

Committee:ILO

Topic: Improving the Treatment of Migrant Refugee Workers

Report of the Chairs

I. Theme of the Conference

Model United Nations San Antonio (MUNSA) is a conference dedicated to fostering authentic and passionate debate amongst delegates in order to generate solutions to current global issues. The theme of *MUNSA XXIV: Envision* encapsulates our mission to urge delegates to foresee a future in which these problems have been dissolved. With collaboration in mind, delegates from every committee are encouraged to visualize innovative resolutions and a prosperous world to come. Together, we will propel ourselves into an age in which brilliant ideas converge to transform our world and address its most paramount issues.

II. Rationale

Unstable situations across the globe have moved thousands of people from their homes and into new and unfamiliar countries where they may be vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. These people are mainly from South America, the Levant, and East Asia. They are heading to neighboring countries including Brazil, Ecuador, Jordan, Turkey, and Australia. People have also fled to Western nations including the US and those of Mediterranean Europe.¹ This committee must foresee a future in which global peace has been restored. Delegates should consider how the treatment of migrants and refugees in their new homes will affect future generations.

III. Background of the Topic

A migrant is a person who moves from one place to another, especially in order to find work or better living conditions, while an asylum seeker is a person who has left his/her home country as a political refugee and is seeking asylum in another. A refugee is a person who has been forced to leave his/her country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster.

The Syrian Civil War, which started in 2011, has been the biggest push factor for migrants and refugees leaving the Middle East. It was declared an international humanitarian

crisis in 2015. Migrants have sought work in Europe, which is often their final destination. In Europe, they have been subject to poor living conditions and exploitation, but it is oftentimes the asylum seeker's best bet.⁵ In Latin America, tens of thousands of Venezuelans are moving North through Mexico to the United States. American hostility towards immigrants, especially illegal immigrants, has led to exploitation and a fearful environment. In Asia, Bangladeshi migrants work abroad in China, where they are subject to sweatshop labor conditions. The ILO is the only body that has a mandate on labor migration. It has set many standards for the conditions of migration, such as *The 8 Fundamental Human Rights Conventions* and *ILO Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work*.³

IV. Contemporary Evidence of the Topic

In 2016, 26 million people globally were trapped in forced labor conditions. European companies oftentimes use forced labor for agriculture and construction. Migrants settling into Europe are subjected to little pay, violence, and very few breaks. Inspections in the European Union are severely lacking.⁵ In Bangladesh, the IOM has set up a website to help Bangladeshi workers find fair and non-exploitative jobs. Bangladesh is one of the most expensive places to be a migrant worker in. Some brokers and agencies charge up to \$8,500 in migrant fees.⁶

The ILO estimates that there are 258 million migrants in the world, which is over 3 percent of the population. Of those people, roughly 164 million migrants are at work.⁴ 70.8 million of those people are displaced.² This is a massive group that has largely been overlooked because many refuse to examine and recognize the exploitation of this group. This committee encourages delegates to generate policy proposals to protect migrant workers.

V. References and Research Resources

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4. (n.d.). Labour migration (Labour migration). Retrieved from <https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/labour-migration/lang--en/index.htm>
5. Guilbert, K. (2018, September 5). Europe struggling to 'catch' bad bosses who enslave migrant workers. Retrieved from <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-slavery-migrants/europe-struggling-to-catch-bad-bosses-who-enslave-migrant-workers-idUSKCN1LL0LA>
6. Karim, N. (2019, April 29). Bangladesh jobs website aims to curb abuse of migrant workers. Retrieved from <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-bangladesh-workers-migrants/bangladesh-jobs-website-aims-to-curb-abuse-of-migrant-workers-idUSKCN1S50N3>

VI. Note to the Delegates

Hello and welcome, all delegates, to MUNSA XXIV: Envision. We're all very excited to hear your opinions and witness the course of debate on these topics.

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