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Iowa High School Model United Nations

Political & Security

Topic: How can the UN ensure the physical security of refugees in foreign countries from dangers such as human traffickers, local police and military forces, corrupt local officials, and other dangers?

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Background:

One of the UN's most important roles is their oversight of refugees throughout the world. The UN has been committed to aiding refugees dating back to after World War I. The UN originally worked to bring European refugees home after the war, and was disbanded shortly after. Later on, after World War II, the UN had a similar system in place to aid refugees. Throughout the rest of the 20th century, the UNHCR had been instrumental in helping refugees but it wasn't until in 2003 the UNHCR, or United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, was made a permanent agency. The UNHCR helps refugees find new homes, delivers aid to areas of conflict and defends the human rights of the refugees as laid out in the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights from 1948.

The UNHCR has operated throughout the 20th century, operating during times of crisis such as the Hungarian Revolution in 1956, the end of the Vietnam War in 1975, the Rwandan Genocide in 1994, and more recently, the Syrian Crisis from 2011 onwards. The UNHCR has aided the refugees in escaping those areas of conflicts and aid those refugees in beginning a new life elsewhere.

More recently, with conflicts like in Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, etc. As well as the continuation of the Syrian refugee crisis, the UNHCR has been working hard to continue their mission of securing a new life for the refugees of these crises. However, the UNHCR has continued to see an uptick in refugees with numbers hitting over 100 million refugees by the end of 2022. Whilst getting them to a new home and aiding them in rebuilding their lives is the key mission for the UNHCR, the refugees in their new homes are increasingly targets of acts such as human trafficking, racism, sexism, and further displacement.

It is a key goal for the UNHCR to continue to secure a future for the refugees, but new issues, primarily providing security and defense for the refugees in a new country, has proven to be a tricky yet dire question to solve.

Past Actions of the UN:

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) works to serve refugees seeking asylum in other countries across the globe. They supply emergency assistance to regions anticipating a major influx of refugees. They provide relief items such as tents, and blankets to people who are in need of resources. The UNHCR worked to help people fleeing Europe during

World War II, providing them assistance, and creating safe places for people to call home. In recent years they have helped support the mass influx of refugees amidst the wars and violent conflicts occurring around the globe. They helped to support places like Ukraine, Syria, Sudan, and Gaza. The UNHCR has helped more than 50 million people across the globe seek refuge escaping from war, violence, and destruction.

Possible Solutions:

A possible solution would be to decenter politics regarding humanitarian issues. This depoliticization would help create a better situation for refugees. It would allow them to seek asylum without fear of being put in harm's way. With the increased influx of refugees over the last couple of years, the UNHCR has been strained for supplying enough resources to those who are in need. This solution would help to protect refugees from danger as they are trying to escape, it can also be less of a strain on the UNHCR. Another solution that could be used to solve this issue would be to provide member states with anti-discrimination and bias training for all people working with refugees. This would help to create a safe environment for all refugees, regardless of race or nationality.

Questions to Consider:

- How does xenophobia play a role in the security of refugees?
- What are the ways in which member states can ensure safe living conditions for refugees?
- How can member states give refugees livable living conditions?
- Do historical conflicts play a role in the vilification of refugees in countries around the world?

Sources:

[Protection | UNHCR](#)

[UNHCR recommends measures for strengthening security and refugee protection in parallel | UNHCR](#)

[UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency | UNHCR](#)

[UNHCR launches \\$10 billion appeal to address global refugee crisis in 2025 | UN News](#)

[United Nations Refugee Chief, Briefing Security Council, Appeals for Ceasefire to Halt 'Spiral of Death' as Humanitarian Crisis Grips Gaza | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases](#)

[Resolving Forced Displacement at Heart of Security Council's Mandate to Maintain](#)

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[History of UNHCR | UNHCR](#)