

**Cleveland Council on  
WORLD AFFAIRS**



# Cleveland-Autumn Conference 2020

Position Papers for:

High Commission for Refugees



*Delegation from: The Commonwealth of Australia*

*Represented by: Archbishop Hoban High School*

***Position Paper for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)***

The issues brought to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees are the maritime movements and integration opportunities for refugees, and the impact of COVID-19 on refugee camps. The Commonwealth of Australia is dedicated to finding humanitarian and economically viable solutions.

**I. Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees**

With a recent pandemic and conflict in many nations; more and more refugees are seeking refuge in safer places throughout the EU, one way they do this is across the sea. Yet, the routes they take are perilous, with over 1,000 innocent refugees dying per year for the past six years just travelling across the Mediterranean and more than 18,000 since 2014. Despite how perilous the journey is, more and more people are now taking it as 4.6 million refugees under UNHCR's mandate came in 2019 to Greece and Turkey these two countries received only 138,000 in 2014. Australia recognizes the need for these countries, and others throughout the EU, to receive support when helping these people especially when they are coming by sea, and acknowledge that these refugees be treated with fairness, but not at the cost of Australian citizens protection.

Australia is no stranger to refugees coming across the sea, and has set up several humane ways of protecting refugees while they wait for visas. With 51,637 refugees travelling by boat to get to Australia over the past five years and less than 900 hundred deaths. Australian military patrols the waters to intercept migrant vessels to be sent back to be processed offshore under Operation Sovereign Borders which was established in 2013. Immigration centers are located in both Nauru, Papua New Guinea, and Manus Island. Australia has also donated 25 million dollars from 2018-2019 to help the UNHCR give refugees assistance, protection, and support.

The Commonwealth of Australia recommends that military patrols of popular refugee immigration routes by sea be set up, along with refugee centers to be placed on the countries where the ships are setting off from so refugees can stay there until they get a visa without having to make the treacherous journey across the sea. It is also recommended that the EU and UN make up a set of basic refugee policies; such facilities should be humane, while leaving several factors up to the separate country's government, for example the cap on refugees and the methods used to

protect the borders. The UNHCR should send money to countries without the resources to set up safe, and efficient pandemic protection for refugees.

## **II. Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Camps**

As of October, COVID-19 has infected 44 million people and killed over 1 million worldwide, and those who are most at risk of catching, and dying from this virus are refugees and asylum seekers in refugee camps. Refugee camps are often unsanitary. Refugees share the same eating, sleeping, and living quarters making it almost impossible to have any form of effective quarantine or social distancing program. The virus is made even more deadly with the fact that many of these refugee camps are in countries that lack the medical system to provide care to the hundreds of people who could get sick. Australia is looking to keep refugees safe in all its detention centers.

The first case of COVID-19 in Australia was January 25, 2020, and since then the Commonwealth of Australia has worked to keep both its citizens, asylum seekers, and refugees safe. Australia has taken steps to move people out of crowded detention centers into places where they can successfully quarantine and have access to healthcare; which includes granting bridging visas, moving people to hotels, and expediting consideration of visa applications. The Human Rights Law Centre is also focused on helping reunite refugee families and prevent deportations out of Australia. Australia has also transferred some refugees to the mainland to help with medical care, while also slowing the travel to refugee camps.

Australia believes that international law should be honoured as best it can when dealing with COVID-19; although, it also recognises that in some countries there should allow exceptions depending on what the country believes is best for its people. While Australian refugee camps have had a low transmission rate, Australia still believes that there should be restrictions to access, more testing in the camps, and basic resources to be provided regularly. However, host countries should be partially responsible for taking care of refugees and should provide medical assistance if any refugee or asylum seeker falls ill. Australia also recognises that if COVID-19 spreads throughout a camp it could travel outside to infect neighbouring cities, and recommends trying to slow travel to refugee camps, and make sure that every measure is taken to prevent the virus from infecting anyone in, or around refugee centers.

*Delegation from: Bosnia and Herzegovina*

*Represented by: Laurel School*

**United Nations High Commission for Refugees**

*Position Paper For the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*

The issues before the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees are: Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees and the Impact of Covid-19 on Refugee Camps. These are two of the biggest global issues refugees currently face, and therefore are very important to Bosnia and Herzegovina and we hope to create a resolution that will help the refugees and solve the topics at hand as soon as possible. Bosnia and Herzegovina is dedicated to the creation of a resolution with any countries that agree with this goal, and look forward to having the opportunity to do so.

**I. Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees**

Many refugees who are trying to enter Europe must cross the Medeteranian Sea, which is the first of many obstacles they will face before integrating into their new life in that country. Integration refers to the goal of the refugees to adjust to their new lives and countries, but to still keep their cultures and identities. Both of these things are very difficult, and it should not be entirely on the refugees alone to face. The goal is to make crossing the Mediterranean Sea easier and give more options and opportunities for forms of integration, and thus removing some burdens from the refugees. Bosnia and Herzegovina knows that, as a country that borders on the Medeteranian and has had great success with integration, it is very important both issues are taken seriously and resolved as quickly as possible to ensure the safety of the refugees.

Crossing the Mediterranean Sea is an issue that has only gotten worse over time. In 2019, despite there being the lowest number of refugees coming into Europe in the last five years, 2,275 people went missing or died trying to cross this sea, which was the highest recorded number yet. In 2011, 1,500 people went missing. In 2012, the number was 500 and in 2013, 600 people went missing. In 2014, the number rose again, this time to 3,500. This was the year that this issue became extremely prevalent and worrisome for all European Countries. The rising number was partially due to the rise in the number of refugees, (in 2014, there was an 83% increase in the number of refugees, from 75,000 to 137,000). However, other factors are that the boats refugees use are not always safe, (in April of 2015, 800 people died in a shipwreck, which was the most devastating refugee shipwreck recorded), and many refugees have resorted to relying on smugglers to cross the sea, which is also unsafe. Even those who do survive crossing the Mediterranean may face tourture or abuse along the way. After the refugees arrive in these countries, however, their battles or struggles are not yet over. Refugees still must face the difficulties that come with integrating into their new lives. Because of Covid-19, refugees are facing loss of jobs and not seeing much hope of getting employed, which stands in the way of integration.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is currently impacted or has been impacted by this topic. Bosnia and Herzegovina is one of the many European Countries with a coastline on the Mediterranean, which means it is one of the more prevalent ways refugees enter the country. While most refugees wait in our country before trying to integrate into other countries, Bosnia and Herzegovina has history with integration, mainly of our citizens integrating into other countries. In the 1990s, after the Bosnian war, refugees from what is now Bosnia and Herzegovina, left and became the models of integration. In Norway, refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina had 18% more secondary education than any other refugee. Nearly twenty years later, one million of these refugees have returned home. Because of this experience, and our connection to the Mediterranean Sea, Bosnia and Herzegovina recognizes the need of this resolution to focus on helping refugees arrive and settle into their new country, by giving some responsibility to the countries, with the goals of providing help and necessary assistance to all.

## **II. The Impact of Covid-19 on Refugee Camps**

Covid-19 is a serious and deadly virus that is the cause of the current and on-going pandemic that the entire world and all of its people are facing. While all people around the world are in some way affected by Covid-19, not everyone is equally affected. Refugees who live in refugee camps are the most vulnerable and affected people to this virus. Refugees are already one of the world's most vulnerable people, and because of conditions such as overcrowding, lack of healthcare, Covid-19 tests, and basic needs, (which 90% of refugees do not have access to), this disease will spread easily and could lead to many deaths or long-term health effects. As 80% of refugees live in low- or middle-income countries, the UN has provided resources and a total of 23.9 million masks to these camps globally. Bosnia and Herzegovina recognizes the severity of the issue and understands the effect this will have.

Covid-19 is a very large and prevalent threat to the world. While some people who get the virus are fortunate enough to be asymptomatic or suffer mild symptoms (like fever, cough, or throat and lung issues), some cases are very serious, and result in hospitalization or even long-term health effects or death. This disease began in Wuhan, China, with the first recorded case occurring on December 31st, 2019. Since starting, it has spread rapidly throughout the world. Globally, 41 million people have contracted this virus, while 1.13 million have died. This disease reached Bosnia and Herzegovina with our first recorded case on March 5th. Since then, we have suffered from 33,561 cases and 981 deaths. While at the start of this pandemic, there were hardly any cases of Covid-19 in refugee camps, according to the UNHRC, 21,000 out of 30 million refugees have already contracted this virus.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has been aware of the threat that Covid-19 poses, and we have taken serious and strong measures to ensure the safety of the refugees in the refugee camps. We currently have 7,500 registered refugees in these camps, but we have not had a single case of Covid-19 yet. We have set up separate spaces for newly arrived refugees where they quarantine before entering one of the

camps, and we have also created isolation spaces for refugees to go if they get sick. There are also medical staff close to the camps, in case someone does contract the virus. However, we have still had a few issues. Bosnia and Herzegovina has many refugees who are currently waiting to get into the European Union, and therefore, social distancing is difficult. Some of the refugees even sleep on the streets, rather than the overcrowded camps. While we have made extra space for those who are in need of it, we do not have the space to enforce social distancing. There is also a lack of resources in the camps, which is due both to the number of refugees and the costs. As mentioned previously, we already are overcrowded, and therefore, can not provide the amount and quality of resources needed to everyone. While we have made sure there are basic needs for this situation, like sanitation and isolation spaces, there is still a lack of other necessities. The cost is also very large, and something we can not afford. However, we are still dedicated to protecting our refugees in the refugee camps and we hope to be able to determine a resolution with any willing countries to combat the threat of this virus and improve the safety for the refugees in our camps and the refugee camps around the world. We hope this resolution will focus solely on refugees, and making sure they have the care and access to the basic rights and needs this virus warrants.

***Delegation from: Republic of Chile***  
***Represented by: Beachwood High School***

***Position Paper for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees***

The issues standing before the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees are the Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees, with a Case Study of Greece and Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Camps. The Republic of Chile is deeply committed to comply with its international obligations, including the right to asylum, and fervently supports national sovereignty of all nations.

**I. Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees, with a Case Study of Greece**

For many nations, the rights and roles of refugees in many social and political events have been contested. The divide between citizens and refugees in many nations and many areas of society causes polarization, and this polarization quickly leads into discrimination. During conflicts, the oppression that refugees experience is amplified to a tremendous degree, and often, unfortunately, excused because of patriotic and nationalistic values. As a nation that annually accepts more than two thousand refugees, Chile holds great interest in the wellbeing and integration of refugees. Defined by the 1951 Refugee Convention, refugees are those who have fled war, violence, conflict or persecution and have crossed an international border to find safety in another country. There are almost 80 million displaced peoples at the moment, with 26 of them being refugees. As many of those refugees flee their nations, host countries get overwhelmed, leading to heightened conflict.

In the Republic of Chile it is believed that the right to asylum is a fundamental right, which all people are entitled to. In 1972, Chile acceded to the *1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees* and its *1967 Protocol*. In 2010, *Refugee Law No.20.430* was adopted. In order to better serve and protect refugees, this law established the National Refugee Commission, which is in charge of adjudicating asylum claims and planning, promoting and coordinating public policies relating to the protection of the refugees and asylum seekers. Further, this commission contributes to the implementation of durable solutions for refugees. On 11 April 2018, Chile formally agreed to accede to the *1954 Convention relating to Status of Stateless Persons* and the *1961 Convention of the Reduction of Statelessness*. The current constitution of the Republic of Chile establishes the fact that “all children born in Chile should have the right to Chilean nationality with a legal framework for their protection” and the inter-institutional initiative between the Chilean government and the UNHCR confirmed Chilean nationality of “foreigners in transit” as well as those living in the nation on a long term basis. In recent times, Chile has become one of the biggest receivers of Venezuelan refugees, welcoming them into the nation and making great effort to integrate and provide documentation for those seeking asylum. The Government of Chile undertakes resettlement processing of refugee cases via the Dossier section, with the Resettlement Registration forms submitted through the UNHCR headquarters. With the increase of refugees, both the delegation of the Republic of Chile and its government look to improve awareness on the crises that asylum seekers face.

The Republic of Chile recognizes the wrongs of refugee discrimination and has approached the rising problem of the displacement in numerous different ways, consistently focusing on legislation focused on protection of refugees and displaced persons. The Chilean government and delegation would like to see many public security organs, people’s courts, local government, and judicial authorities to take action against refugee discrimination. Furthermore, the Republic of Chile would like to bring international attention to the Brasilia Declaration and the Mexico Plan of Action, both of which protect

refugees. These documents have been instrumental in refugee dealing in the Americas and are widely accepted and praised. Therefore, the Republic of Chile would like to adopt the standards present in these documents internationally. Lastly, the Chilean Government would like to offer aid in relocation and acclimatization of refugees and displaced persons to other nations in order to bring lasting international peace and progress. Overall, the Republic of Chile believes that the efforts to help and regulate refugees should be a united and international effort, and hopes effective resolutions against the abuse of refugees will be the result of this committee.

## **II. Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Camps**

COVID-19 has affected every country in the world, infecting more than 40 million people and causing more than a million deaths. This pandemic is a threat to everyone, but refugees are especially high risk. Unfortunately, quarantine, temperature screening, and frequent testing are not implemented in refugee camps because of the high costs. Pandemics have affected refugee camps in the past, but never at this rate and capacity. The UNHCR has provided generous aid and supplies to refugee camps, but many displaced people are still suffering from the overcrowding, lack of basic sanitation, and poor medical care. In light of these recent events, nations are debating the viability of housing refugees while also protecting their own citizens. Because of the increase in cases in deaths due to COVID-19, it is vital that all nations come together to preserve the rights and safety of refugees and displaced persons.

The Chilean government has taken many precautions during the pandemic to ensure the safety and well being for citizens and refugees. The closing of borders to all but the residents and citizens of Chile has helped to stop the spread of the virus. The implementation of a curfew has decreased the number of social gatherings, and, therefore, the spread of COVID-19. Foreigners and Chileans are subject to a 14-day quarantine upon their arrival to the nation. Furthermore, temperature screening is widespread to ensure the prevention and early containment of the disease. In the recent months, The Republic of Chile has introduced a reopening plan with different levels of permitted activities at each step. Starting with the lessening of local restriction with the goal being total reopening of the country. However, neighborhoods and cities may move forward and backward in the plan as they see fit. For communities under quarantine, residents may only obtain a permit to leave if under special circumstances. In order to keep the safety of Chilean citizens as the priority, the government has divided the cities based on their stages in the reopening program. Some cities are under a mandatory 24-hour quarantine, while others are only quarantined on weekends and holidays. Phases 3 and 4 came into effect on October 26, permitting some cities to lift all quarantining restrictions and allowing some business opening at 50% capacity.

Therefore, the Republic of Chile recognizes the importance of protection against COVID-19 of citizens and refugees alike. The Chilean government and its local authorities have pursued a variety of strategies to help quell the spread of the virus for the purpose of ensuring the safety and protection of its citizens, including suppression measures, closure of borders, and curfew implementation. Because of the rise in cases worldwide, the Republic of Chile believes that further legislation, funding, and testing are needed. These resources would be provided for citizens and refugees alike to help stop the spread of the virus. Furthermore, Chile urges nations to impose a mandatory fourteen day quarantine for all refugees entering the nation. Ultimately, the Chilean delegation and government are deeply concerned with the safety of refugees and citizens during this global pandemic and look forward to collaborating with other nations in seeking solutions.

*Delegation from: China*

*Represented by: Lake Ridge Academy*

### ***Position Paper for the UNHCR***

The issues presented before the UNHCR are: Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees and impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Camps. China is working on this issue to help its own citizens and others.

#### **I. Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees**

Refugees are risking their lives when they are trying to reach Europe by Mediterranean Sea. Once there are unexpected obstacles, vulnerable people are likely to lose their lives. Without enough preparation, people with no food, water or shelter can easily get killed. As the dangers are recognized by UNHCR, they approached IOM and UNODC for help to provide refugees with help when necessary.

In the Republic of China, UNHCR's goal is about the protection of individual refugees. In the past, UNHCR was attempting to provide individual refugees with protection, money and education if possible. Now, the UNHCR wants Chinese government to allow local integration of refugees. UNHCR's goal in 2007 was to ask for the equality treatment of North Koreans in China. China did not grant refugees with a legal status by that time.

Refugees in China did not receive equal treatment as well as legal status. Without legal status or treatment, it is hard for refugees to survive in China. UNHCR has been trying to get refugees completely legal status, public awareness, equal treatment.

It is necessary for refugees in China to get the public's attention about what they are suffering and how people treat them and how to treat them. The refugees would have a chance to live their lives only after they have a legal status. It is essential for the government to provide refugees with necessities and education as well.

#### **II. Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Camps**

After the coronavirus was spreading out at a fast rate, there are more obstacles ahead of the refugees who are struggling already. By 14 August 2020, 216 countries, areas or territories, 134 refugee host-hosting countries, and 79.5 million people have been greatly affected by COVID-19. Not enough water or polluted water weakens refugees' immune systems and puts them at an easy stage of being

infected. Without enough approach to health facilities, there is little probability for refugees to recover after being infected. Moreover, as most of the innate disabled people and refugees stay in low and middle income countries, they are less likely to find a place where they can use the health facilities.

UNHCR has already provided refugees with masks, gowns, oxygen concentrators, tents and many other medical supplies. In Addition, UNHCR has asked for help from USD as well.

The outbreak of COVID-19 originated in Wuhan Province with several cases associated with a seafood market in late December 2019. Coronavirus soon came down to every corner in the world with being really infectious. Under this situation, refugees and displaced people have been ignored and were banned from the health care services. UNHCR has done many activities in order to prevent the infections, support the education system. IRC is also offering refugees with health care services, food and medicine.

Because when COVID- 19 broke out coincides with the lunar New Year in China. People were taking millions of trips to be with their family which was really easy for COVID-19 to spread out. The Wuhan Province has also been locked down since it was where the virus appeared. People could not go inside the city or come out. The Chinese government then encouraged people to stay at home, cancel large public events, close schools. The refugees were under little protection when coronavirus spreaded out more. All the health facilities were crowded, all the masks were sold out. The refugees were exposed to the virus. The whole country was in panic and the resources were given to the most needed. Under this circumstance, the refugees were ignored and helpless.

The most desired solution is supplying refugees with enough tents, medical supplies, water, food. When the refugees were out of any basic supplies, there was a high probability for them to be infected and left untreated. With a number of refugees in China living under risks, the coronavirus was likely to be spread out more quickly. The refugees need places, clean water and clean food and need to be separated from others when they are infected. The refugees should not stay in a big group, instead they should be separated into little groups.

*Delegation from: The Republic of Egypt*

*Represented by: Lake Ridge Academy*

## **Position Paper for The United Nations High Committee for Refugees**

The topics before The United Nations High Committee for Refugees are: The Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees, and the Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Camps. The Republic of Egypt recognises the dangers both mass maritime migration, as well as crowding in immigrant camps during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis pose in our world today, and looks forward to discussing efforts to contain both.

### **I. Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees**

When faced with two choices: traveling the dangerous and unforgiving waters of the Mediterranean Sea to a dream of a life without fear, or stay on land that is equally dangerous and unforgiving without the prospect of a safe life, hundreds of thousands of people choose the former. This is by far the biggest issue in migration through sea: it happens in places around the world such as to the US and Eastern Asia, but it is nowhere near the volume seen in Europe. While maritime migration remains a large problem in Europe, its frequency has declined in prevalence in recent years. According to the UN World Migration Report, in 2016, 362 thousand people traversed the Mediterranean Sea, mostly landing in Greece and Italy. The next year however, that number fell by more than half to 172 thousand, and the next year dropped further to 117 thousand. Additionally, the destination of these migrants has changed: many more are now arriving in Spain, and other western Mediterranean countries than in Italy as had been prevalent before. The decreasing number of migrants has been tied to greater cooperation between European coastal countries, stricter coastal security especially around the Libyan coast, and counter smuggling efforts. What is perhaps more concerning is the fact that this newly popular western route of migration is deadlier than the former; in fact, the western route accounted for approximately 65% of the deaths in 2018. Indeed as the shift towards a western route of migration has formed, the death rate for crossings over the Mediterranean Sea has risen from 2.6% in 2017 to 10% in 2019. It is imperative to not only address the magnitude of ongoing maritime migration, but also the increasing deadliness of this passage.

It is important to note the actions taken by several European countries to mitigate this crisis, including a 10 point plan to reduce smuggling of migrants in 2015, and a policy that increased the amount of asylums granted and a reduction in the waiting time in 2016. Many coastal countries have also increased patrol in their regions of the coast. These measures have proven somewhat effective in reducing the quantity of migration through the Mediterranean Sea based on the aforementioned statistics. However if the situations in the countries where a majority of migrants originate from deteriorates (mostly western Asia), these numbers could spike again which could prove more deadly than ever seen before.

The Republic of Egypt is cautiously optimistic about the future outlook of maritime migration. Unequivocally, the European countries that enacted policies up till now must continue that precedent. This includes heightened coastal surveillance from every country, countries increasing the amount of refugees taken in, reducing the time it takes to apply for asylum, destroying vessels used by smugglers, and increased places for migrants to go to. Additionally and perhaps more importantly, the committee must consider ways to reduce western Mediterranean migration. To do so will fall heavily on the

shoulders of northern African countries. These countries must follow the lead of the European countries and put in place similar measures. To expand these measures, countries such as Greece, Italy, Spain, and Germany must be more open to welcoming immigrants. All countries must not turn away vessels, rather take them in and act as if they were coming by land, whatever their country's policies may be. Enacting these measures will reduce the infamous tragedies of sunken makeshift ships that result in thousands of innocent lives lost, thereby reducing the deadliness and prevalence of illegal maritime migration.

## **II. The Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Camps**

The world has seen the failure of governments around the world in their efforts to contain the novel coronavirus. At the same time there is an equivalent epidemic of conflict causing millions to seek refuge in search of a better, safe life. 79.5 million people across the world are currently displaced, and 26 million of those are in or seeking refuge as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to devastate countries everywhere. Seeking refuge during the times of COVID not only hurts refugees, but also the countries to which these refugees are going, as they can serve as a vector for transmission. As such, it is necessary to address ways to reduce the amount of cases seen in the refugee camps to reduce the death toll of refugees and citizens alike. The problem lies in the nature of these camps: 80% of these refugees are in camps that are overpopulated, overcrowded, underfunded, and under informed, the epitome of an unsafe environment during these challenging times. This makes containing the pandemic exponentially trickier than the already difficult situations across the world. The issue of national sovereignty also arises: are countries bound by the 1951 refugee convention regardless of current travel bans? In other words, must countries accept refugees who could potentially be carriers of the disease? We must address both of these issues and look for a way to increase safety for the millions of lives of already seeking refuge in search of a safe life.

Recently, the UNHCR passed a \$255 million package to lessen the effects of COVID-19 on refugees as part of a larger plan that will total \$1.05 billion. Research has warned of large gatherings of maskless people in close spaces, and this is what this relief package seeks to combat. Egypt has taken many steps to mitigate the virus in and out of the country including a mask mandate, and exporting over 10 tons of PPE to countries in need, and trying to contain inappropriate social behavior. The continued cooperation of countries is vital to contain the virus in these camps.

The Republic of Egypt has a plan that is threefold. One, countries must contribute both money and PPE to refugee camps, especially those that are extremely overcrowded such as in Greece and Italy. While masks and other types of PPE are not universally successful nor unanimously accepted, they will help slow the spread of the virus in camps and create a safer environment for everyone involved. In addition, camps should be supplied with thermometers to use as frequently as possible. This could be a way to find and isolate those who have been infected by the virus; consequently, the number of infected people in the general population of these camps will decline and those infected can receive treatment. Finally, there should be a push to limit the amount of people migrants see, cohort those who do see each other, and to socially distance themselves from others to the extent they can. This follows advice given by the CDC and WHO. While we understand the fact that these measures are not feasible everywhere especially with regard to social distancing in already overcrowded camps, we hope the committee will enact these measures because even the smallest measures will be amplified and go a long way to reducing the death toll as this virus rages on.

*Delegation From: France*

*Represented By: Lake Ridge Academy*

**Position Paper for the High Commission of Refugees**

The issues presented before The High Commission of Refugees are: Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees and Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Camps. France recognizes these topics are two rising concerns for both France and the rest of the world, and looks forward to coming up with a resolution with the other delegates.

**I. Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees**

The UNHCR has been working to support refugees from Asia, Africa, and the Middle East by creating the 1982 Law of the Sea. The 1982 Law of the Sea protected the freedom rights of refugees to navigation rights. Despite the law established, Maritime Movement for refugees in these places have increasingly become threatened. After hitting the lowest number of refugee travelers across the Mediterranean Sea to Europe, there were found to be 2,275 people dead including men, women, and children. In 2015, the Bay of Bengal was said to be three times as dangerous to travel across as the Mediterranean later leading to the death of over 1,000 people traveling with their own boats. In response to the high volume of deaths from maritime movements, the Ali Declaration was brought to life. Following the declaration, the UN General Assembly called a meeting to address the changes of governance of the international alliance. Due to European state changes in policy, the regulation on travel had become increasingly stricter. The UNHCR seeks abolishment of border captivity and the allowance of European states to let in refugees. The UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR, and the UNODC are working on gathering support from states surrounding those who have previous involvement.

With Africa being the biggest source of asylum seekers brought into France, France has been faced with concerns of African Migration. In 2017 alone, 38,026 requests were processed out of 100,775 applicants total and the main sources being Sudan, Guinea, and The Democratic Republic of Congo. Due to their lack of support, immigrants have been left to fight for themselves often leading them to be illegally trafficked. In order to combat this problem, France along with other countries within Europe, have worked with the African Union to rescue refugees trapped in places such as Libya and furthermore but an end to human trafficking of migrants. France has been increasing the amounts of visas given out to migrants in order to secure protection of the people within their country. France's parliament has just recently passed a new bill with 228 votes out of 367 that shorten application time, doubles time for detaining immigrants, and now enforces one year prison sentence for illegal immigrants entering France. The purpose of this new bill is to make the application process as well as deportation more efficient while allowing more support to those who are granted access into France with integration and language support. France hopes to focus on hosting people with full support rather than hosting all the people. In 2018, France granted access to 33,000 immigrants, only one-fourth of total people who applied for asylum.

While France feels that it is important for states to take in immigrants, it is most important that the governance of the International Alliance be used to ensure state contribution of safe maritime travel of immigrants. France supports the increase of regulations of states to take in immigrants. France on the contrary feels that it is important for the application process to be sped up and the deportation to be more efficient in order to equally divide the people among places at a quicker rate. France feels it is more important to grant access the amount of people it can support in integration rather than all of the immigrants. France hopes to work to end the illegal maritime movement while making the

division of immigrants among countries fair and efficient for integration of immigrants into the country.

## **II. Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Camps**

According to the UNHCR, in 2019 there were around 26 million refugees in the world and almost half of them are minors. Nearly eighty percent of these refugees were now moved to places that lack resources to support daily needs. These refugees are given camps that provide necessities and health services that are formally protected by UN peacekeepers. The International Organization for Migration worked with the UNHCR to run these camps. Emergency shelters have been provided and maintained by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. With the COVID-19 pandemic on the rise since first declared by WHO on March 11th, 2020, refugee camps have taken a big impact. Many refugee camps face the impossible challenge of preventing the spread of COVID-19 as they lack the ability to social distance and provide sanitary measures. Camps are seeing a large increase in the number of cases within their camps. On April 16th, there have been 122 countries which have refugee places announcing transmission of COVID-19. To act in response to the outbreak, the UN has started supplying COVID-19 camp units to care for both hosts of refugees and the refugees themselves. They have also started a group of 2,000 volunteers to work on sharing information regarding COVID-19 to refugees and their hosting countries. The UNHCR has temporarily shut down the transfer for refugees among different countries to new placement due to travel restrictions and the closing of borders. France would like to expand on these steps to prepare treatment facilities for refugees and their hosting countries as well as their information plan to spread awareness.

In France, the refugees are being left at camps with no supplies and a huge lack of sanitation. With these camps being packed full of people, the refugees are unable to practice social distancing or separate when symptoms occur. France is working to move people in informal camps like Dunkirk and Calais to accommodation centers. Unfortunately with the lack of transportation, the people are being moved at a slow rate that is leading to a fast spread of COVID-19. The accommodation centers are only built to fit 400 people while there is a need from 1,500 refugees in Northern France alone. On top of COVID-19, France faces weakening health of refugees in camps as people are forced to sleep outside, lack protection from rodents, and weak immune systems of all ages. With France taking in 17,350 refugees, they are not equipped to supply sanitary living medical care for all. France is still willing to take in minor refugees left by the EU.

France would first like to address the health concern within campsites by putting together a fund to supply the setup of more space to accommodate for more people as well as distancing mitigation measures. These funds would also insure the supply of clean water and food as well as sanitation materials to use within the camp sites. France strongly feels that the addition of camp units to care for refugees as well as suppliers of camps is dire. With the transmission of COVID-19 being of such high percentage, the ability for people to access health support is necessary. France also hopes to increase transportation of refugees and suppliers in order to bring people to safer campsites at a faster rate.

*Delegation from: the Republic of Ghana*

*Represented by: Saint Joseph Academy*

***Position Paper for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees***

The issues before the United Nations High Commission for Refugees are: Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees; and the Impact of Covid-19 on Refugee Camps. The Republic of Ghana is committed to addressing these issues and creating solutions to establish safe maritime passage, immediate assimilation, and relief to refugee camps impacted by Covid-19.

**I. Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees**

The Republic of Ghana recognizes the dangers many refugees face when fleeing violence and danger in their home countries. In desperate efforts to run, refugees will take any source of transportation out of the country available. Unfortunately, the least safe option - escape by boat - is usually the one most accessible. If the ship is not attacked or does not sink and the refugees survive the journey, a new hardship lies ahead. Finding a country willing to accept refugees at sea has been an issue for thousands of people. Once accepted into a country integration is yet another difficulty. While a majority of the refugee population in Ghana arrives through land, the Republic of Ghana is devoted to implementing strategies for safer maritime movement and smarter integration.

Over 14,000 refugees reside in the Republic of Ghana as of 2019, and this number has been increasing since. Following the civil wars in Liberia, there has been an influx of Liberian refugees seeking asylum. Ghana generally accepts all refugees and begins the integration process swiftly. The Ghana Refugee Board is the leading organization in the country, tasked with coordinating all refugee activities and camps. They have been successful in integrating hundreds of refugees through their economic integration plan. This plan's main focus is ensuring refugees become employable, find work, and participate in civic and political matters.

The Republic of Ghana looks forward to diplomatic debate and creating solutions for safer maritime travel for refugees and effective integration methods. A combined effort to help eliminate unsafe transportation by seas by fraudulent individuals and replacing them with United Nations approved transportation services can reduce dangerous maritime activity that results in death. The successful integration of refugees into their host nation would have economic benefits for both the host nation and the refugees themselves.

## **II. Impact of Covid-19 on Refugee Camps**

Since the outbreak of Covid-19 in late 2019, millions of people from all demographics have felt the effect of the virus. Refugees in camps, however, have been impacted disproportionately. In countries with large populations of refugees, the less than ideal circumstances in refugee camps put everyone in them at a higher risk than the citizens of that country. The Republic of Ghana understands how pressing the issue of Covid outbreaks in refugee camps is and is firm in its stance that this must be addressed immediately.

The Republic of Ghana has remained vigilant against Covid-19 and has been fervent in helping not only those who contracted the virus but also those who are at high risk. The Masks for Refugees by Refugees Initiative has supplied thousands of masks for refugees in an effort to stop further spread of the virus. This has been a largely successful project in helping to create work for refugees while keeping them safe. In response to the lack of resources in refugee camps, the Ghanaian government has ensured that camps have adequate supplies for social distancing and keeping accommodations sanitary.

The Republic of Ghana believes that a collective approach to providing relief, necessities, and supplies to unequipped refugee camps is essential to preventing future outbreaks. The distribution of these supplies ensures that camps can acclimate to the large populations they hold. Decreasing the number of cases should be the primary objective of countries that have many refugee camps.

*Delegation from: the Republic of Haiti*

*Represented by: Saint Joseph Academy*

***Position Paper for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees***

The issues before the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees are: Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees and Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Camps. The Republic of Haiti desires a swift resolution to any and all issues pertaining to statelessness, as well as increased COVID-19 relief policy for refugee camps.

**I. Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees.**

Maritime travel as a means through which individuals seeking asylum can reach a destination draws attention to a variety of safety issues and concerns. It is important that refugees are a direct product of a culmination of political and societal tensions, and that statelessness can occur for a large variety of reasons. It is crucial that asylum seekers are met with heightened safety, and easier methods through which to integrate themselves into general populations. No single nation can on its own resolve issues caused by statelessness, and it is the hope of Haiti that the committee can reach a universal resolution.

Haiti has worked in conjunction with many other nations in order to join international agreements and conversations to counter statelessness, an issue unfortunately quite prevalent within Haitian borders; however, this offers unique insight into the question of opportunities for refugees. A promotion of safe travel procedures should be released publicly, as well as a reform of the immigration process in order to reduce the level of desperation needed to travel unsafely by water. Temporary refugee settlements should provide improve education and healthcare resources in order to aid those in liminal periods of integration. It is important that all nations are reminded of the common factor connecting all individuals to refugees, that being a shared humanity.

**II. Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Camps.**

COVID-19 has brought a period of unrest and unprecedented suffering throughout the world since its establishment as a global issue. Individuals within refugee camps, and those facing all levels of statelessness, are suffering issues of heightened transmission due to overcrowding, lack of medical resources, and issues maintaining base level sanitation.

The UNHCR reported that globally, 21,000 of the world's 30 million refugees have tested positive for COVID-19 within 97 countries. In such refugee camps, individuals will often have issues obtaining proper testing and care. This will lead to an unprecedented, and unmeasured, spread of the virus throughout temporary settlements. With an inability to be properly tested and diagnosed, individuals positive for COVID-19 will be unable to isolate themselves properly in order to prevent the further spread of the virus. When possible, the UNHCR has been airlifting emergency supplies, and aiding in the establishment of isolation units within temporary refugee camps and settlements.

A continuation of the committee to provide supplies and emergency aid as well as an increased push to make the science behind the virus accessible to all populations is the only way through which to help relieve refugees being negatively impacted by the COVID-19 virus. Distribution of proper PPE for both refugees and healthcare workers and volunteers is of utmost importance, as well as distribution of resources explaining methods through which to prevent the spread of the virus to afflicted refugee populations.

*Delegation From: the Republic of Hungary*

*Represented By: Archbishop Hoban High School*

## **Position Paper for the United Nations High Commission For Refugees**

The two issues presented before the United Nations Commission are Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees, and the Impact of Covid-19 on Refugee Camps. Hungary is willing to find ways to help refugees who come into countries on the Mediterranean Sea, as long as those seeking asylum follow the rules put in place by said country. Hungary, however, has seen a trend regarding Covid-19 cases and asylum seekers, and is unwilling to let large numbers of refugees into our nation.

### **I. Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees**

During World War II, Hungary was welcoming to many European Refugees, including those from Poland and France. In 1947, Hungary was taken over by communist regime, and closed its borders to migration. In 1987, Hungary witnessed large groups of ethnic Hungarian migrants from Romania seek asylum here. In 1991, war on Hungary's southern border caused 60,000 refugees, most of which were ethnic Hungarians, to become migrants. From 1988 to 1995, Hungary had over 130,000 registered refugees in our country, 75% of which were ethnic Hungarians. Hungary joined the European Union in 2004, and we implemented their asylum measures. However, Hungary is a Christian country, and therefore we use these values as motivation for our policies. During the 2015 and 2016 refugee crisis, Hungary was asked to find homes for 1,294 refugees, but in order to protect our values and country, the Hungarian government launched a campaign to help with the immigrant crisis. Acceptance of large numbers of refugees depleted our resources, which forced us to implement restrictions and rely on the support of the international community. The southern border of Hungary had transit zones for those seeking asylum in our country to wait in, but earlier this year was shut down by the EU. Hungary now has reception centers for asylum seekers.

Since Hungary is a landlocked country, refugees coming in from the Mediterranean Sea and landing in our country is not a concern. However, Hungary is willing to work with countries that border the Mediterranean Sea on methods of preventing and placing these asylum seekers. Hungary is unable to house refugees, but will provide supplies to support the efforts of our neighbors. Hungary believes that cooperation between nations is crucial to help combat this problem.

### **II. Impact of Covid-19 On Refugee Camps**

Since the coronavirus pandemic began, there has been close to 1.2 million deaths, and in Hungary, there have been 1,758 deaths, which is far too many. Since the novel coronavirus was declared a pandemic in March, Hungary has closed borders to international travelers, put travel bans on several countries, and closed schools. Due to a spike in cases in August, the borders have remained closed to all foreigners, with a few exceptions. Hungary wants to stop the spread of coronavirus in our country and between other countries. Hungary's goal for this issue is to find ways to control the numbers of refugees travelling between and entering countries, as well as controlling the spread of coronavirus.

The Hungarian Government has seen a trend between growing Covid-19 cases and immigration. Some of Hungary's first Covid-19 cases were from Iranians in our country. We have seen this correlation between immigrants and coronavirus cases in several other countries as well. Therefore, Hungary plans to keep the border closed until Covid-19 cases are down, so that we can put the safety of our citizens first. We do not want any unwanted sickness entering our country, especially from nations with a poor healthcare and poor control of this situation. Due to the severity of the situation, we will provide funds and supplies towards helping refugee camps, as long as we do not have to put our nation at risk to do so. Once again, cooperation with other nations is key. Hungary believes that more accessible testing and health related products like masks are part of the solution. When dealing with refugees, relief organizations and foreign aid will be very helpful. Hungary emphasises the importance of collaboration between countries for shared responsibility of issues.

*Delegation from: the Republic of India*

*Represented by: Beaumont School*

## **Position Paper for the United Nations High Council for Refugees**

The issues before the High Council for Refugee are: Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees; and Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Camps. The Republic of India supports UNHCR's commitment to assisting refugees, but maintains concerns about the effects of the current influx of refugees and asylum seekers in India.

### **I. Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees**

Recently, many refugees have sought asylum overseas, with thousands crossing the Mediterranean Sea and the Bay of Bengal to reach countries like Australia, Greece, Thailand, and Indonesia. However, this method of travel has become increasingly dangerous, with 1,100 people dying in the first six months of 2015 alone, just a fraction of the deaths that played a part in the 2015 Bay of Bengal boat crisis. In addition to facing harsh waters, limited space and food, and unhygienic conditions when travelling by boat, refugees also face limited employment or integration opportunities once they have reached their final destination. Governments are often reluctant to extend full working or citizenship rights to refugees, and lack programs aimed at assisting refugees with becoming legal, contributing citizens.

India has been the recipient of hundreds of thousands of refugees coming across the Indian Ocean and Bay of Bengal by boat from Myanmar, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. India does recognize the hardships and dangers these people have faced on their journey, and aims to improve maritime safety for refugees. Additionally, India does seek to provide refugees with integration opportunities, either through the Indian government, which aims to assist refugees from neighboring countries, or the UNHCR mandate, which applies to refugees from non-neighboring countries. Refugees can be granted either government visas or UN refugee identity cards, or can apply for naturalization through the 2019 Citizenship Act Amendment. However, in recent years India has become saturated with refugees, limiting opportunities for Indian citizens and creating a desire to limit refugee influx. As a non-signatory to the 1951 UN refugee convention and its 1967 Protocol, India is not required to extend any legal protection to refugees, and has sought to limit and expel migration from Myanmar, specifically of Rohingya Muslims. These migrants, many of whom travel to India by boat, bring with them terrorism and gang violence, disrupt the demographics of India, and contribute to cultural tensions. Therefore, India is a proponent of increased but discretionary integration opportunities for refugees, as well as international reforms and efforts regarding the safety of maritime refugees.

The Republic of India advocates for increased naval presence and spending, stemming from neighboring countries as well as UN troops, in the Indian Ocean and Mediterranean Sea to assist with supplies, search and rescue procedures, and guiding refugees to safe ports. Additionally, India supports the Search And Rescue Convention from the International Maritime Organization and increased responsibilities for private and commercial ships to provide aid to maritime refugees when possible. In regards to integration opportunities for refugees, the Republic of India is in favor of decreasing barriers for refugees to become citizens, and extending UNHCR protection to refugees who cannot be assisted by the government. However, India also supports the rights of individual countries to decide which refugees can be accepted and which should be classified as illegal immigrants. India proposes negotiations with neighboring

countries, including Myanmar, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Thailand to discuss heightened rates of immigration and internal changes that can dampen this trend. Additionally, India urges the UNHCR to provide refugees with pathways to citizenship through cooperation with governments, and providing refugees with employment opportunities, such as teaching their native language, learning a trade, or participating in unskilled labor, through UN sponsored organizations.

## **II. Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Camps**

The 2020 COVID-19 pandemic has severely affected refugee camps, as little to no social distancing can be enforced, quality of hygiene and healthcare is already subpar, and aid organizations face increased difficulties in supplying products like masks and sanitizers. The UNHCR has committed to providing clean water and medical supplies, and tracking the spread of the virus within refugee camps. The exact number of refugees who have contracted or passed away from COVID-19 is difficult to pinpoint due to an extreme lack of testing, but as of the end of September 2020, 32,000 of the world's refugees tested positive. Positive testing rates in refugee camps have been lower than those in other areas, though this may be due to undertesting, isolation from the country's larger population, and the fact that, according to UNHCR, half of all refugees are under age 18, making them less likely to contract the virus or present symptoms severe enough to warrant a test being administered.

With 7.31 million cases as of mid October, COVID-19 has presented a serious threat to India as a whole, as well as people residing in refugee camps. As refugee camps tend to be densely populated and poverty stricken, the virus spreads quickly. However, the Republic of India has declared masks and sanitizers essential commodities, increased testing and tracing measures, and set up food banks. Citizens are offered free testing through the universal healthcare system, as well as funds from the government's \$265 billion relief fund, though these programs have not been extended to refugees. However, the UNHCR has provided refugees with aid in the form of food and small allowances, and even passage to their country of origin in some cases. The Republic of India recognizes that the assistance extended to refugees in regards to COVID-19 has been insufficient, as it has stressed the protection of legal Indian citizens during the pandemic. However, India recognizes the need to stamp out COVID-19 in refugee camps around the world, in order to slow the spread of the virus and protect vulnerable populations, and advocates for increased testing and tracking procedures.

The Republic of India advocates for cooperation between the UN, Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders), and the international community to send out healthcare professionals into refugee camps to implement systemic testing and tracking procedures in hopes of eliminating the spread of the virus. Additionally, India suggests that countries allocate as much land as possible to refugee camps in order to implement social distancing and quarantining procedures, and provide educational material to residents explaining the sincerity of COVID-19 and best practices to avoid infection. Lastly, India supports campaigns to supply refugee camps with masks and sanitizers, and calls on large, developed countries, and those with low positive test rates to donate. However, India urges all countries to consider their own citizens' safety above refugees in order to protect their economy, culture, and religion.

*Delegation from: Indonesia*

*Represented by: Lake Ridge Academy*

## **Position paper for United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)**

### **I. Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees**

With strains on a global humanitarian system failing to find solutions both for individuals fleeing persecution and for overburdened host communities, a new way of thinking about protection and humanitarian response is needed. Preventing some of the unwelcome consequences of the current system will require approaches that recognize capitalization on the skills, experience, and economic values refugees can bring. With the reality that a large amount of refugee situations can continue for many years; there is growing focus on ways to better integrate refugees into countries of first asylum, particularly by ensuring they have access to opportunities for livelihoods. This reports the pitfalls and promise of livelihood programs.

Due to security issues and policies in countries of origin and destination, many refugees have to wait for years in Indonesia. Currently, a refugee living in Indonesia waits around five years before a third-country settlement location is secured. During this time, refugees do not have the right to work, therefore cannot generate income for themselves. Most of the refugees rely on international humanitarian aid as their legal assets, including Presidential Decree number 125/ 2016 on Refugees from Abroad which does not regulate temporary work rights of the refugees.

The solution to this problem is for the policymakers to give refugees the opportunity to generate income for themselves and family. By doing this, it will open many doors for the refugees in Indonesia and will allow them to contribute to society and be productive citizens.

### **II. Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Camps**

As the world begins to reopen and begin to function as a normal society, world refugees are left in catastrophe. Almost 90% of the world's refugees live in developing countries that struggle to provide basic needs, let alone battle a global pandemic. According to the International Rescue Committee, 34 struggling countries could have up to 1 billion COVID-19 infections and even 3.2 million deaths. Refugees face immense challenges that make some communities more prone to infectious diseases; from living in crowded conditions that make social distancing nearly impossible to even lack of clean water for hand washing and sanitizing.

Currently, in Indonesia, there are 11,192 confirmed cases and 845 deaths from COVID-19. Positive cases have been recorded in all 34 provinces of Indonesia, all of which have significant differences in local health capacities. Currently, there are also 14,000 refugees present in Indonesia who are at elevated risk. Beyond restrictions to work legally, refugees face additional restrictions to withstand the health and economic situations posed by the virus, including services, labour market, and stigma.

One solution to the impact of COVID-19 on refugees is to supply everyone the adequate equipment to keep everyone safe and protected from the spreading of the virus. This solution can be done by giving refugees access to masks that are designed to prevent spread and give the refugees access to clean water to help satize and keep everyone and everything clean. Another solution is to help the refugees practice social distancing. This can be accomplished by teaching everyone to maintain 3 feet apart from each other when they are wearing masks and 6 feet apart when no one is wearing masks.

*Islamic Republic of Iran*

*Laurel School*

**United Nations High Commission for Refugees**

### **I. Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees**

The Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran is honored to be able to discuss the topic of maritime movement and integration opportunities for refugees with this committee. There has been a prolonged problem revolving refugees arriving to a new country from ships. These ships, similar to camps, are extremely crowded, the healthy safety is poor, and they are not designed for carrying hundreds of refugees across the water so often. This is a huge problem for Greek refugees since they are the most common refugees to cross large bodies of water, but this also affects many other refugees. Along with the new uncertainties of how the pandemic will affect maritime movements, there is also the threat of risky pathways and, again, public health. There are no health screenings or scouting of safe pathways before these refugee ships make their long and dangerous trips, which are critically important.

Although maritime movements more specifically affect Greek refugees and not Afghan refugees, who normally enter Iran, we still are willing and ready to assist these refugees in any way. Especially during the pandemic, Iran wants to make sure refugees are not stuck on ships that are carrying them between countries. We know that especially in the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea, there have been many reports of ships in distress with many men, women and children stuck on board. These issues were only solved after such life-threatening problems and that is what we want to try and avoid as much as possible.

The Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that countries should work together to try and solve these dire issues. We believe that a plan for creating safe pathways, along with health screenings and less crowded boats will make a much safer and efficient boat ride. Amid the recent pandemic there is an even greater necessity for public health especially since countries fear outsiders bringing the virus into their country and many refugees crowded on a boat together is very distressing. We are very excited to work with other countries who have similar views to try and create a beneficial solution to this difficult problem.

### **II. Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Camps**

The Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran is honoured to be able to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on refugee camps during this conference. Coronavirus or COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic on March 11, 2020 by the World Health Organization. Although the coronavirus has been detrimental to all people around the world, it especially affects refugees who live in camps or in close proximity to others without good sanitation. In many refugee camps, health conditions are very poor and due to the overcrowded nature of these camps, one person falling ill from the coronavirus can wipe

out an entire camp. Along with coronavirus having a huge impact on refugee camps themselves, that impact also carries to refugees trying to enter countries after having been in these camps. Since most countries closed their borders in late March-early April, refugees who have been trying to enter a country to seek a better life cannot enter the country.

In Iran, there was already a previous influx of refugees especially coming from Afghanistan. There have been many improvements to the lives of refugees in Iran such as the 2015 policy that all Afghan children have access to primary and secondary education. Along with other policies and laws that are being put in place with the help of the UN and other countries, Iran was making progress on improving conditions and futures for refugees, but COVID-19 has held us at a standstill. Most refugees from Afghanistan either go to Pakistan or Iran and because of the amount of refugees, there has been a shortage of space, resources, and money. The threat of the virus in these camps is exponentially more than anywhere else because of the state they are in, and this is making some refugees choose to return to Afghanistan, although it is still a very dangerous place.

Iran understands that the issue of refugees returning to Afghanistan or choosing to stay in these high-risk camps is very dangerous and wants to try to help in any way we can. We recognize that other high-risk camps are some Greek refugee camps along with many others and would love to work with other countries to create a solution. We believe that trying to ensure the safety of refugees along with our own citizens is extremely important at this trying time. We are excited to work with other countries to hopefully solve this issue.

***Delegation: State of Israel***

***Represented By: Mentor High School***

***Committee: United Nations High Commission on Refugees***

The Issues presented before this council are: Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees and; Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Camps. While Israel recognizes the importance and scope of the issues presented above, it is the paramount goal of this delegation to ensure the safety and security and citizens of the State of Israel. Israel hopes that a solution that benefits all involved can be reached.

### **I. Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees**

The issue of maritime security and immigration is one of great importance to Israel, due to our border on the Medditarean coast and the large influx of refugees over the past few years. In 2016 alone, nearly 400,000 refugees risked their lives completing the perilous crossing over the Mediterranean. Oftentimes, the few refugees who do reach the national borders they wished

to cross, such as Greek and Israeli coasts, are malnourished, sick, and dying. While this is a heartbreaking situation, it is the harsh reality of crossing the Mediterranean.

In an attempt to aid in the resolution of this situation, Israel has continued its vital work with Frontex, serving as a base of operations on the West Bank. Israel has also provided aid to NGOs wishing to patrol the coastline. While some may claim that Israel's harsh stance on refugee acceptance is cruel and unfair, the geopolitical situation which Israel finds itself in demands a harsh response, if the wellbeing of Israel natives is considered. The numerous religious and political differences harbored by the people of the Middle East and Africa, and the consequences of allowing these differences to grow have been slowed by the strong policies on immigration that are held by Israel.

It is the firm belief of Israel that in order to quell this growing crisis, efforts must be made to curb the need for immigration, and to better implement systems for accepting refugees. Further aid to nations with strong emigration and a stronger response from Frontex and NGOs is necessary for a solution to be reached. Israel is hopeful that with communication between the member states of the UNHCR and NGOs, a solution can be reached.

## **II. Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Camps**

With the outbreak of the Coronavirus Pandemic, the safety of Israeli citizens has been of utmost importance, with current guidelines in Israel limiting gatherings to ten people, and mandating social distancing. Because of these measures, the total number of cases in Israel proper is quite low. This is however not the case in the Palestinian Refugee Camps on the West Bank. Due to the number of refugees, and lack of room, COVID-19 has proliferated greatly in these camps.

Israel has made numerous attempts to enforce guidelines in these camps to limit the spread of COVID-19, though this has been ineffective at curbing the spread of the virus. Nearly 1.5 Million Refugees reside in the camps, and the average amount of room allotted to each refugee is insufficient to ensure proper social distancing. Israel has done everything within its power to continue to provide a safe and healthy environment for these refugees, even with the herculean difficulty of this task. The number of refugees within Israel's borders pose a health threat not only to themselves but to the native citizens of Israel.

Israel is seeking international cooperation in its efforts to aid the refugees residing within its borders. More room must be given to these refugees in order to provide them with safety, and Israel is incapable of doing that. Israel is open to any offers of aid in the form of more supplies or the taking on of refugees from these camps, and hopes that a solution that ensures the safety of every human being can be reached quickly.

*Delegation from: the Italian Republic*

*Represented by: Hawken School*

*Position Paper for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees*

The issues before the United Nations High Commission for Refugees are: Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees; and the Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Camps.

**I. Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, response to the refugee crises faces new challenges amongst ongoing ones. Challenges include refugee tragedies, decreased integration opportunities due to the pandemic, and a lack of quarantine spaces. Italy is at the epicenter of this crises due to its location in the Mediterranean Sea and has reported that 23,000 migrants have arrived this year. Additionally, Italy is one of the world's hardest hit coronavirus hotspots, with the Worldometer indicating over 525,782 cases and 37,338 deaths. Italy plays a crucial role in monitoring Mediterranean waters through various mechanisms, primarily in cooperation with Libya. Italy supports cooperation with African nations in order to prevent refugee tragedies and monitor maritime movements. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Italian reception centers are overwhelmed, and several integration programs and services have slowed down. Italy would also like to emphasize maintaining the health and safety of Italian citizens as well as refugees during the pandemic.

Due to the health emergency, the Italian Interior Minister, Health Minister, Infrastructure Minister, and Foreign Minister signed a decree in April 2020, active until July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 declaring that Italian ports were an unsafe landing spot for migrants and refugees. Since Italy is a COVID-19 hotspot, this measure was vital to protect Italian citizens and rescued people since their safety would not be guaranteed in midst of the pandemic. Since the expiration of this decree, Italy has worked to help humanitarian search and rescue ships. For example, early this October, fines on aid groups bringing undocumented migrants to Italy's shores, violating official orders, or entering unauthorized have reduced from up to 1.18 million to 59,000 euros. Additionally, migrants and refugees who face inhumane treatment in their home country will not be turned away, making it easier to obtain special residence permits and working visas. Furthermore, Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte and EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen published on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 that they are "committed to work together... on the basis of the Commission's proposals for the New Pact on Migration and Asylum." They agree that the EU needs to balance responsibilities, support the right to asylum, create a more sustainable approach to search and rescue at sea, and engage with partner countries in Africa. In fact, Italy believes that cooperating with African countries is vital to prevent refugee tragedies. The Italy-Libya Memorandum is an agreement in which Italy provides financial assistance to Libyan coastguard to execute migrant rescue operations. The agreement was updated and renewed in February 2020, enhancing the protection of vulnerable people, such as victims of illegal trafficking through Libya, and prevents people from making the treacherous journey across the Mediterranean. The agreement will also help manage migration flows in line with international human rights laws and the Geneva Convention. However, effectively quarantining migrants continues to pose a problem, especially considering the UNHCR reporting that migrant crossings across the Mediterranean are up 91% compared to last year. In August, people in reception centers in Sicily were transferred outside the island, due to dozens testing positive for the coronavirus. After 220 people tested positive for COVID-19 in a camp in Lampedusa, 2,500 people were evacuated and quarantined for two weeks on large ferries. Integration programs in Italy have also slowed, with many services suspended or unable to cater to as many people. However, the new 2020-2022 UNICORE agreement, which provides study opportunities for young refugees and migrants, recently awarded university scholarships to twenty refugee students in collaboration with eleven universities. UNICORE will launch the first steps in reopening integration programs after slow downs due to the pandemic.

Whereas the current situation, Italy emphasizes cooperation with African nations to prevent refugee tragedies and regulate migration flows. As well as the Italy-Libya Memorandum, strengthening the role of the UNHCR in Libya, such as through the Emergency Evacuation Transit Mechanism, will help achieve these goals. Regarding migration policy across Europe, Italy is currently in the process of collaborating with the EU. Prime Minister Conte has already gained the support of Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, emphasizing balanced redistributions of

migrants and refugees. Italy is also in the process of relaunching integration programs. However, Italy calls for support in effectively quarantining refugees. We would like to continue rescuing vulnerable people at sea, whilst distributing the flow of incoming migrants across many countries due to a lack of capacity at reception centers. Finally, Italy would like to remind the committee of the high COVID-19 death tolls on the country, which pose a threat everyone involved, and recognize our need to protect our own citizens as well as providing a safe environment for refugees.

## **II. Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Camps**

After the World Health Organization received the first reports of COVID-19 cases from China in December 2019, authorities in 215 countries and territories have reported 39.9 million cases and 1.1 million deaths as of October 2020, with the Italian Republic being one of the hardest hit countries in Europe. On October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the Italian Council of Ministers decided to extend the nationwide state of emergency until January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Additionally, the coronavirus pandemic has impacted the lives of refugees, with the UNHCR stating that 21,000 of the world's 30 million refugees have tested positive for the virus across 97 countries. The first case of a migrant in Italy contracting COVID-19 occurred at a reception center in Milan on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Citing Help Refugees, Italy currently hosts 170,000 refugees. Italy's UNHCR spokesperson Carlotta Sami stated that the same COVID-19 precautions which apply to Italian citizens such as health checks and quarantining if symptoms are detected also apply to refugees and asylum seekers. Humanitarian organizations work to inform migrants, provide masks, sanitizers, and basic health screenings, however they are running out of human resources. Italy supports multilateral efforts to combat the coronavirus pandemic as well as prevent the transmission and treat COVID-19 within refugee camps. However, we urge limiting arrivals of new migrants, as well as distributing new arrivals across the EU, considering the damage and continuous threat of COVID-19 on the people of Italy.

Following the first reported COVID-19 case in a refugee camp, 80 of the 160 migrants at the center in Milan were moved to a different building in the city and the man was placed in quarantine. Italy began implementing mandatory quarantine of migrant rescue ships on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Necessary medical checks and sanitary protocols are followed before transferring migrants. Italy has also sent the army to ensure quarantine compliance of migrants. Sicily asked for and was granted military presence on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 after 73 migrants tested positive in a hotspot. The army was also sent to a reception center in Milan to work alongside police in maintaining quarantine compliance. Large ships such as the GNV Aurelia are leased by the Italian Interior Ministry to host and quarantine up to 300 migrants. Italy and France have also asked the EU for support in housing migrants and asylum seekers referencing the Malta Agreement created in 2019. The agreement, which was suspended due to the pandemic, worked to distribute migrants rescued at sea from the EU's southern border into various countries. Italy endorses a multilateral approach to handling the coronavirus pandemic in general as well. For example, Italy supports A/RES/74/306, which emphasizes international cooperation through sharing information and resources, and COVAX, which aims to produce 2 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses by 2021 with all countries involved receiving equal amounts of vaccines. Ultimately, this resolution and COVAX will strengthen health systems globally and thus allow countries such as Italy to gain the manpower to be able to help refugees more effectively in addition to their own citizens.

Italy recognizes that refugees have the right to health and asylum. However, considering the damage of the COVID-19 pandemic on Italy, we strongly urge for incoming migrants to be distributed across multiple countries, in line with the Malta Agreement. We believe that all EU partners should work together to host and care for asylum seekers. It is in the best interest for Italian citizens and refugees currently in camps to avoid a collapse of national healthcare. To help refugees currently in camps, Italy supports the work of humanitarian NGOs such as Doctors for Human Rights which have already provided masks and launched multimedia services aimed at supporting migrants in the region of Lombardy. Gianfranco Schiavone, the vice president of the Association of Juridical Studies on Immigration stated the real issue regarding migrants within camps is managing isolation and quarantine, since many facilities are over capacitated and not designed for COVID-19 procedures such as social distancing. Therefore, Italy urges the UNHCR to help build or bolster facilities and provide the equipment required such as masks, COVID-19 tests, and sanitizers for current refugees. Ultimately, Italy believes that multilateral efforts are crucial to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic globally as well as within refugee camps.

*Delegation from: Japan*

*Represented by: Beachwood High School*

*Position Paper for the United Nations High Council for Refugees*

The issues that befall the United Nations High Council for Refugees are: Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees, and the Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Camps. Japan firmly believes that immigration should be limited and only those who are documented should enter, and that as a result of COVID-19, immigration should be limited even further in order to prevent the spread of the virus into refugee camps. Japan is also working with other nations and the World Food Programme (WFP) to provide assistance to countries and refugee camps where resources are scarce during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**I. Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities For Refugees**

The Delegation from Japan strongly believes that in order to protect the people of Japan, refugees should be allowed into the nation, but with some restrictions for security reasons. Refugees who are properly documented and/or come for matters of business may gain asylum in Japan, as they are lawfully documented. Many refugees are not properly documented and do not have a necessary visa or passport, which poses a serious threat to the Japanese people. Thus, these refugees cannot enter without going through our immigration processes and being accepted by the Immigration Services Agency of Japan. However, those with the purpose of business and labor, and who are able to obtain a visa may enter the country and find asylum. In the past decade, Japan has accepted over 500 refugees in the past 20 years and worked with the UN to allow immigrants to find refuge in Japan since 1981 with the signing of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.

Understanding the importance of refugees and immigrants in the economic workforce of Japan, Japanese businesses are willing to hire immigrants to further strengthen the Japanese workforce and provide better opportunities for immigrants looking for a better life. Many such places are important to the Japanese people, such as retail stores and restaurants, which provide goods and enjoyment. Japanese businesses are working to provide jobs for refugees seeking employment and asylum. Refugees may also receive language-speaking classes, social and cultural training to further adapt to Japanese culture, and assistance in employment to help them quickly locate employment opportunities. Japan also provides refugees in serious financial trouble with assistance through the Refugee Assistance Headquarters (RHQ). Japan strongly believes in growing the economic workforce by allowing more refugees to come into the nation, but some restrictions must be put in place.

Realizing that there is often a culture shock between immigrants and native people, Japan will work to allow all cultures to be accepted to provide support for many different people. Furthermore, Japan will provide multilingual support for people from other nations to be able to further adapt to Japanese culture. Regarding economic possibilities for refugees, Japan will continue to try to improve their lives by providing them the ability to obtain jobs in industry and manufacturing, along with medical and law jobs. In order to strengthen Japan's workforce and provide opportunities for refugees, Japan is willing to let more immigrants into the nation as long as they are properly documented and follow the necessary steps to gain asylum. Japan will establish a database to keep track of the number of refugees allowed in the nation and to compare statistics to try to grow the number of refugees allowed in the nation each year. In all, Japan is looking forward to working with other countries to further establish programs and opportunities for immigrants around the world.

## II. The Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Camps

Japan strongly believes that resources should be provided to refugees in refugee camps, who desperately need them during the COVID-19 pandemic. The program enacted by the UNHCR with the purpose of helping refugees relocate to new homes in different countries had been suspended in March of 2020 due to the immense amount of border closures and lockdowns in nations around the world. Thousands of refugees were and are not able to find homes and are forced to live in refugee camps that are running scarce on resources. Many of these refugee camps are small, cramped, and provide for poor living conditions, putting more stress on immigrants already facing much hardship. The camps often don't have enough food, clean drinking water, and clothing, which are essential to human survival. On top of the already poor conditions of these refugee camps, many camps also struggle to provide masks, scrubs, and cleaning supplies to keep refugees socially distanced and safe in the time of the coronavirus pandemic with many countries' economies suffering badly. Japan sees these poor conditions and economic suffering as unjust and is working to lead an effort to provide for and help nations and refugee camps that are affected by COVID-19.

Understanding the severity and danger of the novel coronavirus disease, Japan believes that by combatting the hard conditions faced by many nations, this will improve the conditions of refugee camps and the lives of refugees. Japan fully supports the efforts of other nations in developing vaccines, therapeutics, and contact tracing to understand how the virus spreads. Japan has additionally provided over \$1.5 billion in foreign aid to hospitals and medical centers around the world in order to help purchase enough tests, masks, cleaning supplies, and more necessary to stay equipped during the pandemic. The goal of putting \$1.5 billion into foreign aid is to improve sanitation and hygiene, water conditions, nutrition, and other factors that may play into the spreading of COVID-19, which will also improve conditions in refugee camps that may not have enough cleaning supplies or clean water. Japan is also working with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to establish a 'center for public health and emerging disease' to track and research the coronavirus and uncover more about it. Japan will continue its efforts in helping other nations battle the hardships of the novel coronavirus, and part of this will go into helping conditions in refugee camps.

Recognizing the need for improved conditions in refugee camps and nations being affected by COVID-19, Japan is trying to work with and support countries hit the hardest by the pandemic, and is trying to work towards making access to the vaccine universal. By mass-producing the vaccine and making it easily available to people, borders will open up faster, allowing refugees to migrate and gain asylum more quickly. Japan is planning to implement the COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan, a 2-year, \$4.5 billion program where other nations can loan money from Japan in order to fix a worsening economic situation. Even though the world is being affected by a dangerous pandemic, Japan believes that free trade should not completely halt. By continuing to strengthen the economy, refugee camps will be able to acquire some funds and improve living conditions for refugees around the world. Japan is also looking to revise and reform the United Nations and World Health Organization (WHO) to ensure they are fairly and neutrally governed, are effective, and are providing enough support to the countries that need it. By ensuring these organizations are fairly governed and effective, the COVID-19 pandemic can be effectively dealt with and borders can open up sooner. This will result in refugees being able to migrate to different countries quickly and more easily. Japan is looking to work with other nations to provide the necessary support, economic stability, access to supplies, and leadership to help refugees in refugee camps and nations affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Delegation from: the State of Kuwait*

*Represented by: Avon Lake High School*

### ***Position Paper For The High Commissioner For Refugees***

The issues before the High Commissioner For Refugees are: Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees, with a Case Study of Greece; and Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Camps. Kuwait fully intends to uphold the values of this committee and to fulfill its commitments to the protection of the rights of refugees. The delegation of Kuwait also notes its desire to cooperate with all involved parties and to see through with our commitments regarding the issues at hand.

#### **I. Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees, with a Case Study of Greece**

With almost 106,000 refugees crossing the Mediterranean Sea, it has become obvious that, by volume, maritime movements have become the way many flee their nation of origin in the search of a better life. As true in many cases, this vast amount has caused logistical shocks to nations receiving refugees and in turn has caused diplomatic and political tensions to rise. The most visible case is the Hellenic Republic, a nation that has resisted the acceptance of maritime refugees and critically disrupted their opportunities to integrate. Kuwait has seen this issue at the forefront of the everlasting question of refugees and seeks to find a resolution that protects the rights of refugees and upholds a nation's sovereignty.

Kuwait currently hosts only 692 refugees but has close to 111,000 stateless persons who currently sit in limbo regarding their integration into society. Kuwait is not a party to the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees or the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees. Due to this lack of refugees, the primary means of entry is by crossing land borders and Kuwait has rarely seen the case of maritime refugees. Kuwait has ensured that a basic standard of living has been provided to refugees and stateless persons regardless of nation of origin.

Kuwait wishes to see a multitude of topics addressed and dealt with for the benefit of the nations present and those affected by this issue throughout the world. In order to have a uniform stance on the rights of refugees, Kuwait believes that a new treaty be drafted to include stateless persons and include the amendments of the 1967 Protocol and 1951 Convention. Such a revision would attract the non-parties of the original treaties to become a party of the newly drafted one as many share the issue of stateless persons. On the topic of integration, Kuwait has outlined a multifaceted response in order to see out the integration of refugees efficiently and effectively. Such a response would include but is not limited to integration services at time of entry, early medical screens and responses for newly entered refugees, ensuring acceptance of foreign qualifications of refugees, and the establishment of a minimum asylum period to prevent early expulsion and denial of integration for refugees. As for maritime movements, Kuwait deems it unfair to put forward a solution due the nation's lack of experience with the issue but would support a solution drafted by present nations that continues to protect the rights of refugees and solves the issue effectively.

## **II. Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Camps**

As COVID-19 uproots the stability of society across the globe, one group has been severely neglected in a nation's response to the pandemic. That group being refugees and this neglect has seen rapid spreading of the disease across refugee camps and higher rates of complication and death due to a lack of supplies and a cohesive response. It is imperative that this committee addresses this issue and sets a precedent for future health crises.

Kuwait does not have any refugee camps within its borders but has believed that this does not exempt the State of Kuwait from its responsibilities of protecting the rights of refugees. This has been proven in practice as Kuwait has continued to maintain its position of highest donor per capita for the UNHCR and has used the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development as a vehicle to deliver funds appropriately to refugee camps in Syria and Iraq. Kuwait also maintains the belief that no nation is exempt from the responsibility of protecting the standard of living of refugees and recognizes the fact that one nation cannot single-handedly ensure this protection.

Under the model of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, Kuwait has drafted the creation of the Emergency Reserve Stockpile for the Use for Refugees or ERSUR. This stockpile would vary from region to region depending on current conflicts, the amount of refugees, the financial ability to fund a stockpile and a variety of other factors. The basis of the stockpile is that it is in place for each of the United Nations Regional Groups in order to prevent crises to hit refugees unequally and to ensure their wellbeing is not neglected. The stockpile would include basic medical supplies, equipment to ensure the implementation and continuation of WASH and other programs, personal protective equipment, portable structures to fulfill the purposes of acting as a camp's medical center, quarantine structure, storage of supplies, or to simply create more space within a camp to ensure as much distance between refugees is kept to prevent spread of disease. ERSUR would also include a regional database of registered volunteers, reserve medical personnel, medical equipment producers within the region, and known state and nonstate donors. This database would be able to enlist manpower in the case of a crisis and would be able to help camps meet reserve quantities of equipment and funds to support ERSUR in that region. Nations and NGOs are heavily encouraged to cooperate with their region's ERSUR to create a unified response and to ensure that the program is not neglected. Kuwait also encourages the monitoring of health trends within camps to anticipate or contain health crises within a camps population through private-public cooperation. Lastly, Kuwait would support the inclusion of a mention to the continuation of commitments for refugees' rights and basic standard of living and that in times of emergency, nations should assume refugees as members of their own populace as to not only rely on ERSUR and international organizations.

*Delegation from: The Lebanese Republic*

*Represented By: Mentor High School*

*Committee: United Nations High Council On Refugees*

The issues presented before this committee are: Maritime Movements And and Integration Opportunities for Refugees and The Impact of Covid-19 in Refugee. The omnipresence and importance of these issues emphasize the need for discussion and cooperation between all countries in the High Council Of Refugees; in order to find a solution that promotes peace, equality, safety, and prosperity for all involved.

### ***I. Maritime Movements And Integration Opportunities for Refugees***

There are 1.7 million refugees in Lebanon, fleeing from conflict and genocide from Syria and Palestine. Not only has this taken an economic toll on the country, costing them around 1.68 USD yearly; but, because refugees account for about ¼ of the population, they occupy a large amount of the country's space. In addition, Lebanon has been a breeding ground for illegal refugees who try and cross the water border into Cyprus, Turkey, and Greece. They were forced to supply resources like food, water, and shelter. These refugees are often found living and leeching off of already struggling families in their area of exit. Lebanon will no longer stand for these injustices, and wishes to find a quick and effective system to help these refugees, instead of letting them stay in other countries or their own.

Lebanon's relations with neighboring countries are unstable and territorial. With constant war and conflict, nations have a hard time agreeing and cooperating on issues. Due to recent events maritime movements in and around Lebanon were disrupted. An article states, "on August 4, explosions at the Port of Beirut flattened buildings in the immediate vicinity and caused city-wide power outages and extensive infrastructural damages across the city...On August 5, the Government of Lebanon announced a 2-week state of emergency in Beirut..Entry into the port area has since been banned by the Lebanese army...and it remains unclear when those doing business at the port will be allowed to enter the area...The Port of Beirut is considered to be one of the most important seaports in the Mediterranean, serving as an entry and exit point for Lebanon, and as a regional and a transshipment hub between Europe and Asia." As of now, Lebanon isn't sure who or what sent the explosive package but they are thoroughly investigating. In addition this has had a very substantial impact on Lebanon and its trade relations and it is very evident that this is only making the economic situation, as well its relations with other countries worse.

The Nation of Lebanon believes that the best course of action would be to create a system where each refugee is cataloged, then permitted to cross the border on UN funded ships. They will be required to report how many people they have and where they are going. Then, it would be the UN's job to get in contact with that country's government, and asses wether they have to room, and resources to host them. The process would be faster since the refugees are crossing legally and under UN protection; and because there would be pre-constructed shelters that would serve as a community for these refugees. They would stay there temporarily or permanently (depending on the state of the surrounding countries), If refugees end up moving, they would be shipped out to an accepting country. The Nation of Lebanon believes this is the best course of action, and would like to see it be brought into play.

### ***II. The Impact of Covid-19 in Refugee Camps***

The scope of these issues emphasize the need for discussion and cooperation between all countries in order to come to a viable solution. Covid-19 or Coronavirus is a somewhat deadly disease that has spread across the world causing a global pandemic. Homes and cities all over are trying to stop the spread of this illness and keep people calm and safe. But what some don't realize is that the refugee population is growing, and for them it's not only a matter of staying safe, it's trying to contain the sickness in an area that is overpopulated, underfed, unsanitary, and in most cases, unsafe. This along with the typically already poor mental and physical health of these people is detrimental to them and their residence. The leader of the UNHCR's mental health response stated, "Before the pandemic, refugee mental health was a severely overlooked and under-prioritized issue. Now it is a full-blown crisis. Refugees often see their futures disintegrating. The issues that drove them from their countries remain unresolved, and they can't go back home. Additionally, many refugees who have survived in exile in the informal economy are losing their livelihoods, if they have a job at all. They see a lack of solutions because resettlement places have gone down with the pandemic. Then people are anxious about their health, not knowing when the pandemic will end, and how they can really protect themselves." Refugees have to deal with so much regarding their well being on a daily basis so it is imperative that we find effective ways to help them through times of crisis like these. Another thing that needs to be addressed is border conditions. The borders in most countries are crowded and underfunded. This leads to an increase of covid cases and overall sickness on account of lack of supplies and sanitation, space concerns, little privacy, and inhumane border guards. Little access to medication and supplies such as food and water are damaging to refugee health. It is imperative that this issue is solved considering the current state of the world. Most countries are struggling to find space for refugees as it is. Particularly, because

there has to be more space in camps to effectively prevent the spread of disease (the virus spreads especially fast in areas of dense closely knit population), as well as substantial medical compensation which is important but also costly. “Those policies and practices have included, among others: (1) mass illegal pushbacks of asylum-seekers at the US–Mexico border; (2) thousands of illegal family separations, through which the Trump administration has deliberately and purposefully inflicted extreme suffering on families, ill-treatment which rose to the level of torture in some cases; and (3) increasingly arbitrary and indefinite detention of asylum-seekers, without parole, constituting cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (ill-treatment) which is absolutely prohibited in international law.” This further emphasizes the decreasing number of asylum applications in most countries, along with the increase of police brutality, and the extreme presence of racism and sexism at the borders of or in refugee camps. Although solutions to issues like discrimination in refugee camps have been used and implemented before it seems that most have worked in the long term. This is unacceptable and something has to be done.

Lebanon has been doing their best in partnership with UNHCR to deal with COVID-19 and all that comes with it. Lebanon and the UNHCR have been providing cash aid in light of people losing their jobs in addition to counseling for refugees and Lebanese who were injured or who’s lives were impacted in the Beirut blast. But there is room for improvement. “..Lebanon, home to nearly 1.5 million refugees—almost a quarter of its population. Both Palestinian and Syrian refugees have suffered from long-standing discrimination and marginalization as a result of Lebanese policies that deny them access to basic rights, including housing, work, education, and healthcare...leading Lebanese politicians have [fueled anti-refugee sentiment](#) by implying that Syrian and Palestinian refugees will be responsible for spreading the virus. Yet, the Lebanese government’s national response plan for COVID-19 depends on self-reporting...The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), which is responsible for Syrian refugees, and the [United Nations Relief and Works Agency](#)(UNRWA), which is responsible for Palestinian refugees, have both said that they will only cover the cost of testing and treatment of refugees if the refugee has first contacted the hotline and followed its instructions.” This highlights how even in Lebanon there are still very harmful issues at hand racism being one of them. Due to the fact that this is the case in most countries, the UNHCR should be focused on ways to reduce cases without spreading or encouraging discriminatory views. As well as making sure that the leaders of involved countries do the same. Lebanon also has a history of mistreating its refugees, deporting them for minor offenses, and creating laws that specifically exclude or target these people. As well as denying refugees and LGBTQ+ individuals of medical and financial aid as well as basic rights. Overall, this proves that even in countries with an abundance of refugees, there can still be huge problems with inclusivity.

Constant and ever-changing issues in refugee camps will always be prevalent, especially in crisis. Overall, Lebanon believes that the goal of the refugee committee should be to improve camps with the addition of more food, water, better healthcare and sanitation; as well as counseling for sexual violence and trauma survivors, with protection for vulnerable groups in dangerous areas. In addition, educating refugees on how they can stay safe during the pandemic, will help to decrease the amount of Covid cases in camps. Biased enforcement of power is a huge issue in camps which can be solved by using mobile courts instead of extra police and security. Not only will this help reduce the amount of people in and around camps, but it will increase the amount of rightful conviction and punishment of unjust guards and security. “Research has shown that the legal protections for women around the world, including refugee women who have experienced violence, are largely gender blind and do not address the reality of women’s lives.” Another important issue is the presence of border guards, police, and security placed throughout these camps. We must address the possible infections of border guards and security. Because they are around refugees who don’t have the means to adequate healthcare and are then going home to their families they are possibly bringing disease or sickness with them. One way to prevent this would be to test border guards daily. Also, Making sure that adequate supplies are distributed. Due to lack of funding most camps don’t have enough medical supplies to deal with everyday sickness, so Covid-19 is having a huge effect on the refugee population, and overall health. Rapidly rising death rates through 2020 have been detrimental to refugee societies. Maintaining a quantity of refugees while distancing and addressing space concerns will be extremely difficult. But, one solution if possible, would be modeling certain camps after the Za’atari refugee camp in Jordan. This would be extremely helpful. Not only would this allow for more freedom in camps, it would also provide an easy system for distancing and sanitation. It would do this by allowing families to move where they are situated in camps and live in their own constructed space. Not only would this boost morale and help refugees feel more in control over their lives, it would also prepare them for future integration. Integrating refugees into the surrounding societies allows for more room in camps and therefore more necessities such as food, water, and sanitation supplies are available for use. Causing for more camps worldwide to be able to have healthier and happier refugees.

*Delegation from: Mexico*

*Represented by: Mentor High School*

## **Position Paper for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees**

The issues that are before the United Nations High Commission for Refugees are: Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees; and Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Camps. These are issues that are close to the heart of the Mexican government, as there are a lot of refugees and displaced persons both coming from and coming into Mexico. Mexico wants nothing for the best for all of these people, and if cooperation with other countries is the best way to achieve that then Mexico will do its part.

### **I. Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees**

Thousands of refugees travel around the world over bodies of water, often in danger from the precarious journey they are making. Mexico believes that asylum seekers should never have to turn to such extremes, and that the multitude of lives lost in such a deleterious situation can and should be prevented going forward. Mexico therefore calls upon all the countries of the UNHCR to work with it to provide safe travel, a reasonable process of gaining asylum, and timely assistance to prevent further deaths.

Mexico works actively to protect and aid all immigrants coming to, leaving, or passing through Mexico. First, Mexico has passed strong legislation such as the Law on Refugees and Complementary Protection in 2011, which protects migrants in Mexico, and hopes other countries will follow suit. Additionally, Mexico recently reached an agreement with the U.S. that made the U.S. expand its Migrant Protection Protocols, and Mexico in turn would provide a safe haven for migrants to wait at until they are legally allowed into the U.S. They further agreed that should these methods prove ineffectual, they would reconvene and discuss other potential solutions.

Mexico has shown through its many laws and protocols that it wants to support immigrants as much as possible, and has encouraged and assisted other countries who wanted to achieve that same goal through international cooperation. Mexico believes that if these agreements and laws could become a basis for further action across the world, these refugees could be significantly helped. Mexico hopes that this committee will at least lead other countries working to better their own programs, and strongly hopes that some sort of an international plan or agreement can be put into place. Mexico wants the committee to discuss this topic with the right mindset, however, not viewing these refugees as a problem to solve but rather as people to help.

### **II. Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Camps**

When COVID had its initial outbreak, it looked as though refugee camps might actually get off pretty light as there was not much exposure to the virus, however with cases in many camps rapidly rising, it is clear that action needs to be taken. The current measures are not working for the refugees or the workers and guards who have jobs there, and Mexico believes that if the same policies that worked in countries are implemented in these camps, the spread of the virus can be mitigated.

With nearly a million confirmed cases of COVID in Mexico, the virus is a problem close to the heart of Mexico. It was not contained early, and now cases and deaths are spiraling out of control, meaning that at the same time that these camps are being dealt with Mexico also has to care for its citizens. Mexico has begun to take the necessary steps, such as stopping all non vital work and barring large gatherings, and Mexico believes that after it gets its cases under control it will effectively be able to deal with the crisis that is helping refugees stay safe from the virus.

Mexico hopes that all countries will take the threat of COVID very seriously, and that they will all be willing to freely share information on how to combat the deadly virus. In addition to that, Mexico believes that cooperation between countries to distribute refugees is essential as the most major contributor to the spread of COVID in camps is the close proximity. Another important point and significant worry for Mexico is how these measures can be carried out while keeping Mexican citizens safe, as allowing infected freely into the country will likely exacerbate the already severe crisis. The UNHCR must provide some sort of basic outline or requirements for the handling of refugees that is universally applied to ensure that everyone is on the same page in terms of stopping infection. After that, testing facilities for refugees should be established before any asylum seeker is allowed into a housing camp or facility. After that, there needs to be a plan to safely give medical attention to refugees who are sick with the virus. This is an essential to try to save as many lives as possible, but will be difficult to do without putting those who are treating these refugees at risk.

**Country: New Zealand**

**Committee: United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees**

**Represented: Western Reserve Academy**

### **A. Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees**

Every year, millions of people take refuge in their neighboring countries or else where for multiple reasons, them being: natural disasters, armed conflicts, violation of human rights, political conflict, or even being denied basic rights like schools and healthcare. According to UNHCR, 70.8 million people evacuated from their homes due to conflict and persecution in 2018, while in the US alone there were 43 million people evicted from their homes and 12 million being refugees. The rise of refugees from different continents make it difficult for other countries to decide which part of the ocean is safe for refugees to travel on, as well as making sure that the nearest country accepts refugees too. There are some Middle Eastern, African, and European countries that do not accept types of refugees, and even if they do, they would not be as helpful. Conflicts on the sea can be a problem to the refugees: where the nearest country is, will they accept them, can the country be helpful, what is the second choice if the first country is denied, what is the plan after getting help?

Even after the tragic death of 366 migrants and refugees off the Sicilian coast in October 2013, European government did not change the maritime laws, due to conflict of migrants getting into the country without any form of identity. Due to this conflict European governments have not allowed Refugees to seek refuge at their coast, provoking the human rights council to jump in and advocate for the refugees. More than 1,000 people have died from crossing the Mediteranian sea in 2019, and it has been the 6th consistent year where people have tried to reach Europe to seek refuge for different reasons.

### **B. Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Camps**

The refugee camps have made it difficult to decipher who may or may be carrying the virus, while also remembering the cost of free health check up for refugees. The point also stands as to what countries will help the refugees like their own, knowing that the taxpayers money will help the refugees too. The world in a pandemic makes it difficult for refugees to leave the country, knowing that precautions and rules are stricter now than before. Entering the country also requires people to take tests, and within the time refugees can lose their lives. In some cases, countries can revoke the application of some refugees if they came from highly infected countries. Refugees in this state cannot go back to their countries, neither can they go another.

Having a group of refugees is quealy difficult as placing them, it would be difficult to maintain their health as well as the workers. A country may segregate the citizens from the refugees entirely, mainly for health reasons and also maintain their country in the virus free zone.

Countries in this situation will save their economy as much as possible, and there is not enough money to help the citizens, let alone migrants or refugees for that matter. Also highlighting that some countries will not accept refugees entirely. While the novel Coronavirus spreads throughout the countries, New Zealand has had great success by coming over the pandemic, with no positive cases for 10 days since October 7, 2020. It is a small victory for the islanders since the restrictions have been lifted.

**Committee: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**

**Country: Paraguay**

**Topic: Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees**

The issue of integration of refugees into the country that has granted them asylum has been controversial for countries of all different backgrounds. No matter the size or history, many feel uneasy integrating those fleeing their birth nations into their own society. According to the UNCHR, “international solidarity and responsibility-sharing are essential but often elusive elements of that system, vital to safeguard the rights of refugees wherever they are and to support the countries hosting them” (UNHCR Handbook 11). Of the 26 million refugees worldwide, 4.2 million are seeking asylum according to the UNHCR. The rights of the refugees are a very important topic in all conversations surrounding immigration, but the host country must be able to support those who would like to seek permanent asylum. It is up to the country itself to determine their capabilities and limits.

Every year, Paraguay integrates and resettles fifteen refugees into the country. The eligibility of a refugee for resettlement is that they must fit at least one of the five criteria: need for legal and physical protection, refugee survivors of violence and/or torture, women at risk, children and adolescents, and refugees without prospects local integration in the first country of refuge. In terms of family reunification, Paraguays Memorandum of Understanding states that “Based on the principle of family unity, the Government of the Republic of Paraguay will provide entry into national territory for family members of refugees resettled in accordance with current regulations” (MOU). Paraguay's definition of family refers to a spouse, partner in an affective relationship, and direct children. The countries that most asylum-seekers are fleeing from are Cuba and Venezuela, totaling over 300 in 2018. In the very same year, Paraguay had a 100% acceptance rate regarding asylum.

The current protocols in Paraguay have proved effective, leading the Republic of Paraguay to keep the policies surrounding refugees and immigration the same. Due to the few refugees immigrating to Paraguay, the situation is not as dire as it is in other countries throughout the world. Paraguay recognizes the need for integration and resettlement for the refugees seeking asylum, and allows it as long as they fit the resettlement criteria and follow the legal procedures.

**Committee: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**  
**Country: Paraguay**  
**Topic: Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Camps**

COVID-19 has ravaged the world in ways that have never been seen before. With over 1.1 million people killed, according to Johns Hopkins University, and the number increasing rapidly, each country has rushed to the aid of their citizens. However, those fleeing their home countries and seeking asylum elsewhere have been not only caught in the crossfire of the pandemic, but also ignored by the countries that focus more on protecting their own citizens. The situation only gets worse if the country does not have the proper resources to fight the virus to begin with.

Almost 1400 people have died from the coronavirus in Paraguay, and there have been over 60,100 thousand cases throughout the country. According to the CDC, there is a high risk of catching COVID-19 in Paraguay due to the limited medical resources available. With over one thousand refugees in the country, resources are thin and will go to the citizens rather than those seeking refuge. At the moment, Paraguay is a part of the Argentinian MCO, which requires just over 1.2 million US dollars for effective coronavirus relief and prevention in refugee camps according to the UNHCR. With the necessary funding, Paraguay could be able to better help the refugees throughout the country.

Paraguay needs the proper funding for effective medical resources to provide care for not only the citizens but also the refugees seeking asylum. Without this funding, the case and the death total will only rise throughout the country. COVID-19 is an international issue, and therefore every country- no matter how small- needs to be considered and aided.

**Delegation from: The Republic of South Africa**

**Represented by: Beachwood High School**

### **Position Paper for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees**

The issues before the United Nations High Commission for Refugees are: Maritime movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees and the Impact of Covid-19 on Refugee Camps.

#### **I. Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees**

Thousands of refugees have been trying to reach Europe by sailing through the Mediterranean sea. These refugees and migrants flee from their homes in hopes of gaining a better life by leaving. This, however, is not an easy task, as maritime movements across the Mediterranean has killed almost 2300 refugees in 2018 and 3100 people in 2017. This is because of the dangerous conditions on the boat and changes in policies which cause many people to be stranded in the Mediterranean sea for days and sometimes even weeks.

Africa contains almost 80% of the world's refugees, and South Africa has been housing over 270,000 of them as of 2019. The continent of Africa has already made steps as a whole to address the problem. For example, Ethiopia has had an open door policy for refugees and refugees who have been seeking asylum through maritime movements. Like Ethiopia, South Africa has adopted an open door policy for refugees and has been supporting refugees that have been seeking asylum through maritime movements.

Thousands of refugees are dying every year because they are trying to move across the Mediterranean in search for a better future. The world needs to come together and help all of these people. We can do so by not closing the doors of countries to refugees, and by following the 2016 Bali Declaration to make sure that every person in these irregular maritime movements.

#### **II. Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Camps**

Refugee camps all over the world have been heavily affected by the recent COVID-19 pandemic. Refugee camps are overcrowded and are unclean. Many of the people that are living there cannot maintain social distance because of the lack of space and are in danger of getting this virus. These places are endangering the lives of thousands of people because they are so susceptible to Coronavirus. Additionally, many of these places do not have medical care so those that have been infected are left to fend for themselves.

South Africa has made many steps to help the refugees during the Covid outbreak. For example, the South African government has given many refugees grants during this time. These grants help many families in refugee camps who can not afford to feed their families and stay

safe. Additionally, with over 200,000 refugees, South Africa has been trying to make everyone in these refugee camps as safe as they can be.

Refugee camps have been negatively affected during this outbreak, and the world cannot turn a blind eye over them. We can help the refugees in refugee camps all over the world by providing healthcare to refugee camps and making sure that there are enough supplies for everyone that is living in this environment.

*Delegation from: the Kingdom of Sweden*

*Represented by: Saint Joseph Academy*

### ***Position Paper for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees***

The issues before the High Commission for Refugees are: Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees; and Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Camps. The Kingdom of Sweden is fully committed to resolving these issues, and is seeking prompt resolutions to protect refugees across the globe.

#### **I. Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees**

Maritime movements of refugees involve the mass networks of ships, specifically in the Mediterranean Sea, that transport refugees in order to aid them in seeking asylum. While this is not a new practice by any means, the sheer amount of refugees forced into this position has peaked in recent years and has resulted in countless deaths. Many of these boats become stranded or do not have a safe destination due to the restrictions many countries currently hold. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees firmly believes that nations must provide ample assistance to asylum seekers, and that the needs of these people have never been properly met. This responsibility has been severely urged since the 1958 Convention on the High Seas from the UNHCR, yet the lack of assistance for these refugees is still a far too prevalent issue. Part of this assistance must also include integrating refugees into their new country. International as well as governmental programs are needed to sustain a decent quality of life for any and all refugees all over the world.

In 2014, there were over 80,000 asylum seekers in the Kingdom of Sweden. It is currently the country with the most refugees in its borders relative to its population. Sweden fervently believes that refugees must be given a chance to thrive beyond their situation. However, it cannot be forced upon countries to take in refugees. Doing so would be disastrous, as some countries do not have the proper resources to adequately provide for a large influx of people into their borders. Sweden has seen within its own nation how large amounts of refugees in a single area can cause disaster. There are many instances of refugee communities being a source of violence and misconduct, and no country wants to take on that risk willingly. Muder rates raised eleven percent in 2016, an increase that aligned with more refugees allowed into Sweden's land. On the other hand, there are many ways to see refugees as an asset to the economy by providing for jobs. Because of this, there are enough countries out there who would be willing to take in refugees that there is no need for sanctions to be put in place by the United Nations to force countries a certain way. If the United Nations uses its power in this way it will lose respect from member countries as so many simply cannot afford the added stress of the thousands of refugees who need assistance.

#### **I. Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Camps**

COVID-19 has caused an enormous amount of issues across the globe in an unprecedented amount of ways. One that has not gotten proper attention is the impact it has had on refugee camps all around the world. Refugee camps already struggled with the issues of keeping up with an influx of people coming into borders. Beyond that, now there is the issue of containing COVID-19 in spaces that were already overcrowded and improperly run. The United Nations has helped in many instances to spread out camps as much as possible

in order to decrease spread within countries. The newfound issues involving COVID-19 have led more and more countries to limit their asylum privileges for refugees. This has caused even further panic because while this pandemic is ongoing there are still those who must flee their home countries due to other issues. COVID-19 not only has led to countries closing their borders entirely but has meant that they do not have the proper funds to spare to allow for increased protection and commitment to refugee camps to keep them as safe as possible. Because of this there continues to be widespread panic around the globe of what to do with refugees and how to best protect them and transfer them to safer situations. The United Nations has already called upon the procurement of hundreds of millions of United States dollars from various countries and organizations in order to combat this ongoing crisis.

Sweden has seen an increase in COVID-19 numbers, which brings worry to many on how to continue assisting with refugees. In response to these troubling times, Sweden generously gave \$3 million USD to the UNHCR in order to further protections for refugees around the world. It is absolutely crucial to continue supporting refugees in this time as more and more are losing loved ones not only due to the virus itself but also to their new challenges as a result of the lack of asylum resources. The poor conditions that refugees already faced all over the world are exacerbating the COVID-19 pandemic and causing even further widespread outbreaks between refugee communities. This can be helped through financial contributions at this time since so many countries have taken the safe choice to keep their borders closed. The ability to provide for stronger sanitation and space will be what helps the issues caused by COVID-19 in refugee camps. While individual countries have more problems to face right now than they may have ever faced before, it is absolutely imperative that the tens of millions of refugees on this planet are helped through the UNHCR to continue providing all services necessary in this crisis.

*South Korea*

*Laurel School*

**United Nations High Commission of Refugees**

*Topic I: Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees*

Refugees crossing the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe do so in the hopes of a better future. However, when thousands of people die attempting this crossing, it is less a question of a better future and more a question of the existence of a future. Growing restrictions on NGOs regarding these international waters, as well as a seeming disinterest from European nations, have caused an ever-growing crisis. According to a study done by the UNHCR, more than two thousand refugees die every year while attempting this crossing, an abhorrent number. The United Nations, as a whole, has expressed concern over the issues regarding refugees crossing the Mediterranean, but has no right to infringe on countries' sovereignty, and as a result, has been largely unsuccessful in creating any sort of meaningful change. Another point of focus for the United Nations High Commission of Refugees is the long-term integration of Mediterranean refugees, as well as refugees around the world. Allowing refugees to effectively assimilate with society has always been a problem, with many countries recently lowering their "integration time", after which a refugee must start contributing to the said country by working and starting an independent life.

The Republic of South Korea is deeply committed to the protection of human rights and confronting the refugee issue facing the international community. South Korea has had limited experience with long term integration. However, the limited experience has shown tremendous success, with 22 Myanmar refugees having successfully merged into everyday life in South Korea. The delegation would like to point to specific examples that have caused this success, including exposing refugee children to Korean TV and books to assist with language-learning as well as teaching Korean culture and mannerisms to help children incorporate these customs into their everyday lives. By virtue of South Korea being a relatively new resettlement country, only having accepted refugees since 1994, it is a given that it will not be perfect. However, the South Korean delegation believes that emphasizing long term integration is vital to any refugee program.

Although South Korea is not directly tied to maritime movements, it does have several advantages that could be of use in assisting with long-term integration. For instance, it has a robust and widely acclaimed technology

sector. A potential solution to the issue of long-term integration in refugee camps could involve strategic partnerships between tech companies and international agencies and refugee camp programs in other countries to provide several accommodations for refugees. South Korea would love to share its success with the world and encourage other countries to take advantage of the incredible success that has been tied with involving technology with integration.

### *Topic II: The Effect of Covid-19 on Refugee Camps*

In late 2019, a novel new coronavirus named COVID-19 was discovered in Wuhan, China. The World Health Organization labeled the outbreak that followed a global pandemic. COVID-19 has been proven to spread through extended close contact, especially in unsanitary conditions. Conditions in refugee camps have often come under international scrutiny, but in the era of COVID-19, providing safe conditions in refugee camps is more important than ever. According to a study done by the UNHCR, refugee camps are often overcrowded, lack basic sanitation, and do not have access to sufficient medical care. These issues, combined with the nature of the coronavirus, are deadly and have caused terrible safety violations as well as humanitarian concerns in refugee camps. UNHCR estimated a need for 745 million USD to mitigate the threat of covid-19 in international refugee camps, but this goal is nowhere near met. Despite the efforts of NGOs like the International Rescue Committee have helped, but not enough.

The Republic of South Korea would like to call upon the United Nations High Commission for Refugees to come together and solve this humanitarian crisis. It is unacceptable that an international community does not provide for those most in need, and as an organization, we have a responsibility to assist refugees in any way we can. South Korea has exemplified this idea through its acceptance of North Korean refugees, as well as through being the first Asian country to pass refugee legislation. The delegation of South Korea would like to point to its continued growth as a home for refugees, and how South Korea has not backed down from its commitment to protecting the human rights of all.

As a country without refugee camps, South Korea would like to offer its tremendous resources to the international community. South Korea possesses a widely acclaimed technological sector. When it comes to COVID-19 in refugee camps, there are many ways technology could be used advantageously. Obviously, whether talking about everything from assisting with social distancing to providing effective masks, to helping make guidelines clear, technology is essential. As stated before, South Korea advocates for a strategic partnership

between major technology companies and international agencies and refugee programs to provide the accommodations listed above. Although the South Korean government has no way to force technology companies to assist, things like government incentives could be put into place for the good of the international community. The delegation of South Korea looks forward to working together and coming up with effective solutions to protect people from COVID-19 in refugee camps.

*Delegation from: The United Arab Emirates*

*Represented By: Mentor High School*

*Council: High Council of Refugees*

### ***Position Paper for the UN High Council of Refugees***

The issues that most concern the UN High Council of Refugees are: Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees and the Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Camps. The Nation of the United Arab Emirates holds support of the refugees that have been displaced due to conflict, war, genocide, and any other misfortune that could harm them, but wishes to see a swift end and compensation for taking in refugees.

#### **1. Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees**

Despite some opinions and remarks, the United Arab Emirates has continued to accept Refugees from the Middle East, including such refugees from Syria, Iraq, and Iran. We would like to continue the transit of refugees, who believe they can find better lives outside of the Middle East, and are welcoming to those who wish to stay. Maritime Movement is a big concern for refugees trying to flee to Europe, but it's not as big of a problem for refugees fleeing to the UAE. As these crises continue, it is becoming more and more apparent that the United Nations needs to get involved. Either its member states can start to get along and work together, or they can stop fighting all together. In the end, the safety and well-being of the refugees is what really matters.

The UAE has accepted over 242,000 Syrian refugees since 2012 and has also provided over 530 million USD in humanitarian aid and development to try and help Syrian refugees. The UAE also has an almost 100% acceptance rate with refugees, with little review time, which is considered to be on par with countries like the United States. The UAE, with already having refugee camps within its borders, has also committed its Emirates Red Crescent organization, which operates like the Red Cross, to help with refugee camps in Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq. The UAE has and will continue to fund their organization and aid refugees.

The United Arab Emirates believes that the best way to help these refugees is to create a funding program for safer maritime transit, to hopefully make it so refugees can travel safer. The UAE also believes that the best way to punish the people who are taking advantage of peoples distraught, is to rehabilitate them, instead of simply incarcerating them. The UAE has a great system, where the cleanliness of the prisoners cells is based on the group of incarcerated within one cell, which is six people. If the UAE prison system can manage without being overcrowded, and it's for people who have done wrong, then can't we even work much harder for their people who have lost almost everything.

#### **2. The Impact of Covid-19 in Refugee Camps**

Due to current world events, it seems anything but unbelievable that the spread of Covid-19 wouldn't stop at the borders of refugee camps. The UAE, like most countries, have taken a no nonsense

stance on this infectious disease, which has been plaguing the world and its humans for almost 8 months now, and it really should be stopped from spreading to those who have already lost almost all of their positions. The UAE has and will continue to help as best we can to stop the spread of Covid-19 in refugee camps, with the help of the Red Crescent, and other international health care businesses.

Since the beginning of the year 2020, Covid-19 has been a big player on the world stage, with cases globally spiking to 43.9 million total cases, while the UAE has 17,292 total cases. However, refugee camps have been surprisingly low on cases, well ones that have been reported. Out of the 30 million refugees, 21,000 cases have been reported since late september, so it's safe to assume that more cases have come about. Funding for refugee camps have been at an all time low, with resources having to be divided dominantly towards buying sanitary resources.

The UAE believes that best solution to the covid cases in refugee camps it to, A: Let the camps continue whatever actions there doing, since there cases are lower, and, B: Create more funding programs for these camps, so that less money has to be focused on things needed for sanitation purposes, and can be refocused on food, shelter, and assistance. With this the UAE recommends that a unoptional fund be created where each member state has to pay in a minimum that can be set to match that countries average annual income, so that it won't destabilize the country's economy. If a country doesn't pay, it could have tariffs set on it, that would make the situation more profitable for them to just pay the tax.

*School: Western Reserve Academy*

*Country: The Republic of Uganda*

**Committee: UNESCO**

### **Topic I: Uganda's Education Responses to COVID-19**

In 1886, Uganda had its first formal western education system introduced by the Church Mission Society of London. This education system was mainly developed and organized by Western religious organizations in which they were responsible for cultivating students' minds religiously and prioritizing the value of Christianity. This system was considered, by many locals, to be unfair and unequal compared to the levels of European education. Until the country's independence and the creation of the Ministry of Education in 1957, Uganda has created a full-scale education system for all citizens and opened doors for influences, exchanges, diversity and scientific discoveries. Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, Uganda had over 15 million enrolled local students plus 600,000 refugee students. Due to the dangers of pandemic, schools were closed on 20th March, 2020 until further notice.

The increase of COVID-19 local cases has marked a high risk of exposure for the students and teachers to continue practicing in-person learning. Therefore, Uganda's Ministry of Education has come up with an effective response plan. This response plan was designed based on three scenarios. The first scenario is when schools have been closed for one week under the spread of COVID-19, the government will set up a coordination committee to maintain contacts with all the district education officers to ensure adequate materials for learning continuity, and develop guidelines for school reopening with proper measures as soon as possible. The second scenario is when schools are continuing to close for more than 2 weeks, the government will support teachers to offer online learning programs, prepare learning materials and distribute them to learners, strengthen the communication with the Risk Communication and Community engagement department to improve COVID-19 social sanitation and develop possible recovery strategies. The third scenario is when COVID-19 is fully contained and education institutions can be reopened, the government will immediately implement and monitor recovery plans to manage the resumption of in-person learning, promote necessary hygienic practices in schools and institutions, ensure adequate preparations for restarting in-person learning such as informing parents with necessary information and implementing timely schedules for students' travels. This plan is targeting more than 15 million local learners as well as 600,000 refugee learners in 13 different districts.

The Uganda government hopes that UNESCO will implement policies that can support our nation with additional resources and funds, such as providing our students and teachers with adequate food and nutrition, as well as offering training programs for our teachers in order to improve their ability to handle learning programs during emergency situations. Our delegation also wants the organization to provide more elaborate sanitation approaches and promote anti COVID-19 strategies to ensure a safe learning environment for our students and teachers to continue carrying out in-person learning activities in the third scenario, including ensuring a resilient transportation system within remote districts and permitting students and teachers to be able to travel to schools and back home safely.

### **Topic II: Restitution of Cultural Property to Uganda**

In 1995, the article 37 of our constitution was ratified. It stated that, "Every person has a right as applicable to belong to, enjoy, practice, profess, maintain and promote any culture, cultural institution, language, tradition, creed or religion in community with others." This reflects our government's recognition of the importance of safeguarding cultural property and specifying artifact types. Moreover, our government is

committed to respect and preserve people's social and cultural well-being, as well as enhancing our citizens' dignity through the protection and enrichment of cultural values. In 2015, we passed and implemented the Museums and Monuments Policy to fully secure Uganda's tangible cultural property such as artistic creations and architectural monuments. This policy also demands the return of domestic cultural products that were stolen from Uganda. Introduced in 2016, our National Cultural Policy has further strengthened our government's commitments to offer opportunities and frameworks for locals to perform cultural activities.

Currently, there are 65 culturally diverse groups in Uganda with an abundance of cultural heritage and properties such as languages, unique knowledge and skills, performing arts, clothing and foods. Our government has proposed multiple methods and strategies to support our rich cultural heritage in both their tangible and intangible forms. Cooperation of individuals and groups is of supreme importance in displaying our unique cultural properties. These efforts aim to display our cultural identities to outsiders and specify what types of cultural properties are unique to our nation. Another approach is protecting and enhancing our cultural preservation through education. Looking back to 2011, a program was initiated by the Cross-Cultural Foundation of Uganda to train our teachers with 140 "Heritage Education Clubs", providing them with the required materials to educate students with new ideas. In addition, we opened 15 community museums specifically for selected secondary schools to raise cultural awareness. Yet another approach has been to protect our national historic buildings and other cultural properties by training workers and managers to efficiently monitor them. Additionally, thanks to help from the European Union in 2018, our government was able to produce more informational resources regarding our historical buildings in three districts.

Through cooperating with UNESCO, we have the confidence to place our cultural properties under safer circumstances and allow those properties to be protected in a sustainable way.

However, with over 300 Uganda artifacts that were taken by the British and housed in the Oxford Pitt Rivers Museum during the colonial period, we hope the British government will not turn a blind eye on this issue and we urge the museum to return these cultural properties immediately. We ask UNESCO to help us to confront the British government and do what is necessary for the return of Uganda's artifacts, taking measures such as a legal prosecution and international sanctions. Aside from that, we hope that UNESCO will offer extra help to secure and monitor the cultural properties that belong to our nation, prevent any foreign interventions and avoid exploitations of those properties. Furthermore, we hope that UNESCO will help us coordinate with international scholars to enrich our research on specific cultural treasures related to the ancient musical instruments of Uganda. Working with UNESCO's network of preservation experts, we hope to enlarge our historical understanding of how our musical past connected historically with that of our African neighbours.

*Delegation from: Ukraine*

*Represented by: Lake Ridge Academy*

***Position Paper for United Nations High Commission for Refugees***

**I. Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees**

Due to many conflicts, people in Ukraine are displaced from their homes and are forced to flee. There are 3.5 million people in need in Ukraine that are sick and 2 million have been displaced due to a conflict that has been going on for 3 years. Currently 1.5 million of those people are still in need of homes. These refugees are not in a good position due to the fact that there are so many. There are children and elderly dying because they cannot access proper health care or access anywhere at all either because of COVID-19 or there is just no access. Only 100,000 people of the 2 million mentioned seek asylums. They find a way because they flee with purpose, most people flee out of fear. Many refugees will run away with no resources or no place to go. Refugees in Ukraine are suffering due to lack of safety and are getting sick due to lack of healthcare and the rise of COVID-19.

In Ukraine, conflicts have caused 2 million residents to flee, 50% of those people leaving with nothing. Any people who do not leave still are still suffering. They are living in a battlefield and are being bombarded by gunfire and energy loss. Many people are killed in action or remaining explosives. If they are not dying because of war they are dying because of sickness. There is a huge lack of healthcare and people of all ages are dying and are higher risk of contracting HIV or tuberculosis.

**II. Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Camps**

With an increase in sickness, COVID-19 is making its mark in the Ukraine with record breaking cases everyday. During October 2020, Ukraine has had multiple spikes in new COVID-19 cases and is predicted to continue rising. This is not expected to be handled very easily, with all other problems going on, people are not able to get help and the virus will just continue to spread through the entire country. COVID-19 will make people sick and because of that markets can crash along with the wars that are sending it off the rails already. As of October 21st, 2020, there were 320,000 cases of COVID-19 affecting the already unstable population. Not only does regular sickness cause death, a global pandemic is no help either.

It is no secret that Refugees struggle to get help. With countries closing their borders it is hard for them to get to camps or asylums safely and legally, leaving these people alone, helpless, and stranded with sickness spreading across the world. Even if someone gets into the country, no official can risk getting the rest of the camp sick with this brand new virus.

Ukraine struggles with losing its population due to death and fleeing because of death. At the moment its people are not very stable and need help. These refugees cannot get the help they need with no government and lots of sickness. In conclusion, Ukraine is unstable and needs help that currently can not be provided due to war and global sickness.

*Delegation from: The United States of America*

*Represented by: Beachwood High School*

### ***Position paper for United Nations General Assembly (UNHCR 1)***

The issues for deliberation before the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees includes Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees, and Impacts of COVID-19 on refugee camps. The United States of America is dedicated to resolve both of the issues posed before us and would be willing to work with other nations to come to an agreement on the pressing issues.

#### **I. Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees**

The legal definition of a refugee is any person who is outside any country of such person's nationality, and is unable or unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. Migrants and refugees traveling at sea is not a new phenomena, however in recent years as international waters continue to be unmonitored, the number of refugee tragedies has fairly increased. With the COVID-19 pandemic and a multitude of other stressors, opportunities for Refugees have been at an all time low, with various amounts of risk involved. Within the current administration, the United States wishes to offer support to other nations in resettling and accommodating for refugees but cannot at this time recommend a global further opening of borders to refugees.

The United States of America has a long history and tradition of providing refuge to those fleeing persecution or war. In the last 15 years, The United States has taken in more refugees than anywhere else in the world. From 2003-2017 the United States has resettled more than 924,652 individuals from over the world. The United States is a safe haven for refugees and has been for years, in the 2020 fiscal year the United States' on refugee resettlement was at a hefty 18,000 individuals. Resettlement is an often life saving solution and the United States has been providing asylum and opportunities for resettlement since its inception. The United States is simply one of the 28 other countries that offer resettlement, increasing the number of nations that offer resettlement could be highly beneficial for all of the Refugees who are considered for resettlement. The United States has a rigorous screening process set in place in order to retain national security and furthermore to ensure that the refugees who enter the country will not pose any danger to the citizens. In the past three years, applications from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras have increased 234%, with more people applying for asylum in the past 17 years combined. Although the United States would like to continue to allow refugees, it is ultimately too strenuous and is causing far too much backlog, since other countries aren't willing to take in refugees at the same caliber. The asylum system within the United States is a multi-stage asylum process which begins at a credible fear interview and ends with getting asylum, and this system has been in place for many years and has worked for many years.

The United States recognizes that to effectively produce a sustainable and peaceful solution, every nation needs to strengthen all diplomatic efforts to produce dialogue and insure fewer refugee tragedies. The

United States has developed a three pronged plan in order to alleviate this tragic and pressing issue. The USA highly incoures the utilization of a Global Database in order to track ships and the passengers within ships. Furthermore, with globalization booming, it is important to understand international immigration patterns in order to aid as many refugees as possible. Although the United States cannot continue to keep accepting large numbers of refugees into its borders it highly recommends that other nations consider opening their borders as well. The United States is dedicated to improving the current circumstances and truly believes that through coordination of all nations involved, many tragedies can be prevented.

## **II. Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Camps**

The world is in the midst of fighting a long-standing menace: The Novel CoronaVirus. The virus has infected more than 43.9 million people and more than 1.17 million people have lost their lives due to the virus. Containing the Virus is of utmost importance and it is imperative that all nations collaborate and encourage sharing among the scientific community in order to develop a vaccine. Refugee camps are already unsanitary environments and the pandemic has done nothing except exacerbate the issue. The Virus is an airborne disease that transfers through person-person contact. Methods such as contact tracing, practicing social distancing, and wearing a mask have been proven successful in deterring the spread of COVID. Furthermore, COVID can be spread through touching the surface of an object that has the virus on it and then touching the face, however this isn't the main mode of transmission. Through the use of proper sanitation and hand washing techniques, the transmission rate of the virus can continue to decrease.

The United States is already spread quite thin as the virus continues to rage on. The United States has had 8.85 million cases and has had more than 227,000 Corona related deaths. Alongside the Virus there are a multitude of dilemmas in relation to Refugee Camps. There is a large disparity present in the distribution of humanitarian aid and the resettlement of refugees. An unproportional number of refugees are resettled to the United States and has caused an excess amount of stress on the camps within the United States. Stratifying and optimizing international humanitarian aid towards refugees is viable through an international group for the purpose of collecting and analyzing data from around the world to determine where aid most needs to go and in what amounts, so nations can better assist others in directing humanitarian aid and other forms of assistance in dealing with the refugee crisis. Furthermore with the resources more evenly spread the strain associated with the pandemic can begin to be alleviated and the camps can begin to adhere more to the measures put in place by the scientific community.

The United States is dedicated to defeating the virus. The United States recommends that databases are utilized in order to reclassify camps into three categories: Emergency, Mid-Level, and Long term residency. Emergency camps would be the camps that have minimal resources and are only used for emergencies. Mid-level camps are the camps with enough resources to aid refugees and house them for a limited amount of time. Finally, Long term residency camps would be the camps with the most resources at their disposal, where families could restart their lives. Furthermore, the United States would like to utilize the skills the refugees already possess. Each refugee is simply just a displaced person, they still contain a skill set, and they can be doctors, teachers, skilled workers, and translators, which could be particularly helpful in reducing the impact of COVID-19 on refugee camps. Additionally, the training of unskilled refugees will be extremely beneficial in terms of having more workers so that things aren't as strained and in aiding the refugees for the rest of their lives. The United States hopes that through collaboration with other nations, COVID-19 can be defeated and the issue can be combated holistically.

## *Delegation from Venezuela*

*Represented by: Lake Ridge Academy*

**Committee: UNHCR**

### **Position Paper for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees**

The issues before the United Nations High Commission for Refugees are: Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees and Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Camps. Venezuela is trying our best to find solutions to these issues.

#### **I. Maritime Movements and Integration Opportunities for Refugees**

Nearly 5 million refugees and migrants are attempting to reach some neighbouring countries nowadays. Compared to the past, Venezuela hosted thousands of refugees from all over the world. Most refugees and migrants from Venezuela have been to neighbouring countries like Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru and the southern Caribbean. As they migrate, they are facing some serious problems like their own safety since they often have to take informal routes to safe areas. They might become victims of smugglers or traffickers. They also need some place to live and have food or medication.

Currently, Venezuela really needs to stabilize our politics and economy. Because of the political turmoil in which there are two presidents in Venezuela, the political situation is chaotic. Also, due to the increasing number of unemployment and lack of food, many Venezuelans have left our country. The UNHCR has made progress to provide emergency shelter for Venezuelans arriving in the foreign countries. The emergency shelter really helps the refugees or migrants to find a temporary home to live and increase their security. Another thing is that refugees and migrants really need jobs to earn money. When they first arrive at a strange place, they cannot find jobs immediately. It becomes more difficult among some disabled people.

First, we want to stabilize the political situation and the economy which are the reasons why so many Venezuelans left. We can schedule a time to revote and make sure who is the president of Venezuela. Then, we will pay attention to our agriculture like growing more vegetables to let people have food to eat. We will also actively promote the sale of our oil. Secondly, we will pay attention to the humanitarian spirit of refugees. For example, let them spend this period in the neighboring countries. We hope that other countries can let them live for a while and provide some basic supplies like food and water. We really appreciate that some countries can let them live for a while. We would like the UNHCR to help us provide them with some basic necessities to increase their living conditions and give them some support to let them know that we will never give up on them. Once everything is alright, we will definitely welcome them to come back.

#### **II. Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Camps**

Venezuelan refugees and migrants are now facing serious challenges, including the decreasing of incomes and some basic needs especially for health care. Many of them are at high risks of getting

COVID-19. “Amid the current global health emergency, many refugees and migrants from Venezuela are at risk of being left out of health and social welfare programs, especially those in an irregular situation,” said Stein.

Because of the gathering of people, COVID-19 gets spread faster and faster. There're 42.9M cases in Latin America. Since it's hard for every person to be tested and make sure everyone has a mask. We are trying to figure out a way for the refugees to overcome this difficult situation. In order to limit the spread and impact of the virus, UNHCR is now working with national authorities to increase capacities of national health systems. There are some new structures like improving shelters, environment and isolation facilities. On the other hand, the refugees really need to pay more attention to wearing masks and take care of themselves. It might spread rapidly without noticing. Therefore, we should let the refugees know how serious it is and taking action on protecting ourselves.

During the pandemic, we really want everybody around the world to unite together. If some countries can unite and help each other, we believe that we can solve this problem as soon as possible. Including building some testing facilities and getting some health support. For example, we can work with Colombia to put up tents and other infrastructure on our borders to help refugees get better attention and better treatment. At the same time, we will pacify the refugees and give them spiritual encouragement. We will post something like “Don't give up! Life will be better!” or “We can overcome it since everyone is united together.” Venezuela also will ask our citizens to make and wear masks. We hope that all people can overcome this difficult situation.