and help migrants enter their countries, there have been many resettlement programs created to make it easier. These are programs that are mutual agreements and projects between many countries. Countries enter into these programs to distribute the responsibility of hosting refugees globally. Some examples of these programs are the IOM, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), and the UNHCR. Some examples of mutual agreements are the African Union and European Union (EU) to address the migrant situation in Libya and the partnership between the EU and the Organizations for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).¹¹⁸ Countries also collaborate with NGOs experienced in helping forced migrants. Some examples of these NGOs are Doctors Without Borders, Lawyers for Human Rights, and more.

Internationally, countries worked together to create a standardized asylum-seeking process to expedite the process. This system was created in compliance with international human rights standards which ensured fair and timely processing of asylum-seeking applicants.¹¹⁹ Cost is also a consideration for countries when creating these policies and programs to let in forced migrants. However, providing financial support and aid to countries hosting large numbers of refugees is a great way to increase their capacity to provide essential services to the migrants. This can be done by sharing the burden of cost between many different countries.¹²⁰

International cooperation in accepting and accommodating forced migrants requires collective responsibility, compassion, and a commitment to upholding the rights and dignity of every individual. By working together, the global community can create safer and more supportive environments for forced migrants, fostering sustainable solutions and promoting a more inclusive world.

118. "Collaboration with International Organisations," Migration and Home Affairs, accessed October 30, 2023,

119. "Asylum Procedures: Report on Policies and Practices in IGC Participating States (2012)," IOM Publications Platform, accessed November 21, 2023,

120. Marc Helbling, "Migration Policy Trends in OECD Countries," SSRN Electronic Journal, 2017,

Case Study: Migration Pathways from Central America to the USA

There are a lot of paths that the USA has open to let migrants come into the States. These paths include the family reunification channels, employment sponsorship, requesting asylum and a few more.¹²¹ The pathways from Central America to the USA represent a complex and multifaceted phenomenon influenced by social, economic, political, and environmental factors. The movement of people from countries such as Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador to the United States has been a significant and long-standing issue.

Some reasons people take these pathways to get to the US is due to the limited economic opportunities and high unemployment rates they have in their own country compared to the US, where wages are comparatively higher.¹²² Another factor compelling individuals to depart is the violence stemming from gang activities, drug-related issues, and other security concerns. Additionally, political instability, corruption, and inadequate governance in their home countries prompt people to seek environments where those needs are fulfilled.

Getting to the US is already a hard thing but arriving and getting settled is almost just as hard. The U.S. policies and attitudes toward migration continue to shift with different administrations, this impacts border security, asylum processes, and deportation policies. They also face many legal problems, and these challenges and court decisions influence the implementation of immigration policies, affecting the fate of migrants.

121. Jeanne Batalova Nicole Ward and Jeanne Batalova, "Central American Immigrants in the United States," migrationpolicy.org, July 17, 2023,

122. Meg Landis, "5 Things to Know about Central American Migration," Project HOPE, May 11, 2023,

Past UN Involvement

The UN has been involved with many forced migration events, whether it has been giving the migrants resources to help them transition or providing safe transportation to their new host countries. The UN has become a part of many commitments to help migrants adjust. For example, they have become part of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. This is a declaration to commit to addressing both the issues we face now and to prepare the world for future challenges. These include commitments to: Protect the human rights of all refugees and migrants, regardless of status.¹²³ They have also passed many international laws on the way migrants should be treated and how they should not be discriminated against.

The UN's involvement in forced migration can be traced back all the way until the 1950s with the creation of the UNHCR. It was created with the intent to aid and protect the millions of Europeans who had become refugees during and after World War 2. The UN also played a very crucial role in helping and resolving the refugee crisis that had come out of the independence movement in Asia and Africa. The independence movement created a huge amount of refugees due to the number of power struggles that emerged with independence.¹²⁴

The UN was involved in humanitarian aid during the conflicts in the Balkan region like the Yugoslavia conflict.¹²⁵ They provided aid by sending in peacekeepers to try and stop the violence, and they sent financial aid to help rebuild and start up the new countries that emerged from the violence. They also assisted all throughout the Cold War with the refugees and IDPs that came out of the many conflicts that happened during this time. Like the refugees from the Korean War, the Vietnam War and more. The types of assistance they sent were peacekeepers, financial aid, food assistance and more. They were also in Rwanda and Burundi in the 90's. As well as the Great Lakes Region in Africa. They continue to help during the 21st century with the Syrian refugee crisis both within Syria and in neighbouring countries like Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan. They also helped in the Rohingya Crises and many more during this time.

123. "New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants," UNHCR, accessed November 15, 2023,

124. "Refugees," United Nations, accessed October 30, 2023,

125. "UNPROFOR," United Nations, accessed October 30, 2023,

Research Questions for Topic 1:

- What impact does International Law have on countries and their policies on letting forced migrants in?
- How is International Law enforced in countries?
- What safety issues are forced migrants concerned about when coming to a new place to settle? How can governments work to get rid of these safety issues?
- How has the global pandemic affected forced migrants in their journey of settling in a new place? What challenges did/ do face?
- What are the emotional, psychological and or physical impacts forced migrants experience when fleeing their homes and when they get to a new place?
- What are the country's policies surrounding forced migrants? How many do they let in? What are the effects of these policies on the forced migrants and the citizens of the country?
- Who is in control of the humanitarian response and assistance, and how does that play a role in the type of response and assistance?
- What type of help is given to forced migrants to adjust to a new place? Is the response and assistance given to the migrants helpful or not?

¹¹⁵ “2010 Haiti Earthquake,” Encyclopædia Britannica, accessed October 30, 2023,

Topic 2: Comprehensive Approaches to Migrant Empowerment and Inclusion

Migrating to a new place can be very scary as people have to get used to a new environment and the people there. The IOM views integration as a critical and essential process to create an effective migration process.¹²⁶ According to the IOM, there needs to be a multi-directional process to have a successful integration. This involves mutual adaptation from the migrants and the host society, and to fully have this, the principles of protection of fundamental rights, respect, tolerance, and non-discrimination must be upheld. For these principles to be supported, including specific issues of the migrants must create understanding between the migrants and the host family.¹²⁷ These are economic, psychological, social, linguistic, navigational, and civic spheres. While also empowering migrants, they must also recognize the host communities and their culture and traditions so they feel they will not be neglected. This is a two-way process, so both the host society and migrants need to be incorporated into the process for everything to be successful.¹²⁸

Subtopic 1: Recognition of Foreign Qualifications and Competencies

The recognition of foreign qualifications and competencies has become a crucial topic in today's globalized world. As individuals relocate across borders for educational, work, or personal reasons, it is important to have a robust framework in place for acknowledging and assessing foreign qualifications and competencies.¹²⁹ Unfortunately in many countries, there is not a framework in place to transfer someone's skills or recognize a person's education.

Now foreign qualifications refer to degrees, diplomas, certificates, or other credentials obtained from educational institutions outside one's home country. On the other hand, competencies encompass practical knowledge, skills, and abilities gained through work experience, professional training, or apprenticeship programs abroad. Both foreign qualifications and competencies can significantly contribute to an individual's personal growth, professional development, and overall societal progress.¹³⁰

126. "Migrant Integration and Social Cohesion," International Organization for Migration, accessed November 21, 2023,

127. Ibid.

128. Ibid.

129. "Recognition of the Foreign Qualifications of Immigrants," accessed November 21, 2023,

130. Ibid.

Recognition of foreign qualifications and competencies poses several challenges due to differing educational systems, curricula, and evaluation standards across countries. Some of the prominent difficulties include disparity in the curriculum, quality assurance and various types of accreditations. Now disparity in curriculum is when the educational curricula vary greatly among countries, making it difficult to assess the depth and breadth of knowledge achieved by foreign graduates and professionals accurately. Quality assurance is the difference between standards and strictness of educational institutions or professional fields. Lastly, the variation in accreditation means that the processes and criteria are different, making it challenging to establish equivalences between foreign qualifications and those obtained within a different system.¹³¹

However, in our increasingly interconnected world, the movement of skilled professionals across borders is a common phenomenon. However, for this mobility to be truly effective, the recognition of foreign qualifications and competencies is essential. Ensuring that individuals are allowed to utilize their skills and knowledge gained from foreign institutions or work experiences is crucial not only for personal growth but also for global economic development.¹³²

This is a very important thing for countries as it can be extremely helpful to fill jobs in all different job areas. Recognizing foreign qualifications expands the global talent pool. It allows businesses and institutions to access a diverse range of skills, fostering innovation and competitiveness.¹³³ Countries benefit from recognizing foreign qualifications by attracting skilled migrants. This brain gain enriches the local workforce, filling gaps in industries where there is a shortage of specialized skills. It also helps individuals because having their qualifications recognized provides a sense of validation and empowerment. It promotes self-confidence and encourages lifelong learning.¹³⁴

131. "Recognition of the Foreign Qualifications of Immigrants," accessed November 21, 2023,

132. "Global Cities Codebook Launch," PISA, June 30, 2023,

133. Leslyanne Hawthorne, "Recognizing Foreign Qualifications: Emerging Global Trends," migrationpolicy.org, July 1, 2013,

134. Ibid.

Case Study: Canada's Express Entry System- Temporary Foreign Worker Program

This system lets Canada hire foreign workers to fill jobs that Canadians cannot serve at the time. The program is regulated through the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act and the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations. It helps set up migrants in Canada and allows them to transfer their skills from another country to Canada.¹³⁵

The entry system has key features that it takes into account while looking at a person's application. There is a point-based system. The system works through the CRS, which is the comprehensive ranking system that assesses candidates based on factors like age, education, work experience, language proficiency, and job offers. Canada then conducts regular draws from the Express Entry pool, inviting candidates with the highest CRS scores to apply for permanent residency. After that provincial governments can nominate candidates from the Express Entry pool to address specific regional labour market needs.¹³⁶

This program has benefits for both the workers and Canada. FWP helps Canadian businesses address immediate labour shortages, particularly in industries with seasonal demands. Allows Canada to attract international talent for short-term positions, fostering diversity and cultural exchange. It is also a pathway to permanent residency that encourages temporary workers to integrate into Canadian society, contributing in the long term.¹³⁷

135. Ibid.

136. Ibid.

137. Ibid.

Subtopic 2: Promoting Social and Cultural Integration Between Migrants and Host Communities

Promoting social and cultural integration between migrants and host communities is essential for the successful integration of migrants into their host communities. The IOM views integration as an essential component of effective and comprehensible migration management. Promoting social inclusion and good relations across diverse groups is also another way to help integrate migrants with the people from the host communities.¹³⁸

Successful integration is a dynamic and multi-directional process that involves the adaptation of migrants and of the host society. This process is based on principles of protecting the fundamental rights, the respect, tolerance and non-discrimination of both the migrants and the host society. This is a multi-dimensional issue that covers migrants' inclusion in economic, psychological, social, linguistic, navigational, and civic spheres. As well as empowering host communities and other local actors so they will receive and engage with migrants.

The IOM's global programming on integration takes a "Whole of community" approach and covers critical phases of the migration continuum, linking pre-departure and post-arrival activities. As well as migrant inclusion and social cohesion interventions, all to ensure maximum effectiveness and benefit diverse populations. Social networks and meaningful relations between migrants and local members of their communities can be fostered through the organization of multicultural activities and the facilitation of direct contact through sports, music, culinary festivals and other recreational activities.¹³⁹

All of this is important because promoting social and cultural integration between migrants and host communities is an investment in social cohesions, community strength, and individual well-being. It makes it easier for migrants to not feel as secluded which makes it easier for them to integrate into society.

138. "Migrant Integration and Social Cohesion," International Organization for Migration, accessed October 30, 2023,

139. "7 Recommendations to Promote the Inclusion of Migrants in Host...", OIM Oficina Regional para Centroamérica, Norteamérica y el Caribe, accessed October 30, 2023,

Case Study: Sweden Integration Policies for Asylum Seekers

Sweden has been recognized as one of the top 10 countries in the world in terms of integration.¹⁴⁰ The country has a long history of setting up integration strategies since the 1970s. In 2007, the government established a new Ministry of Integration and Gender Equality. It also reformed the integration system in 2008 and presented a comprehensive strategy entitled Empowerment against Exclusion. Its overall goal was to increase both the supply and the demand for labour and to foster equality in schools. Migrant integration was meant to be achieved primarily through mainstream policies and complemented by targeted measures during the first 2 years after newcomers obtain residence permits. When the social democrat and greens government took office after the 2014 election, it dissolved the ministry. Integration was to be achieved exclusively through mainstream and labour market policies. The general principle was that a migrant granted residence in Sweden is subject to the same rules as a national resident. However, a new policy area emerged: the labour-market integration of newcomers. In 2016, the state budget proposed a 200 million euro increase for immigrants' early integration. The additional expenditures were for labour market programs, interpreters, vocational education, civic orientation courses, and language training.¹⁴⁰

Subtopic 3: Family Reunification and Support

Family reunification and support is about migrants coming to a country settling down and then bringing their families with them to settle down. Sometimes families can not all come at once or someone goes first to set up a life for them and then brings the rest of the family over. There are different programs depending on the country that lets people bring their families over, for them to either support their family or to help their family have a better life.¹⁴¹ One example of these programs is the family sponsorship program in Canada. This is a program that allows people who are living in Canada to sponsor their family members to either live, work or study in Canada.¹⁴²

Family reunification and support play a crucial role in the successful integration of migrants into their host communities. When families are kept together and provided with the necessary support systems, individuals are better able to adapt, contribute positively, and feel a sense of belonging.¹⁴³ It does take a while to get migrants to be able to bring their families over. There is a huge legal process and there are many policies depending on the country. There are many ways countries can make it clear on how to bring family members over, like by establishing clear, fair, and compassionate policies for family reunification. This would be to ensure a streamlined and timely process for reunifying families. They can also ensure that immigration policies prioritize the unity of families, so they can protect the rights of spouses, children, and dependent relatives.¹⁴⁴

140. "Governance of Migrant Integration in Sweden," European Website on Integration, November 21, 2023,

141. "IOM Thematic Papers: Family Reunification," International Organization for Migration, accessed November 21, 2023,

142. Refugees and Citizenship Canada Immigration, "Government of Canada," to immigrate to Canada - Canada.ca, September 22, 2023

143. "IOM Thematic Papers: Family Reunification," International Organization for Migration, accessed November 21, 2023,

144. Ibid.

All of this is important because family reunification and support programs are investments in social cohesion, community strength, and individual well-being. It makes it easier for migrants to integrate into society as they do not feel secluded.

Case Study: Canada Family Sponsorship Program

The family sponsorship program in Canada allows Canadian citizens and permanent residents to sponsor certain relatives from other countries to come to Canada as permanent residents. These certain relatives could be a spouse, common-law partner, conjugal partner, dependent child, parents, grandparents, or other qualifying relatives. The program is designed to reunite families who have been separated by distance and to help new immigrants settle into their new lives in Canada.¹⁴⁵

The program makes it possible for sponsored individuals to live, work, or study in Canada while working on obtaining their permanent residence. To apply for the Family Sponsorship Program, the sponsor must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident who is at least 18 years old. The sponsor must also meet certain financial requirements and agree to provide financial support for the sponsored individuals for a period of time.

All family class applications for permanent residence are submitted at the same time as the sponsorship application to a Case Processing Centre (CPC) in Canada. CPC's are the primary offices responsible for processing family class sponsorship applications.¹⁴⁶

145. "Family Sponsorship Program for Canadian Immigration," Canadian Immigration Group, accessed October 30, 2023,

146. Refugees and Citizenship Canada Immigration, "Government of Canada," Canada.ca, July 19, 2019,

Subtopic 4: Access to Quality Education, Health Care, Financial Services and Employment

This subtopic is about the way of life that a migrant can have in a different place. There are many things that make someone's life livable and enjoyable. It talks about the impact the migrants will feel if they have access to these things like a quality education. Though it also talks about the importance of them receiving good quality things because they might have access to health care but if it is very poor healthcare then it does not do much for them.

Ensuring access to quality education, healthcare, financial services, and employment training is crucial for the successful integration of migrants into their host communities. Addressing these fundamental aspects enhances their well-being, promotes self-sufficiency, and empowers them to contribute meaningfully to society.¹⁴⁷

For education, countries can provide language and cultural orientation classes to help migrants communicate effectively and understand the local culture, facilitating their integration into schools and communities. It can also be done by ensuring that schools adopt inclusive policies, accommodating diverse cultural backgrounds and learning styles. Provide support services such as translators and counsellors.¹⁴⁸

For health care, it is important that healthcare providers are trained to be culturally sensitive and aware of the diverse needs of migrants. Provide interpreters to bridge language barriers. It is also important to offer information and services related to preventive healthcare, including vaccinations, maternal care, and disease prevention, to promote the overall well-being of migrant families.¹⁴⁹

147. "Local Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees" UN-Habitat, accessed November 21, 2023,

148. Lucie, Cerna. "Refugee education: Integration models and practices in OECD countries." (2019).

149. "IOM Thematic Papers: Integration and Social Integration," International Organization for Migration, accessed November 21, 2023,

For financial services they conduct financial literacy workshops to educate migrants about banking, budgeting, and saving, enabling them to manage their finances effectively and plan for the future. Another way is to establish microfinance programs that offer small loans to migrants interested in starting businesses, promoting entrepreneurship and economic self.¹⁵⁰

For employment training, they develop job training programs that cater to the specific skills demanded in the local job market. Collaborate with local industries to design training modules that align with employment opportunities. Also offer vocational education and certification programs in trades and skills that are in demand, preparing migrants for employment in various sectors.¹⁵¹

Ensuring access to education, healthcare, financial services, and employment training is not only a matter of social justice but also an investment in the growth and prosperity of communities. By providing these essential services, societies can enable migrants to integrate successfully, contribute meaningfully, and participate fully in the social, economic, and cultural fabric of their host countries.

Case Study: USA states DACA Program

The DACA program is a program that allows migrants to come over to the US to work and have access to an education. The program removes the threat of deportation and helps increase a person's socioeconomic status. This would help people have a stable and good quality of life in America.¹⁵²

Not only does the DACA program have a positive impact on the migrants but it also has a positive impact on the country's economy. DACA recipients made significant economic contributions, paying taxes, starting businesses, and filling essential roles in various sectors.¹⁵³ It also helps with social integration by providing opportunities for education, employment, and social mobility, leading to improved social cohesion in communities.¹⁵⁴

150. "IOM Thematic Papers: Family Reunification," International Organization for Migration, accessed November 21, 2023,

151. Ibid.

152. Alison Moodie, "What Is DACA? Everything You Need to Know," Boundless, April 21, 2022,

153. Steve Bonitatibus, "DACA Boosts Recipients' Well-Being and Economic Contributions: 2022 Survey Results," Center for American Progress, April 27, 2023,

154. "Why DACA Matters," Center for American Progress, April 29, 2021,

There is a lot of public support for this program but the DACA, but it comes with many challenges. The DACA faces many legal challenges and uncertainties with the United States government attempting to end the program, leading to prolonged legal battles. Another problem is that DACA only offers temporary relief, but the recipients live in constant uncertainty about their future, lacking a pathway to permanent residency or citizenship. There is a lot of support for it though some polls have indicated that a majority of Americans favoured allowing the receipts to stay in the U.S. and obtain citizenship.¹⁵⁵

Subtopic 5: Media Representation and Public Perception of Migrants

The media plays a crucial role in shaping public opinion on migrants, often portraying them as ‘others’ and threats to the existing social order.¹⁵⁶ The mainstream media use language that criminalizes and dehumanizes migrants, such as ‘illegal’, ‘failed’, ‘sham’, and ‘terrorist’.¹⁵⁷ This kind of language reinforces negative stereotypes and prejudices against migrants, making it difficult for them to integrate into host societies. Moreover, the media coverage of migration contributes to the success of far-right populist parties that exploit anti-immigrant sentiment and spread false or misleading information.¹⁵⁸ However, some media sources try to challenge the dominant narrative and capture the diversity and contribution of migrants, using tools such as photography, audio, and online platforms. The international community recognizes the importance of media in combating xenophobia and intolerance against migrants, and how migration is linked to the global development agenda.

Media representation of migrants can be improved through many means including using an empathetic, human perspective to respect the dignity of the human person. An understanding of the root cause of migration is critical in covering migration in an equitable and fair way. Though migration can be a controversial topic, it is important to keep human rights at the forefront of discussions around this topic.¹⁵⁹ Another issue is media recruitment practices, and the barriers faced by migrant journalists hoping to enter or reenter the media industry.¹⁶⁰ In a report to the IOM by Dr. Anna Triandafyllidou, it is stated that “Migrant journalists were more likely to work as freelancers or on short-term contracts in all the countries surveyed.”¹⁶¹ This is usually because they face discrimination, stereotyping, or marginalization from organizations in developed countries. Migrant journalists can contribute to a more balanced and comprehensive reporting on migration by bringing their perspectives, experiences, and networks to the media. They can also challenge the dominant narratives and stereotypes about migrants and foster intercultural dialogue and understanding among the public.¹⁶²

155. “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA): An Overview,” American Immigration Council, September 30, 2021,

156. “Media and Their Role in Shaping Public Attitudes towards Migrants,” Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility, accessed October 30, 2023,

157. Ibid.

158. Ibid.

159. “Reporting on Migration and Refugees – Guidelines for Journalists,” UNHCR South Eastern Europe, accessed November 21, 2023,

160. Media coverage on migration: Promoting a balanced reporting, accessed October 30, 2023, 7

161. Ibid.

162. “Reporting on Migration and Refugees – Guidelines for Journalists,” UNHCR South Eastern Europe, accessed November 21, 2023,

The “perception of the other” is central to the integration of migrants in host countries.¹⁶³ We frequently base our impressions on the roles and social norms we expect from other people. Perception in this context refers to how the public (i.e. citizens of a given country) think about migrants’ role in their society. If media coverage of migrants does not come from an empathetic, human standpoint, we are more likely to have a hostile and discriminatory perception of them, regardless of the reason they migrated.¹⁶⁴ Migrants commonly face objectification in the media.¹⁶⁵ For example, the majority of images from the Syrian refugee crisis in Western media depict refugees as “others” by using photos of large groups of refugees. The media organization The Conversation conducted a study in which participants were separated into two groups and shown images of Syrian refugees; it was concluded that “viewers dehumanised refugees more strongly when they were exposed to images of them in large groups.”¹⁶⁶

In 2018, the United Nations reported that there were 258 million international migrants worldwide, with 23.5 million of them being refugees.¹⁶⁷ The issue of undocumented migration is a complex one, with many factors contributing to it. One of the main reasons people migrate is to escape poverty and conflict in their home countries. However, many migrants face significant challenges when they arrive in their destination countries, including discrimination, lack of access to healthcare and education, and exploitation by employers.¹⁶⁸

163. Joachim Trebbe and Philomen Schoenhagen, “Ethnic Minorities in the Mass Media: How Migrants Perceive Their Representation in Swiss Public Television - Journal of International Migration and Integration,” SpringerLink, April 19, 2011,

164. “Your Perception of Others,” Psychology Today, accessed October 30, 2023,

165. Joachim Trebbe and Philomen Schoenhagen, “Ethnic Minorities in the Mass Media: How Migrants Perceive Their Representation in Swiss Public Television - Journal of International Migration and Integration,” SpringerLink, April 19, 2011,

166. Manos Tsakiris, “Refugees in the Media: How the Most Commonly Used Images Make Viewers Dehumanise Them,” The Conversation, January 19, 2023,

167. Forced migration and undocumented migration and development, accessed October 30, 2023,

168. The Human Rights of Migrants - International Organization for Migration, accessed October 30, 2023,

Case Study: Media Coverage of Migration Crisis in Europe

In a research paper titled “Numbers and Images: Representations of Immigration and Public Attitudes about Immigration in Canada” the authors study how Canadians estimate and imagine immigration and how these numbers and images affect their attitudes toward immigration.¹⁶⁹ Perception of statistics and numbers relating to migration and images used in media stories influence Canadians’ beliefs and attitudes around immigration. Canadians generally overestimate the number of refugees and asylum-seekers but are more accurate in estimating the total number of immigrants in Canada. It is also proven that media consumption, feelings of threat and insecurity, and ideological placement affect Canadians’ estimates and impressions of immigration. The disconnect between the evolution of Canada’s immigration programs and public perceptions should invite policy interventions targeting misinformation about immigration.¹⁷⁰

Subtopic 6: Undocumented Migrants

Undocumented migrants are individuals who enter or live in a country without proper authorization or documentation from the government. They do not have permission from the government to live or work in the country they have migrated to. These migrants may have entered the country without going through official immigration procedures, overstayed visas, or violated the terms of their legal status.¹⁷¹ Undocumented migrants often face various challenges, including the risk of deportation, limited access to education and healthcare, and exploitation in the job market. Their legal status can impact their ability to fully participate in society, access essential services, and enjoy the same rights and protection as documented residents or citizens.¹⁷²

169. Paquet, Mireille, and Andrea Lawlor. “Numbers and Images: Representations of Immigration and Public Attitudes about Immigration in Canada.” *Canadian Journal of Political Science/Revue Canadienne De Science Politique* 55, no. 4 (2022): 827–51.

170. Ibid.

171. “CIMM – Undocumented Populations – March 3, 2022,” *Canada.ca*, accessed November 21, 2023,

172. Christina Nuñez, “7 of the Biggest Challenges Immigrants and Refugees Face in the US,” *Global Citizen*, December 12, 2014,

Undocumented immigration can occur for various reasons, including political or economic instability in their home country, family reunification, better job opportunities, or a desire to escape violence or persecution. Some individuals may also overstay their visas or enter the country illegally in pursuit of better living conditions.¹⁷³ Despite coming in illegally they do contribute to the economy and society in various ways. For instance, they often perform labour-intensive jobs that many citizens of the country are not willing to do, such as working in agriculture, construction, or hospitality. They also pay taxes on goods and services they consume, such as sales, property, and gasoline tax.¹⁷⁴ Moreover, many of them start small businesses that create jobs and stimulate the local economies. Finally, they are often an integral part of their communities, volunteering for local charities, participating in cultural events and enriching the country's diversity.

Though undocumented migrants can be helpful to a country there are drawbacks to them. Some of the problems are public resources are strained, increased crime rates, and public safety concerns. For instance, undocumented migrants often lack documentation that allows them to receive public services, like health care, education and welfare benefits. This can lead to overcrowding in emergency rooms and schools, straining resources thin.¹⁷⁵ Additionally, some undocumented migrants may engage in criminal activities, such as drug trafficking, human smuggling, and identity theft, which can jeopardize public safety.¹⁷⁶ Finally, the issue of undocumented migrants is often a contentious political issue, leading to polarization and divisiveness within communities and society at large.¹⁷⁷

173. "EarthEclipse's Editorial Staff," Earth Eclipse, May 26, 2018,

174. "Undocumented Immigrants: How Immigration Plays A Critical Role," New American Economy, March 15, 2022,

175. "Why Is Illegal Immigration Bad?," Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIRUS.org), March 1, 2005,

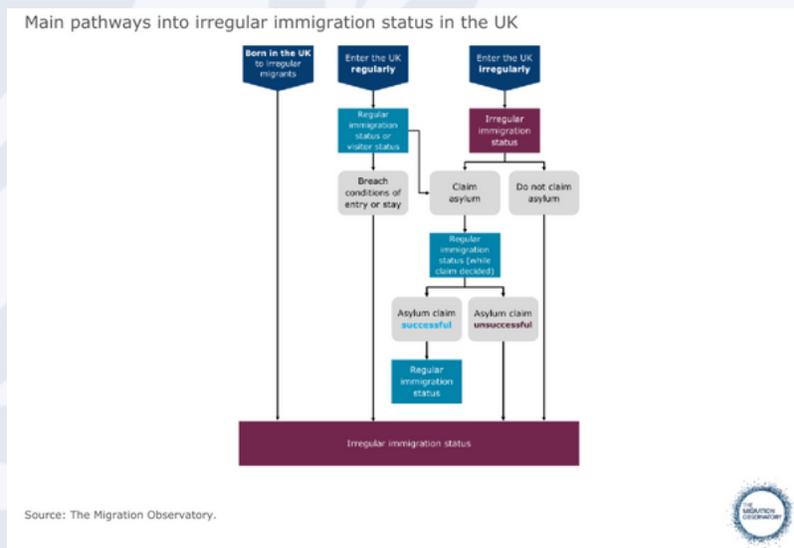
176. Hannah Davis, "Increased Illegal Immigration Brings Increased Crime: Almost 2/3 of Federal Arrests Involve Noncitizens," The Heritage Foundation, accessed November 21, 2023,

177. Alexi McCammond, "Politicized, Polarized: How Illegal Immigration Views Diverged," Axios, April 26, 2022,

Case Study: Undocumented Migrants in the United Kingdom

In the 2017/2018 financial year, there were over 1800 people caught attempting to enter the United Kingdom (UK) illegally. The UK uses the term “irregular migrant” to define anyone who enters or stays in the country without proper documentation and approval. Figure 1 from The Migration Observatory at the University of Oxford details the pathways in which one may become an irregular or illegal migrant. There are an estimated 800 000 to 1.2 million unauthorized migrants in the UK and they make up a quarter of the estimated 3.9-4.8 million undocumented immigrants living in the European Union countries.¹⁷⁸

The UK put in place a policy in 2022 that allowed certain asylum-seekers to be transferred to Rwanda as a way to try and combat people trying to enter the UK illegally. This agreement is called the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by both Rwanda and the UK. It is an agreement that asylum seekers who claimed/were not being considered by the UK be transferred to Rwanda. But it does not guarantee them asylum-seeking status there. Rwanda technically qualifies as a “safe third country” under the UK’s 2022 Nationality and Borders Act many critics challenge that opinion. International organizations have also raised concerns about Rwanda’s compliance with International human rights norms regarding refugees.¹⁷⁹



178. “Unauthorized Immigrants in the United Kingdom,” Pew Research Center’s Global Attitudes Project, November 13, 2019,

179. Leena Dai, Justin Walker, and Nikolas Paladino, “Recent Case: K.N. v. the United Kingdom,” Harvard Law Review, March 24, 2023,

Case Study: UN Past Engagement

The UN has been actively engaged in promoting approaches to migrant empowerment and inclusion as part of its effort to support migrants' rights, social integration, and overall well-being. The UN has been involved in many key initiatives and frameworks in the past.

One of the initiatives that the UN took place in is the creation of many organizations to help better the treatment of migrants. In 1951 the IOM was created. In 2018 the GCM, The Global Compact for Migration, was adopted and this is a comprehensive international framework that outlines principles and approaches for the empowerment and inclusion of migrants, The GCM emphasizes the importance of human rights, non-discrimination, and social inclusion for migrants in host societies.¹⁸⁰

In 2015 the UN adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a way to pledge their support to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.¹⁸¹ One of the ways these goals have to be met is by the UN being involved with migrants and advocating for them to be treated fairly and without any discrimination. One of the goals, 10.7, aims to facilitate orderly, safe, regular, responsible migration and mobility of people.¹⁸²

The International Dialogue of Migration is also a UN creation but was specifically created by the IOM stream. It was created in 2001 and it is where many governments come together every year to develop joint operations to help migrants.¹⁸³ Overall the UN has worked many years trying to develop different ways to help migrants and the host communities.

180. "Global Compact for Migration," International Organization for Migration, accessed October 30, 2023,

181. "Sustainable Development Goals," UNDP, accessed November 16, 2023,

182. "Take Action for the Sustainable Development Goals - United Nations Sustainable Development," United Nations, accessed November 16, 2023.

183. "International Dialogue on Migration," International Organization for Migration, accessed November 16, 2023,

Research Questions Topic 2:

- What challenges do migrants face when trying to build a life in a new country?
- How do countries decide if a migrant's credentials or education is transmissible to their country?
- What are the biggest problems with integrating migrants into the social and cultural norms of the host communities?
- How can countries make it easier for migrants to integrate with the host communities?
- How do the host communities feel about the massive amount of migrants moving into their homes, and what can be done to make them feel more at ease with it?
- What policies and programs do countries have to make it easier for migrants to move to that country? What policies do countries have to make it harder for migrants to move there?
- How has the global pandemic and other world issues impacted migrants moving to another country?
- How much influence does the public have on the amount of migrants that are let into the country and who those migrants are? How are the people forming their opinions, through the media, academic journals,..etc?
- How do the SDGs help migrants?

¹¹⁵ "2010 Haiti Earthquake," Encyclopædia Britannica, accessed October 30, 2023,

General Tips for Research, Writing Position Papers, and the Conference:

Read the Background Guide! While we unanimously agree it can be an intimidating document, it is ultimately a resource that helps you and gets you started. The more you relate your work to the background guide, the more on track you will be to making productive working papers and speeches!

Research credible sources - We will be checking! These include scholarly articles, peer-reviewed papers, anecdotal work, UN documents and resolutions, legal frameworks and legislations, etc. Do not feel limited by what you can and cannot research, but ensure that they are trustworthy and accurate! If you're not sure, email us and ask!

Position papers should be no more than one page. While I am aware that UTMUN's policy is a maximum of two pages, mine is one. Be super concise and straight to your point.

Be as specific as you can with your position paper. What policy, legislation or framework do you support and why? Why does it advantage your state?

Adhere to your country's foreign policy. You are a unique nation with your own sets of values, beliefs, and political ideologies. The more you stay true to your character, the more productive and healthy debate will follow. As such, be careful who you form blocs with - they might disagree and that is okay!

Equity matters, always. We are dealing with incredibly sensitive topics, so please be mindful of how you approach your country's political stance, even if it is relatively controversial. UTMUN strives to ensure the comfort of all Delegates, and you play a large part in that!

Engage in every way that you can! Model UN is only exciting when you talk, pass notes, form blocs, participate in writing working papers, debate, etc. We rely on you to make the conference lively, don't let us down!

Trust your dais. We are experienced and heavily trained Model UN staff. If there is anything we can do, during the conference or otherwise, please let us know! If you are new to Model UN, please reach out to us and let us know how we can improve your UTMUN experience!

Key Resources:

- [Human Rights of Migrants](#)
- [Global Initiatives Addressing Migrants](#)
- [International Migration](#)
- [International Migration \(2020\) - Highlights](#)
- [International Organization of Migration](#)
- [Migrant Integration and Social Cohesion](#)
- [OHCHR](#)
- [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)
- [World Humanitarian Summit: Addressing Forced Displacement](#)
- [United Nations](#)
- [UNHCR](#)
- [New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants](#)
- [Durable Solutions](#)
- [Global Compact on Refugees](#)
- [Migration and Asylum](#)

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