

General Assembly

Committee Description

The General Assembly will be run Harvard Style, signifying that no resolution papers can be drafted before the conference for any of the topics. Yet, it is vigorously encouraged and advisable that delegates come to committee fully prepared and omniscient of all four topics, as well as their own country's policies, so that they can fully engage in the committee process and create wholly comprehensive resolution papers during committee.

Delegates should also consider coming prepared with at least one position paper. This will make them eligible for awards at the conclusion of the conference. While it is commendable to strive for an award, participants of the General Assembly are reminded that the purpose of committee is to come up with all-encompassing solutions for global issues, and so delegates should collaborate agreeably in order to do so effectively.

Chairs:

Hey delegates! My name is Mikayla Bird and I am a senior at Penfield High School. This is my second time chairing and my third year in Model UN. In addition to MUN, at Penfield I am a member of the cross country team as well as the mock trial and masterminds team. I look forward to a great conference and feel free to email me with any questions!

Hello everyone! My name is Cassandra Jones, I am a senior at Gates-Chili High School, and this will be my first time chairing, and my third year participating in Model UN! Outside of MUN I am a peer leader at my school, and I am also involved in Masterminds, Project Unify/YAC, hiking club, newspaper club, and I am a catcher for our varsity softball team. I am beyond delighted to be chairing for you, and I am looking forward to an energetic, inspirational and memorable committee! Please, please feel free to e-mail me with any questions!

Sex Trafficking in Romania

In Romania, sex trafficking of predominantly young girls has reached ghastly proportions. Romania is one of the top five European Union countries of origin for sex trafficking victims and approximately one third of Romania's sex trafficking victims are young girls.

Romania is widely advertised as an origin for sex trafficking and sex tourism which has perpetuated the practice even more in recent years. Despite this, trafficking is not necessarily obvious and thus difficult to stop and prosecute.

In addition, the Romanian government and law enforcement has responded poorly to the situation in the country. Law enforcement often characterizes trafficking as the same as prostitution, which is false because prostitution implies consent while trafficking does not.

Young girls are allured by men and women who tell them that working in the industry will provide them with a better life. They often gain the girls' trust and then exploit them for profit; profit which the girls rarely see. In some rural villages, girls disappear at startling rates and often enter the world of sex trafficking.

Though sex trafficking is prominent in various regions of Romania, the topic still carries a stigma. Sex trafficking is not given enough attention by locals, many of whom claim the practice does not exist, and the girls are typically ostracized when they return home. Because the practice is not talked about, it continues to plague Romania and impact thousands of people, specifically young girls.

How can the United Nations work to combat sex trafficking in Romania without infringing on national sovereignty? How can the United Nations improve the stigma surrounding sex trafficking victims? In what ways can the United Nations work with the Romanian government to adequately prosecute sex traffickers?

CNN: Romania a Global Center for Human Trafficking

<http://www.cnn.com/2011/OPINION/02/07/batstone.romania.sex.trade/>

Al Jazeera America: Romania's Disappearing Girls

http://projects.aljazeera.com/2015/08/sex-trafficking-in-romania/index.html?utm_content=nobyline

Eliberare: Human Trafficking in Romania

<http://www.eliberare.com/en/human-trafficking-romania/>

Dealing with the effects of nuclear detonations on the Bikini Islands

During the height of the Cold War, the United States conducted a series of nuclear tests on Bikini Atoll, an atoll located in the Marshall Islands. In the late 1940's through the 1950's, the United States government detonated dozens of nuclear bombs in the air, water, and lands surrounding the atoll. One bomb, called Bravo, dropped in 1954, was a thousand times more powerful than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima and, in addition to the other nuclear devices tested on the atoll, had extreme consequences on the islands and its people.

Due to the United States government's presence on the atoll, islanders were relocated to a neighboring cluster of islands in 1946. This first relocation was the first in a series of migrations for the native inhabitants of Bikini that had profound effects on the culture and survival of the people.

In the 1970's, the island was declared safe for residence but after the discovery of high radiation levels in food in 1978, the islanders moved once again. These constant upheavals did not save the islanders from the effects of nuclear contamination, as many developed cancer or were born with birth defects.

Despite a series of payments for cleanup and personal injury compensation purposes by the United States, the islands continue to experience the environmental, economic, cultural and health consequences brought by the nuclear tests. The islands have high unemployment and poverty rates and obesity and diabetes are the number one causes of death, followed by cancer.

Though the US government has tried to reassure islanders that certain islands are now safe for inhabitation, many islanders still refuse to go back to the former test zones as they fear for their safety and the effects the islands' water and food may have on future generations.

How can the United Nations help properly compensate those impacted by the nuclear tests without impeding on national sovereignty? How can the United Nations work to combat the diabetes, cancer, and obesity epidemics on the island? How can the United Nations preserve the culture of the Bikini Islanders if they continue to reside on different islands? How can the United Nations prevent future nuclear testing on inhabited islands?

The Guardian: Bikini Atoll Nuclear Test: 60 Years Later and Islands Still Unlivable

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/mar/02/bikini-atoll-nuclear-test-60-years>

Atomic Heritage Foundation: Operation Crossroad

<http://www.atomicheritage.org/history/operation-crossroads>

The Washington Post: A Ground Zero Forgotten

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/sf/national/2015/11/27/a-ground-zero-forgotten/>

The Gaza Sewage Crisis

Sewage is not something often thought about. In many first world countries, inhabitants flush and forget. Yet, areas that have a history of war, destruction and poverty are at times unable to provide the resources necessary to allow for basic waste sanitation. This lack of asepsis is occurring currently in the Gaza Strip.

The devastation of the Gaza infrastructure from its war with Israel, its militaristic leadership under the Hamas, and the continuing Israeli blockade of the strip, has led to its inability to focus energy and electricity enough to power sewage sanitation plants. This shortcoming has prompted sewage from all over the strip to be outlet into local freshwater areas, the Mediterranean, and has furthered the creation of sewage swamps.

This sanitary neglect has begun to make people ill with an abundance of ailments. Not only is it affecting local Gazans and their drinking water, but it is also having an impact on the

environment; the Mediterranean coast is being polluted by sewage pipes, which are affecting those living in Israel and Egypt.

While there have been attempts made by several concerned nations and humanitarian groups to aid Gaza, their efforts have been minimized due to their lack of confidence in the Hamas to use the aid to power sanitation plants, or to help the Gazan people. Instead the aid may be redirected to help the militants under the Hamas fight with Israel.

Without a way to be sure that any efforts are reaching the suffering people of Gaza, relief aid hesitance will continue to advance the epidemic. Until action is taken, the crisis in Gaza will be prolonged until the Gaza Strip may be uninhabitable.

What are the physical detriments this sewage crisis can have on the people and the environment? How can the UN aid Gaza without being forced to interfere with the conflicts between the Hamas and Israel? Can any actions be taken to clean the sewage from the Mediterranean coast and inland swamps/cesspits? Can this crisis be used to set any international precedents regarding fresh water availability and mandatory sewage sanitation?

Washington Times: Gaza Sewage Crisis, Festering in Conflict, Poisons Coast

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/may/3/gaza-sewage-poisons-coastline-threatens-israel/>

The Jerusalem Post: Gaza Sewage Crisis is a Ticking Timebomb for Israel

<http://www.jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/Gaza-sewage-crisis-is-a-ticking-timebomb-for-Israel-448335>

BreitBart: Gaza Sewage Causes Water Crisis

<http://www.breitbart.com/jerusalem/2016/05/04/gaza-sewage-pollution-spells-water-crisis-israel-palestinians/>

Aljazeera America: Parting of the Brown Sea

<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/4/18/sewage-crisis-threatens-gazas-access-to-water.html>

Native European Hostility Toward Refugees

With war and bloodshed plaguing much of the Middle East and Africa, many civilians who are trying to get out of the crossfire of conflicting militant or political groups are traveling great distances to take refuge in Europe.

While Europe has historically been open to lodging and integrating refugees until strife-stricken areas become peaceful, many disputes in the Middle East and Africa have yet to be settled, causing tensions between native Europeans and people seeking refuge to heighten.

Millions of people have already crossed over into Europe from the Middle East and Africa, and have been doing so for years. There have been no universally set standards for immigration policies, and because of this, there have been massive struggles in European countries to either integrate emigrants into local culture, or to move them onward to other countries. Many refugees have taken to the streets and to begging, where they stay for some time and never return back to their country of origin.

This huge mass migration has become an issue for leaders as many native civilians openly outcry against any pro-refugee policies. With so many terrorist attacks occurring all over the world, Islamophobia is at an all time high, and natives are afraid of any ethnic Muslims, or refugees that may be practicing Islam, who are coming over and may be a part of any radical Islamic terrorist groups, such as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

Other native Europeans have shown racist tendencies toward people of color seeking refuge from strife in various African countries. This racism, paired with Islamophobia, and public protest of money being spent on refugee groups, all have driven native Europeans to object to any more refugees coming into Europe. Refugee groups have responded with backlash, ending in violence between them and natives.

Can the United Nations do anything to stop conflicts in war stricken countries and return refugees without infringing on national sovereignty? How can nations protect their native

citizens from terrorist attacks without abusing harmless refugee groups? What are the economic repercussions of housing millions of immigrants, and of forcing them to leave? What can nations do to prevent the violence inflicted on refugees that racism and Islamophobia cause?

US News: Refugees Finding Increasingly Hostile Reception in Europe

<http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2016-03-01/refugees-finding-increasingly-hostile-reception-in-europe>

Telesur: Refugees, Immigrants Met with Racist Violence Across Europe

<http://www.telesur.tv/english/news/Refugees-Immigrants-Met-with-Racist-Violence-Across-Europe-20151023-0015.html>

Slate: The Vicious Cycle of Muslim Immigration

http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/politics/2016/03/the_vicious_cycle_of_muslim_immigration_sympathy_then_disinterest_then_hostility.html