

# SOCHUM

Social, Cultural,  
Humanitarian Committee

## AGENDA

Discussing rising naval tensions in the South China Sea pertaining to areas of conflict and militarisation of claimed waters.

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# Letter from the EB

Dear Delegates,

We welcome you to the Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian Committee at JBCN Oshiwara MUN 2024. We would like to cordially extend a warm welcome to all delegates participating and hope to moderate a fruitful and high-quality debate.

In this edition of JBCN Oshiwara MUN, SOCHUM's agenda will be centred around exploring the living conditions of immigrants in host countries pertaining to violence against minorities. This issue plagues multiple countries and territories and thus the study guide provides direction through its timeline and case studies. A thorough understanding of the crises, resolutions and agreements is required to make a meaningful argument that drives the proceedings forward.

Please be aware that the purpose of this study guide is to assist you in starting your research and provide essential information about this committee, not to limit your research base. We expect a high level of research as well as a good understanding of the agenda in each delegate which requires going beyond the guide and uncovering more valuable information in your individual research.

Having said that, the Executive Board and the Organising Committee are committed to making sure you have an enjoyable and fulfilling conference experience.

We urge everyone taking part in the two days to maintain a friendly and congenial atmosphere. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you need any kind of help or direction. In a few weeks, you will be welcomed to JBCN Oshiwara, and we are excited to work with you!

Ahaan Modi,  
Director - SOCHUM

Naqash Chamadia,  
Assistant Director - SOCHUM

# Introduction to the Committee

The United Nations General Assembly allocates to its third committee all agendas dealing with human rights issues, cultural issues and humanitarian and social affairs that impact people all over the world. The Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM or C3) meets yearly in early October and plans to finish its work before the end of November, additionally, all 193 member states of the United Nations can attend SOCHUM and due to its noble purposes and undisputed agendas it's one of the most effective committees of the UNGA with one of the highest acceptance ratios for resolutions. At the 76th session of SOCHUM, the committee considered over 50 draft resolutions, and more than half of them were related to human rights agendas. Furthermore, a majority of the committee's work revolves around the examination of reports related to the special procedures set by the United Nations Human Rights Council in 2006, which closely deal with human rights questions and violations. The committee also works in close coordination with the UNHRC due to their overlapping agendas. SOCHUM's mandate encompasses a broad array of topics including:

- **Social Issues:** Social development, gender equality, advancement of youth, empowerment of marginalised groups and minorities. SOCHUM promotes global growth in these areas and creates opportunities for all involved.
- **Humanitarian Affairs:** The C3 committee focuses closely on the protection of human rights, thus its conjunction with the UNHRC, working towards the betterment of refugees, displaced individuals as well as the combatting of issues such as human trafficking, and aid during conflicts as well as natural disasters.
- **Cultural Matters:** Cultural cooperation, protection of heritage and the promotion of cultural rights are deeply ingrained in the mandate of SOCHUM, additionally working against racial discrimination, intolerance and xenophobia fall under this category.

SOCHUM acts as a recommending or deliberative body in the UNGA, this means it lacks the authority to put any resolution into execution, it rather recommends actions and coordinates member state efforts. SOCHUM's Functions and responsibilities include:

1. **Drafting Resolutions** - The debate and drafting of resolutions addressing the

large multitude of social, humanitarian and cultural issues is the responsibility of the Third Committee. These Resolutions, if adapted by the GA, influence international policy and national legislation

2. Monitoring and Reporting - C3 monitors the progress and implementation of agreements related to its Mandate. It additionally reports on individual developments of member states.

3. Raising Awareness - Global awareness regarding social and humanitarian issues is carried out by SOCHUM, this is done through debates, reports and resolutions, critical issues are highlighted and member states are encouraged to take action.

# List of Key Terms

**Asylum Seeker:** Someone who claims to be a refugee, but whose claim has not yet been fully evaluated.

**Rakhine State:** Formerly known as Arakan State, is a state in Myanmar. Situated on the western coast, it is bordered by Chin State to the north

**Fundamental Freedoms:** Basic political liberties required in a democracy. In general, they guarantee that an individual can act, think, be, or do without government interference unless a law says otherwise.

**Internally Displaced Person (IDP):** A person who has been forced to flee their home but remains within their country's borders. They are often referred to as refugees, although they do not fit the legal definition of a refugee.

**Cultural Assimilation:** The process by which a minority group gradually adopts the customs and attitudes of the prevailing culture.

**Resettlement:** The transfer of refugees from an asylum country to another state that has agreed to admit them and ultimately grant them permanent settlement.

**Xenophobia:** The fear or hatred of that which is perceived to be foreign or strange, often directed at people from other countries or ethnic groups.

**Stateless Person:** A person who is not considered as a national by any state under the operation of its law. Statelessness can be a result of discrimination, state succession, or administrative practices.

**Ethnic Cleansing:** The systematic forced removal of ethnic or religious groups from a given territory by a more powerful ethnic group, often with the intent of making it ethnically homogeneous.

**Integration:** The process by which refugees or immigrants become part of the host society, through various means such as employment, education, and social participation.

**Non-Refoulement:** A principle in international law that forbids a country from returning asylum seekers to a country in which they would be in likely danger of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.



# Introduction to the Agenda

In this edition of the JBCN Oshiwara MUN, SOCHUM will probe the agenda “Exploring the living conditions of immigrants in host countries pertaining to minority violence”. The issue of substandard living conditions for immigrants and refugees has plagued the world since the early nineteenth century and OECD as well as EU countries have seen large gaps in immigrant and native incomes, living conditions and literacy rates. Taking into consideration the theme of our MUN, war of ideologies, it is time for you, the delegates, to take advantage of ideology and negotiate using immigration policies and stances. The world has seen some of the worst immigration and living conditions policies from countries such as Latvia, Japan, Thailand, etc. while overcrowding and mistreatment of immigrants run rampant in countries such as Austria, Greece and Italy.

The agenda is extremely vast and has an endless list of examples and situations which can be used and an infinite number of possible paths our committee can take, the agenda is also diverse and every country has an important role to play in steering the debate in the committee, achieving fruitful and feasible solutions, while also guarding their own national interest and diplomatic relations.

The vastness of this agenda must be compartmentalized to guide the passage of the committee in an organized fashion. To do this, this study guide explores five distinct case studies - The Rohingya Muslim Refugee Crisis, the Syrian Refugee Crisis, the Sudanese Refugee Crisis and the Uyghur Muslim Refugee Crisis. These studies have extreme depth and can be looked at through multiple perspectives.



# Timeline of Events

1936-1945: The Romani Genocide takes place where Adolf Hitler's Nazi troops kill over 130,000 Romani people

1938-1945: Nazi Germany kills over 6,000,000 Jews within Germany as well as overseas as a part of the Holocaust campaign

1940-1952: 3.5 million civilians belonging to minority groups such as the Chechens, Karachays and Ingush

1945: 16000 ethnic Albanian Muslims were expelled from a region in Northwestern Greece to various European countries. Additionally, 1945 saw the rehabilitation of 14 million ethnic Germans back to Germany. This decision was made at the Potsdam conference.

1947: 6 million Muslims fled India as a result of the partition to modern-day Pakistan and Bangladesh and 5 million Sikhs and Hindus fled to India.

1948: 700,000 Palestinians expelled from modern-day Israel during 1948 Palestine war

1950-1960: 1 million Jews were expelled from Arab land with bank accounts and property confiscated. Additionally, in 1959, Tibetan killings took place in Lhasa, 15,000 Tibetans were killed in 3 days

1973: Laos' communist government killed 100,000 Hmong people in an act of mass genocide

1989: 112 Turkish civilians were killed by Uzbek nationalists in Fergana Valley. 17,000 were evacuated by soviet troops and 60,000 left Uzbekistan

1990: Over 100000 Lhotshampa people were forced to leave Bhutan by the army and sought refuge in Nepal

1993-1998: The conflicts in Abkhazia lead to over 250,000 civilians, mostly Georgians getting deported in an ethnic cleansing

1991: 400000 pandits were deported and 1200 were killed by separatists in Kashmir



**1998:** Over 100000 (80%) of Kosovo's Romanis were expelled previously in the Kosovo War. There is a long account of expelling other ethnic minorities too like Albanians and non-Albanian minorities as well as Muslims.

**2013-2014:** Seleka Muslims were killed to suppress their uprisings and the 2013 coup in the Central African Republic.

**2014-2021:** The Uyghur genocide caused a refugee crisis and killed many, however, the precise figures remain elusive. Additionally, in 2016, The Rohingya genocide killed over 36,000 people.

**2017-present:** Rohingya genocide occurred post the ARSA attack in military camps. Villages burnt and over 1.3 million civilians displace.

# Case Studies

## Rohingya Muslims Refugee Crisis

The Rohingya refugee crisis, primarily triggered by military conflicts and crackdowns in the Rakhine State, Myanmar since 2017, has forced over 740,000 Rohingya Muslims to flee to the neighbouring country Bangladesh. The crisis is representative of one of the largest and most dreadful humanitarian emergencies, with ghastly living conditions for refugees.

Two key instances of violence were:

The Rakhine State Riots - In 2012, disputes between Rohingya Muslims and ethnic Rakhine Buddhists led to widespread violence and the displacement of more than 20,000 people. Villages and homes were destroyed, leading to heavy persecution of the Rohingyas, further escalating tensions and fostering anger in the Muslims.

Myanmar Military Crackdown - August 2017 saw the development and execution of a brutal crackdown on Rohingya villages by the Myanmar military. This was an effort to silence the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA). The Myanmar military's operations were highly unethical, involving mass killings, gang rapes and the burning of Rohingya villages resulting in international condemnation and is known today as one of the most brutal ethnic cleansings of the modern age.

## Syrian Refugee Crisis

The Syrian Refugee Crisis, a product of the Syrian Civil War since 2011, has created more than 13 million displaced citizens with close to 6.6 million of them seeking asylum abroad. This crisis stands as one of the largest humanitarian emergencies of the 21st Century, having drastic adverse effects on neighbouring countries such as Türkiye, Lebanon and Jordan as well as countries in Europe.

Two of the main instances of violence were:

The Battle of Aleppo - A devastating conflict that took place in the city of Aleppo from 2012 to 2016. It involved the Syrian Government forces, various rebel groups and extremist organizations such as ISIS. The product of this conflict was the death of 30,000 displaced civilians and 15,000 combatant casualties. The battle caused an even more significant exodus of residents, contributing to the refugee crisis and leading to millions fleeing the country.

The Ghouta Chemical Attack - In August 2013, The Ghouta area near Damascus witnessed the use of chemical weapons, The attack involved the use of Sarin Gas and was put ahead by President Bashar al-Assad, killing hundreds of civilians including women and children. This only further highlighted the severe crisis in Syria and created thousands of refugees and IDPs.

Uyghur Refugee Crisis - The Uyghur Refugee crisis stems from the Chinese government's persecution and cultural repression of the Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang. As a result of the mass detentions, forced labour and unwarranted crackdowns, many Uyghurs have been forced into fleeing their country and becoming IDPs lacking any international protection.

Two significant instances of violence in the Uyghur refugee crisis are:

Mass Detentions in Xinjiang - The Chinese government has detained over a million Uyghurs and other Islamic minorities who they segregated and sent to “re-education camps”. Reports of human rights abuses in these camps include sexual abuse, forced sterilisations and psychological torture. The first camp was reported in 2017 and they have grown to more than 350 - 380 in China.

Cultural Repressions - Since 2017, a significant number of mosques have been demolished and repurposed by the Chinese Government. In 2020 it was found that nearly 16000 mosques, whose main population were Uyghurs, were destroyed. This figure stood for 65% of the mosques in China. Furthermore, the ban of Religious Practices was observed, Uyghurs were held from wearing religious attire, fasting during Ramadan and educating children about their children. Such practices have become highly punishable offences in China.

### The Sudanese Refugee Crisis

The Sudanese Refugee Crisis, catalyzed by multiple conflicts taking place in the nation of Sudan such as the South Sudanese Civil War (2013 - 2018) and multiple violent conflicts has forced millions of Sudanese people to seek refuge in neighbouring countries, leading to food shortages, overcrowded camps and ongoing violence.

Two main instances of violence were:

The Darfur Conflict - The Darfur Conflict began in 2003 when ethnic African rebel groups pointed fingers at the Sudanese Government accusing them of oppression and neglect, the government's response was brutal counterinsurgency involving mass killings, rape and the burning of villages at the hands of the Janjaweed Militia. This caused the displacement of over 2.5 million people, most of whom sought refuge in Chad.

South Sudanese Civil War - In the advent of South Sudan's independence from Sudan in early 2011, tensions were high due to ethnic and political conflict. This slowly escalated until a full-scale war erupted in December 2013. The conflict was between armed forces loyal to President Salva Kiir and those aligned with former Vice President Riek Machar. This conflict led to widespread atrocities, massacres, sexual violence and the conscription and use of child soldiers. This war displaced more than 4 million people contributing to one of the most complex refugee crises ever.

# Bloc Positions

## USA

The United States has historically played a significant role in addressing global refugee crises and contributed generously in terms of financial and humanitarian aid, in 2022 they allocated more than \$4 billion aid towards refugees and IDPs globally, supporting their essential services such as food, education and healthcare. The U.S. refugee admissions program has changed policy over the years based on global events and political standings. From 2008 to 2016 the US resettled an average of around 70,000 refugees per year, however, in recent years significant policy shifts have been observed. 2017 saw the implementation of The Trump Administration. This suspended refugee admissions and introduced extremely strict vetting procedures that led to a drastic reduction in refugee admissions. There has been a reversal of some of these policies and in 2021, the refugee ceiling was raised to 125000. Internationally the US has been a key participant in shaping global refugee policies and providing meaningful insights in organisations such as UNHCR.

## India

India's stance on refugee crises reflects a nuanced approach shaped by historical factors, humanitarian concerns, and national security considerations. India was not a part of the 1951 Refugee Convention and thus not a signatory. It follows a case by case approach to refugee disputes, with a key focus on regional cooperation rather than international convention. India has provided refuge to hundreds of ethnic groups, such as Tibetans since 1959, Sri Lankan Tamils, Afghan Sikhs and more. Despite lacking a formal refugee law, India respects and adheres to non refoulement principles and is one of the world's most diverse countries today. India hosts over 200,000 refugees and asylum seekers and has actively participated in providing international aid. Their proactive involvement in SAARC and BIMSTEC shows their commitment to regional refugee management. Unfortunately, there are multiple discrepancies in India's refugee policies and the Indian government has been openly racist and xenophobic in terms of the groups it accepts on multiple occasions.

## South Africa

South Africa has historically positioned itself as a supporter of refugee rights while facing challenges in implementing its policies effectively. It is a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 protocol and has pledged to protect refugees and asylum seekers however the country has struggled severely with minority violence, xenophobic and unsafe environments and bureaucratic delays in processing its refugee claims which don't align with its optimistic stance. South Africa hosts a significant refugee population, primarily from countries such as Zimbabwe, DRC and Somalia. According to UNHCR, 268,000 refugees and asylum seekers are held by South Africa but the government struggles to provide them with healthcare, education and safety. South Africa's foreign policy focuses on regional cooperation and peacekeeping however in recent years has faced criticism for instances of xenophobic violence.

## Germany

Germany has been at the forefront of efforts to address the global refugee crisis, especially in light of the events in Syria. Since 2015, Germany has welcomed a sizable number of asylum seekers with a comparatively open door policy. Germany's humanitarian response peaked in 2015 when more than a million refugees, mostly from Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan, applied for asylum there. The administration of Chancellor Angela Merkel led initiatives to offer resettlement opportunities and humanitarian relief. Germany's position acknowledged the demographic and economic advantages of integrating refugees while emphasizing the moral duty to support those escaping conflict and persecution. In terms of foreign policy, Germany has advocated for a coordinated European Refugee Crisis Response and pushed for burden sharing mechanisms, however, these initiatives are widely understood to be actions of consolation in an attempt to cover up for the First and Second World Wars. Germany played a leading role in the EU - Turkey Agreement of 2016 aimed at improving the living conditions of refugees and has donated over 4 billion euros in the pursuit of these goals.



## Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia holds a puzzling stance on refugee acceptance and matters regarding asylum seekers. While they have created a portfolio of sufficient humanitarian aid they have been highly selective and exclusive with their refugee and asylum seeker process. Saudi Arabia has been a significant donor to the Syrian Refugee Crisis and has contributed millions of dollars to aid in stabilizing living conditions but this does not distract from the fact that Saudi Arabia does not have a formal refugee settlement program and has historically not accepted large numbers of refugees. These decisions are influenced by regional security concerns and geopolitical interests, showcasing how Saudi Arabia's financial prosperity and comfort matters more to them than the lives of IDPs. Saudi Arabia has instead focused much of its attention on stabilizing its neighbouring countries to ensure security.

# Past Resolutions by the UN

UN Security Council Resolution No. 1325 (2000): Addressed the impact of war on women and the need for the involvement of women in conflict resolution, peace negotiations and post-conflict resolution. This resolution makes clear the need to protect women and children from gender-based violence with an emphasis on individuals who are refugees or internally displaced.

UN General Assembly Resolution No. 46/182 (1991): This resolution focuses on strengthening international cooperation and the infrastructure of humanitarian emergency assistance. Along with the protection of refugees, it also calls on nations to provide more resources and aid for IDPs.

UN General Assembly Resolution 70/147 (2015): Makes the protection of immigrants and their living conditions a top priority. This resolution calls for measures to combat discrimination, xenophobia and violence against refugees and migrants. It additionally pleads for inclusive policies and practices to be put into motion by member nations.

UN Human Rights Council Resolution 6/32 (2007): Human Rights of minorities are focused on in this resolution. The protection and promotion of the rights of the people belonging to national or ethnic groups as well as their cultural practices. Preventative measures to ethnic cleansing are also put forward.

# Questions a Resolution Must Answer

1. What can be done to prevent violent uprisings, coups and extremism and terrorism by refugees?
2. Can a framework to control the violence be created, and which UN committees should be responsible for the same?
3. What should be done if refugees are not accepted into their neighbouring countries, how can hosts be located, and transport be made available to refugees in question?
4. What actions should be taken against countries which are participating in minority violence or state-sponsored genocide?
5. How can more focus be brought to the fundamental freedoms of refugees and immigrants?
6. Beyond the prevention of violence, how will the social, cultural, and other needs be looked after by countries housing immigrants/refugees?
7. How can member states coordinate efforts to create more opportunities for struggling immigrants in their host countries?

# Sources to Use

## The Right Sources:

1. **Official UN Websites, Articles, and Libraries**
2. **UN Ratified Sites. Eg: Aljazeera, Britannica, Amnesty International, etc.**
3. **Governmental Websites (of your country)**
4. **Websites ending with “.org” that follow fact-based reporting**
5. **Websites of NGOs (that your country is associated with)**

These sources are verified with accurate information your portfolio could use. A UN website is the most reliable as it is UN-ratified and gives you more in-depth information about your country's stance.

## The Wrong Sources:

1. **Buzzfeed**
2. **Wikipedia**
3. **Quora**
4. **Websites ending with “.com” that have a vested interest**
5. **Op-ed articles**

All of the sources listed above are opinionated with the perception of the article's writers. These sources also answer questions from a person's individual knowledge domain with no proven accuracy.

# Preambulatory and Operative Clauses

## Preambulatory clauses:

Acknowledging Affirming Alarmed by Approving Aware of Believing Bearing in mind Confident Congratulating Contemplating Convinced Declaring Deeply concerned Deeply conscious Deeply convinced Deeply disturbed Deeply regretting Deploing Desiring Emphasizing Expecting Expressing its appreciation Expressing its satisfaction	Fulfilling Fully alarmed Fulfilling Fully alarmed Fully aware Fully believing Further deploring Further recalling Guided by Having adopted Having considered Having considered further Having devoted attention Having examined Having heard Having received Having studied Keeping in mind Noting further.	Taking note Viewing with appreciation Welcoming Noting with appreciation Noting with approval Noting with deep concern Noting with regret Noting with satisfaction Observing Pointing out Reaffirming Realizing Recalling Recognizing Referring Reminding Seeking Taking into account Taking into consideration
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# Preambulatory and Operative Clauses

## Operative clauses:

<b>Accepts</b> <b>Affirms</b> <b>Approves</b> <b>Appreciates</b> <b>Asks</b> <b>Authorizes</b> <b>Calls for</b> <b>Calls upon</b> <b>Condemns</b> <b>Congratulates</b> <b>Confirms</b> <b>Deplores</b>	<b>Designates</b> <b>Encourages</b> <b>Endorses</b> <b>Expresses its hope</b> <b>Further invites</b> <b>Further proclaims</b> <b>Further recommends</b> <b>Further requests</b> <b>Further resolves</b> <b>Hopes</b> <b>Proclaims</b> <b>Proposes</b>	<b>Recommends</b> <b>Regrets</b> <b>Requests</b> <b>Resolves</b> <b>Seeks</b> <b>Strongly affirms</b> <b>Strongly condemns</b> <b>Strongly urges</b> <b>Suggests</b> <b>Trusts</b> <b>Transmits</b> <b>Urges</b>
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