



# THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION ON REFUGEE CAMPS



## **ABOUT THE MODEL OF UNITED NATION**

The Model of United Nation is a simulation of the UN General Assembly, UN Security Council, or other multilateral bodies, like in this case the Human Rights Council. In this occasion you are supposed to learn how the international community acts on its concerns about the HRC's work specifically you are dealing with the topic of: "Human Rights in Refugee's Camps".

The objective of this research process is that the delegate can identify the country's position on the issue representing, in order to build policies and workable solutions. To achieve this, the participant must study history and topicality, its legal framework (treaties, resolutions, agreements, etc.), positions and decisions that have arisen in favour or against this, groups or blocks that have been created, proposals and solutions that have been presented, among others.

You will discuss on this topic about the state of basic conditions and fundamental requirements refugee's camps. You will discuss consequence and possible solutions, to get your proposals. You also must take into account documents from other organizations that work in this topic, for example, UNICEF, Water Aid, ACNUR, etc. And finally, you will have a list of what items you must discuss in the United Nations Model.

## **ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

The Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe and for addressing situations of human rights violations and make recommendations on them. It has the ability to discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year. It meets at the UN Office at Geneva.

The Council is made up of 47 United Nations Member States which are elected by the UN General Assembly. The Human Rights Council replaced the former United Nations Commission on Human Rights. The Council was created by the United Nations General Assembly on 15 March 2006 by resolution 60/251. Its first session took place from 19 to 30 June 2006. One year later, the Council adopted its; Institution-building package; to guide its work and set up its procedures and mechanisms.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS IN REFUGEE'S CAMPS**

Refugee's camps try to respond to refugee's rights included in the Refugee's Statute Convention (1951), like the right to not be sanctioned for the irregular entry in a country, the free education, the sanity basic attention and to have a decent housing for the families who live there.

When a territory suffers a war conflict, refugee's camps usually installed in the neighbour countries, more or less at about 50 kilometres from the border points, what is the distance recommended by the international organizations. Even so, every day and structural problems those whose face are numerous and this affects to the service that can be given.

The obstacles can be internal or external. Some recurrent elements that difficult their function are the lack of resources, the continuous displacement of the population, the insecurity and the natural disasters.

## **ABOUT THE LACK OF RESOURCES AND ALIMENTATION**

Economic resources are an indispensable item for the refugee's camps functioning as there is a direct consequence on issues such as alimentation, sanitary services, medical dotation, school material and access to potable water and energy. In the vast majority of crisis, economic resources come from government, from the organizations dedicated on the humanity help and from people donations.

The World Food Program, that supplies 90.000 basic food rations and other 35.000 complementary every month, has had to reduce the number of basic products. Furthermore, it has limited the inversion in alimentary education programs.

Pregnant women, children and old people are the most harmed ones. In the last year, the cases of children malnutrition have increased, which has turned into a serious obstacle to attend schools in refugee's camps regularly. Refugees often eat only three cups of corn flour, a cup of green peas, twenty grams of soy, two tablespoons of cooking oil and ten gram of salt. Usually, they must use only one bar of soap for a month.

## **ABOUT THE CONTINUOUS DISPLACEMENT OF THE POPULATION**

A refugee's camp also faces the constant movement of the population that lives there. Even a lot of refugee families stay there for months or years, others only stay few days. This difficult the registration, legal and attention tasks.

## **ABOUT THE SECURITY AND THE UPSURGE OF THE WAR**

Another challenge is about security. Although for a lot of refugees camps represent stability after days and months of long cruises, risks never disappear.

In some cases, camps can be so big so it's difficult to control what happens in them. Nevertheless, it's important to point that the biggest threat in a camp doesn't have relation with the material objects stolen, but with the individual abuses, especially the sexual ones. Children and women are two of the most vulnerable groups.

Also, the war remains to be a threat for some camps, especially for those that have been constructed so near the frontiers. In some occasions, the armed actions are extended to the divisor line from the countries and put at risk the integrity and security of all the people who stay there.

## **ABOUT THE WORK**

Even though refugees search every day new ways to survive, the perspective that reigns in the refugee's camp is only one: to wait.

The jobs people can do are precarious ones and the salaries don't allow covering their needs. In the surroundings don't proliferate work options, so a lot of refugees has had to migrate to other countries from where they sent remittances that suppose a very valuable source of income for their families. However, only some of them get it.

## **ABOUT THE EDUCATION**

More than a half of refugees are children. Their education has been interrupted because of the war and his escape from the country. For this reason, because the children don't miss opportunities for their future, organizations have been working to have access to the education in the refugee's camps.

Classrooms are being built in camps, teachers are formed, and they help families to pay for the enrolments and school material when it's necessary. In these camps, there are kindergartens, primary schools, secondary schools and even education centres for adults.

It is worth noting that classrooms still have no light, warm or proper facilities, while they are surrounded by a whole different situation.

### **ABOUT THE NATURAL DISASTERS**

Natural disasters are another difficulty that the refugee's camps must overcome. One example can be found in the settlement of Tinduf (Occidental Sahara). Last October, the rains that whip every year this region flooded partially five camps that were there, affecting food reserves and some crops attached to the field and forcing about 5000 families to sleep in tents.

### **TO DISCUSE**

Key questions to answer:

- What is the source of the problem? What is the current state of affairs?
- How would you try to solve the problem?
- What has been the country's position on these measures?
- How are the states involved in the problem? Who are the most important agents in the discussion? What are their positions?
- Which International Organizations have been involved in resolving the issue?
- What are the resolutions, treaties, conventions, agreements, etc., governing this matter? Which nations are partakers of these? Who were those for and against?
- What measures proposed your country when dealing with the issue? (particularly review the speeches of the representatives of the state)
- Should there be more effort from the States?
- Refugee's crises is only a responsibility from the states where there are refugee camps?
- What do you think about the creation of global mechanisms where more than one country is involved?