

UCMUN 2019 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees! My name is Parth Patel and I will be your director for the UNHCR this year. I am a junior at the University of Connecticut and this is my third year in UCMUN. Last year, I was the director of the World Food Programme. I am very excited to direct another great committee this year! My freshman year in college I was the assistant director for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, so it is great to come back to direct the committee that started my journey in UCMUN. In high school, I was an active member of my high school Model UN club. During my senior year, I was fortunate enough to be the Secretary General of the club. Since my freshman year of high school, Model UN has always been a prominent part of my life. The club taught me to value the importance of being aware of world issues and the impact it has on our lives. Additionally, I love facing off with people in debate. During my years as a delegate, I participated in the Model UN conference for the World Affairs Council of CT at the University of Hartford as well as the Harvard Model UN conference multiple times. Being a delegate gave me a medium to use my problem-solving skills with actual world issues that I saw being debated in the real world. I hope it will allow you to do the same. Here at UCMUN XXI, I hope you all will come in not wanting to beat your colleagues in debate, but rather to learn and grow as delegates and world citizens.

Outside of UCMUN, I am a member of many clubs and organizations, including the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Student Leadership Board, Asha for Education, UConnPIRG, and UConn KDSAP. These clubs allow me to explore my various interests including discussing student issues, raising money for phenomenal causes, taking part in student activism, and building my career interests. When I am not overwhelmed by all my commitments, you'll probably find me cramming in a corner of the library or chilling with friends.

I am a double major in molecular and cell biology and political science on the pre-med track. One day I hope to be a doctor and work with governmental organizations domestically and internationally to incorporate both my medical and political interests.

Once again welcome to the UNHCR! I wish you all the best of luck in researching and preparing for the conference. Feel free to contact me at any point about the committee's topics or your country's stances or any remaining concerns you might have about the conference.

Sincerely,
Parth Patel

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Committee History

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was founded on the values of helping all people who escape “violence, persecution, war or disaster at home” by migrating to a new area for safe refuge (UNHCR - About Us). The organization is committed to helping refugees, the internally displaced, and stateless people all around the world and resolving humanitarian issues in conflict-ridden regions. Founded in 1950 in the aftermath of World War II, the committee aided millions to resettle in newly formed borders within Europe. In the last 68 years, the UNHCR has been able to uplift many refugees and fleeing people in some of their darkest moments of their lives (“History of UNHCR”).

After forming the committee, the UNHCR hosted the 1951 Refugee Convention where it was established to be a “guardian” to ensure the rights of refugees around the world (“The 1951 Refugee Convention”). Following the years of the conference, the organization continued its humanitarian work of helping those who flee during times of emergencies. This work yielded the committee’s first Nobel Peace Prize for helping with European World War II relief. After their initial post-War work, the UNHCR has aided millions in the Hungarian Revolution in 1956, decolonization of Africa in the 1960s, and South America and Asia over the years. Until now, the organization has helped over 50 million refugees on their journey to their new homes (“History of UNHCR”).

The High Commission has a yearly budget of \$6.54 billion and a growing network of NGOs it works with to best serve the refugees who are coming from all backgrounds to UNHCR facilities (“History of UNHCR”). With the extent of the committee, lots of work can be done to better the lives of migrants. There are 68.5 million forcibly displaced people in

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the world right now, with most being internally displaced, followed by refugees and asylum seekers (UNHCR - Figures at a Glance”). Most of these people are grouped into three nations around the world: South Sudan, Afghanistan, and Syria. Regions of conflict have produced the most refugees as noted. Out of all the refugees in the world, the UNHCR has helped safely relocate 102,800 people (UNHCR - Figures at a Glance”). Over the next few decades, much more work can be done within the committee to develop relocation plans for refugees after more nations become willing to accept and accommodate new members within their nations.

Works Cited

United Nations. "About Us." *UNHCR*, The UN Refugee Agency,

www.unhcr.org/en-us/about-us.html.

Retrieved from the website for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which describes the overall duties of the agency and the mission of the work they do.

United Nations. "Figures at a Glance." *UNHCR*, The UN Refugee Agency,

www.unhcr.org/en-us/figures-at-a-glance.html.

Retrieved from the website for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees which provides statistics for the work that the committee does within the United Nations and the impact it has on refugee people.

United Nations. "History of UNHCR." *UNHCR*, The UN Refugee Agency,

www.unhcr.org/en-us/history-of-unhcr.html.

Retrieved from the website for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees which explain the history of the agency in great detail with all high achievements of the organization listed.

United Nations. "The 1951 Refugee Convention." *UNHCR*, The UN Refugee Agency,

www.unhcr.org/en-us/1951-refugee-convention.html.

Retrieved from the website for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees which depicts the events of the 1951 Refugee Convention that was used to define the mission of the organization and make an international definition for refugee status.

Topic A: Economic Refugees in Latin America

Introduction

The world economy has been fluctuating recently with the prevalence of economic crises multiplying around the globe. Many governments have poorly managed their resources, resulting in high rates of poverty in their nations. Socio-economic development is low to stagnant in some nations, and the living tolerance of people is diminishing. With these diminishing rates, people are forced to look for better, economically stable environments to live with their family. Venezuela is a key example of where the economic needs of their citizens have been ignored due to inflation. Many of the causes of high inflation being badly manufactured economic policies as the poor are starving within the nation. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has reported Venezuelan citizens are leaving their home nation due to “violence, insecurity and threats, and lack of food, medicine and essential services” (“Venezuela Situation” - UNHCR). Looking at this assessment, many migrants are leaving their home nation because they are not able to find or afford common necessary aliments for sustaining their families. Other nations within the region have faced similar migrant patterns mainly due to unstable governments in power. Migration patterns have been seen for Guatemalans and Hondurans who face poverty in their home land. Citizens of these Latin American nations are subsequently leaving their nation because they can not feed their families properly and live in a land without a promising future (Fontanini et al.).

As the economies of some nations deteriorated, many considerations including the unbearable cost of food, housing, and education must have been taken for them to decide to

leave their home. One popular destination for many migrants from South and Central America is the United States. In the 1990s, nearly half of the migrants had the US as their final reach destination (Tienda et al.). The United States was a favorable destination because of the large labor market. The United States labor market provided many more opportunities for people to find jobs compared to the lack of structure and accessibility of the labor markets in their previous country of origin. Affordable access to education for children was also a key interest for many parents as they did not want their child to have to work labor over getting a better job if educated. Other economic contributing factors to consider include inflation, which has increased severely in many of these countries. Inflation has resulted in common goods costing a substantial amount more than before, while the wages of many remained stagnant. The influx of inflation made it very difficult for people from low socioeconomic backgrounds to sustain their way of living. Many citizens of Latin American nations must decide if it is worth living in their home nation as it is not a reliable or bearable way of life ("Growth vs. Inflation").

As economic difficulties increase in poorer regions of Latin America, citizens must contemplate migrating to a better life. Although there is a serious concern on what these migrants should be referred to as in international law. According to the UNHCR, the official definition of a refugee is someone is "who [has] fled war, violence, conflict or persecution" ("Glossary" - UNHCR). The definition does not include any mention of any economic considerations for being forced to move to continue living healthy lives. It may seem to some that these "economic refugees" have the option to move or not and that the conditions are not forced, although they may not have enough money to afford food or

housing. Financial instability may be a temporary state, but could be dangerous for the health and safety of these families even when they are not being “persecuted” or in any form of “violence”. Therefore, the definition of a refugee must be revisited to see if economic consideration play a role in naming someone a refugee and how the UNHCR may have a responsibility to aid these migrants.

History of the Issue:

Over the 20th century, political instability, conflicts, and improper governance has resulted in many nations not being able to properly serve their citizens. The economic conditions in some Central and South American nations has been diminishing over the last few decades. In order to understand these countries and why they are in this position, it is essential to understand the reasons why many feel inclined to live better lives. Reasons for wanting to live a better life can be tied to an innate human drive to do better in life as well as psychological drivers influencing migrations. The principle of wanting to do better in life can be associated with the self-efficacy factor in psychology that shows that people who are more confident in their ability to influence their lives are more likely to be able to change their condition. In terms of migration, people who are confident in their ability to change their life are three times more likely to have the intent to migrate (Groenewold). In Latin America, these innate driving factors of migrations influence the people’s desire to move out of poverty. Venezuela is a prime example of how a government has mismanaged their priorities, which has resulted in poverty breaking out in different regions of the country. The Venezuelan economy has mainly been dominated by the oil sector as the nation is

home to some of the largest oil deposits in the world. The economy of the country is 90% reliant on the oil industry (Weisbrot). Therefore, much of all Venezuelan economic policies are correlated to managing the state owned oil business. Unfortunately, in many cases, the oil industry has not benefited every single member of the Venezuelan society equally due to wealth inequality.

Before oil, Venezuela was an agriculturally based market. The oil industry started to dominate the Venezuelan economy starting in the 1930s. In the 1940s around the time of World War 2, the nation became the world's biggest exporter of oil and elected a democratic government in 1945. The government ended up falling apart with the military later increasing its role in the country's politics. After coming back to democratic rule, the nation continued to face conflicts with their neighbor Columbia. The government was thriving in the sense of oil money with the state owned oil company reaching it highest production rate in history in 1970s with 3.7 million barrels of oil per day being produced (Rochlin). The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) crisis in 1973 caused a decline in these numbers, and by the end of the 1970s the Venezuelan government nationalized all of the oil sector, eliminating any other private competition. Around the 1970s and 1980s, strong socialist governments took over the nation and implemented socialist policies, specifically because of the high amounts of money the country had earned from its production of oil. Unfortunately, the oil wealth did not sustain their economy and harsher neoliberal austerity policies had to be implemented to combat the high amounts of spending by the government. There were numerous job losses, debt, and cutbacks in aid during this time that devastated many Venezuelans. In 1989, many citizens came out into

the streets to protest higher fuel prices and public transportation costs. With Venezuela's economy suffering during the 1990s, Hugo Chávez was able to lead an unsuccessful military coup but still become elected by the people before the end of the decade. Chavez's government, outside of its dictator rule of the country, came in to fix the economic crisis. During times of economic instability, it was quite common for many Venezuelans to leave to neighboring countries, mainly including Columbia and others. He implemented economic policies to revive the country, but they were only a short-term solution. The country remained to be stricken with poverty and low quality of life for those in the middle to bottom of the economic spectrum (Rochlin).



Figure 1: A Venezuelan family living in poverty with barely any food left

(Source:

www.nytimes.com/2016/06/20/world/americas/venezuelans-ransack-stores-as-hunger-stalks-crumbling-nation.html)

Guatemala has had an unstable economy for recent decades and is highly supported now by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) program to sustain their government. Over history, the country has dealt with many dictatorships and internal violent conflicts. In the late 1980s, President Cerezo's government created new habeas corpus laws and court protections as well as push for human rights in a nation long ignorant of many civilian rights due to conflict. The focus on human rights was necessary, although this did not help the country's failing economy which kept expanding. The government of the country has been dissolved and reinstated by dictators multiple times causing significant instability in the region as well as suffering for many of the people in the lowest class of income. The nation has one of the most unequal income distributions in the world. Around 32% of the country lives off less than two dollars a day, and around 14% of the country lives off less than a dollar a day ("Guatemala"). With such high rates of poverty, many Guatemalan citizens are not able to sustain their lives in the country and are forced to leave so their families can survive. Guatemalans make up many of the "caravans" that come directed towards the United States ("Guatemala").

Along with Guatemala, Honduras has shared a very similar history. The nation has gone through several military governments until around 1980. During these military regimes, many conflicts occurred including the popularly known " Soccer War " with El Salvador in 1969. Since the 1980s, there have been seven democratic elections and a coup

d'etat in 2009 against the Zelaya government where the president was forced out of the nations ("Honduras"). With consistent instability, Honduras has been one of the poorest countries in the world for a long period of time. The nation has battled poverty with the assistance of many nations including USAID and the United Nations Peace Corp for handling conditions within the government. Around 65% of the nation's citizens lives under poverty and around one third of them are either considered unemployed or underemployed ("Honduras"). It is reported that around 1 million Hondurans have migrated to the United States. With only a total population of 8 million people, the nation has lost a significant portion of their workforce to economic migration ("Honduras").

Ultimelty, the conditions of poverty and lack of economic opportunities caused by unstable governance of several Latin American nations over history have compelled many to leave their home nations. The long lasting history of economic insecurity within the region has resulted in the abundance of "economic refugees" who continue to leave their country of origin for a better life for their families and children.

Current Status:

As history has shown time and time again, the economies of many Latin American nations constantly fluctuate due to governance, disaster, and violence. Although many nations within Central and South America are experiencing better economic conditions, some countries like Venezuela, Guatemala, and Honduras still are struggling with economic uncertainty. Venezuela, which has gone through military and socialist dictatorships over the 20th century, is now currently dealing with a high migration rate of citizens out of the

country (Ghitis). The economic crisis within the nation as well as continued safety insecurity within the nation is contributing to one of the biggest migration crises in the world. The increasing number of emigrants from Venezuela is expected to exceed 10 million more people than the catastrophic Syrian refugee crisis at its peak (Ghitis). One of the most important problems Venezuelan refugee crisis is low attention the region has been given compared to other crises around the world resulting in a lack of documentation for how many people have already left the nation. It is currently estimated that around one to maybe even four million people have left the country to seek better lives (Ghitis). Countries around the region have been accommodating to an extent, but there is still a high strain experienced by nations like Columbia. President Juan Manuel Santos of Columbia last year announced a temporary "border crossing card," which would allow these migrants to stay in the country for a short period of time, but limiting them the ability to shop, see a doctor, or do unskilled work in the nation. Around 1.5 million have taken advantage of this service in Columbia (Ghitis).



Figure 2: Venezuelan migrants arriving in Colombia

(Source: www.nytimes.com/2018/08/29/opinion/venezuela-refugees.html)

Other nations like the islands of Aruba and Trinidad and Tobago have a high influx of Venezuelans on their islands. It is reported that around 20,000 Venezuelans are now in Aruba, and 40,000 Venezuelans are now in Trinidad and Tobago (Ghitis). For Venezuela itself, the Maduro government has funneled their money and resources to the military and their loyalist in order to maintain their rule over the nation. The amount of money available for medications and food is very low, and many regions get preference for this money according to their loyalty to the government. Therefore, many regions of Venezuela are left helpless for basic needs in this socialist government (Ghitis).

Economic refugees migrating out of other nations, including Guatemala and Honduras, continue to be a significant problem in the region. Guatemalans facing economic difficulties move first to their neighboring state, Mexico, for a better future. The UNHCR has surveyed the Latin American region through migrant information they have collected surrounding the reasoning for refugees leaving their home lands. The results of the survey showed 51% of them were leaving due to economic opportunities in their home state over violence contributing to 48% of all migration (Jones). Consequently, the lack of economic opportunities in home countries contributes to a majority of refugees emigrating to other countries for a better life. A researcher names Kalina Brabeck and her colleagues surveyed 18 Salvadoran and Guatemalan families and concluded the economic factors relating to the cost of education are a leading issue leading to emigration to nearby nation states (Jones). Education may seem like a secondary need compared to basic physiological needs like food and shelter, yet education is a leading factor in a family's decision to emigrate to another country in hopes of a better life with more opportunities.

“Economic refugees” are spread across Latin America. A significant dilemma within the UNHCR is the place of economic dismay in the definition of a refugee. The UNHCR is responsible for helping everyone who flees their home nations, but the status the organization gives a migrant can change the way that migrant is treated through the refugee or asylum seeking process. According to the glossary of definitions by the UNHCR, migrants who leave their nations due to economic considerations do not receiving the same rights and protections refugees are granted. For a refugee to be granted the protection of the UNHCR, they must meet the strict definition of a refugee, which states that refugees are

“persons who have fled their country because their lives, safety or freedom have been threatened by generalized violence, foreign aggression, internal conflicts, massive violation of human rights or other circumstances which have seriously disturbed public order.

(“Glossary” - UNHCR). The definition of a refugee was created during the 1951 Refugee Convention when 145 states ratified the resolution that defined the status of a refugee that is upheld till this day (“The 1951 Refugee Convention” - UNHCR). As a result, a holistic discussion is needed to see if economic migrants should be granted refugee status and how the definition of a refugee may want to be revisited.

Bloc Positions:

Host Nations of Latin Economic Refugees (US, Mexico, Canada, Spain, etc.)

The United States has seen a large influx of refugees from its southern border for the last few years as a result of increasing populations leaving the economic and political instability in their home nations. There has been several public displays of disapproval concerning the idea of more migrants coming to the United States border especially with the Trump administration. Several migrants continue to flee and go to the southern border, but policies such as child separation and the treatment of migrants has caused many concerns all around the world. The main mission of these emigrants is to come to America to live better lives through increasing economic opportunities. To the contrary belief that the United States takes a brunt of the migration crisis, Mexico and many other countries in the region face tremendous problems with migrants settling or moving through their nations. For example, many migrants from Guatemala and Honduras travel through Mexico

in “caravans”, which is an area of concern for the Mexican government in handling this travelling group of people who are trying to reach the United States border (Perez). After the United States, many view Canada as a more accepting country for migration.

Additionally, there are many economic opportunities in Canada available for immigrants.

(Valdes et al.) Spain and other nations also receive migrants from this crisis as many see these nations as friendly to spanish speaking Latin Americans. In recent history, Purvians have started to migrate to Spain for its labor markets (Myers). “Economic refugees” eye developed nations as some of the best places to migrate to because of their employment opportunities and better quality of life for them and their children.



Figure 3: Current US border wall that is proposed to be expanded

(Source: www.nytimes.com/2019/09/03/us/politics/pentagon-border-wall.html)

Home Nations in Latin America (Venezuela, Guatemala, Honduras, etc.)

Nations specifically affected by migration include Venezuela, Guatemala, Honduras and several more. In these nations, countries are experiencing economic crises, which are contributing to the increased migration of their people to other nations. The citizens of these nations are searching for a better future. The main goal of migration is to be able to sustain their families and give them as many opportunities as possible. Many economic and educational opportunities are currently unavailable or unattainable due to increased costs. More action needs to be taken to support these economic migrants as they must be protected and taken care of. Nonetheless, attention should also be given to what needs to be done in order to assist the countries of origin to stop migration in the first place. Although the government of the nations may not be capable enough to fix their economic situation, making sure that the infrastructure needed for the people of these nations to live a viable life is an important goal of this committee.

Nations with Similar Economic Difficulties

There are many nations outside of the Latin American region that also face economic conditions that can be compared to similar to those of nations like Venezuela, Guatemala, and Honduras. Nations such as South Sudan have gone through many difficulties that are both of which are political and violence, but have also contributed to the economic struggles within the region. Many leave their nations as a result of the lack of resources available for them to live viable lives in the region. These countries, including the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, must be highlighted as well. In the Central African Republic, poverty, lack of food access, and severe

malnourishment has caused many in the nation to be displaced even further after fleeing areas of conflict (“Emergencies” - UNHCR). The nation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo faces many political and economic difficulties because of recent violence in the Kasai region as well as the influx of displacement of their citizens with refugees entering their nations (“Emergencies” - UNHCR). Lack of economic opportunity is a key factor in many families leaving their homes. Due to the lack of economic stability of households, citizens must look elsewhere to sustain their day to day life (“Emergencies” - UNHCR).

Committee Mission:

The purpose of the UNHCR will be to find solutions to the economic migration crisis of Latin American nations. In order to accomplish this goal, the committee should work together to find the reasons that are contributing to the economic instability in these nations so that solutions can be created. Programs should be created to improve the economic opportunities of nations as well as better access to education for the youth of the nations. Additionally, the committee is tasked to accommodate for the refugees who have already migrated out of their country of origin due to financial weakness. However, it is essential for the UNHCR to find a common ground on if economic migrants can be considered refugees. From this conversation, the best approach to caring for the economic migrants can be determined. In this process, the definition of refugee status should be looked over. It is important to address how current migration patterns in the 21st century impact the conderations of being a refugee so that the UNHCR can properly serve its mission.

Questions to consider:

1. How is your nation impacted by the migration of Latin American citizens?
 - a. How open is your country to the idea of refugees/asylum seekers?
 - b. What systems does your country have to vet people entering their nations?
2. What are steps that can be taken on an international level to maintain order within Latin America?
3. How has your nation handled economic recession in the past?
4. How can your nation aid in this humanitarian crisis?
5. How has your nation handled the influx of migrants or lack of migration?
 - a. What programs does your country have in place for migrants/immigrants?
6. What is your country's view on the issue of economic conditions being considered a valid reason for migration?

Works Cited

Casey, Nicholas. "Venezuelans Ransack Stores as Hunger Grips the Nation." The New York Times, The New York Times, 19 June 2016, www.nytimes.com/2016/06/20/world/americas/venezuelans-ransack-stores-as-hunger-stalks-crumbling-nation.html.

Picture sourced from the New York Times displaying a hungry family with no food left in their refrigerator from Venezuela, which helps see how bad the living conditions within the country is.

Cooper, Helene, and Emily Cochrane. "Pentagon to Divert Money From 127 Projects to Pay for Trump's Border Wall." The New York Times, The New York Times, 4 Sept. 2019, www.nytimes.com/2019/09/03/us/politics/pentagon-border-wall.html.

Picture sourced from the New York Times that shows the current US border wall that is going to be expanded under the current administration.

"Emergencies." *UNHCR*, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, www.unhcr.org/en-us/emergencies.html.

Sourced from the UNHCR website detailing the emergencies that the committee is assisting with. The source helped in providing descriptions of the emergencies that the UNHCR is dealing with, which include Venezuela, Syria, CAR, DR Congo, South Sudan, and many more. Great resource to learn more about the economic contribution of refugee crises around the world.

Fontanini, Francesca, and Alejandra Romo. "Central American Refugees and Migrants Reach Mexico City." *UNHCR News*, United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees, 7 Nov.

2008,

www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/latest/2018/11/5be2ed814/central-american-refugees-migrants-reach-mexico-city.html.

News article released by the UNHCR that explain the migration crisis of Central Americans who are going to Mexico. The news article aided in providing explanations for why many are leaving their home countries and headed towards Mexico. The resource can help give more details about migration patterns that are being experienced in Central America.

Ghitis, Frida. "Venezuela's Exodus Adds to the Perils Across Latin America." *World Politics Review (Selective Content)*, Feb. 2018, pp. 1-4. *EBSCOhost*, search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=128206444&site=ehost-live.

Journal article in the *World Politics Review* focused on the conditions of people in Venezuela and how the migration issue came about within the nation. Aided to give context to the Venezuelan migration crisis in terms of global impact and how the citizens are being treated in other nations. The article can help for further research on the topic of Venezuelan migration and the impact it has had on Latin America recently.

"Glossary." *UNHCR Global Report 2005*, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2005, www.unhcr.org/449267670.pdf.

Press release by the UNHCR containing a glossary that detailing the definitions of terminology used commonly within the operations of the organization.

Aided in properly defining refugee status so it can be analyzed for the purpose of this topic. The resource can help for further research on how the UNHCR properly defines many of the issues they work on.

Groenewold, George, et al, "Psychosocial Factors of Migration: Adaptation and Application of the Health Belief Model." *International Migration*, vol. 50, no. 6, Dec. 2012, pp. 211–231. *EBSCOhost*, doi:10.1111/j.1468-2435.2012.00781.x.

Journal article from the *International Migration* journal that depicts the factors that compel many to decide to migrate and the psychology behind it. The article gave many reasons and trend seen in people wanting to migrate outside of their country. This is a great resource to learn more about psychological factors and health concerns that have led many to want to leave their country.

"Growth vs. Inflation, A Difficult Balance for Latin America and the Caribbean." *The World Bank*, World Bank Group, 12 Oct. 2017, www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2017/10/12/growth-inflation-difficult-balance-latin-america-caribbean.

Press release by the World Bank that describes the patterns of growth and inflation within the Latin American region. The release aided in giving more information about the economic situation within many nations in Latin America. Further research can be done with the press release in order to learn more about economic trends of nations.

"Guatemala." *Background Notes on Countries of the World: Guatemala*, Feb. 2009, p. 1. *EBSCOhost*,

ezproxy.lib.uconn.edu/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=poh&AN=63575452&site=ehost-live.

Country background informatics sheet released by the U.S. Department of States about the country of Guatemala. Sourced in order to describe the history of migration and economic situation within Guatemala according to the State Department. A great resource to learn more about the nation in multiple fields including government, economic, national security, foreign relations, and many more.

“Honduras.” *Background Notes on Countries of the World: Honduras*, Aug. 2010, p. 1.

EBSCOhost,

ezproxy.lib.uconn.edu/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=poh&AN=63888130&site=ehost-live.

Country background informatics sheet released by the U.S. Department of States about the country of Honduras. Sourced in order to describe the history of migration and economic situation within Honduras according to the State Department. A great resource to learn more about the nation in multiple fields including government, economic, national security, foreign relations, and many more.

Jones, Richard C. “The Central American Child Migration Surge: A Temporal and Spatial Investigation of Its Causes.” *Latin Americanist*, vol. 61, no. 3, Sept. 2017, pp. 333–360. *EBSCOhost*, doi:10.1111/tla.12133.

Journal article in the Latin Americanist describing causes of Central American children migrating out of their country of origin. The article added to give some context to the leading reasons of migration in the region and families have explained the conditions that resulted in them migrating. Further research can be done through this article to find detailed analysis of metadata to determine how truthful statistics can be in representing data within the region.

Myers, Kit W. "Adoptive Migration: Raising Latinos in Spain." *Studies In Ethnicity & Nationalism*, vol. 16, no. 2, Oct. 2016, pp. 347–349. *EBSCOhost*, doi:10.1111/sena.12195.

Journal article detailing the rise of Latin Americans in Spain shares important information about how there has been an influx of Purvians in Spain who are attracted to its labor market. The article helps give more background to migration outside of the Americas and the specific economic opportunities these "economic refugees" are looking for. The piece can aid in further research on the topic of how Latin American migrants are doing in Europe.

Perez D., Sonia. "After Crossing into Guatemala, Migrants Set Sights on Mexico." *AP News*, The Associated Press, 17 Jan. 2019, www.apnews.com/8d61ce90f56d481fa2e3d90fd2b100ef.

News article from the Associated Press that gives context to the current state of the United States border the migration crisis across Mexico that is impacting the United States. Provided an up to date version of the story at the border compared to journal articles, which are older in their analysis of the news. Good resource to read

up on the impact refugees are having within Mexico compared to just the United States border.

Ramsey, Geoff, and Gimena Sánchez-garzoli. "Venezuelan Refugees Are Miserable. Let's Help Them Out." *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 29 Aug. 2018, www.nytimes.com/2018/08/29/opinion/venezuela-refugees.html.

Picture sourced from the New York Times that shows many migrants fleeing their home from Venezuela to the Colombian border to seek refuge.

Rochlin, James F. "Who Said the Cold War Is Over? The Political Economy of Strategic Conflict between Venezuela and Colombia." *Third World Quarterly*, vol. 32, no. 2, Mar. 2011, pp. 237–260. *EBSCOhost*, doi:10.1080/01436597.2011.560467.

Journal article from the Third World Quarterly, which explains the conflict between the country of Venezuela and Columbia. Very useful article in describing the history of Venezuela and how the politics and economy have changed over the last century. Further research can be done on Venezuela's past history and its constant conflict with Colombia to describe how many migrants first fled each nation.

"The 1951 Refugee Convention." *UNHCR*, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, www.unhcr.org/en-us/1951-refugee-convention.html.

Sourced from the UNHCR website that explains the 1951 Refugee Convention that resulted in the formation of the definition of refugee status that we still used today. The article in the UNHCR About Us section helped provide the proper definition of the refugee that will be debated in this conference as well as explained

the conditions that to the creation of the definition in 1951. The resource will help give more context to the convention and how it impacted the way the UNHCR runs today.

Tienda, Marta, and Susana M. Sánchez. "Latin American Immigration to the United States."

Daedalus, vol. 142, no. 3, MIT Press, July 2013, pp. 48–64,

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Topic B: Post-Resettlement Conditions of Refugees in Europe

Introduction:

As tensions in Europe in reference to the Syrian Refugee Crisis has died down, the conditions of resettled refugees within the continent should not be forgotten. Europe still experiences a flow of refugees today, along with a growing sense of hysteria developing in many nations in regards to the refugees they house. One of the main drivers of the European migrant crisis in 2015 was the thousands migrating across the Mediterranean Sea to seek refuge in a more stable European nation. During 2016, around 362,000 refugees and migrants travelled across the Mediterranean Sea in a dangerous journey according to the UNHCR (“Europe Situation” - UNHCR). Many of these refugees faced many other obstacles after reaching Europe. From border restrictions to increasing xenophobia, refugees experienced many struggles finding a home to seek asylum. For the refugees who reached Europe in 2015 during the start of the crisis, they have experienced many years of how it feels to be either accepted or not accepted in Europe.



Figure 1: Migrants travelling across the Mediterianian Sea to reach Europe

(Source:

www.theguardian.com/world/2019/mar/06/eu-declares-migration-crisis-over-hits-out-fake-news-european-commission)

The root cause of several migration crises in Europe over the last few decades go back to a long history of instability within the Middle East. The most recent Civil War in Syria has caused the latest migrant crisis. Many Syrians were compelled to flee their homes as the government has been accused of targeting their own citizens and the rebel forces who are trying to overthrow the Assad regime. The violence from the Civil War has compelled many to flee the nation and go to the neighboring nation of Turkey. For a better life than living in refugee camps, many families made the decision to take the life-risking trek to Europe. Around 2,700 people died from this journey from several reasons including drowning, starving, and illnesses contracted across the whole journey since 2017 ("Europe Situation" - UNHCR). Many deaths of travellers have not been reported, therefore these statistics are much higher in reality. It is important to look at the reasons that force these refugees to make such a dangerous journey to Europe. Violence and persecution in their home states is one of the main reasons many people become refugees in the Middle East.

In order to understand the origins of violence in the region, it is essential to understand many basic principles that contributed to causing tensions within the Middle East. Dictatorships have contributed to consolidating power and oppression in their nations in order to resist classic westernized development. With the combination of religion in governance, some countries have the history of practicing many policies that

suppressed the majority/minority sect of Islam. In the Arab Spring, dictators who have been in power for decades were overthrown by the public. These rebellions targeted those authoritarians who had been running their nations like a monarchy. Mubarak in Egypt, Gaddafi in Libya, Ben Ali in Tunisia, and Saleh in Yemen were overthrown by masses protesting and even becoming violent in some nations (Blakemore). From the violence and protest, the stability of the region has decreased and caused tensions and anxiety within the people. Warfare emerged in many regions like Syria and Iraq with terrorism also spreading in the region. Due to this phenomenon, many citizens of Middle Eastern nations were forced into conditions that prompted them to leave their homes and seek refuge in Turkey and the neighboring continent of Europe.

The functioning and lifestyle of the European continent has been managed by multiple institutions. The European Union (EU) being the strongest of the institutions in Europe influences the operations of the UNHCR in the region. European countries play a significant role in how the UNHCR functions. Out of the top ten donors to the UNHCR in 2018, seven of them were European countries and the EU itself being the 2nd highest donor ("Donors" - UNHCR). With European countries serving as a driver in this UN committee, it is essential to understand the role that these nations hold in the decision making of the body. The European Migration Crisis was one of the biggest crises of the last decade. With so many Middle Eastern and North African refugees now in the region, it must be ensured that they are treated properly.

As many refugees have completed their migration to Europe over the last few years, the conditions refugees face should be kept in mind. Post resettlement conditions vary in

many ways in different countries, mainly because of the varying acceptance of refugees in several nations. After arriving on the shores of Europe, masses of refugees migrate through many nations trying to reach immigrant accepting nations like Germany, while facing many obstacles from law enforcement in nations like Hungary. Some host nations provide resettlement initiatives with educational programs to incorporate refugees into the new culture. On the other hand, hate crimes and discrimination on the basis of race and economic status plague many nations as a growing sense of anti-immigrant rhetoric is spreading in Europe. Europe is a completely different world to these refugees, therefore ensuring the wellbeing of the refugees will be the mission of this committee.

History of the Issue:

Migration within Europe over the 20th century

Under the lifespan of the UNHCR so far, multiple migrant crises have impacted the continent of Europe. An often forgotten crisis is the Post-WW2 resettlement of Europeans all around Europe. After the devastating battles of WW2, the landscape of Europe was forever changed by the war. With the Allied forces and the Soviets creating a divided Germany, the continent was divided into a Western and Eastern sections with people of many nationalities in regions they were forced to move to because of war. The UNHCR received its first Nobel Peace Prize in 1954 for its work in Europe relating back to the war ("The First UN Organization..."). As a newly formed organization within the UN, receiving the Nobel Peace Prize was a remarkable achievement for the UNHCR at the time. The work done in the post war migration crisis made the UNHCR the first UN committee to win the

prestigious award (“The First UN Organization...”). After the War, the UNHCR supported the efforts of helping people get back to their original homes. With the creation of the State of Israel during this time as well, mass migrations occurred all over Europe with many Jewish people going to present day Israel/Palestine instead of their previous residence. It is estimated around 30 million people were displaced by the German and USSR forces during WW2 (Bundy). Additionally, at the end of the war, there were over 40 million refugees in Europe who were homeless and no place to return (Bundy). Europe was under a humanitarian crisis with its enormous refugee crisis as well as the realization of the devastating aftermath of the Holocaust. In 1947, there were around 7 million refugees housed in over 800 resettlement camps by the Allied forces and the newly formed United Nations (Bundy). By the year 1951, there were only 177,000 remaining in the camps showing the incredible resettlement of millions within the continent (Bundy). The post-WW2 refugee crisis in Europe was the driving force for creating the UNHCR in 1951 to continue to address the fallout of the war and of divided Europe.

Notably, the UNHCR was tested again with multiple crises in the region including the 1999 Kosovo refugee crisis. Many native Kosovars fled their nation as tensions and conflict intensified in their home territory. The crisis in Kosovo involved violence that erupted prompting North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) involvement within the region against the Republic of Yugoslavia. NATO conducted airstrikes in the region escalating the region. Many natives were forced to leave their home to a safer place. Most of the refugees went to the neighboring countries of Albania, Macedonia, and more. According to a UNHCR report, the total number of refugees reported to have fled the nation was around 850,000

people and the migration was “large and swift” (“The Kosovo Refugee Crisis...”). The fast nature of the crisis caused the region a lot of stress as the neighboring nations faced large masses of people crossing their border all at once.



Figure 2: Hurds of refugees leaving the militarized zone in Kosovo

(Source:

www.cnn.com/2015/09/19/europe/europe-migrants-kosovo-refugee-remembers/index.html)

Syrian Civil War and the Causes of Recent Migration

As the Middle East went through revolutionary times during the Arab Spring, Syria was seen as the next nation to fall into rebellion. Bashar al-Assad’s government has been in rule since 2000 after the death of his father, General Hafez al-Assad, who seized power in 1970. With the continued rule by the Assad family within Syria, anti-government protest

erupted in the nation in 2011 as a part of the Arab Spring. Religion plays a key role in the in the rebellion against the Syrian government. There are two main sects of Islam, which include the Sunni and the Shia. Sunni Muslims hold a majority in the world, but Shia Muslims are very prominent in some nations like the Shia majority Iran and Iraq. Both sects of the religion share many similarities, but hold some different interpretations of the scriptures. Syria is a nation with a mixed population of Sunni/Shia Muslims. The ruling government in Syria contains Shia Muslims who are seen as the elites of the nation compared to the rebel forces who are mainly Sunni Muslims. The differences in social class and in religious values are some of the key causes of the Syrian Civil War. As anti-incumbency strengthens within the nations, protest slowly turned violent as the Assad government started taking military action against its own citizens (Khan).

The war is more complex than a conflict between the internal regime and the rebellion forces. Jihadist play a big role in the warfare in the region. The Syrian government, alongside fighting the rebels, concurrently fought ISIS forces that had created the Islamic State within Syria and Iraq. Terrorism has plagued this region and has created blocks within the nation. Assad government took support from its northern neighbor, Russia, in fighting off the terrorists occupation of cities in the country. Russia provided air support for the fight against ISIS, but is shown to have supported the Syrian government's oppression of the rebel forces. Assad's government is also responsible for combating the Kurdish activist within the region who are trying to make an independent nation of Kurdistan within the region. Additionally, the United States became involved within the region in response to the Assad government's biochemical attacks on its own people and

the rebels, but the main reason is to fight the Islamic State. All of these factors and players in the Syrian Civil War made it one of the most complex and hazardous regions of the world. The country has been in turmoil for quite some time as the government continues to fight rebel forces and jihadists while international players continually bombed the nation in their attempt to forward their agendas (Khan).

As the Syrian Civil War has reached a stalemate of sorts, it is estimated that 312,000 people have died (Khan). The largest casualties were seen in the civilian category where around 90,500 Syrians have died (Khan). As civilians have been most harmed by violence according to the death tolls, many locals have been forced to flee for their lives as the ever ending occurrence of war continues to kill their people. It is estimated to take 15 to 20 years for the nation of Syria to be rebuilt (Khan). In the meanwhile, the people there have suffered through continual war and have no other option to sustain their families except to go to Turkey or Europe. Many have faced severe persecution for their identities that has forced them to seek asylum in other nations. The Shia government has persecuted the Sunni rebels and the jihadists have persecuted other minorities including Syrian Christians (Khan). In the end, the region is unstable and is not safe for many communities, leaving no option than to cross the international border and arrive in Lebanon, Jordan, or Turkey in the quest to go to Europe for a better safe life.



Figure 3: Spectators patrolling a war torn city in Syria

(Source: www.cnn.com/2013/08/27/world/meast/syria-civil-war-fast-facts/index.html)

European Migration Crisis

The Syrian Civil War sparked one of the biggest refugee crises of our last decade. With millions fleeing the nation way for violence and persecution, the Turkish, Lebanon, and Jordan border experience a high influx of Syrian within their nation. The UNHCR in coordination with the neighboring nations created refugee camps for the refugees to live away from conflict. Millions of refugees were housed in these camps before many integrated into the local society. However, many believed that the only way to truly be free and support their families was by making the journey to Europe. In 2015, the migration crisis started with over a million refugees heading to Europe in unusual means including by

foot from Istanbul to Europe or by boat through the seas of Greece (Tamagno). This beginning to the crisis marked the biggest flow of migrants to Europe since the end of WW2. The migrants came from top three nationalities with Syria being the highest with 49% of all refugees (Tamagno). However, contrary to the popular assumption, the European Migrant Crisis was not just Syrian, but included a high percentage of Afghans (21%) and Iraqis (8%) (Tamagno). Additionally, there was an influx of North African refugees including Eritrean (25%), Nigerians (10%), and Somolians (10%) making up the migrants going to Italy by the Mediterranean Sea (Tamagno). Thousands of refugees from several areas of warfare and persecution were forced to set sail to Europe for safety and a better life as their nations struggled with multiple treats including dictatorships and terrorism.

The migration crisis in Europe is marked by many significant events. One of the most important events of the beginning of the crisis gave the journey to Europe international attention. This event was the death of Alan Kurdi on the bank of the Turkish shoreline in 2015. The photograph of him laying on the sand as tides keep coming caught the hearts of many all around the world, calling attention on European leaders to do something in this humanitarian crisis.



Figure 4: Alan Kurdi washed away during his journey to Europe on the Turkish shore

(Source:

www.nytimes.com/2016/09/03/world/middleeast/alan-kurdi-aylan-anniversary-turkey-syria-refugees-death.html)

Over the course of the main years of the migrant crisis over 12,000 migrants are reported to be dead or missing while trying to make the journey to Europe by sea (Boghani). Many are not able to make the journey from Turkey to Greece due to the hazardous conditions they travel in. Boats became overcrowded with people causing many to go tip over and cause refugees to drown in their voyage for a better safe life. Over 1.5 million refugees used multiple routes to get to Europe during the crisis (Boghani). Their problems do not end after crossing into the continent. Masses of refugees crossed borders

of several nations to reach mainland Europe were acceptance of refugees was higher. While several other countries have made this trip very difficult as countries like Hungary, Slovakia, Macedonia, and Austria closed their borders by constructing razor wire fences on their borders (Tamagno). Many of these refugees were stopped in their tracks as it was very difficult to cross country borders where the law enforcement had guarded the border. People were then stuck in these nations with no proper refugee camps in place. For those who were able to make it past these hurdles, they reached nations like Germany, Sweden and France who have accepted more refugees than other nations in Europe. Refugees of the European Migrant Crisis have been in their host nation for years now by going through the process of resettlement and assimilation.



Figure 5: Migrants blocked at the Hungary border by border control

(Source:

www.theguardian.com/global-development/2017/mar/19/hungary-serbia-border-migration-controls-containers)

After reaching their host nations, refugees faced several difficulties with resettlement. There were around 1.1 million refugees in need of resettlement in the year

2016 (“EU Policies...”). Out of refugees seeking asylum from the refugee camps in Turkey, only 10,625 refugees were properly resettled by the end of September 2016 through the EU compared the 22,500 refugee goal (“EU Policies...”). Germany was seen as one of the most accepting nations for resettlement of newly arrived refugees as the nation granted the highest percentage of refugee status with 99% of Syrian refugees given status compared to the average of 27% in all of Europe (“EU Policies...”). The system of granting asylum in Europe has its own shortcomings. The Dublin system is used by the EU to determine the responsibility of different nations to host asylum seekers. One of the most significant flaws in the system in regards to the 2015 crisis is the fundamental principle that first country of arrival is the proper country of asylum. Under this regulation, an asylum seeker must apply for asylum in the first country they arrive at in Europe, which will predominantly be Greece due to its proximity to Turkey and Syria (“EU Policies...”). The regulation disproportionality puts a burden on some nations over the rest of the European nations, where there are some countries willing to grant asylum in their own nations. This causes the dilemma over if a migrant who has travelled long distances to arrive at an accepting nation should be sent back to their first country of arrival. The Dublin regulation has also been used as a justification to send back migrants who arrive at anti-refugee nations (“EU Policies...”). Reform within the Dublin system and resettlement programs is necessary to accommodate for the needs of the average refugees. Additionally, refugees must be treated similarly from nation to nation within the EU to prevent discrimination in anti-refugee countries. It is essential to examine how these refugees are doing post resettlement in regards to living conditions, education, and well-being in 2019.

Current Status:

As the influx of refugees traveling to Europe during the 2015 crisis slowly ends, thousands of refugees now have created new homes in their host nations. Germany is the leader in Europe for taking in the most refugees and asylum seekers with around 1,063,837 migrants with refugees status and 184,180 migrants who have sought asylum in the nation in 2018. Germany is followed by France with 368,352 refugees and 120,425 asylum seekers in the nation. Other nations with considerable refugees and asylum seekers in 2018 includes Greece with 48,026 refugees and 66,965 asylum seekers, Italy with 189,243 refugees and 59,950 asylum seekers, Spain with 20,457 refugees and 54,050 asylum seekers, and the UK with 126,720 refugees and 37,730 asylum seekers (“Asylum Applications...”). With thousands of refugees and asylum seekers in several nations in Europe, many have resettled within their host nations as going back to their previous homes may still seem dangerous. Nations have provided assistance to many of these migrants. For example, Sweden has created publicly funded integration programs for these migrants to make sure they assimilate. These classes help them learn the language and the culture so they can participate in the community like any other citizen (“Now Everyone...”). Nations like Germany and Sweden are prime examples of supportive host nations who help newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers assimilate into their new cultures.

Other European nations have taken in migrants as well, but with more hesitations. These hesitations including anti-immigrant sentiment, growing islamophobia, and fear of terrorism are some of the leading causes for the EU to push for a more conservative

approach to accepting refugees. In 2016, as the crisis was still going on, the EU struck a controversial deal with Turkey, which hosts most Syrian refugees. In the deal, the EU would send any migrants back who did not use any proper channels and for every refugee accepted by the EU, another Syrian migrant would be sent back to Turkey (Boghani). The UNHCR has condemned this deal as it forces many to have to leave Europe and go back to the dire conditions they left. The deal brings light to dissent in Europe that continues to grow in many nations, causing many to question if refugees in Europe are safe and included in all aspects of their new homes.

Nations in Europe are experiencing a rise in populous extremist parties who are against immigration and migrants in their nations. Hungary has retained its right wing populous party during the last election. Italy and Austria both have parties in power with coalition that include populous parties. In Sweden and Slovenia, the populous parties have increased their share in parliament during the last election. In recent state elections in Germany, populous parties have gained ground and is one of the leading reasons Chancellor Angela Merkel is not considering a 5th term as her Christian Social Union party is expected to face hits from the populous front. Poland continues to have a populous government, but it has lost some stream in some recent 2018 state elections. Overall, the European continent is shifting towards many populous anti-immigrant parties who are slowly taking over the politics of many nations. Most of these populous parties promise to create stricter borders and harsher immigrants policies and to reform the trade policies of their nations ("World Report 2019...").

The conditions of resettled refugees in Europe are becoming more tense due the growing sense of nationalism that is spreading across the continent. For example, the Danish have created communities for underprivileged minorities and immigrants, which can be compared to “ghettos” due to high rates of unemployment and lack of resources in the largely populated areas (“World Report 2019...”). The nation has also banned its citizens from wearing headscarves. This type of ban is rooted in islamophobia that is growing with the arrival and settlement of refugees in European nations. Politicians in Denmark are justifying their actions by enforcing for “Danish values”, which unfortunately is targeting migrant’s religious status and living conditions (“World Report 2019...”).

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Figure 6: Muslim women protesting against the veil ban in Denmark

(Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-45064237>)

With most migrants coming from the Middle East and Northern Africa, the association of islamophobia is common due to a majority of migrants practicing Islam and having darker skin tones. Terrorism within Europe has caused some to question the identity and purpose of many immigrants as xenophobia and islamphobia combine. Due to many of these reasons, the United Kingdom voted to exit the EU (Brexit) as many in the country were worried about the implications of accepting more refugees and having freer borders like the rest of Europe. Brexit supporters believed the UK must have control of its borders and not the EU, which is tied to the UK's concern that the EU's border security and immigration policies are too lenient, especially during the rise of the European Migrant Crisis. The sense of nationalism was very high as well in the UK, causing many to want independence from the EU, which may cause many troubles for resettled refugees who are protected by EU policies currently in the transition period before the UK officially leaves the EU. This spreading sense of nationalism is slowly moving to other nations in the EU, causing some to consider leaving the EU or imposing more stricter immigration reform. France showed a populous anti-refugee message with a top political leader from the National Front named Marine Le Pen in the 2017 French election. Le Pen did not win the election, but she popularized the idea of stricter borders and reducing legal immigration to the nation to masses of people (The Guardian). Italy is seen as one of the next nations to leave the EU as right wing nationalist parties are gaining stream in the country.

In order for resettled refugees to be accepted within their host nations, nations must pay attention to the integration of the migrants. The EU has also found through studies conducted that the leading inhibitors to social integration of refugees in the EU is the

presence of racism and ignorance that is experienced personally and institutionally (Robila). There are two facets of integration that are essential including structural integration and cultural integration. In terms of structural integration, there must be education and economic integration in which learning the language and the means of employment are necessary. Sweden and Norway have extensive programs for state sponsored integration with housing assistance and employment assistance. On the other hand, the UK uses a dispersal policy where asylum seekers are sent to exclusive urban areas where they would find jobs and affordable housing due to the abundance of opportunities. In terms of cultural integration, learning the norms and how to connect with other citizens is important. Much of such training is provided with the integration classes by many governments.

A concern for the refugee community that is commonly not addressed is the stress endured by migrants during the integration process. There are significant mental health concerns as there is a high prevalence rate of mental health disorders related to traumatic experiences of refugees. From directly coming from violence and persecution, refugees experience a lot of stressors at once in a completely new community. Around 54 percent of asylum seekers and 41.4 percent of refugees in the European crisis fulfill the criteria for PTSD (Robila). Rates of depression and anxiety are very high too with 44 percent of refugees reporting depressive symptoms and 40 percent of refugees reporting anxiety symptoms (Robila). It has been correlated that difficulties with acculturation can be related to mental distress in refugees (Robila). With such mentally exhausting experiences, resettled refugees in Europe face many obstacles in their current lives with stressors and

hurdles they must face everyday (Robila). The mental health of refugees must be given more attention as they have faced many traumatic experiences from arriving from areas of war and persecution.

The current status of refugees in Europe vary from region to region. Several refugees suffer from discrimination and anti-immigrant sentiments in their new homes. As nations move past the migration crisis experienced a few years ago, many European citizens are electing anti-immigrant parties into power, changing the degree of acceptance of refugees and immigrants in several nations. Islamophobia is never ending, and many still fear that a refugee will become a terrorist and hurt their home nations. However, most refugees are fleeing terror themselves. Living conditions are not equal for all refugees across Europe, where many are deprived of many opportunities in the communities. Some nations are pioneers in aiding refugees with providing educational programs and proper integration systems to make sure refugees are provided enough resources to live in their new homes. The health and mental wellbeing of refugees should be examined as it is commonly neglected in the review of migrants in a nation. In order to assess the conditions of resettled refugees in Europe further, a closer look into the conditions presented to refugees in individual nations is crucial.

Bloc Positions:

Pro-Refugee European Nations (Germany, Sweden, Norway, UK, France)

Germany remains the leader in refugee resettlement in Europe as it continues to accept more resettled refugees each year. The nation also faces some crimes with regards

to resettled refugees with 627 attacks reported on refugees in the first half of 2018 ("World Report 2019..."). There has also been xenophobic demonstrations like in the city of Chemnitz. The current German government under Angela Merkel is strictly against this xenophobia, but new populist parties are slowly spreading some influence in the nation ("World Report 2019...").

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Figure 7: Anti-immigrant protesters in Chemnitz, Germany

(Source:

www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/09/thousands-protest-refugees-chemnitz-180902063919270.html)

Scandinavian countries like Sweden and Norway have been very accommodating to refugees with their state sponsored integration programs and continued acceptance to resettle refugees ("World Report 2019..."). In the UK, Brexit continues to be negotiated with the EU and the British parliament. The plans by former Prime Minister Theresa May were not accepted by the British Parliament, which heightens the chances of a no deal Brexit which would close British border impacting immigration significantly until another deal on border crossing is negotiated with the EU ("World Report 2019..."). The UK now has a new Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, was one of the first Brexit supporters who ran the push for the Brexit referendum with his "take back control" campaign. Johnson has promised the UK will leave the EU by October 31st no matter what conditions (Bellack et al). This eagerness to exit the EU could cause a harder Brexit, where immigration to the UK from the EU will decrease. France has been largely accepting of refugees, but with the recent terrorist attacks and presence of parties like the National Front led by Le Pen, there is a concern for anti-refugee sentiment in some parts of the country. Pro-refugee countries provide a safe space for many refugees with integration programs in some, but the spreading nationalism and dissent in these nations regarding immigration may impact its future stance on the issue ("World Report 2019...").

Anti-Refugee European Nations (Hungary, Croatia, Italy)

A large number of nations have expressed anti-refugees sentiments including a growing sense in other nations in Europe. In Hungary, the three term ruling party won, Fidesz, won 2/3rd majority in the 2018 Parliamentary election in the nation who is

historically against refugees and migrants. The Parliament of the nation has gone so far to criminalized supporting migrants or asylum seekers as an amendment of the Constitution of Hungary. The constitutional amendment states that there would be a year of imprisonment for such actions. Additionally, the nation approved a 25% tax on any entity which would support immigration ("World Report 2019..."). In Croatia, it is alleged that over 2,500 migrants were held on the border and pushed back to Bosnia and Hertenenognia by the police ("World Report 2019..."). Many reported crimes occurred in this region as a result. The new Italian government is a coalition government of populist and anti-immigration parties. During the Italian election, there were several instances of racist violence with a candidate being shot alongside six immigrants. Italian forces also evicted Roma people, who are gypsies, from their long time Rome neighborhood while going against European Court of Human Right ruling. The dominance of xenophobia and discrimination is causing threatening conditions for refugees in these nations ("World Report 2019...").

Syria/Turkey

Syria remains to be in steady conflict with no real resolution to the Syrian Civil War. The jihadist terrorist group, Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), still controls a portion of Syria with Assad in power as the President of the nation. Migrants continue to leave the nation as violence continues to occur today. There are still thousands of migrants who arrive on the shore of Europe from the Syrian region. Turkey maintains to receive refugees from the crisis, but at considerably less rates. Turkey has the highest number of refugees

within the nation with 3.3 million refugees in the country (“Syria emergency” - UNHCR).

The UNHCR calls for US\$4.4 billion to be donated for supporting the 5 million Syrian refugees who remain in Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan for the years 2018-2019 (“Syria emergency” - UNHCR). In the neighboring nations, only 8 percent of refugees now live in refugee camps, others have been living in the communities directly (“Syria emergency” - UNHCR). With the migrant crisis not completely gone in the region, more help will be needed to accommodate for refugees who continue to leave Syria and want to migrate to Europe.

Western Hemisphere

The United States has changed many of its stances on refugee acceptance over the last few years. During the Trump administration, a refugee ban was put in place with the Supreme Court approving a cap of 50,000 refugees allowed to be accepted into the country (Held). The United States has not been as welcoming to new migrants due to the harder push for border security and the bans imposed earlier in the Trump Presidency. The United States currently supports providing aid to the nearby regions to retain refugees such as in Lebanon. The administration has provided over US\$1.4 billions to the region to retain refugees in the Middle East (Held). Canada has been seen as a friendly nation for many migrants as it has resettled over 40,000 refugees from the Syrian refugee crisis and has implemented integration programs in the country. Refugees are placed in communities that foster integration (Canada Gov). Nations all across the world have many different stances on accepted and denying refugees as nationalism and populism is spreading in many

regions. However, many nations still continue to accept refugees to help humanitarian crises around the world.

Committee Mission:

The mission of the UNHCR will be to ensure the proper treatment of refugees in their host nations post-resettlement in Europe. The committee will be tasked to address all injustices present within nations in Europe. With the growing sense of nationalism and anti-refugee sentiment in area of Europe, it will be the responsibility of the committee to look into cases of hate and discriminations to recommend better conditions for refugees in the region. Over the course of the conference, the committee should find a solution to unite the continent on common standards of treatment. In order to promote integration within the new communities the refugees will live in, the UNHCR should create programs to assimilate the refugee populations as well as reform the minds of citizens who are xenophobic in host nations. The committee should also look into the health and mental health of refugees who have faced traumatic experiences and make sure they receive proper treatment. The committee is purposed to mend concerns of xenophobia and islamophobia with the crisis and reform refugee acceptance policies within Europe and around the world to ensure the best refugee care for people going through the worst days of their lives.

Questions to Consider:

1. What is your country's current stance on accepting refugees?

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- a. If your nation accepts refugees,
 - i. How many do they accept?
 - ii. Where do the refugees primary come from?
2. What is the current climate in the nation regarding immigration and the acceptance of other nationalities?
3. Does your country have reported incidents of discrimination or hate against refugees or foreign citizens?
4. If you are an European nation, is your country considering leaving the EU or has it considered leaving in the past?
 - a. If so, what are the reasons compelling your country to leave the EU?
5. Does your nation have any integration programs for refugees?
6. Does your nation have resettlement programs that are successful?
 - a. What type of process do refugees within your nation go through to become integrated into your community?
7. What programs within your nation can help with the assimilations and acceptance of refugees in other nations?
8. What is your country's view on accepting more refugees to be resettled in the future?

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Bellack, Marisa, and Olivier Laurent. “Who Is Boris Johnson?” The Washington Post, WP Company, 22 July 2019,

www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2019/world/amp-stories/who-is-boris-johnson/?noredirect=on.

News article that describes the new Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Boris Johnson. The article talks about his career as a politician, which helps explain the anti-immigrant sentiment that he rode in power with, especially with Brexit. Good resource to learn more about how UK politics may change with the new Prime Minister in regards to refugee acceptance.

Blakemore, Erin. “What Was the Arab Spring and What Caused It to Happen?” The Arab Spring-Facts and Information, National Geographic, 14 June 2019,

www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/topics/reference/arab-spring-cause/.

New article on the Arab Spring that describes how many nations overthrew their decades long dictatorships. The article helps get a better sense of what actually occurred during the Arab Spring and the impact it had on the future. Great resource to help understand the instability within the Middle East.

Boghani, Priyanka. "The 'Human Cost' of The EU's Response to the Refugee Crisis." PBS, Public Broadcasting Service, 23 Jan. 2018, www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/the-human-cost-of-the-eus-response-to-the-refugee-crisis/.

News article sourced from the Public Broadcasting Service that describes the men and women lost from the journey to Europe and the EU's involvement in the crisis. The article aided in giving a better analysis of the EU's response to the migrant crisis and where the organization lacked in the response. Great resource to understand further how the EU reacted to the European Migrant Crisis.

Bundy, Colin. "Migrants, Refugees, History and Precedents." *Forced Migration Review*, vol. 1, no. 51, Jan. 2016, pp. 5-6. EBSCOhost, search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=poh&AN=112222846&site=ehost-live.

Journal article describing the great migration crisis after World War 2. The article helped provide information on the extent of people who were forced to leave their homes because of war and persecution, which helped give way to the creation of the UNHCR. Further research on the biggest migration crisis before the Syrian migration crisis can be found within this article.

Chrisafis, Angelique. "French Presidential Election: How the Candidates Compare." The Guardian, Guardian News and Media, 4 Apr. 2017,

www.theguardian.com/world/2017/apr/04/french-presidential-election-how-the-candidates-compare.

News article that depicts the 2017 French election and their candidates. The article was very helpful in providing details about Marine Le Pen who was the anti-immigrant candidate during the election. Great resource to learn more about the candidate and the growing faction of France that is becoming anti-immigrant.

"Denmark Veil Ban: First Woman Charged for Wearing Niqab." BBC News, BBC, 4 Aug. 2018, www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-45064237.

Picture sourced from the BBC that shows Muslim women protesting the ban on veils within the nation as a part of cultural conditioning.

"Donors." UNHCR, United Nations, www.unhcr.org/en-us/donors.html.

Sourced from the UNHCR official website that describes how the committee gets money to fund its programs. The description in the article describes the biggest players within the UNHCR and the countries who donate the most. Good resource to get a better sense of how much your country and the EU donate to the UNHCR.

"Europe Situation." UNHCR, United Nations,

www.unhcr.org/en-us/europe-emergency.html.

Sourced from the UNHCR official website that details the conditions of refugees and asylum seekers in Europe. The article describes the many migrants who have travelled and died from the journey from the Middle East to Europe. Good

resource to get a general idea of the conditions within the region pertaining the migration flow across the continent.

“EU Policies Put Refugees At Risk.” Hrw.org, Human Rights Watch, 6 Dec. 2016,

www.hrw.org/news/2016/11/23/eu-policies-put-refugees-risk.

Sourced from the Human Rights Watch organization that analyzes the regions for human rights violations. This article was especially useful in describing the conditions refugees arrived in Europe and the resettlement systems that they faced when they entered the country. Great resource to learn more about the arrival and resettlement of refugees after arriving in Europe.

Haridasani, Alisha. “Europe's Migrant Crisis: A Kosovan Refugee Remembers.” CNN, Cable News Network, 19 Sept. 2015,

www.cnn.com/2015/09/19/europe/europe-migrants-kosovo-refugee-remembers/index.html.

Picture sourced from CNN showing several people moving cross a railroad track on their journey to a host nation that will accept them as migrants fleeing war from Kosovo.

Held, Amy. “Trump Says Keeping Syrian Refugees In Region Is 'Best Way To Help Most People'.” NPR, NPR, 25 July 2017,

www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/07/25/539318758/trump-says-keeping-syrian-refugees-in-region-is-best-way-to-help-most-people.

News article that describes the anti-immigrant sentiment growing within the United States with the current administration. The article helped give context to the

refugee ban and how refugees from Syria are treated in the United States. Good resource to learn about the United States current approach for handling the refugee crisis and the syrian refugee resettlement programs.

“Looking Back at Alan Kurdi and Other Faces of Syrian Crisis.” The New York Times, The New York Times, 2 Sept. 2016,
www.nytimes.com/2016/09/03/world/middleeast/alan-kurdi-aylan-anniversary-turkey-syria-refugees-death.html.

Picture sourced from the New York Times showing Alan Krdi washed away on the shores of Turkey as a Turkish officer goes to pick him up.

McVeigh, Karen. “Fear Stalks Migrants Huddled along Hungary's Border.” The Guardian, Guardian News and Media, 19 Mar. 2017,
www.theguardian.com/global-development/2017/mar/19/hungary-serbia-border-migration-controls-containers.

Picture sourced from the Guardian showing Hugarian forces barricading the border so no migrants an come in as masses stood outside of the nation.

“Now Everyone Will Become Super Nationalistic’: Sweden's Backlash against Immigrants and the Rise of the Right.” CBS News, CBS Interactive, 12 Apr. 2019,
www.cbsnews.com/news/sweden-rise-of-the-right-immigrants-unwelcome-cbsn-originals/.

News article that details the conditions of refugees in Sweden and all the social benefits and programs that refugees receive within the nation. The article aids in the understanding of refugee accepting nations and how they are able to support

the refugee population. Good resource to learn more about the Swedish refugee resettlement programs and how they provide education for their refugees.

Rankin, Jennifer. "EU Declares Migration Crisis over as It Hits out at 'Fake News'." The

Guardian, Guardian News and Media, 6 Mar. 2019,

www.theguardian.com/world/2019/mar/06/eu-declares-migration-crisis-over-hits-out-fake-news-european-commission.

Picture sourced from The Guardian to help give an image of how refugees were desperately coming to Europe in dire conditions on boats.

Robila, Mihaela. "Refugees and Social Integration in Europe." United Nations Expert Group

Meeting, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) , 15

May 2018,

www.un.org/development/desa/family/wp-content/uploads/sites/23/2018/05/Robila_EGM_2018.pdf.

Published paper from the United Nations Expert Group Meeting for United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) that describes the integration of refugees within Europe. The resource aided in providing information about settlement programs used within the continent and how social integration as very important. Good resource to learn more about the integration of refugees and the programs and guidelines that were used.

Syria: History, The Civil War and Peace Prospects - Khan, Hafeez Ulla, and Waseem Khan.

"Syria: History, The Civil War and Peace Prospects." Journal of Political Studies, vol.

24, no. 2, Winter 2017, pp. 557–573. EBSCOhost,

search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=poh&AN=128699403&site=ehost-live

Journal article that explain the build up to the Syrian Civil War and the many players who have a hand in continuing the war. The article was very helpful in adding more detail to how the war began and the specific people being targeting causing a very unstable region. Great resource to learn more about the Syrian Civil War and what gave way to the biggest migration crisis in Europe from decades.

“Syrian Civil War Fast Facts.” CNN, Cable News Network, 9 Apr. 2019,

www.cnn.com/2013/08/27/world/meast/syria-civil-war-fast-facts/index.html.

Picture sourced from CNN that depicts the war torn region in Syria that looks to be in turmoil with citizens watching over their city.

“Syrian Refugee Resettlement Initiative – Looking to the Future.” Canada.ca, Government of Canada, 21 Jan. 2019,

www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/welcome-syrian-refugees/looking-future.html#integrate.

Sourced from the Canadian Government website that describes their refugee resettlement program in great detail. The resource has many frequently asked question and analysis on their program, which was very useful in learning about the Canadian government's favorable attitude towards refugees. Good resource to learn more about what the Canadian government does for Syrian refugees.

Tamagno, Bruce. “People in Motion -The European Migration Crisis.” BusiDate, vol. 24, no. 2, May 2016, pp. 3–8. EBSCOhost,

search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=115710964&site=ehost-live.

Journal article that describes the European Migration crisis and the people who were involved in the migration. The article aided in getting a better understanding of the demographics of people who were leaving their homes and the problems they faced with migration. Good resource to learn more about the migration crisis and the direct obstacles that migrants faced when arriving in Europe.

“The First UN Organization to Be Awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace”. NobelPrize.org.

Nobel Media AB 2019. Tue. 9 Jul 2019.

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/1954/refugees/facts/>.

Sourced from the Nobel Prize official website that describes the Nobel Peace Prize won by the UNHCR within a few years of becoming an organization. The article helped give more context to what the reasoning for giving the Nobel Peace Prize were for the UNHCR. Good resource to learn more about the Nobel Peace Prize that was given the UNHCR in the 1950s.

“The Kosovo Refugee Crisis: An Independent Evaluation of UNHCR’s Emergency

Preparedness and Response.” Refugee Survey Quarterly, vol. 19, no. 4, Jan. 2000, pp. 203–221. EBSCOhost, doi:10.1093/rsq/19.4.203.

Article sourced from the UNHCR that details the response of the UNHCR to the Kosovo Refugee Crisis. The article helped give more details on how the crisis occurred and what the conditions were during the time of the crisis in the region.

Great resources to do further resourced on the involvement of the UNHCR in Kosovo during the migration crisis in 1999.

“Thousands Protest for and against Refugees in Chemnitz.” News | Al Jazeera, Al Jazeera, 2 Sept. 2018,

www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/09/thousands-protest-refugees-chemnitz-180902063919270.html.

Picture sourced from Al Jazeera showing hundreds of protesters in the city of Chemnitz, which was a significant event in the sector of anti-immigrant sentiment in the continent.

“World Report 2019: Rights Trends in European Union.” World Report, Human Rights Watch, 17 Jan. 2019,

www.hrw.org/world-report/2019/country-chapters/european-union.

Report sourced from the Human Rights Watch that explains in great detail the conditions of refugees in many nations within the European Union currently. The report is updated to 2019 and has plentiful information on each country, which is very useful in seeing the trends of anti-refugee sentiment in each nation. Great resource to learn more about other European nations as well as research each country more in depth.