



CHILDREN ON THE MOVE

MODEL UN FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL



INNEHÅLL

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PART 1
MATERIAL FOR ORGANIZERS

ABBREVIATIONS

ASRHR	Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund.
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund.
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme.
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination Affairs.
WFP	World Food Programme.

DEFINITIONS

- Delegate:** In a Model UN, a delegate assumes the role of a country’s diplomat in a UN meeting. The delegate is responsible for negotiating on behalf of its country and reaching a consensus with delegates representing other countries, in an effort to pass a resolution that is in line with its country’s interests.
- Committee:** There are several committees that prepare issues before they are presented for a decision in the UN General Assembly. It is in the committees that most of the negotiations take place, so by the time the voting takes place most of the disagreements have been resolved and resolutions have been amended through additions and deletions. Therefore, the decision can usually be made by consensus in the General Assembly after negotiations and debates in the committees.
- Lobbying:** In the context of the UN, lobbying is an informal debate that lays the groundwork for the formal debate. It is a way for countries to negotiate more informally, but it can also be a channel through which, for instance, associations, civil society organizations, or companies can influence the political direction.

Convention: A convention is an agreement between countries that states can sign, to demonstrate their willingness to follow it. It contains a description of the problem, and points -formally known as articles- that explain what countries commit to follow. Lengthy negotiation processes are often required to agree on the text of a convention.

Signing a convention: A state that signs a convention is bound to act in a way that does not contradict the goals and purposes of the convention. To fully commit, the state must then ratify the convention. The state is not legally bound to follow the convention, but it should refrain from actively opposing it.

Ratifying a convention: Ratification is the decision a state takes to commit itself to an international agreement. It is the step after signing a convention and is legally binding. In democracies, ratification usually requires parliamentary approval of the agreement.

Reserving the right to an article in a Convention: When ratifying a convention, states may reserve the right to certain parts or articles of the treaty. They thereby express that they do not intend to follow these parts of the convention.

Resolution: A resolution is a type of decision adopted in the various bodies of the United Nations. In the context of the UN, only the Security Council may adopt resolutions that are binding to the member states, while General Assembly resolutions are viewed as recommendations. A resolution can address one or several issues where action needs to be taken, such as the rights of children on the move. The resolution expresses recommendations for how states should work on the issue.

Sovereignty: A concept in international law that refers to a state's independence in relation to other states and its right to exercise power within its own territory.

SOURCES AND LINKS FOR ADDITIONAL RESEARCH

The world is constantly changing. Acknowledging this, we have created a web page containing sources and links where updated statistics, facts, and in-depth information can be found, to help you delve deeper into the issues raised in this MUN. You can access this page by clicking [here](#).

MODEL UN – CHILDREN ON THE MOVE

More than 103 million people in the world are on the move. Over 53 million of them are internally displaced people, which means that they are on the move within their own country.

More than 40 percent of all people on the move in the world are children. The situation for many children on the move is untenable as they lack the most essential things, such as food, water, healthcare, education and protection from violence. Many people on the move are living in heavily overcrowded refugee camps, an environment that can be particularly dangerous for children.

The model UN children on the move, aims to inspire teachers and students to, in a UN-scenario, discuss questions such as: How do we make sure that children on the move are safe? What responsibility does the world have? How do different countries reason in an ongoing refugee crisis? This model UN wants to provide insight into how the UN works and how some of the countries in the world act on these issues.

The model UN simulates a meeting between some of the member states of the UN in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly, which deals with social, humanitarian, and cultural issues. The Third committee usually discuss issues related to women's rights, children's rights, the elimination of racial discrimination and the treatment of refugees.

The committee has now called a meeting to specifically discuss the situation of children on the move. The task is to reach a resolution that can become a guide for the UN member states' work to protect children on the move.

Topics

The three main topics raised in this model UN can be used all together or separately depending on the time frame. The goal is to negotiate a resolution regardless of how many of the issues are included. The three topics have been selected because they are important for children on the move and have support in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

1. The right to family reunification

Many families on the move get separated, which means great risks for the children. According to Article 22 in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, states are obligated to help children reunite with their families. This model UN addresses how this right can be guaranteed for children on the move.

2. SRHR and freedom from sexual and gender-based violence

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, SRHR, defines several important rights, especially for girls and women. The access to SRHR in crises and conflicts is fundamental to saving lives. SRHR addresses the right to contraception, family planning, maternity care, and sex education, but also the freedom to decide over one's own body. Children on the move are in an extra vulnerable situation with high risk of being exposed to sexual and gender-based violence. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (Article 19, 24 and 34) emphasizes the child's right to protection from violence and other abuse, as well as the right to the best possible health through, among other things, maternal health care, preventive health care, and education in family planning. This model UN raises questions regarding how all children on the move should get access to SRHR and be guaranteed a life free from sexual and gender-based violence.

3. Optional Protocol on communications procedure

There is an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which gives the child the right to complain to a UN committee in order to get redress if the child's rights have been violated. Today, only 50 countries have ratified the protocol, which means that many children in the world lack the opportunity to submit individual complaints to the UN. This model UN addresses how a greater number of children can be given the opportunity to present their case to the UN if their rights have been violated.

THE ACTORS OF THE MODEL UN

In this model UN, some of the UN's member states meet in the third committee of the General Assembly. The committee deals with social, humanitarian, and cultural issues, namely issues that affect the human rights. The states chosen to participate in this model UN is based on different positions on the issues being able to emerge in the debate. The model UN is led by a president. Each country's delegation has access to a position paper that outlines the country's positions on the issues. It is beneficial if the students have time to prepare for the model UN during a couple of lessons. If you, however, want to complete the model UN in a shorter amount of time, you can opt to only use the position papers as guideline. An important rule regardless of which alternative you choose is that students should always act in accordance with the country they represent, and not express their own personal opinions and values.

COMMITTEES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

First Committee	Disarmament & International Security
Second Committee	Economic & Financial
Third Committee	Social, Humanitarian & Cultural
Fourth Committee	Special Political & Decolonization
Fifth Committee	Administrative & Budgetary
Sixth Committee	Legal



IN THIS MODEL UN, THE FOLLOWING ACTORS ARE REPRESENTED.

President

Vice president (if desired)

Australia

Ethiopia

China

Russia

Thailand

Venezuela

Colombia

EU

Lebanon

Tanzania

United States

MODEL UN STEP BY STEP – TWO VERSIONS

1. Model UN in two hours – without preparatory work for the students

ASSIGNMENT:

To, with help from a position paper, take on the role of a delegate at the UN, present their country's values and opinions in a short speech, participate in lobbying with other states and reach a joint proposal for the sake of children on the move.

Introduction (15 minutes)

Furnish the room so that delegates from each country sit together. Arrange a chair table at the front of the room. Set a standing table (or similar) that can function as a lectern next to the chair table. Have the students form delegations for each country (groups of 2-3 people). Give each delegation a country sign. Greet the students as highly honourable delegates in the UN General Assembly that have gathered in order to improve the situation for children on the move. Explain to the students that you, as president, will support and lead them in this important mission. Give a brief background on the serious situation of today's 100 million refugees. Explain the delegates' task as above.

Step into your role and write an opening speech (40 minutes)

Distribute position papers and template for opening speeches (see next page) and give the delegates time to familiarize themselves with their roles. Each delegation must then, using their position paper and the template, prepare an opening speech in a maximum of 1 minute summarizing the country's views. The opening speeches give the delegates an overview of the countries' positions and should thus pave the way for good lobbying.

TIP

In the MUN handbook on the UN Association's website, there is a template for a longer opening speech, as well as a description of the different parts of the speech that are important to include.

The meeting opens and each delegation gives an opening speech (20 minutes)

The chairman welcomes, registers the countries' presence, and reviews the rules for the opening speeches. The chairman then asks a representative from each country to give their speech. Important basic rules are to start the speeches with "Honourable President, distinguished delegates...", to be polite and to let the president distribute the floor. After each speech, the chairman may give other delegates the opportunity to ask questions. To request the floor, delegates should raise their country sign. Remind delegates that they do not represent their own opinions. Therefore, they should not use "I" or address others as "you". Instead, they should use expressions such as "China believes", and when asking questions, for example: "Ethiopia wonders if the honourable delegate from the USA can explain...".

See template for opening speeches on page 23 in Part 2.

Lobbying, proposing measures, and voting (approximately 40 minutes)

Delegates mingle with each other and negotiate informally to influence other delegates. In cooperation with other countries, they summarize proposals for measures in bullet points. (In this shorter simulation, it is possible to skip how resolutions are formally written in the UN, see template.) The aim is to achieve majority support for a joint proposal. Therefore, an important rule is that each individual country can only support one proposal. End the simulation with a vote to clearly show which countries support which proposals.



2. Model UN with resolutions and debates - approximately seven hours.

ASSIGNMENT:

Aided by position papers and individual research, take on the role of a delegate for one of the UN member countries and participate in a meeting to develop a resolution with measures to protect children on the move. The delegations present their positions in an opening speech, write a draft resolution according to UN practice, participate in lobbying with other countries to formulate common draft resolutions, and participate in debate and voting.

Introduction, entering into roles, writing resolution drafts and opening speeches (3 hours)

In addition to the introduction described in the shorter option on the previous page, you can also provide background information and a resolution template available in the material. Allow the delegates plenty of time to familiarize themselves with their roles and encourage them to seek out information outside of their position papers. Each delegation should prepare for the UN meeting by

TIP

On the website of the UN Association, there are study questions available to help map out a state. These questions can be used during your preparations and negotiations.

writing a resolution draft and an opening speech. See templates and instructions in the MUN handbooks. Ahead of the meeting, the classroom should be furnished to give delegates the sense of appearing at the UN. Props such as flags, a gavel, a microphone, a tablecloth, a lectern, flowers, and country and name tags can be used. During a Model UN, both delegates and other attendees should wear formal attire, so students should also be encouraged to do so. Examples of formal attire are shirts and ties, suits or blazers, skirts, dresses or traditional garments. The clothing should be respectful towards the meeting and the other participants. An important guideline is that delegates should dress up, but not play dress-up.

The meeting is opened and each delegation presents its opening speech (30 minutes).

The chairman welcomes everyone, registers the attending countries, and goes over the rules for opening speeches. The chairman then asks a representative from each country to deliver their speech in turn. Important rules are to begin the speeches with “Honourable Chairman, honourable delegates,” to be polite and let the chairman allocate speaking time. After each speech, the chairman may give other delegates the opportunity to ask questions. The floor is requested by raising the country’s nameplate. Remind delegates that they do not represent their own views. Therefore, they should not say “I” or address others as “you”. Instead, use expressions such as “China states...” and when there are questions, they should follow the example: “Ethiopia wonders if the honourable delegate from the USA can explain...”.



Lobbying and Joint Draft Resolutions (1.5 hours)

During the lobbying phase, the delegates socialize and negotiate with each other in an informal manner. Since each delegation has prepared a draft resolution, the lobbying process should get under way quickly. The delegates' task is to seek support for each other's draft resolutions and formulate common positions in the form of operative clauses. The aim is to create draft resolutions with as broad of a support as possible. The delegations should advocate for their demands but be prepared to accept compromises and concessions. Each state may only support one resolution, which means that the number of resolutions during the lobbying phase will be reduced to a couple. The resolutions that manage to attract support from at least four countries (one sponsoring country and three supporting countries) will move on to the negotiation phase. It is helpful if the chairman helps choose the draft resolutions that have the best chance of receiving sufficient support after a period of lobbying. The delegates agree on who will present the draft resolution and be the sponsoring country. Other countries that support the proposal are referred to as supporting countries (signatories). Countries that do not want to support any draft resolution yet have to prepare explanations as to why they do not support the draft resolutions in the upcoming debate.

Debate and Voting (approximately 40 minutes)

The debate begins with the chairman opening the meeting, registering the countries present, and welcoming the delegates to the negotiations. The chairman presents the agenda and debate rules and ensures that all delegates have access to the draft resolutions to be discussed. The chairman asks a delegate from the sponsoring country to read out the operative clauses in the draft resolution at the speaker's podium and then offers the delegate a limited time, for instance a maximum of two minutes, to argue for the draft resolution. Other countries may then be given the opportunity to ask questions, but this is only done if the delegate at the speaker's podium has agreed to accept questions, which is encouraged but voluntary. Other countries are then given the opportunity to speak for the resolution and, if they wish, answer questions. The chairman yields the floor and encourages as many countries as possible to take part in the debate so that different opinions and arguments are presented. Therefore, the same speaking time, with exactly the same debate rules, is given to countries that subsequently wish to speak against the resolution. When the debate for and against the first draft resolution is complete, the debate for and against the second draft resolution begins in the same manner.



DEBATE RULES

- 1 Delegates request the floor by raising their country sign/raising their hand.
- 2 The Chair decides who may speak and for how long.
- 3 Interventions in the formal debate begin with "Honourable Chair, honourable delegates".
- 4 The Chair decides if there is time for questions, replies, and additional interventions.
- 5 The Chair may give the floor to another delegate if a speaker exceeds the allotted time.
- 6 Personal attacks are not permitted.
- 7 Delegates should stick to the topics on the agenda.
- 8 In case of uncertainty, questions may be asked of the Chair by raising the country sign and shouting "question".
- 9 Only the Chair may interrupt a delegate's speech or question.
- 10 A delegate may, at the Chair's request, yield the floor to the Chair or another delegate.

After the debate, the draft resolution is put up for a vote. Each country has one vote and may vote for, against, or abstain. To become an adopted resolution, a draft requires the support of a majority. If the delegations cannot reach an agreement, the vote may be repeated, but without the option to abstain. Further suggestions and instructions for the Chair can be found in the MUN-guidelines on the Swedish UN Association's website.

Follow-up (approximately 30-60 minutes)

After an MUN that often sparks engagement but also some frustration among participants if negotiations do not go as desired, it is advisable to allow time for follow-up where students can discuss the MUN based on their own thoughts and feelings.

BEGIN BY DISCUSSING THE FOLLOWING:

- How is it to act as a delegate?
- What did you think of your own role's political views?
- Did the MUN feel like a realistic scenario?
- What did you learn about the issues raised in the MUN?
- Are MUNs a good method for engaging with global issues?

TIP

Further suggestions and instructions for the chairperson can be found in the MUN handbook on the website of the UN Association.

RESOLUTIONS

When countries negotiate with each other in the United Nations, it leads to different types of decisions, often in the form of resolutions. Before the vote, this document is called a draft resolution or a proposed resolution. A resolution always consists of a heading, some preambulatory phrases (background and argumentation), and a number of operative phrases (proposals for actions and statements). Resolutions are formally structured and follow a template to facilitate negotiations and to make it easy to navigate the text. For the same reason, it is recommended to number all the lines in the resolution as well as each individual operative phrase. The resolution begins by stating which body will decide on the resolution, such as the United Nations General Assembly or the United

Nations Security Council. The text of a resolution is formulated as a single long sentence where the different clauses are separated by commas (in the preambulatory part) and semicolons (in the operative part). The final operative phrase ends with a period, which also marks the end of the resolution. The instructions below explain the different parts of a resolution. After that, you will find a template with pre-written preambulatory phrases and space for operative phrases that you can use in the Model UN. Resolutions are the agreements made in an organization such as the United Nations General Assembly or Security Council. Resolutions are also the documents that participants in a Model UN, according to formal rules, work on, debate, revise, and finally vote on, just like in a real UN meeting.

RESOLUTIONS HAVE A HEADING THAT CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING PARTS:

COMMITTEE:	For example, the Third Committee of the General Assembly.
QUESTION REGARDING:	For example, Measures to protect children on the move.
SPONSOR:	For example, the United States, the country that presents/has primary responsibility for the proposal.
SIGNATORIES:	The countries, in addition to the sponsoring country, that support this draft resolution.

THEN, THE UN BODY THAT WILL DECIDE ON THE RESOLUTION IS SPECIFIED:

For example, the United Nations General Assembly. This is the only subject that appears in the resolution text.

PREAMBULATORY CLAUSES

The preambulatory clauses describe the background of the issue. One can, for example, refer to previous agreements that are considered important in the context. Each preambulatory clause begins with an italicized verb and ends with a comma.

Examples of introductory words for these clauses are: *“Reminding”, “Drawing attention to”, “Keeping in mind”, “Welcoming”, “With reference to”.*

To make it easy to navigate the text, each line is numbered.

OPERATIVE CLAUSES

The operative clauses follow up the preambulatory clauses with actions and positions. Each operative clause begins with a number and a verb that expresses what the countries collectively stand for. The choice of verb in an operative clause is based on what one wishes to express.

Examples of introductory words for operative clauses are: “1. Ensures”, “2. Acknowledges”, “3. Demands”, “4. Confirms”, “5. Affirms”, “6. Proposes”, “7. Condemns”, “8. Supports”, “9. Regrets”, “10. Welcomes”, “11. Encourages”.

To further mark the operative clauses, one can underline the introductory verb. Each operative clause ends with a semicolon, except for the last operative clause which ends with a period, indicating the end of the resolution.

AN EXAMPLE OF HOW PREAMBULATORY AND OPERATIVE CLAUSES ARE WRITTEN IN A RESOLUTION IS:

- (1) With deep concern regarding ...,
- (2) Referring to the Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted by the UN General
- (3) Assembly in 1989,
- (4) Reminding all states of their responsibility to give all children their rights,
- (5) 1. Acknowledges that each operative clause is numbered, always begins with an
- (6) underlined verb and ends with a semicolon;
- (7) 2. Further acknowledges that a strong resolution contains introductory verbs such as
- (8) demands, condemns, invokes;
- (9) 3. Notes that the resolution is one long sentence that ends with a period.

A template for a resolution can be found on page 24 in part 2.

TIP

More information on resolutions and resolution writing is available in the handbook on the website of the Swedish UN Association.





TOPICS - THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN ON THE MOVE

Millions of children are forced to flee their homes

In 2022, 103 million people were displaced from war, persecution, famine, and natural disasters. Most of them had fled the conflict in Syria, but many of them also came from Venezuela, Ukraine, Afghanistan and South Sudan.

Children, and especially young girls, are particularly vulnerable when they are forced to flee. Many are forced to live in refugee camps for a long time where schools are either missing, or inadequate. Children on the move often miss out on several years of their education. In some cases, they are forced to start working instead of going back to school.

In many cases the process of fleeing can also be dangerous. Long distance walks, temperature differences, sleeping without protection and other tough physical challenges are especially tough for the younger children. Compared to adults, children are in greater need of nutritious food as their bodies are developing. This becomes a big challenge when being on the move as there is a short supply of food. Dirty water also poses greater risks for children, and diseases such as diarrhea can be life threatening in these situations.

To be on the move, or staying in a refugee camp, means an increased risk of being exposed to violence. There is, for example, a greater risk of children being separated from their parents or being recruited as child soldiers. Children fleeing on their own are particularly vulnerable.

Young girls on the move often lack access to their right to sexual and reproductive health, SRHR. Child marriage, violence, sexual abuse, as well as teenage pregnancy, increase during crises and disasters and they often lack support and healthcare, especially during menstruation and pregnancy. In addition, the possibilities for safe abortions are slim. Complications during pregnancy and childbirth are the most common cause of death for girls between the ages of 15 and 19 worldwide.

Protection in international law Convention on the Rights of the Child

The Convention on the Rights of the Child is a legally binding international document that regulates the human rights of children in 54 articles. The convention has been ratified by every country in the world except the United States. Ratifying a convention means that the country promises to comply with the convention by adapting the national laws to it. Article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child stipulates that everyone under the age of 18 is a child and must have access to the rights in the convention. It applies to all children in the world. Article 22 of the Convention specifically deals with children on the move. And according to the article countries pledge to provide protection and assistance to the children coming to the country for asylum. This applies to both unaccompanied minors and children entering the country with their parents. A separated child should, according to the article, be assisted in finding their parents. Article 22 also states that every refugee child must have access to all the rights the convention regulates, such as the right to

life, freedom of religion and protection from violence and abuse.

Four of the articles in the convention, 2, 3, 6 and 12 serve as main principles and guidance in the work with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Article 2 deals with that the rules apply to all children. It also says that no one should be discriminated against. Article 3 deals with focusing on the best interests of the child. Article 6 deals with that the child has a right to life and personal development. And article 12 says that the views expressed by children should be considered in decision-making, policymaking, and preparation of laws and/or measures as well as their evaluation, this is, according to the article, important as the views expressed by children may add relevant perspectives and experience.

There are three optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The third is called “Optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure” and entitles the child to complain if their rights have been violated. The protocol entered into force in 2014. By February 2023, 50 states had ratified the protocol, which means that only children in 50 different states have the opportunity to complain to the committee if their rights have been violated.

Refugee Convention

The Refugee Convention (formally called the 1951 Refugee Convention) defines the term “refugee” and outlines the rights of refugees, as well as the legal obligations of states to protect them. The document defines a refugee as: “someone who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion”. This means that if someone is exposed to for example persecution, that person has the right to seek asylum in another country. However, it does not mean a right to receive asylum. Each case is tried individually by the country where the refugee is seeking asylum. That also means that even if one is recognized as a refugee by the UN, via its refugee agency UNHCR, it is still up to each country’s authorities to decide who gets asylum and who does not. This also applies to the number of resettlement refugees who get distributed between different countries by the UNHCR.

The refugee convention is criticized for being insufficient. Above all, the criticism concerns the fact that refugees from war and climate disasters are not mentioned in the text of the convention. This is problematic since many of today’s refugees are thus left outside the protection of the convention.

Individual countries have therefore chosen to, in their own laws, extend the right to asylum. The legislation of individual countries, cannot however, replace international conventions. In order for people fleeing war and climate change to be recognized as refugees, the refugee convention needs to be updated.



Responsibility to Protect

The Responsibility to Protect was unanimously adopted in 2005 at the UN World Summit. The principle, known as R2P, is an international norm that seeks to ensure that the international community never again fails to halt the mass atrocity crimes of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity. This responsibility entails the preventions of such crimes, including their incitement, through appropriate and necessary means. We accept that responsibility and will act in accordance with it. The international community should, as appropriate, encourage and help states to exercise this responsibility and support the United Nations in establishing an early warning capability.

The principle says that if a state fails to protect its population from any of the crimes mentioned above, other states have the right to intervene. This means that the protection of human life, in some cases, comes before the sovereignty of a state. When it comes to refugees, the responsibility to protect is primarily meant to be used for preventative purposes. This can for example mean ensuring that tensions and xenophobia do not arise linked to the reception of refugees. The states must also take initiatives to prevent hate crimes against people on the move. If measures like these are not being taken, there is a risk that it could lead to violations of international law.

WHO DOES WHAT FOR PEOPLE ON THE MOVE?



UN

The United Nations is a large organization consisting of many different organs. Most of these organs work to help people who are in need or for various reasons need extra protection. This may involve children, women, people on the move or other groups. Below is a brief presentation of a selection of the organs that work to protect refugees and children.

UN General Assembly

The General Assembly is the main policy-making organ of the Organization. Comprising all Member States, it provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the Charter of the United Nations. Each of the 193 Member States of the United Nations has an equal vote. The General Assembly can, for example, take initiatives to strengthen international cooperation, develop international law, and promote human rights.

UN Security Council

The Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 members of which five have a permanent seat and ten who have their seat for two years at a time. The five permanent members are the United States, Russia, China, Great Britain, and France. Each member has one vote, however the five countries with permanent seat has veto rights, which means that if one of them votes against a proposal, the proposal cannot go through regardless of how many of the other countries in the Security Council voted in favor of the proposal. In order to stop ongoing human rights violations or an ongoing conflict, the Security Council can decide on peace enforcement measures. This could for example be

sanctions against the country concerned. As a last resort, the Security Council has the mandate to decide on military actions to protect international peace and security.

UNDP – United Nations Development Programme

UNDP works in 170 countries and territories to eradicate poverty and reduce inequality. They help countries to develop policies, leadership skills, partnering abilities, institutional capabilities, and to build resilience to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. UNDP works with refugee issues from a long-term perspective by preventing and mitigating conflicts, improving access to legal protection, fighting poverty and implementing refugee policies. Their conflict prevention work is focused on supporting national and local institutions to prevent violence, as well as constructively manage conflict. Read more at: www.undp.org/about-us

UNFPA - United Nations Population Fund

The UN Population Fund and agency for sexual and reproductive health and rights supports the reproductive health of women and young people in more than 150 countries, where upwards of 80% of the world's population resides. They are present before, during, and after crises such as conflicts, natural disasters, and health emergencies to ensure that relief efforts include sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and protection against gender-based violence. As almost half of all migrants are women, most of whom are of reproductive age, they have specific needs. UNFPA therefore highlights the challenges faced by women and other vulnerable migrants and works to meet the urgent reproductive health needs of people on the move.

UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is a global organization dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights, and building a better future for refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people. In 2021, UNHCR was working in 137 different countries in order to help millions of refugees, internally displaced people, stateless people and people returning to their countries after being on the move. The organizations' primary function is to ensure the rights and well-being of refugees. UNHCR also works to protect the right to seek asylum and find protection in another country. They contribute with tents, food, water, and other necessities to refugees in refugee camps and in other places. Read more at: www.unhcr.org

UNICEF – United Nations Children's Emergency Fund

UNICEF works in over 190 countries and territories to save children's lives, to defend their rights, and to help them fulfil their potential, from early childhood through adolescence. The organization works with long-term humanitarian aid and development with a focus on children's rights. Their work is governed by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and their personnel do a lot of field work. UNICEF helps children on the move in many different ways, for example by securing access to clean water, distributing medicine and food, as well as protecting children from violence and exploitation. Read more at: www.unicef.org/

UNOCHA – United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

UNOCHA was established in 1991. The organization mobilizes and coordinates effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors in order to alleviate human suffering in disasters and emergencies, advocate the rights of people in need, promote preparedness and prevention, as well as facilitate sustainable solutions. Read more at: www.unocha.org/

WFP – World Food Programme

The World Food Programme is the world's largest humanitarian organization saving lives in emergencies and using food assistance to build at pathway to peace, stability, and prosperity, for people recovering from conflict, disasters and impact of climate change. They work in more than 120 countries and territories and have their head office in Rome. During 2023, WFP have been serving Ukrainian refugees' hot meals daily in Moldavia and they have also provided over 13 000 Moldavian families whom are hosting Ukrainian refugees with cash support. Read more at: www.wfp.org/

Civil society

Many non-governmental organizations carry out humanitarian activities for refugees, such as medical care, education, and protection for vulnerable groups. Two of these are Plan International and the Red Cross.

Plan International

Plan International is a global children's rights organization that is present before, during, and after disasters around the world. In humanitarian crises, they work to save children's lives but also to provide them with security, protection, and opportunities for development - simply put, ensuring that their rights are fulfilled. Plan International works together with children, their parents, teachers, and other important societal functions, as well as local leaders. An important task in working with children on the move and in refugee camps is to create safe places where children can come for support, to play, and stay children for a while. The organization strives to quickly get children back to as normal a daily life as possible. This may involve setting up temporary schools in refugee camps and meeting places where children can play with each other. Another important part is to listen to the children and involve them in the process of change. All of Plan International's projects supporting children on the move are rooted in the children's expression of their needs.

Plan International is available for children, youth, and families who are refugees within their home countries but also in countries such as Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon (refugees from Syria), Poland, Romania, and Moldova (refugees from Ukraine), Bangladesh (Rohingya refugees from Myanmar), Cameroon and Niger (refugees from Nigeria), Rwanda and Tanzania (refugees from Burundi), Ethiopia and Uganda (refugees from South Sudan), the Central African Republic (internally displaced persons within the country but also for neighboring countries), and Colombia (refugees from Venezuela). The organization's work is supported by, among others, Sida, the EU, and private individuals and is carried out in close collaboration with other humanitarian organizations and local actors working in the field.

International Committee of the Red Cross

Another organization is The International Committee of the Red Cross. The Red Cross is present in 192 countries around the world to support people in crises and disasters. Among other things, they work to ensure that the asylum process is safe and legal, and that everyone seeking asylum is treated humanely. Through its worldwide network, the Red Cross also helps locating missing relatives in most parts of the world. Since the Red Cross never takes a stance in a conflict, they have unique opportunities to reach places where others do not succeed.

FAMILY REUNIFICATION

Many children on the move have been separated from all or some of their family members and are therefore in a vulnerable position. Regardless of whether the child is on the move within or outside of their country, it can be difficult to get in touch with family. In a war-torn country or in a refugee camp, social functions and infrastructure often have major shortcomings. However, all states that have ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child are obligated to try to find the child's parents for them to reunite.

To this end the convention states that, "States Parties shall provide, as they consider appropriate, co-operation in any efforts by the United Nations and other competent intergovernmental organizations or non-governmental organizations co-operating with the United Nations to protect and assist such a child and to trace the parents or other members of the family of any refugee child in order to obtain information necessary for reunification with his or her family."

Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 22 (2).

Förenklat betyder det att varje stat som anslutit sig till barnkonventionen åtar sig att hjälpa till att hitta föräldrarna till barnet så att barnet kan återförenas med sin familj. Om det inte går att hitta föräldrarna ska barnet få samma skydd som alla andra barn i enlighet med konventionen. När det handlar om ett beslut som rör barn ska, enligt barnkonventionen artikel 3 (1), barnets bästa alltid komma i första rummet, vilket bland annat innebär familjeåterförening.

In simple terms, this means that every state that has joined the Convention on the Rights of the Child undertakes to help locate the child's parents so that the child can be reunited with their family. If the parents cannot be found, the child will receive the same protection as all other children in accordance with the convention. When it comes to a decision

involving a child, according to Article 3 (1) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the best interests of the child must always come first, which among other things, includes family reunification. Children can be separated from their families for several reasons. Firstly, the child may unintentionally get separated from their family in the chaos that arises during flight. Sometimes, the family may deliberately send the child away with or without an accompanying adult in the hope that the child can have a better life somewhere else. Such a decision can be made, for example, if the conditions in the place are so bad that the child is unlikely to survive there.

Since children can be separated from their families in different ways, there are also different needs for reunification. This may include a child who is in a refugee camp and needs to find their family from there. It may also involve a child who is in a country seeking asylum or has been granted asylum and needs to have their relatives with them in their new home country. Regardless of the need, states must be able to assist in the effort to locate the child's parents.

Laws regarding family immigration may differ from country to country. Unfortunately, many children have not been able to be reunited with their parents as of now. In the role-play, your task is to discuss how this problem can be best solved so that more children can be reunited with their families.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER FOR RESOLUTION NEGOTIATIONS:

- How can we increase the possibility of children on the move being reunited with their families?
- Can we decide how all states should handle family reunification for children on the move, or is it something that should be decided nationally?

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

At the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) conference in Cairo in 1994, attended by 179 countries, the rights included in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) were decided upon.

A more comprehensive definition, based on research and developed by experts from different parts of the world, was created in 2018.

EXAMPLES OF WHAT IS INCLUDED IN SRHR ARE:

- The right to freely decide whether, when, and with whom to marry, have sex, or have children, without pressure in the form of discrimination, coercion, or violence.
- Information, education, and counselling on SRHR. Satisfactory sex education contributes to increased knowledge, gender-equal relationships, and prevention of violence. Young people must receive advice, support, and care related to sex and relationships, such as contraception and safe abortions.
- Health care for girls and women before, during, and after pregnancy, as well as infant care, to enable them to have a safe pregnancy and give birth to healthy children.
- Prevention, care, and treatment of sexually transmitted infections such as HIV and cancer.
- The right to freely define one's own sexuality, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.
- Sexual well-being.

Access to SRHR for children and young people, especially girls and young women, in crisis and conflict is fundamental to saving lives, reducing poverty, achieving global goals, and promoting fair social development. For decades, research has shown the crucial benefits of investing in SRHR, but progress is slow due to weak political engagement, inadequate resources, discrimination against girls and women, and a reluctance to openly address issues related to sexuality.

Millions of children and young people do not have their rights respected, especially when they are on the move, which has devastating consequences. Sexual violence, pregnancy at too young an age, child marriage, and sexually transmitted infections are all examples of abuses that children and young people, especially girls, are exposed to daily in many parts of the world.

Complications during pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death globally for girls between 15 and 19 years old. There is also often a lack of access to menstrual protection, safe toilets that can be locked, and clean water. In times of crisis or disaster, these risks increase significantly because the systems, structures, and networks that would otherwise protect children and young people are often completely destroyed. In addition, access to information and services is often limited in humanitarian crises. Issues related to SRHR are often sensitive and surrounded by taboos, myths, and misconceptions.



In refugee camps, healthcare is often inadequate, and the most acute care is prioritized over preventive measures. This means that many children on the move lack information that could be life-saving for them. According to Article 19 and 34 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, states that have signed the convention should take all possible measures to protect children from violence and sexual abuse.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER DURING RESOLUTION NEGOTIATIONS:

- What can be done to ensure that all children on the move have access to SRHR?
- Is SRHR something that should be determined and regulated at the international level, or should each individual state work on it in its own way?
- What can be done to strengthen the security of children on the move, to reduce the risk of being exposed to, for example, sexual violence?

RIGHT TO COMPLAIN TO THE UN

There are three optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The first one concerns children in armed conflicts. The second one addresses the issue of child trafficking, child prostitution, and child pornography. The third protocol offers children the right to complain to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child if their rights under the convention have been violated. The protocol was drafted in 2011 and came into force in 2014. So far, 50 states have ratified the protocol. Just like the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the protocol is legally binding for the states that have ratified it.

A child may only complain to the Committee on the Rights of the Child if they are in a country that has ratified the optional protocol. This means that, as of 2023, children in 50 countries solely have the opportunity to complain to the committee. The state that the child is in when they complain must also be the state that committed the violation. For example, a child whose rights have been violated in Syria would only be able to make a complaint in Syria, not in any other country.

Ratifying the third optional protocol signals that a country recognizes children as rights holders. It also strengthens a state's own national complaint mechanisms and prompts a review of how their legal system can be strengthened to protect children's rights.

Even if the right to complain exists in a country, it can be difficult for children

on the move to use it. In a country affected by war, institutions often do not function properly. If the child is on the move in another country, a foreign language or lack of adult support can prevent the child from exercising their right.

A further problem is that children who may need the complaint mechanism the most (because children on the move often lack access to many of their rights) have the hardest time accessing it. A supplement to this process could be for the UN to establish a special rapporteur for children on the move. The UN already has several special rapporteurs to examine specific countries or issues. For example, the UN's special rapporteur on torture has a mandate to investigate cases of torture around the world and take action if such cases are discovered. A special rapporteur for children on the move could provide the global community with important information on the situation of children on the move.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER DURING RESOLUTION NEGOTIATIONS:

- What can be done to improve the opportunities for children on the move to complain if their rights under the Convention are violated?
- Should the UN establish a special rapporteur to investigate how the rights of children on the move are upheld around the world?



A photograph of two young men standing outdoors. The man on the left is wearing a light blue button-down shirt and a blue lanyard with a white ID badge. The man on the right is wearing a grey sweatshirt and a blue lanyard with a white ID badge. He is holding a smartphone in his right hand and a laptop in his left. Both are smiling. The background shows a yellow building and a blue sky with clouds.

PART 2: MATERIAL FOR DELEGATES

TEMPLATE FOR OPENING SPEECH FOR COUNTRY

*Honourable Chairman, Dear/Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,
In recent years, we have all witnessed millions of children on the move not
receiving the rights and protection that we have all promised them.*

*... finds this deeply concerning, and in particular, we would like to highlight the fact
that children are exposed to...*

Let us do everything we can to protect all children on the move.

...therefore proposes that...

...believes that these proposals are good because they will lead to...

*We welcome all delegations to collaborate with us, and look forward to fruitful
discussions during the lobbying sessions.*

... yields the floor to the Chair.

More information about opening speeches and how to deliver them can be found on page 9 in part 1.

TIP

A longer template and more information about resolutions and resolution writing can be found in the handbook on the Swedish United Nations Association's website.



EXAMPLE OF A CORRECT RESOLUTION

TOPIC: *Measures to protect children on the move*

COMMITTEE: *Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly*

SPONSOR: *Australia (sole country)*

SIGNATORIES: *EU, USA, Thailand*

This is then followed by the preambulatory and operative clauses:

- (1) Deeply concerned about the 30 million children who are displaced and exposed to great
- (2) risks with inadequate protection and violated rights,
- (3) Referring to the Convention on the Rights of the Child which was adopted by the United
- (4) Nations General Assembly on November 20 in 1989 and has so far been ratified by 196
- (5) member states of the UN,
- (6) Reminding all states of their responsibility to provide all children with equally strong
- (7) protection,
- (8) Expressing deep regret that many families who are displaced have been separated
- (9) resulting in many unaccompanied children on the move,
- (10) Worried that many young people who are displaced lack access to sexual and
- (11) reproductive health and rights (SRHR),
- (12) Concerned that so few countries have ratified the Third Optional Protocol to the
- (13) Convention on the Rights of the Child which means that many children lack the
- (14) opportunity to complain if their rights are violated,

Operative clauses

- (15) 1.
- (16)
- (17)
- (18)

More information about resolutions and how to write them can be found on page 13 in part 1.

A woman and a child are walking away from the camera on a paved road. The woman, on the left, has her hair in a bun and is wearing a dark grey hoodie and black pants. She carries a pink and grey backpack. The child, on the right, is also wearing a dark grey hoodie and light-colored pants, and carries a colorful backpack featuring a unicorn and a rainbow. The background shows a rocky hillside and trees under bright sunlight.

POSITION PAPERS

AUSTRALIA

Australia is a monarchy belonging to the geographical region of Oceania. The capital city is Canberra and Australia's total population is estimated to be around 25 million. UNHCR currently estimates that 60,000 refugees are in Australia, which constitutes about 0.24% of the country's population.

Negotiation guidelines

Australia has been heavily criticized internationally for launching a "Stop The Boats" policy, whereby boats carrying people fleeing to Australia are forced to turn back upon arrival. If this issue is raised in negotiations, you can argue that the policy is meant to stop human smuggling, as it is often human traffickers who are in charge of the boats.

As a representative of Australia, you may favourably steer the negotiations towards SRHR to gain a moral advantage. You believe that SRHR for young people is important and want to emphasize this; it in turn allows you to criticize countries that do not prioritize SRHR for young people as highly. On this issue, you can collaborate with the EU and the USA, which hold similar positions. Regarding family reunification, it is advisable to ally with Thailand.

Family reunification

Australia's views on family reunification are strict. Only Australian citizens or permanent residents of the country can apply to bring in their closest family members, namely spouse/partner, child or parent – provided that the applicant is under the age of 18. The relatives arriving must be guaranteed economic support. In that sense, it is virtually impossible for children on the move in Australia to be reunited with their parents in Australia.

If parents have a residence permit and want to bring in their child that is residing abroad, it is generally approved if the parents have the ability to support the child. Since August 2012, people entering Australia illegally by boat have no right to apply for family reunification.

Australia has, however, signed a resolution named "Rights of the child: Realizing the rights of the child and family reunification". In it, they emphasize the importance of ensuring that all unaccompanied children, as well as children who have been separated from their parents, should have access to a family reunification process. The resolution expresses deep concern that millions of children worldwide are forced to grow up without parents and confirms the need to address the root causes of family separation, with great emphasis placed on showing support for all children and their families through necessary protection.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights

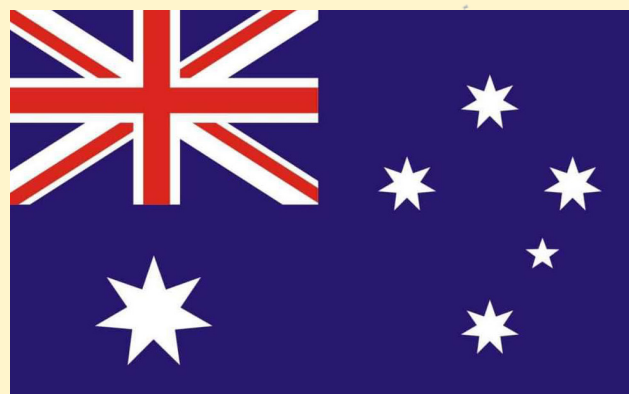
Australia believes that investment in SRHR, such as sex education, for young refugees is important, as it can reduce the number of cases of hiv/aids and unwanted pregnancies. Abortion laws in Australia vary by state, but the general view is that abortion should be allowed only if the pregnancy can be harmful to the girl's or woman's mental or

physical health, as well as in cases of rape or incest. Maternal health care services is something Australia prioritizes, especially for children on the move since they are in a very vulnerable position.

The right to complain to the UN

Australia has not ratified the Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, that allows children to complain if their rights under the Convention have been violated.

Australia has a standing invitation to the UN Special Rapporteur. However, under the 2015 Border Security Act, Australia enacted a law that prohibits individuals such as doctors and teachers, who are working in the refugee camps from reporting to the outside world. These camps are located near Australia's coast, often in Papua New Guinea or Nauru. Breaking this law may result in imprisonment for up to two years. The UN Special Rapporteur for the rights of migrants has therefore chosen not to visit the refugee camps, as it may cause legal problems for those who choose to speak up about conditions there. Australia argues that the purpose of the law isn't to prevent people from reporting abuses, but only to ensure that confidential information won't spread. Australia is not supportive of a special rapporteur for children on the move.



COLOMBIA

Colombia is a republic in South America. Its capital is Bogotá and the total population is approximately 53 million. More than 1.8 million people fleeing from Venezuela are estimated to be in the country, which represents 3.4% of the total number of people in the country. In 2021, Colombia introduced an offer of a 10-year temporary protection status for Venezuelans who are in the country. Colombia also has over 9 million internally displaced persons, meaning people who are fleeing within the country. This is mainly due to internal conflicts with guerrilla groups, paramilitaries, and the military.

Negotiation guidelines

During negotiations, Colombia's liberal laws on family reunification can be used to form a strong point of departure when negotiating with other countries. Discussions can be directed towards family reunification instead of subjects such as youth SRHR, where Colombia may face criticism. If Colombia receives criticism for its implementation of SRHR, you could argue that traditions, religion, and culture play a significant role in SRHR, and that the individual situation in each country must be considered when implementing SRHR. On the issue of family reunification, collaboration with the EU can be advantageous because of similar positions. In negotiations on youth SRHR, Colombia holds similar positions to Tanzania, Ethiopia, and Lebanon.

Family reunification

In Colombia, those who have been granted refugee

status can apply for family reunification for their spouse, partner, and children. Colombia considers it important to take the best interests of the child into account in this matter, regardless of the child's nationality or country of origin. The state has procedures for family tracing, restoring contact, maintaining contact, and reunification. Colombia has also signed the resolution "Rights of the Child: Realizing the Rights of the Child and Family Reunification," which emphasizes the importance of all unaccompanied children and children separated from their parents having access to a family reunification process. The resolution expresses deep concern that millions of children worldwide are forced to grow up without parents and thus confirms the need to address the root causes of family separation, with a strong emphasis on showing support for all children and their families through appropriate and necessary protection.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights

Colombia does not consider sexual and reproductive health for young people to be a priority, despite statistics showing that many girls and women who give birth are below 19 years of age. Likewise, sexual education for children who are refugees should not be a priority. Contraceptives and sexual education should mainly be available to married couples. Colombia considers it more important to prioritize adequate protection, food, and education for children on the move and for unaccompanied and separated children to be reunited with their parents. Parents should then decide what their children need to know about SRHR. According to Colombia, abortions should only be allowed if the pregnancy risks harming the woman's mental or physical health, if it is a non-viable pregnancy, or when the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest. Performing an abortion solely because the woman wishes to is prohibited. Colombia believes that the same laws should be applied to children on the move. It has a zero-tolerance policy for sexual violence, which is something you may bring up in negotiations, but there is concern regarding how well the policy has been implemented.

The right to complain to the UN

Colombia has not ratified the Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which allows children to complain if their rights are violated. Colombia has a standing invitation to the UN special rapporteurs and fulfils its obligations with regard to reporting to the UN convention committees. Colombia therefore holds a positive view on establishing a special rapporteur for children whose rights have been violated.



ETHIOPIA

The Federal Republic of Ethiopia is situated in Africa, with its capital city being Addis Ababa. The total population of Ethiopia is approximately 120 million people. According to UNHCR, there are approximately 823,000 refugees in the country, which constitutes around 0.7% of the total population. Ethiopia has one of the largest numbers of refugees and asylum seekers in Africa.

Negotiation guidelines

In the negotiations, it can be emphasized that Ethiopia is a very poor country compared to the other countries in the MUN. Therefore, you may suggest that the richer countries should financially assist the poorer countries to better cope with the arrival of refugees. As Ethiopia, it is advisable to collaborate with Tanzania to push the issue of richer countries providing financial assistance to the poorer countries for the arrival of refugees. Regarding the issue of SRHR for youth, Ethiopia shares similar viewpoints with Thailand, Russia, and Lebanon. In the matter of the right to complain to the UN, Ethiopia may preferably work with the USA and Venezuela.

Family reunification

Ethiopia believes that families should be reunited if they have been separated due to displacement. In 2019, the country adopted a new law to facilitate family reunification by allowing a family member

of an asylum seeker to come to the country and be granted the rights and privileges offered by the law. The Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) has a special department that assists unaccompanied children with family tracing and reunification in collaboration with various civil society organizations.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights

Ethiopia is working towards improving the implementation of SRHR in the country, but it will take time. For example, Ethiopia has adopted a strategy to reduce sexual violence against girls in schools but does not have a comprehensive law prohibiting gender-based violence. Contraceptives should primarily be available to married couples and not to unmarried children or women since they should not engage in sexual activities according to Ethiopian beliefs. Abortions should only be allowed if the pregnancy can harm the woman's mental or



physical health, if the pregnancy is non-viable, or if the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest. It should not be approved solely on the basis of the woman's desire. Ethiopia believes that women who are displaced should not be discriminated against and should be protected from violence.

The right to complain to the UN

Ethiopia has not ratified the Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which allows children to complain if their rights under the Convention have been violated. Ethiopia does not have a standing invitation to the UN special rapporteurs, and no special rapporteur has visited the country since 2006. Additionally, Ethiopia does not believe that there should be a special rapporteur on the rights of children in displacement.



EU

EU is not a single state but a supranational European union with 27 member states, all of whom are democracies. The population of the EU is approximately 447 million, compared to Europe's total population of 746 million. The European Council on Refugees and Exiles estimates that about 1.5 million refugees reside within the EU member states, which corresponds to about 0.3% of the total population.

Negotiation guidelines

The EU has a strong international voice thanks to the many countries that are members, which can be emphasized in negotiations. It is recommended to cooperate with the United States as you can jointly take a very strong position since you have similar positions on several issues. Regarding the question of family reunification, you can also cooperate with Colombia. In the context of the United Nations, it is very common for EU countries to act jointly even though each country always votes individually. In the MUN, the EU has a common voice so as not to dominate the vote. You disagree with China and Russia that human rights are the concern of individual countries and believe that it is something that must be implemented in all countries and then monitored by the international community. Be prepared to receive criticism for EU countries' failure to agree on how to distribute and accept the large number of refugees seeking protection in the EU. Several EU countries have instead decided to prevent refugees from entering and argue that this is necessary for the social authorities in the country to cope with the situation. Some EU countries also argue that they must be able to set a limit on how many refugees they will have to accept if they are to be able to guarantee legal asylum processes and offer housing, education, healthcare, and jobs to refugees. If you receive criticism for this, you

can argue that many EU countries have had a high intake of refugees for a long time. In other words, the European Union is far from unanimous on how to receive refugees. However, those representing the EU can still advocate a clear humanitarian line where you strongly advocate measures to protect children on the move, not least investments in SRHR. All EU countries have signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Since 2009, the protection of children's rights has been an explicit goal for the EU. Similarly, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights states that all children have the right to protection, care, and education. When EU law is applied, children's rights must be respected.

Family reunification

The EU considers family reunification to be very important, especially for children on the move. However, the right to reunification applies only to the closest family members, i.e., parents, partners, and children. When it comes to other family members, each individual country may make a separate decision on the matter.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights

The EU considers SRHR to be very important. It is particularly important to make efforts to protect vulnerable groups, such as children on the move. This means investing in sexual education,

contraceptives, and care for girls, women, and infants before, during, and after pregnancy. EU member states would also approve abortion for several reasons, although there are large variations between the different members. Poland is a country within the EU that has received many refugees, but where girls' and women's rights to SRHR in many areas are inadequate.

Right to complain to the UN

In February 2023, 16 of the EU's member states ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child's third protocol, which allows children to complain if their rights under the convention have been violated. These are Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Lithuania, Ireland, Italy, Croatia, Luxembourg, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, the Czech Republic, and Germany. In addition to these, four EU member states have signed but not yet ratified the protocol: Malta, Poland, Romania, and Austria. As the representative of the EU, you can cautiously advocate for more countries to sign. The EU believes that a special rapporteur for children on the move should be introduced, among other things to provide children with greater opportunities to complain when their rights are violated. The EU considers the procedure with the third protocol too bureaucratic as it currently stands, meaning that many complaints do not go through.



CHINA

China is a republic in Asia, with its capital in Beijing and an estimated total population of 1.4 billion people. According to UNHCR, there are over 303,000 refugees in China, representing approximately 0.02% of the total population. Nearly all of these refugees are relatively well-integrated Indochinese peoples who fled to China in the 1970s, while the remaining refugees number only around 340 people.

Negotiation guidelines

China considers territorial integrity and sovereignty to be fundamental principles of international relations. The country maintains that the internal affairs of other nations should always be respected, and China is therefore cautious when it comes to discussing human rights. This is an important stance for China in negotiations, and it can cooperate with Russia, which shares a similar position, to gain support. China has made significant strides in development in recent years and is a major power that carries weight in international negotiations. Moreover, it holds a veto power in the Security Council and has the world's largest population. China can leverage its position in the international community to steer negotiations in its favour. Kinas utveckling har gått fort de senaste åren. Landet är en stormakt vilket ger tyngd i internationella förhandlingar. Kina har dessutom vetorätt i säkerhetsrådet och den största befolkningen i världen. Använd er maktposition inom det internationella samfundet för att styra förhandlingarna i den riktning som är mest fördelaktig för er.

Kina kan få kritik för att de inte erkänner ensamkommande barn från Nordkorea som människor på flykt och att de därför skickar tillbaka dessa barn till Nordkorea där de riskerar att råka mycket illa ut. Kinas argument för detta är att personer som kommer från Nordkorea är ekonomiska migranter som illegalt tar sig in i Kina, och därmed inte definieras som människor på flykt.

Family reunification

Kinas åsikter om anhöriginvandring är strikta. Det finns två olika typer av visum som går att ansöka om i landet för att återförenas med sin familj. Det krävs däremot att den del av familjen som befinner sig i Kina är kinesiska medborgare eller har permanent uppehållstillstånd i landet, något som är nästintill omöjligt att få för nyanlända människor på flykt. Kina anser att barn ska kunna återförenas med sina familjer, men vill hellre skicka ensamkommande barn till det land där föräldrarna befinner sig än att låta familjen komma till Kina via anhöriginvandring.



Sexual and reproductive health and rights

In China, reproductive rights and access to contraceptives are primarily granted to married couples, as China believes that they are the only ones who should have sex. However, the country has launched a program to educate young people about HIV/AIDS, as it is unfortunate that so many young people are affected. China also believes that refugees should learn about HIV/AIDS, but prevention and sex education are not of equal priority. Additionally, China has reduced maternal mortality rates in the country since the 1990s.

Right to complain to the UN

China has not ratified the Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which allows children to file complaints when their rights are violated. China views special rapporteurs as often disproportionately scrutinizing poorer countries over richer ones. Therefore, China is against the establishment of a special rapporteur for refugees.



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.



RUSSIA

Russia is a republic located in both Asia and Europe. Its capital is Moscow and the total population is approximately 143 million. UNHCR estimates that about 315,000 people who are displaced are currently in Russia, which constitutes 0.2% of the total number of people in the country.

Family reunification

Russia believes that human rights are primarily something that sovereign states should work on independently, in a manner that best suits their state. It may be relevant and important to monitor how countries follow their international commitments, but each country should handle its own internal affairs. Russia believes it is important to consider traditional, cultural, historical, or religious differences in countries, as these differences can affect the implementation of human rights. Russia is also a strong advocate for the protection of nuclear families and believes that states should not interfere in family matters. As Russia, you have an important power position as a large country that also has veto power in the Security Council. You will not yield to the opinions of other countries. It is advantageous for you to ally with China as they share your views that the work on human rights is something that sovereign states should work on in their own way, without external pressure. You can also form a strong voice together that can challenge the EU and the USA. Regarding SRHR, you can collaborate with Tanzania, Venezuela, and Ethiopia.

Family reunification

A person who works in Russia and has a residence permit is allowed to bring their family. This means that children can come to their parents, but not vice versa as children are not allowed to work. Russia believes that an unaccompanied child should primarily be reunited with their parents where the parents are located.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights

Russia believes that contraceptives and family planning are important for young adults, but far from everyone has access to it and it should not be available to children. Similarly, they believe that sexual education should not be available to young people, as it is only relevant in adulthood. It is not illegal with sexual violence in Russia if the woman is married to the man and even though the marital age in Russia is 18, there are ways to circumvent this and marry when one is 16, with permission from their municipality. Russia has a care program for pregnant women where HIV/AIDS testing is included on a voluntary basis for the woman, infant, and man. Abortions are allowed on all grounds, even if it is solely because the girl or woman wishes it. Russia



believes that children who are displaced should have access to the most essential life-saving parts of SRHR for young people, such as maternal care and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases. There is no legislation banning homosexuality in Russia, but discrimination based on sexual orientation is common and it is illegal to “promote non-traditional sexual orientations” in front of people under 18.

The right to complain to the UN

Russia 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. Russia does not have a standing invitation to UN special rapporteurs, but they usually cooperate with them and believe that it may be beneficial to establish a special rapporteur for children who are displaced. However, it must be clear that the recommendations from a possible special rapporteur are not legally binding, but merely recommendations.



TANZANIA

Tanzania is a republic located in Africa. Its capital is Dodoma and the total population is approximately 63 million. According to UNHCR, approximately 248,000 refugees are currently in Tanzania, which constitutes about 0.4% of the total population.

Negotiation guidelines

As one of the poorest countries in the MUN simulation, Tanzania's lack of resources can be emphasized during negotiations. It would be impossible for Tanzania to implement the same measures as wealthier countries due to the lack of resources. A suggestion is to demand that richer countries provide economic aid to poorer countries to facilitate the arrival of refugees. It is advisable to collaborate with Ethiopia to urge richer countries to provide economic aid to help manage the arrival of refugees. Additionally, Tanzania shares similar positions with other countries on several issues. For example, on the topic of SRHR for youth, Tanzania can cooperate with Colombia, Lebanon, and Ethiopia. Regarding family reunification, Tanzania can suggest creative solutions that reference the country's own methods and guidelines for family tracking. Thanks to aid and support from international organizations, Tanzania's ability to receive refugees has strengthened, which can be used as an argument for more aid.

Family Reunification

Tanzania believes that children on the move should have the right to be reunited with their families. The country has national guidelines for how to work with children who have been separated from their families, providing support to help them find their family or a new family, ensuring long-term safety and care for the child. These guidelines also cover children on the move. Poverty is a common reason for family separation, and Tanzania has tried innovative methods to help adults and children on the move reunite with their families. For example, an app developed by Unicef is used to reunite children and their families and to register other children at risk, using a mobile phone or tablet.

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

There is legislation in place to ensure that children and youth receive sex education, but it is not fully followed by all schools in the country. Far from all of the country's girls and women (15-49 years) use contraceptives, and the country's abortion legislation is restrictive. Abortions can only be performed if necessary to save the woman's life or physical and



mental health. Tanzania believes that the same laws should apply to children on the move. Many girls marry before the age of 18, when they are still children, despite the official age of marriage being 18. They are, however, allowed to obtain parental consent to marry. Teenage pregnancies are common in Tanzania. It is not illegal to commit sexual violence against a woman if she is married to the man, or to commit domestic violence. Homosexual relationships are illegal in Tanzania.

The Right to Complain to the UN

Tanzania has not ratified the Third Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which allows children to complain if their rights are violated. Tanzania does not have a standing invitation to UN special rapporteurs and sometimes fails to report to UN convention committees. The country is not entirely convinced that establishing a special rapporteur for children on the move is a good idea, but it has no strong opinion on the matter.



THAILAND

Thailand is a monarchy located in Asia, with a population of approximately 71 million and Bangkok as its capital. UNHCR estimates that around 110,000 people seeking refuge are currently present in Thailand, constituting roughly 0.1% of the total population, mainly fleeing from Myanmar.

Negotiation guidelines

Thailand has not signed or ratified the Refugee Convention. The country argues that individuals seeking refuge in camps should be recognized as refugees, but those who leave these camps to enter the country are considered illegal immigrants. Thailand has also reserved Article 22 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which provides special protection to children seeking refuge, citing incompatibility with their laws, including the view that individuals seeking refuge outside of camps are considered illegal immigrants. As a MUN participating university student from Thailand, you could ally with Australia, which shares similar positions on several issues. In the SRHR for youth issue, you could also work with Ethiopia and Colombia. Regarding the right to complain to the UN, you could collaborate with Lebanon.

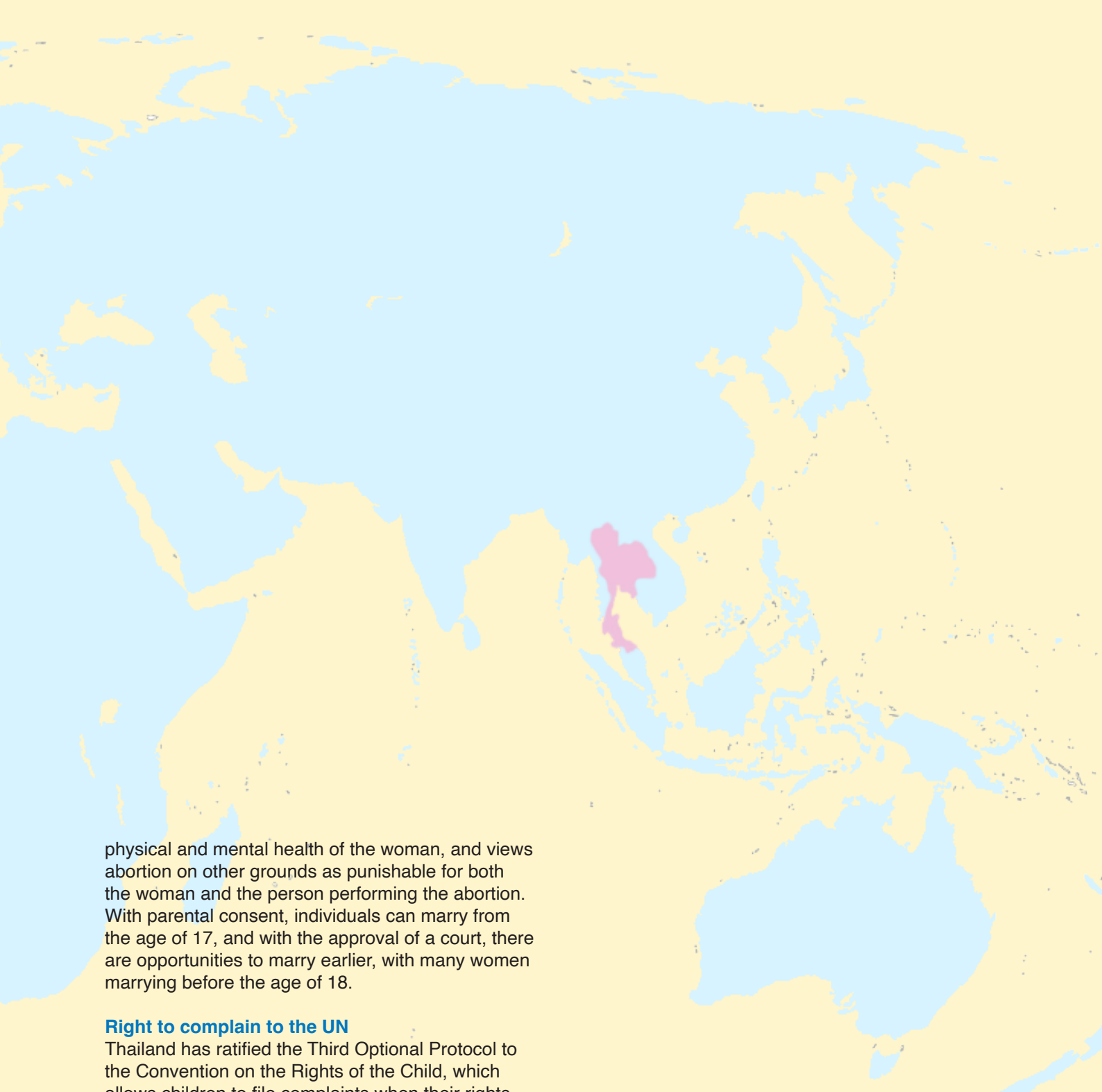
Family reunification

Family reunification is a significant challenge in Thailand, and the country prefers refugees to return to their countries of origin to be reunited with their families. Although Thai laws protecting children apply to all children, refugees and asylum

seekers have limited access to society, including humanitarian aid, protection, and support, with some exceptions for children. Historically, Thailand has received criticism for detaining refugees, including children, for extended periods, but the country has taken measures in recent years, particularly towards not detaining children seeking refuge, and placing them with foster families instead. However, alternatives to detention remain limited, and projects in collaboration with UNHCR are underway to find more effective alternatives.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights

Thailand has been successful in providing SRHR services to young people compared to other countries in the region, with most childbirths attended by skilled healthcare personnel, and relatively high access to contraceptives. However, Thailand considers food, education, and shelter to be more important than meeting the needs of children on the move in this regard, despite receiving criticism for detaining children seeking refuge without their parents in the same facilities as adults, putting them at risk of sexual violence. Thailand allows abortion only in cases of rape or to protect the




physical and mental health of the woman, and views abortion on other grounds as punishable for both the woman and the person performing the abortion. With parental consent, individuals can marry from the age of 17, and with the approval of a court, there are opportunities to marry earlier, with many women marrying before the age of 18.

Right to complain to the UN

Thailand has ratified the Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which allows children to file complaints when their rights are violated, and has a standing invitation to UN special rapporteurs. Thailand believes that a special rapporteur for children on the move would be a good idea if this person scrutinizes both rich and poor countries equally.

For the latest statistics from UNHCR, please visit our website with an updated set of links.





USA

The United States is a republic located in North America with a population of approximately 332 million people, and its capital is Washington DC. For over 75 years, the US has received migrants who could be defined as refugees under international law, and they have taken in over three million people fleeing from their homes in the last four decades.

Negotiation guidelines

As one of the most powerful nations in the world, the US holds veto power in the Security Council and plays a crucial role in the international community. It is also the largest contributor to the UN budget. Use this position of power to your advantage during negotiations. You may consider aligning with the European Union, as many of your positions align with theirs, except for the issue of the right to complain to the UN, where Venezuela and Ethiopia have similar views.

Be prepared to face criticism regarding the fact that the US is the only country that has not ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The US explains that the process of ratifying a convention takes time, and they want to ensure that they can incorporate it into their legislation before ratifying it. In other words, they want to ensure that national laws are compatible with the convention before committing to it. Furthermore, the US argues that they protect children's rights, even without ratifying the convention.

Family Reunification

There are several family reunification processes available for those who come to the US as refugees or have been granted asylum. These processes have different requirements for eligibility, which relatives can be applied for, and how to submit the application. Generally, refugees in the US are only eligible to apply for their closest family members, which according to US law are a spouse, parent, or child under the age of 21 and unmarried. Other family members, such as siblings, cousins, and adult children, are not eligible for family reunification in the US. Moreover, refugees and asylum seekers are generally encouraged to work with an attorney or migration agency in these processes, which can be costly.

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

The US considers sexual education to be crucial in preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, as well as unwanted pregnancies. However, there is no national standard for sexual education, and access to it varies across the country. They believe that children who are refugees should have access to contraceptives and family planning to prevent unwanted pregnancies.

In 2022, the US Supreme Court decided to remove the constitutional right to abortion that had been in place since 1976, in the Roe v. Wade case. Abortion is legal in some states, but not all, and since 2022, more states have banned or restricted access to abortion. Sexual and gender-based violence is something that the US takes very seriously, and they are eager to collaborate with other countries to try to stop it worldwide.

Right to Complain to the UN

USA är det enda land i världen som inte ratificerat The US is the only country in the world that has not ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Hence, they have not signed the convention's third protocol, which allows children to complain if their rights under the convention have been violated. The US has a standing invitation to UN special rapporteurs. However, no special rapporteur for migrant rights has visited the country since 2008.

For sources and links, please visit our website.



VENEZUELA

Venezuela, formally known as the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, is a nation located in northern South America with a total population of approximately 28 million. Since 2014, over seven million Venezuelans have fled the country due to hyperinflation and political oppression, making it the largest migrant crisis in modern American history. As of October 2022, at least 4.3 million people have fled Venezuela. The UNHCR has not released information on the number of refugees from Venezuela currently residing in the country, making it unclear how many refugees represent a percentage of the total population.

Negotiation guidelines

In the negotiations, the fact that Venezuela has signed a resolution on family reunification and protecting unaccompanied minors can be used as an argument to persuade more countries to prioritize efforts for the arrival of refugees and family reunification. You can collaborate with Australia and Colombia, who have also signed the resolution. It is recommended to steer the discussion towards family reunification instead of SRHR, as your policies in that area may be criticized. In SRHR issues, Venezuela holds values similar to Colombia, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Russia, and Lebanon. Regarding the right to complain to the UN, Venezuela has a similar stance as Ethiopia and the USA.

Family reunification

Due to millions of people fleeing from Venezuela, there is more information available on the situation of refugees in neighbouring countries than on those

who have fled within or to Venezuela. In March 2022, Venezuela signed a resolution entitled “Rights of the child: Realizing the rights of the child and family reunification”, emphasizing the importance of providing all unaccompanied children and those separated from their parents with access to a family reunification process. The resolution expresses deep concern that millions of children worldwide are forced to grow up without parents and confirms the need to address the underlying causes of family separation, with a strong emphasis on showing support for all children and their families through necessary protection.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights

Venezuela has one of the most restrictive abortion laws in Latin America, where abortion is only legal if the woman’s life is in danger. Contraceptives are considered a luxury item that can cost more than the average monthly wage. Additionally, obtaining



contraceptives such as condoms and pads is difficult. Many Venezuelans live in extreme poverty and are forced to flee. Girls and young people's health are disproportionately affected by the crisis, with teenage pregnancies being more common than the Latin American average. In Venezuela, it is legal to marry at the age of 16 with parental consent, leading to higher maternal mortality rates, where some cases may be due to unsafe abortions. Many girls are forced to flee or temporarily move to neighbouring countries to give birth, access safe abortions, buy contraceptives, or escape gender-based violence.

Right to complain to the UN

Venezuela has not ratified the Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which allows children to complain if their rights under the convention have been violated. Venezuela also does not have a standing invitation to UN Special Rapporteurs.

