

ADMUN 2020

Committee: United Nations Security Council

**Topic: The Syrian Refugee Crisis,
as of November 2019**

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Assistant Chair: Claire O'Keefe**



“Being a global citizen makes you a more interesting person”
~Joe Russo

Hello delegates and welcome to UNSC at ADMUN 2020!

We are your Chairs, Anjali Dave and Samara Cuaresma and our Assistant Chair is Claire O’Keefe. We are students at Alice Deal Middle School and we all have a tremendous love for MUN as we hope you have as well (or at least enjoy being in the club). We all are united in the fact that we want to improve the world and become good global citizens. The Syrian Refugee Crisis has hurt so many people. It has ripped from homes, family, safety, and a way to survive. We look forward to a day of healthy discussion between countries and coming closer to resolving and understanding this crisis so we can learn to help more in the future. Remember that we are the future and that it will be up to us to help and save the world. We can’t wait to see all the research and hard work that you put in to make this an amazing conference. As always try your best and come prepared, use the information we give you and above all, have fun!

Please email mapleseed8107@gmail.com with any questions you have. We look forward to seeing you on April 4.

Anjali, Samara, and Claire

Committee Background

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) was formed in 1945, along with the United Nations itself at the end of World War II, as being among the six primary organs of the United Nations. The Security Council is mainly responsible for keeping peace and security throughout the world. It has 15 members, each of whom has one vote. Following the Charter of the United Nations, all Member States must comply with the resolutions of the Council. Originally there were 11 members, 5 permanent and 6 non-permanent. As of now, there are 5 permanent members, the United States, the Russian Federation, France, China, and the United Kingdom. There are 10 non-permanent members, who are each elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly.

The Security Council disputes any issue brought before it, even by a country that is not a member state. When there is an issue, the Council first tries to find a peaceful solution, lead an investigation, send special envoys and more. They then may issue a ceasefire or deploy peacekeeping troops to help lower tensions, separate fighting groups, and establish a peaceful area to find a solution, should things become hostile or aggressive. If needed they can also apply sanctions, economic sanctions, arms embargoes, financial penalties, restrictions, travel bans, a blockade, or if needed military action.

Topic Background

The Syrian Refugee Crisis is deadly. Since the Syrian civil war officially began on March 15 in 2011, hundreds of thousands have died and there are 6.7 million Syrian refugees. But it's important to recognize efforts made by the UNHCR in the past, although so far none have been successful.

Many refugees have fled to Turkey, but their welcome is wearing out. Turkey has declared its intention of returning the refugees to an 18 mile wide 'safe zone'. But there are claims that Turkey has forcibly deported them ahead of schedule, to decidedly conflicted areas. Additionally, it is uncertain how 'safe' the zones are.

But what are safe zones? Land in northeastern Syria that the Turkish government has appropriated from the Kurdish people, a group occupying land in Turkey, Syria, Iran, Iraq, and Armenia, who played a vital role in the SDF (Syrian Democratic Forces) in its fight against ISIS. In fact, the Kurds were a crucial ally of the United States, until the United States withdrew military support, effectively green-lighting Turkey's continued oppression of the Kurds, who are not recognized politically, except by Iraq.

In light of the battle between Turkey and the Kurds, as well as the tension between Turkey and Syria, the Kurds and Syria have formed an unlikely alliance against Turkey. And yet, it is unlikely that this alliance will be enough to save the refugees. Finally, the United States has recently decided to reinstate troops in Northern Syria to fight against ISIS.

There are several aspects to this crisis- human rights, Middle Eastern stability, the Syrian Civil War, the fight against ISIS (and how it has impacted the crisis), national sovereignty, and economic perspective (how will taking in refugees affect that country's economy?).

Timeline (Provided by <https://www.unhcr.org/ph/13427-seven-years-timeline-syria-crisis.html>)

- 2011
 - March – Beginning of unrest in Syria.
 - May – Syrian families begin to flee their homes. In Turkey, the first refugee camps open.
- 2012
 - July – UNHCR and Jordanian authorities open Za'atari Refugee Camp. In just a year, it will host some 120,000 refugees.
 - December – The number of Syrians seeking refuge in other countries reaches half a million.
- 2013
 - March – A tragic milestone: one million Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR.
 - April – UNHCR warns of the increased need for funds to support the Syrians seeking safety in host countries like Jordan and Lebanon. We work to support both refugees and local communities in these countries.
 - August – The number of Syrian refugee children reaches one million.
- 2014
 - June – Nearly half of Syria's 22 million population is estimated to be affected by the conflict and in need of immediate humanitarian aid.
 - October – More and more Syrians risk deadly sea journeys to reach safety in Europe.
- 2015
 - July – The number of Syrian refugees tops the four million mark.
 - August – The UN Security Council expresses grave alarm over the continuing crisis in Syria, estimated to have claimed 250,000 lives and displaced 12 million people.
 - September – The image that shocked the world: the body of Syrian toddler Aylan Kurdi washes up on a Turkish beach after a failed attempt to reach Greece. UNHCR teams in Greece and other transit countries working around the clock to offer protection and support to those arriving in Europe in search of safety.
- 2016
 - January – UNHCR joins a humanitarian convoy to deliver life-saving aid to starving civilians trapped in besieged towns in Syria. More convoys follow, bringing UNHCR blankets, winter clothes and other aid to families in desperate need.
 - July-August – The battle for Aleppo, Syria's largest city, displaces thousands. UNHCR rushes to provide shelter and basic items like

- blankets to those left out on the streets.
 - December – UNHCR delivers vital aid to Aleppo, including winter clothes, to keep displaced families warm during the cold months.
- 2017
 - January – UN Refugee Chief Filippo Grandi heads to Syria. Moved by the scale of the devastation, he calls for faster humanitarian aid for Syrians in desperate need.
 - March – The number of people fleeing the war in Syria surpasses five million.
 - August – UNHCR, and partners open Jordan's first job center for Syrians in Za'atari, the country's largest refugee camp. This follows the introduction of a new work permit deal that lets Syrian refugees in Jordan apply for jobs in certain sectors.
 - December – Nearly 60 percent of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon now live in extreme poverty (under US\$2.87 per person per day), forcing families to make tough choices just to survive. Across the region, UNHCR steps up aid as displaced Syrians brace for another winter.
- 2018
 - January – UN Secretary-General António Guterres appeals for humanitarian access, strict respect for international humanitarian law and the protection of civilians affected by the ongoing Syria crisis.

Focus Questions

1. How does your country view refugees?
2. Is your country in a position to take in refugees from Syria? Is your economy stable? Are you near Syria? Are you already taking in refugees?
3. How does your country feel about Turkey's plan to send the refugees to a safe zone? Does your country believe that this is a viable solution?
4. Has your country taken a stand on this issue or the larger Syrian crisis? What was their position?
5. How involved is your country? How is your country impacted by this crisis?
6. If your country is not as involved or has not taken a position, what would part of the crisis would it most likely focus on? What are its values and topics of interest?

Research and Position Paper Tips

1. We suggest researching other countries' positions as well as your own.
2. Know your country's past actions so you know how to proceed.
3. Make sure that the sources you use are credible. Try not to use Wikipedia as your main source, although it may be helpful to get a general idea about the crisis. Wikipedia's citations can also give you a place to start your research.
4. When researching and writing get a feel for your country's opinion. Stick to that, not your own beliefs. It can also hurt other countries if you don't stay true to your country.
5. We've given you several links we think may be helpful. But don't feel restricted to only them! Try looking at what other UN organizations have done, such as UNICEF, UNHCR, UN Women, etc.
6. Don't procrastinate, try to finish a little early so you can review it. Please remember to print out your position paper and any other materials you will need. We will be collecting the position papers!
7. Feel free to email us with questions! Email us at mapleseed8107@gmail.com

Helpful Research Links

1. <https://www.worldvision.org/refugees-news-stories/syrian-refugee-crisis-facts>
 - a. An intro to the crisis
2. <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria>
 - a. Statistics
3. <https://www.unhcr.org/ph/13427-seven-years-timeline-syria-crisis.html>
 - a. Timeline
4. <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/partners/donors/51b0a56d6/syria-regional-response-plan-update-5-full-document.html?query=syria>
 - a. What different governments have pledged to do
5. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/turkey/publication/turkeys-response-to-the-syrian-refugee-crisis-and-the-road-ahead>
 - a. Turkey's Response
6. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/10/world/middleeast/turkey-syria-refugees-erdogan.html>
 - a. Sending refugees back
7. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/10/turkey-syrians-illegally-deported-into-war-ahead-of-anticipated-safe-zone/>
 - a. Deporting refugees
8. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/10/24/turkey-syrians-being-deported-danger#>
 - a. Deporting refugees
9. <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2019/11/25/turkeys-syrian-refugees-the-welcome-fades/>
 - a. Turkey's deportation plan
10. <https://www.unrefugees.org/emergencies/syria/>
 - a. What UNHCR is doing
11. <https://www.unrefugees.org/news/syria-refugee-crisis-explained/>
 - a. Another summary
12. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/03/1035611>
 - a. What UNSC is doing
13. <https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/syrian-crisis>
 - a. What UNICEF thinks