

United Nations Humans Rights Council

Hello delegates and welcome to the St. Bonaventure University Model UN conference! We're excited to have you in the United Nations Humans Rights Council. My name is Haylei, and my co-chairs are Emily and Donovan. We'll be helping and guiding you throughout the conference, but the real responsibilities are up to you. These responsibilities include doing thorough research on your nations, the included topics, and related current events. Here are our main expectations of each delegate:

1. Knowledge of procedure is critical for committee to run smoothly. You will be expected to know the basic Rules of Procedure.
2. Knowledge of policy makes the committee more enjoyable for everyone. Study your country very well, including its history, and look at how it reacts to events on the world stage. Know basic principles of your country's policies.
3. Diplomacy and courtesy is not only helpful but necessary. This conference is about learning but it is also a fun experience. Without courtesy, there would be no fun! Treat other delegates with respect. Act like diplomats (you are diplomats in this conference!).
4. Participate as much as you could. This conference provides you with an excellent opportunity to practice your public speaking skills.

The Topics:

1. The Plight of the Rohingya in Myanmar:

The Myanmar government and security forces have been accused by the international community of violations of human rights and ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya Muslim minority. The Rohingya have been forced to live under apartheid-like conditions in Myanmar

and many of them have fled to neighboring countries, especially to Bangladesh. Violence in the form of rape, murder, and the destruction of property continues to force Rohingya people to flee Myanmar. The government of Myanmar has yet to properly acknowledge that such atrocities are occurring, and it still claims that the reports of this violence are simply exaggerated.

Guiding Questions

1. Has your country made any statements or provided aid to help with this crisis?
2. What can be done to help both the Rohingya who remain in Myanmar and those who have fled to other locations?
3. Can the Rohingya refugees return to Myanmar without continued persecution?
4. Is it possible to work with the government of Myanmar to come to a resolution, or is the government responsible for these atrocities?
5. What is the role of UN? Has the UN acted properly? Has the Security Council intervened and carried out its responsibilities?
6. What are the positions of the great powers (countries such as the US, Russia, China, France, Germany, etc...)?
7. Does your country have any proposals to resolve the conflict?
8. What are the possible ways to resolve this conflict?

Research Sources

- <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-38168917>
- <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56103#.Wh3X9BTgfzI>
- <https://www.hrw.org/asia/burma>

2. The Protection and Promotion of LGBTQ+ Rights:

Despite previous actions taken by the United Nations, national governments, and advocacy organizations, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBTQ+) communities around the world continue to suffer discrimination and violence because of their sexual orientation on a daily basis. The United Nations conceives of these violations as including but not limited to “killings, rape and physical attacks, torture, arbitrary detention, the denial of rights to assembly, expression and information, and discrimination in employment, health and education.” This committee is tasked with addressing these violations and with promoting the just treatment of these individuals in the international community.

Guiding Questions

- What policies and stances does your country hold regarding LGBTQ+ rights?
- Has your country spoken out against violence towards the LGBTQ+ community?
- Is there a long-term solution to this matter?
- Does your country have specific proposals to deal with this issue?
- What is the role of international organizations?
- Does the UN have a role to play in this matter? How?

Research Sources

- <https://www.hrw.org/topic/lgbt-rights>
- [THE STATE OF LGBT HUMAN RIGHTS WORLDWIDE /](#)
- <http://hrlibrary.umn.edu/edumat/studyguides/sexualorientation.html>

3. Combatting Modern Forms of Slavery:

A slave is somebody who is owned by another individual and forced to work for nothing and is dehumanized and brutally treated as a property. This is the classical definition of a slave. Firstly it should be mentioned that the term «enslaved person» is to be preferred since it better highlights that the person was forced into being a slave and it is a good way to avoid the use of inadvertently dehumanizing language. An enslaved person is one who is:

- forced to work through physical or mental threats
- controlled or owned by an «employer»
- dehumanized, treated as a product, bought and sold as someone's property
- physically constrained and deprived of the freedom of movement

Though slavery is often thought of as a past practice, it is prevalent in these various forms in many countries. Human trafficking, forced labor, exploited labor, and the selling of humans as means of trade continue to be an issue in the present. Recent cases have been exposed in areas such as Libya and India, but these problems are widespread even in the most “modernized” nations.

Guiding Questions

- Does your country have human trafficking issues, indebted labor concerns, etc.?
- Does your country have a history of hosting or supporting sweatshops?
- What can be done to assist current and former victims of modern slavery?
- What is the role of the UN? Has it done enough? Could it do more?
- Does your country believe this to be a serious matter?
- What have Human Rights organizations done to put an end to this matter?
- Does your country have any specific proposals? Practical solutions?

Research Sources

- [What is Modern Slavery?](#)
- [Slavery Today?](#)
- <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FactSheet14en.pdf>
- [Modern forms of slavery](#)