

LEBANON

Lebanon is a republic located in the Middle East. Its capital is Beirut, and the total population is approximately 5.6 million. Despite being relatively small, UNHCR estimates that Lebanon has received 1.5 million refugees, most of whom are from Syria. The Syrian refugees make up about 20% of the total number of people in the country.

Negotiation guidelines

Lebanon is the state that has received the most refugees in proportion to its population in the negotiations. Use this to your advantage as it can provide a significant moral advantage, as many richer states have received significantly fewer refugees. Regarding the issue of SRHR for young people, you can collaborate with Tanzania, Colombia, and Ethiopia. Regarding the right to complain to the UN, you can collaborate with Thailand. Lebanon has not signed or ratified the refugee convention, which may lead to criticism from other states. However, you can argue that Lebanon has still received a very large number of refugees, and that you are still following the refugee convention in practice. The refugee convention aims to regulate who is recognized as a refugee, and Lebanon has recognized those who have arrived in the country as refugees.

Family reunification

The fact that Lebanon has received so many refugees in proportion to its population puts a significant strain on the authorities and social welfare in the country. Lebanon believes that children on the move should have the right to be reunited with their families. Lebanon needs help developing a system for how family reunification should take place with the number of refugees currently in the country. They also need financial assistance to fund this.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights

In Lebanon, there are problems with young people's SRHR because, due to culture and tradition, it is taboo and difficult to talk about. The issue is something that only becomes relevant in adulthood. Lebanon believes that children should not have access to contraceptives or sex education, as they are not supposed to engage in sexual activities

anyway. Lebanon's legislation is also very restrictive regarding abortion, which can only be performed if the mother's life is in danger due to the pregnancy. Lebanon acknowledges some problems with sexual violence, partly due to the legislation not being strong enough. Lebanon believes that there is a right to sexual activity within marriage, and therefore, it is not possible to talk about rape within marriage. Nevertheless, the country has adopted a law against violence within marriage. Child marriage is very common, especially among Syrian children who are refugees in Lebanon.

The right to complain to the UN

Lebanon has not ratified the third protocol of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which allows children to complain if their rights are violated. Lebanon has a standing invitation to UN special rapporteurs. Lebanon believes that a special rapporteur for children on the move can be established if all countries are scrutinized, not just the poorer ones.

