

IOWA HIGH SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS
IOWA YOUTH SYMPOSIUM
Resolution Paper (2015)
Adopted on: Wednesday, October 21, 2015
Position Paper created by the Political Committee
Regarding: Refugee Rights

Recognizing that since 1975, the U.S. has taken in over 3 million refugees, and

Recognizing that over half of these refugees are minors, and

Concerned that the Syrian crisis has displaced 11 million people, and

Anxious that the U.S. has reduced its yearly intake of refugees, and

Aware that the definition of a refugee is “an individual who is outside his or her country of nationality or habitual residence who is unable to return due to the well-founded fear of persecution based on his or her race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group”, and

Reaffirming the principles found in the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol, and

Mindful of the fact that America is a nation once made up of immigrants seeking freedom from persecution, and

Acknowledging that the 1951 Convention stipulates “refugees should not be penalized for their illegal entry or stay,” according to the non refoulement policy, and

Recognizing that an asylum seeker is defined as “someone who has fled from his or her country and is seeking refugee status in another country”, and

Recognizing that one of the primary concerns regarding worldviews on refugees is with the conflict in Syria, which includes the most seekers of refugee status since World War II, and

Recognizing the financial strain placed on the United States by taking in refugees, as 4.1 billion dollars have been spent over the past four years to aid Syrian refugees alone, and

Mindful that there are more than 60 million refugees and IDPs around the world, and

Affirming that an IDP is an internally displaced person who hasn't crossed an international border, but is afraid to return to their home”, and

Acknowledging that the definition of a refugee does not include: “people those for whom are serious reasons for considering that they have committed war crimes or crimes against humanity, serious non-political crimes, or are guilty of acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the UN.” according to the 1951 convention, and

Bearing in mind the difficulties of responding to the Syrian crisis, including the difficulty of access to the country for humanitarian purposes, the perilous sea journeys many refugees must take, and the victimization of refugees for human trafficking purposes, and

Acknowledging that though Syria is a main contributor to the refugee crisis, there are still many other countries which have a large number of refugees, and

Recognizes America's job shortage and the influx of Syrian refugees, the number of caseworker jobs for refugee resettlement should be increased, and

Recommends increasing the amount of refugees accepted into the United States from 10,000 to 25,000, and

Proposes the U.S. increase the length of caseworker time to one year from 90 days, acknowledging the amount of time needed to assimilate into American Society, and

Recognizes the need for a plan that balances protecting countries from terrorists with aiding refugees, and

Recognizes that the U.S. can't accept all refugees, America encourages other countries, especially those who are a part of the United Nations, to accept more refugees, 116 countries are residence to an unknown number of refugees or less than 1,000 refugees, and