



ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2020

100 YEARS OF MULTILATERALISM
THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

GIMUN ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2020

STUDY GUIDE

SOCIAL HUMANITARIAN AND CULTURAL COMMITTEE (SOCHUM)

SELIN BASAK GUNGOR & MOUSTAPHA HELMY
GENEVA INTERNATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

PROOFREAD BY: FRANCISCO DE LA TORRE CIRCUNS

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WORDS OF WELCOME

Dear Delegates,

We are honoured to take part in GIMUN 2020 as your Chairs in the SOCHUM committee. Serving this position together is very special to us, mainly because we met each other in GIMUN 2019 and have been friends ever since. Hopefully, the friendships you will develop during this conference will be just as meaningful.

Terrorism, asymmetric warfare and public insecurity caused by rebels are currently a significant issue not only on a security level but also in every level of the social strata. Terrorism, counter-terrorism, and asymmetric warfare all carry risks that impact not only public safety but also society in a social, political and economic manner. This is why we think it is important to discuss the matter within the Social and Humanitarian Committee of the United Nations.

Migration is both a cause and an effect of terrorism. It is, within international politics, being politicised and dehumanised, and that is why the United Nations should consider the humanitarian aspects, and remind the public that migrants and refugees should be protected under international law. They are not just political concerns on the national agenda.

Together, we hope to have discussions regarding these issues, as well as the issues addressed in this study guide. We also want to keep alive the hope of a better future where risks to security and safety are low.

Your Chairs,

Selin and Moustapha

1 SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND CULTURAL COMMITTEE

1.1 HISTORY OF THE COMMITTEE

The Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM) is the third committee of the United Nations General Assembly. Just as the other General Assembly (GA) committees, it was established in 1947. SOCHUM, as its name suggests, deals with the social and humanitarian aspects of prevailing world issues and the protection of human rights. SOCHUM includes all 193 Member States of the GA. The committee works alongside the Special Procedures of the Geneva-based Human Rights Council to hold dialogues with them, thanks to the special human rights status of the Third Committee.¹

¹ "The GA Handbook A Practical Guide to the United Nations General Assembly". Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations, 2011. 73-75.

Among the main achievements of this committee is the drafting and reviewing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Committee dedicated 81 meetings to the wording of this international treaty in order to guarantee that the process was inclusive and that as many opinions were heard as possible.² Additionally, SOCHUM was responsible for the proposal of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which outlines the responsibilities of the Committee in charge of monitoring the implementation of the covenant. Such protocol was adopted by the GA3 (A/C.3/63/L.47),³ later becoming a resolution adopted by the General Assembly.

1.2 MEMBERSHIP AND MANDATE

All 193 Member States have representation in the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee. Non-Member States or organizations can be present as Observer States. The Committee uses the mandate of the General Assembly established under the Charter of the United Nations.

As its core focus, SOCHUM and its subsidiary body, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), debate on social, humanitarian and cultural issues. Human rights are generally at the heart of many issues that are discussed by the committee. The issues usually include topics such as women's rights (and the violation and protection thereof); children's rights (and the violation and protection thereof); issues regarding refugees and migrants, including their rights (and the violation and protection thereof); racism, etc. The focus is always on the social, humanitarian and cultural setting of set case studies. Furthermore, this committee addresses social development issues at both the international and local level to ensure sustainable development.⁴

1.3 RESPONSIBILITIES AND PAST ACTIONS

Since SOCHUM is a GA committee, its responsibilities are distributed via the GA. Its scope can generally be described as the "promotion and protection of human rights."⁵ The GA's

² "Research Guides: Drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Third Session – 3rd Committee". 2019. *United Nations*. <http://research.un.org/en/undhr/ga/thirdcommittee>

³ "Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights". 2008. *General Assembly United Nations*. <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/N08/582/44/PDF/N0858244.pdf?OpenElement>

⁴ "UN General Assembly - Third Committee - Social, Humanitarian & Cultural". 2019. <https://www.un.org/en/ga/third/links.shtml>

⁵ "The GA Handbook A Practical Guide to the United Nations General Assembly". Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations, 2011. 73.

functions are “promoting international co-operation in the economic, social, cultural, educational and health fields... without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion”.⁶

In the first session of the General Assembly in 1946, SOCHUM worked on such topics as women’s rights, the Red Cross and Red Crescent, freedom, culture, and refugees and displaced people following the Second World War, as well as the establishment of the World Health Organization. Since then, SOCHUM has worked on humanitarian issues and how to solve them by aiding the General Assembly with their work.

⁶ Article 13. “Charter of the United Nations”. *United Nations*. 24 October 1945.

2 TOPIC A: EFFECTS OF COUNTER-TERRORISM OPERATIONS, ASYMMETRIC WARFARE AND SITUATIONS OF BROAD PUBLIC INSECURITY

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Although a universal definition of terrorism does not currently exist, it refers to acts threatening the state of normalcy of public security, which later generates fear within the social and political sphere.⁷ In its resolution 1566, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) defined terrorism as:

criminal acts, including against civilians, committed with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury, or taking of hostages, with the purpose to provoke a state of terror in the general public or in a group of persons or particular persons, intimidate a population or compel a Government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act.⁸

Terrorist activity is human-made and may cause harm to human beings. This is why the location and the target of terrorist attacks are often unpredictable and unforeseen. Measures aiming to prevent, limit or combat terrorist activity are known as counter-terrorism.

Counter-terrorism has come into the forefront of the international agenda as activities, by organizations such as Boko Haram, Al-Qaida and the Islamic State, have had a stronger negative impact on nations and individuals alike. Such organizations have taken every opportunity to intensify their strategies and adapt to counter-terrorism efforts and technological advances over time. This has affected - among other things - their chosen targets and their recruitment methods, further complicating efforts.⁹ The aim of counter-terrorism efforts is to foster safety and security for individuals. However, in some cases, counter-terrorism efforts limit freedom. They can restrict people's freedom of movement when declaring a state of emergency or other exceptional measures. But zealous measures can exacerbate biases - implicit or otherwise - leading to increased discrimination against

⁷ "Human Rights, Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism". 2008. *Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*. <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/Factsheet32EN.pdf>

⁸ "Resolution 1566 (2004)". S/RES/1566(2004) *United Nations Security Council*. [https://undocs.org/S/RES/1566\(2004\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/1566(2004))

⁹ Crenshaw, Martha. 1981. 'The Causes of Terrorism', *Comparative Politics* 13(4), pp.379- 399.

various minorities, which further restricts the freedom of expression of individual identity, religious beliefs and might lead to ever-increasing public insecurity as a result.¹⁰

Asymmetric warfare refers to military combat between two groups whose powers are imbalanced. The definition often includes insurgencies, guerilla warfare and rebellions. Terrorist activity is also increasingly referred to as part of asymmetric warfare. This is because the activity is usually aimed at civilians or an unarmed group by an armed group, yet it should be accepted that in this grouping, terrorist acts are often treated as one-sided warfare.¹¹

The issues of terrorism and counter-terrorism have held an important place in the agendas of States and organizations for nearly 20 years, not only on a policy level but also on an individual level, with people being psychologically, economically and legally affected by threats posed by terrorist acts.

2.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The history of terrorism is a long and tumultuous one, with asymmetric conflicts dating back to revolts against ancient State orders or slave revolts, like the Servile Wars of Rome. When talking about terrorism specifically, historical examples such as the Narodnaya Volya in the Russian Federation or the Fenians of Ireland may come up. However, in more modern times, activities by groups such as the Muslim Brotherhood, Hizbullah, Hamas and the Taliban - and their offshoots - are more relevant to today's issues of terrorism. A similar approach applies to counter-terrorism as well as broad public insecurity. The "War on Terror" was officially declared by the United States of America following the 11 September 2001 attacks, and is an ongoing conflict.

2.2.1 11 SEPTEMBER 2001 AND ITS AFTERMATH

On 11 September 2001 two commercial flights crashed into the World Trade Center towers resulting in over two thousand casualties. An American Airlines plane hit the Pentagon, in Virginia, and a United Airlines plane crashed into a field in Pennsylvania.¹² These attacks are considered a major event in recent American history due the immediate destruction they caused, and the fear and pain they brought onto the American public.¹³ Al-Qaida claimed

¹⁰ Rychnovská, Dagmar. "Securitization and the Power of Threat Framing". *Perspectives*, vol. 22, no. 2, 2014, pp. 9–31.

¹¹ "Asymmetric Warfare". 2020. *RAND Corporation*. <https://www.rand.org/topics/asymmetric-warfare.html>

¹² Engel, Pamela. 2018. "What Happened On 9/11, 17 Years Ago". *Business Insider Nederland*. <https://www.businessinsider.nl/what-happened-on-911-why-2016-9?international=true&r=US>

¹³ Biddle, Stephen. 2011. "Learning to Live with Insecurity in a Post 9/11 World". *Business Insider*. <https://www.businessinsider.com/911-lessons-learning-to-live-with-insecurity-2011-8?international=true&r=US&IR=T>

authorship of these attacks during a speech delivered by its leader, Usama bin Laden. In the direct aftermath of the attack and the claim of responsibility, then-President of the United States of America, George W. Bush, declared a “War on Terror”.¹⁴

The 9/11 attacks, as they have come to be called, are important because they mark a turning point in the history of counter-terrorism efforts, both in terms of the public’s perception of the terrorist risk and the importance of counter-terrorism in the political agenda. The lengthy coverage of the attacks by 24-hour media channels made the public exaggerate the risk that terror attacks pose on their day-to-day lives and exacerbated the implicit biases and fears towards Arabic and Muslim communities in the United States of America, reinforcing a stereotypical link between Arabs, Muslims and terrorists. These communities¹⁵ were heavily impacted by law enforcement and even in their day-to-day lives by societal response. They faced exclusion due to their identity and the connotation it had been framed with.¹⁶

2.2.2 WAR IN AFGHANISTAN (2001 -PRESENT)

Following the 9/11 attacks, the United States of America invaded Afghanistan to overthrow the Taliban government that had been in place since the 1990s. The United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland started “Operation Enduring Freedom” in order to fight Al-Qaida and the Taliban in Afghanistan. The war spilled over to neighbouring Pakistan and in 2011, a United States Navy SEAL team found and killed Usama bin Laden – the leader of Al-Qaida – in Abbottabad, Pakistan. The operation in Afghanistan is still ongoing under the name “Operation Freedom's Sentinel”.

Even though this mission is a counter-terrorist measure and aims to undermine two large terrorist organizations in the Middle East (Al-Qaida and the Taliban), it has affected civilians economically, socially and politically. In March 2002, the United Nations established the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) in order to aid people in conflict

¹⁴ Engel, Pamela. 2018. "What Happened On 9/11, 17 Years Ago". *Business Insider Nederland*. <https://www.businessinsider.nl/what-happened-on-911-why-2016-9?international=true&r=US>

¹⁵ A distinction is to be made between Arabs and Muslims. Arabs are an ethno-linguistic and cultural group and include many religious communities like Muslims, Christians, Jews and others (Baha’i, Druze, etc.). Muslims are a religious community that form a majority in countries spanning Africa and Asia and have sizeable communities in the Balkans. About 20 per cent of Muslims are Arab. The Arab American Institute estimates that 63 per cent of Arab Americans are Christian (35 per cent Catholic, 18 per cent Orthodox, 10 per cent Protestant) and that 24 per cent are Muslim (mostly Sunni and Shia).

¹⁶ Koslowski, Rey. 2006. "Immigration and Insecurity: Post-9/11 Fear in the United States". *Social Science Research Council*. <https://items.ssrc.org/border-battles/immigration-and-insecurity-post-911-fear-in-the-united-states/>

areas, yet one of the shortcomings of counter-terrorism remains its effects on civilians in those areas.

2.2.3 IRAQ WAR AND SUBSEQUENT INSURGENCY (2003-PRESENT)

In his 2002 State of the Union address, President George W. Bush declared that North Korea, Iran and Iraq formed an “axis of evil”. In the months leading up to March 2003, the United States of America Government made the case for war before the public and the international community. Among the reasons laid out was a supposed connection between Al-Qaida and the secular Ba’athist regime of Saddam Hussein. The final reason was the accusation that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction and the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and their allies invaded the country in late March 2003 to remove Hussein and his regime from power. Hussein was executed in 2006, but the power vacuum left behind brought a widespread and damaging insurgency where terrorist means were widely used. Former Ba’athist loyalists aligned with Sunni militias and terror organizations while Iran-backed Shia militias started to revolt in the south; the north of the country saw increased activity by Kurdish militias. This was the start of the Iraqi insurgency and the asymmetric phase of the Iraq War. Many bombings and terrorist attacks were carried out against United States of America-led coalition personnel and targets by militias before the country fell into a full-scale sectarian civil war between the different militias, and sectarian violence between the three major groups of the Iraqi nation.

The terrorising strategies used by militias against coalition forces brought in direct counter-terrorist action in the country in the form of increased fortification of locations and militarisation. The death toll among United States of America military personnel being high, the coalition forces sought the help of contractors and mercenaries. These were not held to the same standards and regulations as the regular coalition forces and sometimes targeted innocent civilians. A primary example of this was the 2007 Nisour square massacre where a private contractor - securing a United States of America military convoy - targeted Iraqi civilians, killing 17 and injuring 20.

American forces withdrew from Iraq in 2011. But sectarian tensions and the spillover of the Syrian civil war brought increased activity by the organization of the Islamic State (ISIS). This group is different from former terrorist groups in the sense that it seeks to control territory and establish governmental structures in the regions it controls. This further modified counter-terrorism strategies in the country and the world as a coalition was formed to fight it on the lands it controlled, and different countries started seeking the support of rival militias. These militias were often sectarian themselves, like the Kurdish militia and the Iran-

backed Shia *Al-Hashd-al-Shaabi*. This strategy had the effect of further amplifying sectarian sentiment in the country – leading to increased violence against civilians.

2.2.4 THE SYRIAN CIVIL WAR (2011-PRESENT)

The war in Iraq and the war in the Syrian Arab Republic are very much tied to each other when viewed in the context of counter-terrorism efforts. The war in the Syrian Arab Republic started after the Arab Spring, with popular protests against the Ba'athist government of Bashar Al-Assad. Many groups with differing ideologies – and foreign supporters - took up arms against the Assad regime and later against each other. The war in the Syrian Arab Republic and the power vacuum in Iraq saw the rise of ISIS in the eastern part of the country, which was eventually reconquered by the International coalition, the Syrian Arab Army,¹⁷ and United States of America-backed Kurdish forces. The Syrian Arab Republic conflict brings an interesting view on the complexity of counter-terrorism efforts and their effects.

In the name of counter-terrorism, the Syrian Arab Republic regime quelled the rebellion in its early stages.¹⁸ When the revolt developed into a civil war, many countries and organizations began supporting various groups overtly and covertly. This further complicated the situation as counter-terrorism was used as a justification to support groups that were considered terrorists by other nations. With the Syrian Arab Republic conflict having turned into a proxy war, a lot of militias started using terrorist tactics and the escalation has had a devastating effect on the country's population. The battle of Aleppo, the Syrian Arab Republic's largest city pre-war, amplified an already substantial refugee crisis which saw millions of Syrians internally displaced and many others seeking refuge in Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt

¹⁷ In this context, the Syrian Arab Army refers to the regular Syrian army of the Syrian Government loyal to Bashar Al-Assad's regime. The regime is also supported by militias such as the Lebanese Hezbollah (considered terrorist by the European Union, the League of Arab States and the United States of America). The Syrian opposition is formed of various militias with different allegiances. Most of them are Islamist, some are allied with Turkey in the north, some militias are allied with Al-Qaida and the Al-Nusra front in the province of Idlib. The Syrian opposition is broadly backed by Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the European Union and the United States of America. The north of the country saw the rise of Kurdish militias such as the YPG (People's Protection Units) which formed a broader coalition of Arab and Kurdish forces called the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). They were backed by the United States of America and, to an extent, by the Russian Federation. They had broad international backing as they were seen to be a repellent against the ISIS alternative to the Syrian Arab Republic Government. The Turkish Government considers it a terrorist organization and actively fights it because of worries about links between it and the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) – considered a terrorist organization by the European Union. The United States of America withdrew their support of the SDF in 2019; in turn, the organization aligned with the Russian Federation and the Assad regime.

¹⁸ "Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad: Facing Down Rebellion". 2018. BBC News.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/10338256>

and the European Union. In Lebanon, the influx of Syrian refugees made many fear a spillover effect into the country, which had seen a sectarian civil war from 1975 to 1990.

2.2.5 COUNTER-TERRORIST RESPONSE AROUND THE WORLD

The pre-9/11 world has seen many terrorist attacks by various organizations with many different objectives. Past asymmetric conflicts like the Troubles in Ireland and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the Middle East pressured countries to build strategies to cope with terrorist threats. The rise of international Islamist terror in the 1990s spread these strategies to the wider world. This has led – among other things – to the spread of Israeli security practices via the United States of America. The methods used by Israel are widely seen as effective especially in matters relating to airport security - in fact, Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport has not had a terrorist attack since 1972. These methods include increased searches, profiling and questioning at the airport. Moreover, the use of targeted killing in the name of counter-terrorism has started to become more widespread – especially in the United States and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.¹⁹

In the aftermath of the 2015 Paris attacks, which left 130 people killed, then-French president François Hollande declared a state of emergency which saw many suspected individuals put under house arrest. Changes were made to French law under his successor Emmanuel Macron in order to ease the State's ability to fight the terrorist threat.²⁰

The use of these strategies has brought fear over individual and collective rights and freedoms including – but not limited to – freedom of expression, freedom of belief and the freedom of assembly.

2.3 CURRENT ISSUES

2.3.1 CIVILIANS IN ZONES OF MILITARY COUNTER-TERRORISM OPERATIONS

Civilians living in areas where counter-terrorism operations are carried out are often collaterally affected. When radical groups are involved in military conflicts, civilians living in the area are economically, socially and politically affected by it. Many lose lives, homes and are psychologically traumatised by such events. Furthermore, the conflict might lead to a refugee crisis and a displacement issue forcing countless people to leave their homes.

¹⁹ MacAskill, Ewen. 2015. "Drone Killing of British Citizens in Syria Marks Major Departure for UK". *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/07/drone-british-citizens-syria-uk-david-cameron>

²⁰ Pascual, Julia. 2017. "Projet De Loi Antiterroriste : Gérard Collomb Défend Un Texte Musclé". *Le Monde*. (in French) https://www.lemonde.fr/police-justice/article/2017/09/13/projet-de-loi-antiterroriste-gerard-collomb-defend-un-texte-muscle_5184868_1653578.html

Humanitarian aid in counter-terrorism operations is a part of this issue in conflict zones. Idlib, a city in the northwestern part of the Syrian Arab Republic, could be taken as a case study for this situation. Rebel groups are in control of the city as well as the Idlib Governorate. The Syrian Arab Republic and the Russian Federation, in particular, are working to regain control of the area. The rebel groups governing Idlib are making it hard to bring in humanitarian aid by not letting organizations deliver assistance or by taking aid workers as hostages.

2.3.2 RACIAL PROFILING AND DISCRIMINATION

In the wake of the terrorist attacks of the last 20 years, the image of a “terrorist” has been associated with the image of a Muslim or the image of an Arab person. Many people’s visual appearances are influenced by their cultures, identities and beliefs. However, domestic racial profiling has played a part in how people are treated in their communities, whether they are citizens of the area or present there as tourists or refugees.

Racial profiling leads to bias and prejudice towards people and to opportunities being stripped away from them. A racially-profiled person may face difficulties in their work environment or their communities, getting a job or other discriminations in social circumstances just because they correspond to a certain stereotype. The problem of racial profiling can also occur while applying for a visa or travelling which creates more inconveniences for people that mean no harm.

The main cause could stem from broad public insecurity. Fear, along with uncertainty of terrorism, may lead to a bias created by people towards a certain group. The consequences of this could be very drastic. It could lead to the isolation of people, identity problems but also radicalisation, and is one of the push factors for people leaving their home countries for jihads.

2.3.3 MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH OF VICTIMS AND SOCIETAL TRAUMA

Violence that is created by terrorism and warfare has physical effects on people. They include death, wounds and other injuries, as well as trauma caused by witnessing conflict or being the victim of a terrorist attack. This trauma can manifest as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression and anxiety.²¹

²¹ Gregory, Jules, Jean de Lepinay, Ariane de Buyer, Nicolas Delanoy, Olivier Mir, and Raphaël Gaillard. 2019. "The Impact of The Paris Terrorist Attacks On The Mental Health Of Resident Physicians". *BMC Psychiatry*. <https://bmcp psychiatry.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12888-019-2058-y>

It is important to address both the physiological and psychological well-being of people, especially in the case of terrorist attacks, since a large part of the population is directly involved with violence. Terrorist attacks as well as war might even have impacts on areas that are geographically distant, as the identity factor (e.g., racial profiling) leads to public unrest and the idea that some people are more prone to posing security threats.²²

2.3.4 RESTRICTION OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

One of the concerning results of counter-terrorism has been the limitation of people's freedom. This is not only physical freedom during state of emergencies but also freedom of expression. Freedom of expression is a human right and people have the right to voice their opinions freely. However, during counter-terrorism operations, it has been noted that nations tend to limit freedom of expression in order to protect national security at both formal and informal levels (e.g. media outlets).²³

2.3.5 RETURNING FOREIGN TERRORIST FIGHTERS AND THEIR REINTEGRATION²⁴

United Nations Security Council resolution 2178 defined foreign terrorist fighters as "individuals who travel to a State other than their States of residence or nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning, or preparation of, or participation in terrorist acts or the providing or receiving of terrorist training, including in connection with armed conflict".²⁵

One recent phenomenon involves the implications of the return of foreign terrorist fighters in order to de-radicalise them. Foreign terrorist fighters go off to conflicts for many push and pull factors. These could be due to not fitting in in their State of origin, facing discrimination or more individual factors such as abusive family relationships or finding a purpose. In some cases, these foreign terrorist fighters come back to their State of origin and, due to their jihadist training, new networks and terrorist tendencies, they pose a threat to their communities. One further factor is that, upon their return, these foreign terrorist fighters would most likely face a disconnect in their communities. The process of reintegrating them

²² Solberg, Øivind, Ines Blix, and Trond Heir. 2015. "The Aftermath of Terrorism: Posttraumatic Stress and Functional Impairment After The 2011 Oslo Bombing". *Frontiers in Psychology* 6. doi:10.3389/fpsyg.2015.01156.

²³ "Counter-Terrorism Module 13 Key Issues: Freedom of Expression". 2018. *UNODC*. <https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/terrorism/module-13/key-issues/freedom-of-expression.html>

²⁴ De Roy van Zuijdewijn, J. & Bakker, E., (2014), Returning Western Foreign terrorist fighters: The Case of Afghanistan, Bosnia and Somalia, ICCT Research Paper, International Centre for Counter-Terrorism – The Hague.

²⁵ "Resolution 2178 (2014)". 2014. *United Nations Security Council*. [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2178%20\(2014\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2178%20(2014))

in their communities is key in order to decrease the risk of being marginalised and led into criminality.²⁶

2.4 BLOC POSITIONS

2.4.1 AFRICA

Asymmetric warfare has been a historically embedded problem in Africa since decolonisation began. "In combination with poverty, marginalisation and political ideologies, [religion] is an important motivation for irregular or asymmetric warfare."²⁷ The most concerning terrorist groups active in Africa are Al-Qaida, al-Shabaab, Boko Haram and the Lord's Resistance Army. African States have been in an ongoing conflict with these groups and actors. The African Union has been very active in discussing and countering terrorism to fight against the threat these groups create within the continent.²⁸

In 1992, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) adopted the Resolution on the Strengthening of Cooperation and Coordination among African States, which states that OAU Member States will work together in order to combat terrorist threats in the region, thereby strengthening their cooperation in the fight against terrorism. Later, in 1999, the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism was adopted, thus making terrorism a criminal activity under international law.²⁹

One of the main challenges for the region in combatting terrorism is the lack of resources to do so. Developing State economies, taking environmental factors into account, decreasing poverty and, most importantly, prioritising counter-terrorism on the agenda would be important first steps for African States to combat the issue of poor-resourcing of counter-terrorism.³⁰

2.4.2 ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Asia and the Pacific, which covers a vast area, can be divided into three regions for this topic: Southeast Asia, the Middle East and the Pacific region. Within the entirety of the region, the

²⁶ Byman, Daniel. 2015. The homecomings: What happens when Arab foreign terrorist fighters in Iraq and Syria return. *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 38 (8), 581-602.

²⁷ Ferreira, Rialize. 2010. "Irregular Warfare in African Conflicts". *African Journals Online*. <https://www.ajol.info/index.php/smsajms/article/view/55855>

²⁸ "Counter-Terrorism Module 5 Key Issues: African Region". 2018. *UNODC*. <https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/terrorism/module-5/key-issues/african-region.html>

²⁹ Ibid

³⁰ "Counter-Terrorism Module 5 Key Issues: African Region". 2018. *UNODC*. <https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/terrorism/module-5/key-issues/african-region.html>

Asia Cooperation Dialogue has been a key player for discussing counter-terrorism measures and sharing intelligence between States on matters of crime and terrorism.³¹

In Southeast Asia, since 1997, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has been combatting terrorism collaboratively in the region. One of the main concerns in the area has been the struggles and threats posed by foreign terrorist fighters from the Muslim States in the area returning from the wars in Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. The counter-terrorism measures adopted by the States of Southeast Asia have merely been political and not legally binding. Terrorism has been a constant threat for the region, mainly affecting Muslim-majority States, which have suffered constant attacks; despite this, economics has also been a major driving force for such attacks in the rest of the territory, leading to the adoption of a protectionist approach in counter-terrorist measures.³²

The Middle East and the Gulf States have been centre stage in counter-terrorism issues and asymmetric warfare since it is where most jihadist terrorist organizations are based. Furthermore, proxy wars in the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen are ongoing. Their aim is to undermine terrorist groups present in the region. The regional crises are the battlefields on which the war on terrorism is fought.³³

2.4.3 EASTERN EUROPE

Located between the Middle East and Western Europe, Eastern Europe faces a threat of terrorist attacks. The European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization have both worked on securing and protecting the region from this threat. The European Union implemented its counter-terrorism strategy in 2005, which since then has been a key template for designing new strategies, resulting in the identification and arrest of more than 1,000 criminals in 2016 alone.

States such as the Russian Federation, through direct intervention in the Middle East, are also combatting terrorism, tackling the abundance of foreign terrorist fighters who have illegally entered the region. Screening suspects and confirming terrorists are some of the efforts made by these different actors.³⁴

³¹ "Counterterrorism — Asia And Pacific Region Efforts — HLS PILAC". 2019. *HLS PILAC*.
<https://pilac.law.harvard.edu/asia-pacific-region-efforts/tag/Counterterrorism>

³² "Counter-Terrorism Module 5 Key Issues: Asian Region". 2018. *UNODC*.
<https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/terrorism/module-5/key-issues/asian-region.html>

³³ "Counter-Terrorism Module 5 Key Issues: Middle East and Gulf Region". 2018. *UNODC*.
<https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/terrorism/module-5/key-issues/middle-east-and-gulf-region.html>

³⁴ "Counter-Terrorism Module 5 Key Issues: European Region". 2018. *UNODC*.
<https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/terrorism/module-5/key-issues/european-region.html>

2.4.4 LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN STATES

With the Regional Conference to prevent and combat terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of financing in Latin America and the Caribbean held in 2018, Latin American and Caribbean States have agreed to combat terrorism by not financing terrorist organizations as well as not proliferating weapons of mass destruction.³⁵

Advanced industries in the region hold sources of dual-use nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) materials which could be stolen or misappropriated. This calls for a strengthening of protection of these materials as well as protection of intelligence in order to avoid the use of these materials for terrorism.³⁶

Within the Caribbean, the financing of terrorism occurs via trafficking routes and combatting that would be one the main concerns for the area.³⁷

2.4.5 WESTERN EUROPE

The increasing attacks in Western Europe are an important factor for securitisation against terrorism. Western Europe continues to be one of the main parties working on combating terrorism.³⁸

The European Union, through one of its main bodies, the European Commission, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and regional States have worked politically as well as militaristically to end the threat created by organizations such as Al-Qaida, the Islamic State, etc. They have been doing so by taking part in the proxy warfare within the Middle East and cooperatively implementing asymmetric warfare against terrorist organizations.³⁹

³⁵"Regional Conference to Prevent and Combat Terrorism and Proliferation of Weapons Of Mass Destruction And Their Means Of Financing In Latin America And The Caribbean". 2018. *United Nations*.

<https://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/documents/Info%20Note%20CICTE%20Conf%20Panama%202018-3.pdf>

³⁶"Latin America and the Caribbean 1540 Reporting | Analysis". 2017. *NTI*.

<https://www.nti.org/analysis/reports/latin-america-and-caribbean-1540-reporting>

³⁷Ibid.

³⁸Muro, Diego. 2010. "Counter-Terrorist Strategies in Western Europe: A Comparative Analysis of Germany, Italy, Spain And The UK". *Cadmus*. <https://cadmus.eui.eu/handle/1814/13520>

³⁹Ibid.

Europe has faced threats due to radicalisation and the return of jihadists which is an ongoing issue. The problems causing people to radicalise, especially push factors, were the main causes creating a threat to Western European States.⁴⁰⁴¹

2.5 GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What can be done to avoid racial profiling in daily life?
2. What are discrimination's effects on radicalisation?
3. What can be done to address medical and psychological threats for victims?
4. What are the implications of violence on civilians living in areas affected by terrorism?
5. Can psychological trauma be eradicated from society?
6. How does fear spread in a region, and what can be done to secure people in regions where fear is persistent?
7. Can national security be preserved without restricting people's freedoms?
8. How can foreign terrorist fighters successfully re-enter society?

⁴⁰ Crenshaw, Martha.1981.'The Causes of Terrorism', *Comparative Politics* 13(4), pp.379- 399

⁴¹ Boutin, Bérénice, Grégory Chauzal, et al. 2016. "The Foreign terrorist fighters Phenomenon in the European Union". ICCT Research Paper, International Centre for Counter-Terrorism – The Hague. https://icct.nl/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/ICCT-Report_Foreign-Fighters-Phenomenon-in-the-EU_1-April-2016_including-AnnexesLinks.pdf

3 TOPIC B: RIGHTS AND PROTECTION OF MIGRANT AND REFUGEE WOMEN

3.1 INTRODUCTION

With the conflicts present in the Syrian Arab Republic, Afghanistan, Venezuela and many more States, a refugee crisis has arisen, peaking in the mid-2010s. People are on the move; however, they cannot all be categorised merely as “refugees”. The United Nations Refugee Agency defines refugees as “(...) people who have fled war, violence, conflict or persecution and have crossed an international border to find safety in another country.”⁴² The distinguishing factor about refugees is that they are given this status because they cannot return to their country of origin, as they are facing an ongoing threat. Unlike refugees, migrants do have a choice and decide to move in order to improve their living standards. In addition, there is another term that would explain different groups of people who are involved in a movement. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) defines an asylum seeker as “someone whose request for sanctuary has yet to be processed”.⁴³

Women often choose to relocate: for the most part, they are not able to stay and take part in the armed conflicts in regions such as the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, especially if they have children. Statistics show that around half of migrants and refugees are women. With most women also taking on the role of caretakers of children and the elderly, the movement of women logically means the movement of families. During the process of relocation, migrant and refugee women face health and psychological challenges, rape and violence against women.

3.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

⁴² Refugees, United. 2020. “What Is A Refugee?”. UNHCR. <https://www.unhcr.org/what-is-a-refugee.html>

⁴³ Refugees, United. 2020. “Asylum-Seekers”. UNHCR <https://www.unhcr.org/asylum-seekers.html>

People have been on the move to survive and improve their quality of life since the beginning of time; migration has existed since the times of the *Homo erectus*. Increasing wealth is another incentive for civilisations to migrate. Empires wanted to expand their rule and their power, so they conquered new territories, gaining control of them through military seizure. In the mid-17th century, the slave trade caused the forced migration of people from their lands of origins to Europe and the Americas. With world travel and international networks getting more complex, the movements of people were no longer just due to environmental problems or to improve life conditions, but also human-made factors. During the First and Second World War, many cities were destroyed, civilians were affected and people lost lives and property. Many refugees sought shelter, rights and protection. This is the point where the refugee crisis first started making its way into the international agenda. Historically, women have been majorly impacted with similar issues that refugee women face today, which will later be explained under the “Current Issues” heading.

3.2.1 REFUGEE CONVENTION (1951)

The Geneva Convention of 1951 is one of the most important developments in the post-Second World War international political arena. This Convention not only defines what a refugee is but also outlines their rights, creating a framework for their protection. A refugee, according to the Convention, is “someone who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion”.⁴⁴

3.2.2 PROTOCOL RELATING TO THE STATUS OF REFUGEES (1967)⁴⁵

Just as the Refugee Convention, the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees defines who is a refugee and what their rights are. This Protocol, following the decolonisation movements around the world, is an improvement on the Refugee Convention of 1951. Where the Convention was specifying the situation in Europe, the Protocol got rid of the specified time and space that was listed in the Refugee Convention in its definition by stating “the term ‘refugee’ shall, except as regards the application of paragraph 3 of this article, mean any person within the definition of article I of the Convention as if the words ‘As a result of events

⁴⁴ “Convention and Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees”. n.d. *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*.

<http://www.refugeelaidinformation.org/sites/default/files/uploads/1951%20convention%20and%201967%20protocol.pdf>

⁴⁵ “Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees”. 1967. *United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights*. <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/ProtocolStatusOfRefugees.aspx>

occurring before 1 January 1951...' and the words '...as a result of such events', in article 1 A (2) were omitted" in article 1 (2).⁴⁶

3.2.3 DUBLIN CONVENTION (1990)

The Dublin Convention is a law of the European Union which determines which country is responsible for an asylum seeker. In 2003, the Dublin Regulation II replaced this Convention, with the similar aim of determining which country is responsible for the asylum applications of asylum seekers. However, after being re-evaluated in 2008, this regulation was deemed unfair to both asylum seekers and Member States by the European Parliament, and the regulation was amended in a way that it was approved by the European Parliament, the European Council on Refugees and Exiles and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Among the main aspects considered by the amendments to the Dublin Regulation II, the principle of *non-refoulement* establishes that refugees shall not be sent back to a country where they face persecution or where their lives are put at risk in any other way. This setback has been particularly controversial for current discussions of the European Union, as some Member States have refused to comply with it and do not grant asylum to applicants.

3.2.4 PREVIOUS STRATEGIES FOR THE PROTECTION OF MIGRANT WOMEN

The United Nations Population Division, in a research study conducted in 2000, estimated that almost half of international migrants are women and girls which illustrates that women make up a substantial part of migrants and face challenges due to their gender.⁴⁷ Yet, gender being central to the refugee-related issues is only a recent discussion. Women historically have gained many of their rights after men, mostly during the 20th century. Therefore, it is important to consider the situation of (forced) migrants through the lens of gender.

In 1946, the United Nations established the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) under the Economic and Social Council in order to promote and maintain gender equality. The commission was responsible for "raising the status of women, irrespective of nationality, race, language or religion, to equality with men in all fields of human enterprise, and to

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ "Third Coordination Meeting on International Migration". 2004. *United Nations - Department of Economic and Social Affairs*.

eliminate all discrimination against women in the provisions of statutory law, in legal maxims or rules, or in interpretation of customary law."⁴⁸

Following that, there were conventions and declarations by both the United Nations and European Union that have targeted women's rights in their daily lives as well as specific situations that are still affecting the lives of women, as well as migrant and refugee women, every day. These will be further mentioned below.

3.3 CURRENT ISSUES

As mentioned earlier, migrant women have suffered degrading treatment since Antiquity. They have been undermined as members of society and have not had their basic human rights recognised, which constitutes a violation of international law, as is reflected within article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, which reads as follows:

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.⁴⁹

It has been a priority of the international community to achieve better conditions for women. Particularly, in the case of the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee, work has been put forward in light of the refugee crisis, coming up recently with draft resolutions that defend migrant women and protect their rights.⁵⁰ In 2019, SOCHUM addressed "violence against women migrant workers" on its draft resolution A/C.3/74/L.22/Rev.1, acknowledging the vulnerabilities of women treated in inhumane conditions outside of their countries of origin and calling upon governments to create legislation that protects women in the labour field, using as a reference the standards set by the International Labour Organization (ILO).⁵¹ This

⁴⁸ "Commission on the Status of Women: Report of the Commission on the Status of Women to the Economic and Social Council" E/281/Rev.1. 1947. *United Nations Economic and Social Council*. <https://undocs.org/E/281/REV.1>

⁴⁹ "Universal Declaration of Human Rights." 1948. *Office of The High Commissioner of Human Rights*. https://www.ohchr.org/en/udhr/documents/udhr_translations/eng.pdf

⁵⁰ "Third Committee Approves 14 Draft Resolutions on Human Rights Defenders, Migrants, Girl Child Amid Contentious Votes Over Agreed Language, Additional Costs." 2017. *United Nations Meeting Coverage and Press Releases*. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/gashc4223.doc.htm>

⁵¹ "Violence Against Women Migrant Workers." 2019. *Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Issues (Third Committee)*. <https://undocs.org/A/C.3/74/L.22/Rev.1>

is just one of the many efforts of the United Nations as a whole to tackle this issue. Below, each specific area will be analysed.

3.3.1 VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND RAPE

Violence against women are issues caused on the basis of gender norms, threatening and/or harming a person, demeaning them by creating an unequal power structure, emotionally, physically or psychologically. Women in conflict zones, in refugee camps or in the areas they move into as migrants or refugees face this type of violence due to imbalanced power dynamics between men and women.

The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (1993) describes violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”⁵² This includes rape, domestic violence, hate speech, etc.

Migrant women face violence in different shapes as well. Rape in conflict areas, camps and travel routes as well as in their new society are common problems faced by these women, that affects women and girls both physically and psychologically. Depending on the context, it could be categorised as a crime against humanity as well as a war crime, and if it is also directed towards a specific group, as genocide.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has documented a Note on Physical/Sexual Abuse of Refugee Women and Girls on March 1993 to address the specific issues of rape towards women and girls. This document states the manner in which gender-based violence has been present in the country of origin and country of asylum. According to this note, violence against women and girls in their country of origins took the form of “beatings, rape, sexual harassment and molestation”. In their country of asylum, there were cases where women and girls faced violence from officials working in borders or guardians in detention centres with threats of deportation. However, most of these cases were settled financially and therefore, they are hard to record.⁵³

Although much work has been done by specific governments as well as international organizations and UN Bodies to address this issue, the problem is still very present.

⁵² "OHCHR | Violence Against Women". 2020. *United Nations Human Rights*. <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Women/WRGS/Pages/VAW.aspx>

⁵³ Refugees, United. 2020. "Refworld | Note on Physical/Sexual Abuse of Refugee Women and Girls". *Refworld*. <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b32d4.html>

3.3.2 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Trafficking in persons refers to the trade of humans for sexual or labour reasons. Trafficking in persons is still persistent and is a very serious offence. This act not only violates basic human rights, it further objectifies people by turning them into commodities. The European Parliament has identified Greece and Italy, Mediterranean entrance points for refugees, as two hotspots for trafficking in persons.

In 2000, the United Nations launched the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children under the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime with the responsibility of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). In this protocol, trafficking of persons is defined as:

the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.

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The Trafficking Protocol consists of three necessary elements to identify trafficking; the acts, the means and the purpose. The acts include “recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of person” and the means include “by threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power, abuse of a position of vulnerability, or of giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over the victim”. Lastly, the purposes could be “exploitation of the victim, including, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.”⁵⁵

Trafficking of migrants or refugees is an immoral concept. First, migrants and refugees are already vulnerable to trafficking due to most of them lacking the necessary documentation

⁵⁴ "Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime". 2000. *United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights*.

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/protocoltraffickinginpersons.aspx>

⁵⁵ Spyropoulou, Antigoni-Maria. 2020. "Migrants And Refugees As Victims Of Human Trafficking : Can They Claim Asylum In EU According To The Geneva Convention Of 1951 Relating To The Status Of Refugees? - The Implementation Of C.E.A.S (Common European Asylum System) And The EU Legal Approach Against Trafficking." <http://un-act.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Migrants-and-Refugees-as-Victims-of-Human-Trafficking-1-1.pdf>

to travel as well as the routes they take to migrate. But also, a trafficking victim may also become a refugee and seek protection regarding their situation.⁵⁶

3.3.3 HEALTH ISSUES

3.3.3.1 Health Issues Due to Poor Conditions in Camps and Lack of Supplies

Conditions in camps as well as on migration routes are dangerous for people to stay or be in. Many health problems have also been seen in people who had to be in conflict zones. These could include direct harm or injuries gotten in conflict zones as well as diseases and infections.

Due to lack of nutrients, refugees are likely to develop diabetes. Research done by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that more than 6 per cent of Syrian refugees have developed diabetes.⁵⁷ The concerns about nutrition can also lead to cardiovascular diseases such as cardiac arrests as well as hypertension. The CDC recorded that 33 per cent of Iraqi refugees had hypertension.⁵⁸

There are also infectious diseases that can spread around the camps or routes refugees are staying in due to a lack of hygienic conditions as well as close contact to people. One of these diseases is tuberculosis. If tuberculosis is not treated immediately, it is fatal. It spreads by inhaling bacteria. The World Bank stated that 19 people in 100,000 in Syria in 2018 had tuberculosis.⁵⁹

Hepatitis is a foodborne and waterborne disease that refugees are vulnerable to. According to data from Greek refugee camps, 152 in 1,000 Syrian refugees have hepatitis.⁶⁰ Hepatitis is also a disease that could be sexually transmitted, and with previously discussed incidents such as rape, it carries a major concern for people in general but particularly women.

One issue specific to women is the lack of feminine hygiene products. Many refugee women cannot access sanitary products such as pads, tampons or even soap and clean water. This

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ "Syrian Refugee Health Profile". 2016. *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*.
<https://www.cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/pdf/syrian-health-profile.pdf>

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ "Incidence of tuberculosis (per 100,000 people) - Syrian Arab Republic." *The World Bank*.
<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.TBS.INCD?locations=SY>

⁶⁰ Mellou, Kassiani, Anthi Christostomou, Theologia Sideroglou, Theano Georgakopoulou, Maria Kyritsi, Christos Hadjichristodoulou, and Sotirios Tsiodras. "Hepatitis A among Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants Living in Hosting Facilities, Greece April to December 2016." 26 January 2017.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5388090/>

situation leads to diseases like bacterial vaginosis (BV) or reproductive tract infection (RTI) in many refugee women.

3.3.3.2 HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections and Diseases

As refugees are vulnerable to cases of sexual abuse and rape, they are also prone to getting sexually transmitted diseases. Syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia and HIV are common infections in refugees. This creates further risks during pregnancy and childbirth later on.

3.3.3.3 Pregnant Migrants and Refugees

One group within refugee women that needs further care and hygienic healthcare opportunities are pregnant women. According to research from the National Center for Biotechnology Information, “[p]regnant refugee women show higher rates of adverse pregnancy outcomes, including caesarean section, stillbirth, and other maternal and perinatal morbidities.”⁶¹

This is because the proper hygienic ways of delivery are lacking in the facilities refugees and asylum seekers are staying in. Furthermore, nutrition is also lacking in areas, which affects maternal health. Lastly, diseases being common also affect the lifespan of newborns. Newborns need a hygienic environment to grow up to be healthy. Their children’s health is of the utmost importance to new mothers and due to conditions in camps, death rates of newborns are high, and pregnancy is a struggle for many.

Reproductive rights have been a topic of concern in the international agenda before. The International Conference on Population and Development of 1994 under the United Nations Population Fund has worked on topics such as reducing infant and child mortality, reducing maternal mortality and access to reproductive and sexual health services including family planning. Prior to that in 1968, in the International Conference on Human Rights, the United Nations touched upon defining reproductive rights. Meeting these conditions is a high priority for health and protection of women and children.

3.3.3.4 Mental Health

Going through conflict, persecution, terror, rape or threat causes a great deal of psychological problems. Women who fled these situations would show many symptoms of mental disorders such as panic attacks, post-traumatic stress disorder and grief. The conditions in many facilities are not adequate to address these issues. Furthermore, gender-based violence not only includes physical violence but also psychological violence. Physical violence affects psychological conditions indirectly.

⁶¹ Dopfer, Christian, Annabelle Vakilzadeh, and Alexandra Jablonka. 2018. "Pregnancy Related Health Care Needs In Refugees—A Current Three Center Experience In Europe". *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*.

3.4 BLOC POSITIONS

3.4.1 AFRICA

According to a report by OHCHR, “Africa has 18.6 million migrants, including 3.7 million refugees (forced migrants) and 11.8 million internally-displaced persons out of a total population of 1.1 billion people. Only 11.4 million African migrants live outside the continent.”⁶²

As a continent, Africa is a very hostile environment towards refugees and migrants while also making up a significant amount of them. Nearly a million migrants from the region migrated to Europe between 2010 and 2017.⁶³

The Maputo Protocol, or also known as the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, was signed within the African Union in order to guarantee the protection of women’s rights and gender equality in the social and political spheres, as well as female reproductive rights including the restriction of female genital mutilation.

3.4.2 ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Australia and New Zealand are locations where many migrants chose to emigrate as permanent settlers. Due to employment opportunities, many women also choose to go to Hong Kong, China and Singapore to work as domestic workers. Labour migration towards the region is very common, both amongst men and women. However, this situation creates issues such as the isolated conditions domestic workers face or underpayment. Women face more restrictions in their migration process compared to men.

The International Labour Organization and the International Organization for Migration are working towards improving the conditions in these areas for migrants and refugees to meet sustainable development goals by 2030.

3.4.3 EASTERN EUROPE

Eastern Europe is an important entry point alongside the Mediterranean for refugees. Many who cross Turkey from their country of origins in the Middle East enter Europe to go to

⁶² "ANALYSIS OF THE MIGRATION AND REFUGEE SITUATION IN AFRICA, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA". n.d. *Office of The High Commissioner on Human Rights*.

https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Racism/AdHoc/9thsession/IbrahimaKane_Item5.pdf

⁶³ Ighobor, Kingsley. 2019. "Towards A Safe and Orderly Migration | Africa Renewal". *Africa Renewal*.

<https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2018-march-2019/towards-safe-and-orderly-migration>

Germany, France or the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from Hungary, Greece or Bulgaria. They are often referred to as transit migrants.

The problems in these areas are abundant. First, the entry points of Eastern Europe are where trafficking is a significant problem. "In October 1997, the Austrian police dismantled an international network suspected of having organized the trafficking of 11,000 migrants over the last 5 years from Kosovo to Germany and Austria."⁶⁴ Many Eastern Europeans also face these trafficking problems and their captives often exploit women into prostitution.

Another problem is the documentation of refugees. According to the Dublin Regulation, refugees need to be registered in the countries of entry, however due to the lack of documentation, many asylum seekers try to avoid it.

The European Commission, the European Parliament and the International Organization for Migration are putting in major efforts to resolve issues regarding rights of refugees as well as the rights of women.

3.4.4 LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN STATES

In Latin America and the Caribbean, one main cause of migration is labour migration, similar to Asia and the Pacific. According to United Nations Women and Development Unit "migration flows [...] from the 1980s onwards [,] have increasingly come to be dominated by women."⁶⁵ The Women and Development Unit has worked on promoting gender equality in the work arena by creating a gender-oriented labour market policy. One concern they have stated was women working in precarious jobs as domestic workers or sex workers.

3.4.5 WESTERN EUROPE

Western Europe is one of the main locations to which refugees go when they flee conflicts as well as migrants who are looking for better living conditions. Europe has been concerned with the issue of migration since the World Wars and has been working towards improving the situations as much as possible. It is estimated that 50 per cent of migrants in Europe are women.⁶⁶

⁶⁴ "Migration and Asylum in Central and Eastern Europe (LIBE 104): Summary". 1999. *European Parliament*. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/workingpapers/libe/104/summary_en.htm

⁶⁵ "In search of work. International migration of women in Latin America and the Caribbean". 2004. Repositorio CEPAL: Serie Mujer Y Desarrollo. https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/5917/1/S0310672_en.pdf

⁶⁶ Mellendorf, Haloren. 2018. "The Invisible Women of Europe's Migration Crisis | Heinrich Böll Stiftung | Washington, DC Office - USA, Canada, Global Dialogue". *Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung*. <https://us.boell.org/en/2018/08/15/invisible-women-europes-migration-crisis>

European States as well as the European Union have been funding many of the developments on the issues (forced) migrants and migrant women face. The situation is still highly politicised, although the contribution of States of Western Europe to the protection of the rights of migrant women have been big.⁶⁷

3.5 GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What can be done to improve the conditions of migrant women in camps?
2. What can be done to achieve equality in the work field for migrant women workers?
3. What can be done to eliminate gender-based violence?
4. Are previous conferences, conventions and regulations addressing all areas to help migrant and refugee women?
5. How is the issue of (forced) migration being politicised and how can it be eliminated?
6. How can pregnant women get access to better conditions to reduce diseases as well as reduce mother and child mortalities?
7. Can issues related to mental health be avoided through law? If not, how can psychological help be supplied to women in need?
8. How can sex trafficking, prostitution, rape and other sexual offences women face be eliminated?
9. How can conventions be legally binding for parties who commit a crime and what methods can be used to detect crimes?

⁶⁷ Grande, Edgar, Tobias Schwarzbözl, and Matthias Fatke. 2018. "Politicizing Immigration in Western Europe". *Journal of European Public Policy* 26 (10): 1444-1463. doi:10.1080/13501763.2018.1531909.

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5 COUNTRIES PRESENT IN THE COMMITTEE

Arab Republic of Egypt	People's Republic of Bangladesh	Ukraine
Argentine Republic	People's Republic of China	United Arab Emirates
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	Republic of Chad	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Republic of Chile	United Mexican States
Canada	Republic of Colombia	United States of America
Federal Republic of Germany	Republic of Côte D'Ivoire	International Organizations
Federal Republic of Nigeria	Republic of India	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Federative Republic of Brazil	Republic of Poland	International Committee of the Red Cross
French Republic	Republic of Serbia	
Hungary	Republic of South Africa	
Islamic Republic of Pakistan	Republic of the Fiji Islands	
Kingdom of Denmark	Republic of the Philippines	
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Republic of Zambia	
Kingdom of Sweden	Republic of Zimbabwe	
Kingdom of Thailand	Russian Federation	
Kingdom of the Netherlands	Socialist Republic of Vietnam	
New Zealand	State of Qatar	
	Swiss Confederation	
	Syrian Arab Republic	