

# Hilton 2019

## United Nations Human Rights Council

### Committee Overview

This committee will be run Harvard Style, meaning that resolutions are not to be written until the date of the conference itself. Additionally, it is highly suggested that every delegate write at least one position paper on a topic, as doing so will be necessary to be considered for an award, which can be turned in on the day of the committee or by email before committee.

All delegates are expected to come to the first day of the conference with a working knowledge of all or most of the topics, as well as the policies of the countries that they represent. As the United Nations Human Rights Council, it is imperative that delegates keep in mind that their purpose is to promote and protect human rights around the world without infringing upon national sovereignty. Above all, remember that Model UN is not a competition, so get to researching and try to have a little fun!

### Committee Description

Migrants Facing Gang Rape in North Africa

Brunei's Harsh New Criminal Law

Government Violence Against Civilians in Cameroon

Missing and Dead Migrants and Refugees in the Mediterranean

### Chairs

Alina Chadwick | [alina.chadwick@gmail.com](mailto:alina.chadwick@gmail.com)

Kevin Li | [kevinzlyi02@gmail.com](mailto:kevinzlyi02@gmail.com)

Greetings delegates! My name is Alina Chadwick and this is my second time chairing. I am a senior at Penfield High School and this is my fourth year in Model UN. In addition to Model UN, I am a violinist in Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra and I teach Russian to children at the Russian Cultural and Educational Center of Rochester. As well, I am very passionate about traveling and tend to do so very often. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at my email!

Hello delegates! My name is Kevin Li and this is my first time chairing. I'm a senior at Mendon High School and this is my fourth year in Model UN. Outside of MUN, I play violin in the Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, as well as playing tennis, and I am the captain of the Science Olympiad club. I also enjoy fishing and camping. Feel free to email me if you have any questions! Good luck in committee!

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### Immigrants Facing Gang Rape in North Africa



Over the past decade, the extent to which Libya is becoming a temporary home to migrants from the Middle East and Africa has been steadily increasing. Currently, it is estimated that between 700,000 and one million migrants are residing in Libya, most of whom are refugees fleeing from Syria, Mali, Bangladesh, and Sudan. Although these migrants are seeking transit to safe passage, many of them have faced bonded labor, exploitation, and harassment in North Africa. In addition, a majority of women have faced gang rape and abuse by traffickers, according to a UN report and

hundreds of interviews.

Over the past few years, citizens and residents of Libya have been exposed to slave trade, violence, political instability, and various human rights abuses. However, these abuses are also faced by those seeking passage through Libya as well. Most detention centres across the country are run illegally and unofficially by criminal gangs and armed guards. Not only do these groups inflict human rights abuses on many detainees, they also profit by selling refugees from one criminal group to another, contributing to the Libyan slave trade. In many detention centres, female refugees are initially forced into strip searches by male guards, often followed by various sexual abuses, specifically gang rape by detention centre guards and traffickers.

Although the United Nations has filed reports and investigations on human rights abuses in Libya, the issue concerning gang rape and sexual abuse of detainees is still on the rise. Efforts made by the European Union have also been not as successful as intended; The EU has spent the equivalent of \$200 million to deter migrants from entering Libya, but most of these migrants fear the risk of danger when fleeing via the Mediterranean. Due to the high rate of migrants entering Libya despite the human rights abuses they face, it is an imperative that there is action regarding the significant extent of sexual abuse in Libya.

*What actions can be done by UNHRC to assist the victims of abuse in Libya? How can the UN prevent further abuses of detainees in Libya and other nations? Why has the EU been previously unsuccessful and how can the UN build on previous actions? How can other actions prevent migrants from entering Libya in the first place?*

#### Sources:

<https://www.iom.int/countries/libya>

<https://www.unhcr.org/news/latest/2017/7/595a470d4/refugee-migrant-flows-libya-rise-report.html>

<https://www.voanews.com/africa/un-reports-migrants-and-refugees-libya-face-horrific-abuse>

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### Brunei's Harsh New Criminal Law



On 4 April 2019, the monarchical government of Brunei enacted a new criminal law that outraged the international media. Although homosexuality and some of the crimes discussed in this new law were already illegal in Brunei, this new criminal law is much harsher than it had been previously, including amputation of limbs for theft and death by stoning for homosexual sex among men, adultery, rape, extramarital sex, sodomy, and insulting the Prophet Muhammad. In addition, this new law criminalizes teaching children about any religion other than Islam.

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When the idea of implementing a strong interpretation of the Sharia criminal law was introduced in Brunei in 2014, it was faced with heavy condemnation by the public, resulting in the Sultan's decision to delay the last two phases of the new penal code. Although the reasoning behind Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah's decision to enforce the penal code this April is unknown, many believe that it was a way for the government to reinstate and establish its power in Brunei; Since the economy of the kingdom has recently been declining, this reinstatement of power could potentially prevent future unrest in the nation.

In spite of Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah's justification of this Islamic criminal law as Islamic teachings strengthening the nation, this law received a worldwide outcry in the media and by many citizens of Brunei. In fact, celebrities, public figures, and citizens of developed nations have declared boycotts on hotels and oil companies associated with Brunei. As a result, the harsh law may not be carried out to the same extent as originally intended. However, the government has defended its right to carry out this law in spite of UN criticism and the American government's urges to implement the United Nations Convention Against Torture.

*What actions can be taken by the UN to prevent further abuses against LGBT citizens in Brunei? How can the media outcry be taken advantage of to prevent these abuses? Can this issue be solved economically, or must there be direct political action?*

### Sources:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/03/world/asia/brunei-stoning-gay-sex.html>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-47769964>

<https://www.npr.org/2019/04/03/709359137/death-by-stoning-among-punishments-in-new-brunei-anti-lgbt-criminal-laws>

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-brunei-lgbt-un-idUSKCN1RF2ED>

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## United Nations Human Rights Council

### Government Violence Against Civilians in Cameroon



Cameroon has been known often as “Africa in miniature” due to its geographical and cultural diversity. Recently, political disputes over culture and identity have grown into violent conflicts by the government against civilians in the Anglophone region. The English-speaking natives in the area, 20% of the Cameroon population, protested their underrepresentation and marginalization by the Franco-phone dominated government.

The government claims that radical separatist groups are the reason for retaliation, yet in many interviews, those displaced by the raids recount that troops opened fire on innocent villagers, using force indiscriminately and destroying private and public property. In response to these actions, the Cameroon government has done nearly nothing, investigating little and handing out few prosecutions for these crimes. In addition to this, the separatists groups have committed multiple crimes, including kidnappings and violence and radical terrorist groups, such as Boroko Haram, have been attacking the nation frequently. Because of these factors, over half a million civilians have been displaced.

Due to the lack of investigation by the government, who are in denial of the human rights violations, there is a major humanitarian crisis in Cameroon occurring now. 1.2 million people are in need of help or in danger by this conflict, and nothing seems to be improving as the Cameroonian government has consistently failed in addressing the causes of the conflict and providing a peaceful means of resolving it. The various other problems, such as the attacks by Boroko Haram and refusal of refugees from Nigeria, have deteriorated a previously peaceful country into chaos. Due to these facts, it is of the utmost importance that solutions be found for Cameroon to ensure that this conflict does not escalate further.

*How can UNHRC decrease the violence against civilians? What can be done to assist the refugees who have been displaced, as well as those in danger due to the conflict? What ways can the UNHRC make the government of Cameroon investigate and incarcerate violence against innocent civilians without infringing on national sovereignty?*

#### Sources:

<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2019/country-chapters/cameroon>

<http://www.globalr2p.org/regions/cameroon>

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2019/world/cameroon-anglophone-crisis/?utm\\_term=.be2cce290953](https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2019/world/cameroon-anglophone-crisis/?utm_term=.be2cce290953)

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### Missing and Dead Migrants and Refugees in the Mediterranean



Begun in 2015, the European refugee crisis has been the largest migration since World War II, affecting many countries along the Mediterranean Sea. Due to the chaos created by the Arab Springs as well as the Syrian Civil War, over 4 million people have immigrated to the European Union, adding large amounts of stress on border nations such as Germany and Hungary who process hundreds of thousands of immigrants per year.

As a result of this huge migration, there have been many accidents on the Mediterranean regarding migrants, as many travel to these European Union countries in very unsafe and cramped boats. These dangerous conditions

have led to many deaths at sea. For example, in 2015, five boats carrying around 2,000 people sank, killing over 1,200 passengers. In fact, the death rate per crossing has increased as the years have passed, increasing from 1 in 32 in 2017 to 1 in 18 in the same period in 2018. Furthermore, many of these European Nation governments have become anti-immigrant, including Italy, Hungary, and Austria. The lack of support to help these immigrants have increased the danger of the crossing and decreased the funding that were originally used to help these people.

Even with the dangerous conditions at sea, most refugees find that the only way for them to escape the violence in their nations is to leave their country, and because crossing by sea is the most widely used method, it puts hundreds of thousands of asylum seekers in danger. Currently, the UN has helped create migrant camps in many countries bordering the Mediterranean as well as giving migrants education and resources with UNRWA, but have not sufficiently addressed the issues at sea as of yet. While the immigration crisis has decreased majorly over the past years, with immigration rates decreasing to pre-2015 levels, it is of the utmost importance that these people who are immigrating to safe nations in the European Union are kept safe on their passage and that those that have gone missing are found through international efforts. To ensure that these asylum seekers are safe in their journey, more actions must be done on both the international and national scale.

*What actions can the UNHRC do to decrease the mortality rate at sea? What problems exist that need to be addressed to increase the safety of these crossings? How can the UN help reunite fractured families between camps? What can the EU do differently in order to help these immigrants?*

### Sources:

<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2019/country-chapters/european-union>

<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean>

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/01/20/europe/migrants-missing-mediterranean-intl/index.html>

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/more-than-100-migrants-missing-in-mediterranean-in-vessel-sinking-un-says/2019/01/19/8617bbb0-1c17-11e9-b8e6-567190c2fd08\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.07616c2d0eae](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/more-than-100-migrants-missing-in-mediterranean-in-vessel-sinking-un-says/2019/01/19/8617bbb0-1c17-11e9-b8e6-567190c2fd08_story.html?utm_term=.07616c2d0eae)