



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

# SOCOMUN XXXIII

## NOT FRESHMAN H

TOPIC: PROTECTING REFUGEE CHILDREN



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## NOT Freshman H Protecting Refugee Children

Hello delegates! My name is Danielle Gorrell, and I am going to be your chair for SOCOMUN this year! I am a Senior and this will be my fourth year in MUN, my third time chairing, and around my 15th conference. MUN has been an amazing experience for me as it has improved my writing skills, public speaking, and awareness of world problems, as well as traveling around the state and world with my friends. Outside of MUN, I like to surf, do photography, and ride my wave runner. I also have 2 dogs and 2 cats, the first is a 9-year-old wiener dog named Rolly, and the second is a 2-year-old border terrier named Buzz, and I'm going to be honest I have no clue what type of cats I have cause long story short, we accidentally adopted them, but their names are Pickles and Pepperoncini. I hope our conference will be a fun and educational experience that will make you love MUN as much as I do. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out at [socomunnoth@gmail.com](mailto:socomunnoth@gmail.com) I would be happy to answer any and all questions you have, can't wait to see you all at the conference!

Hi, my name is Aveen Vahidi and I am your co-chair for SOCOMUN this year. This is my fourth year of MUN and I hope you all enjoy it as much as I have. In my free time I like going to the beach, hanging out with friends, and weightlifting. I can't wait to see you all in committee!

Hello! My name is Blake Eli and I am currently a Junior attending Santa Margarita Catholic HS. I am looking forward to being your vice chair for this year's 2024 annual SOCOMUN Conference. It is now my third year in MUN, and I have found much interest in both high school conferences and trips we have taken as a school. I am eager to explore more about MUN, attend future conferences, as well as research and discuss pressing issues that are in dire need of solutions. In my free time, I find myself fishing in ponds and lakes, mountain biking, surfing, bodyboarding, or spending time with family and friends. I am privileged to assist all of you guys in this year's SOCOMUN 2024 conference as your vice chair. I hope all of you delegates are excited to explore our topic and I hope you enjoy and look forward to attending this year's conference at SMCHS. Work hard and good luck!

My name is Katie Fan, and I will be your Rapporteur for this committee. I am currently attending Santa Margarita Catholic High School as a Sophomore, and this is my second year in MUN. I enjoy attending conferences and look forward to traveling to more MUN conferences in the future. In my free time, I enjoy music, swimming, and reading. I wish you all the best of luck and hope you enjoy SOCOMUN!

SOCOMUN is a conference for beginner MUNers to learn the ropes of how to become a better delegate. During your time at SOCOMUN, we aim to teach delegates the typical procedures of committee, how to improve on their resolutions, and help with any questions or struggles you may face while in committee. Committee will start with roll call in which the delegates will either answer with "present" or "present and voting." They are similar, however, if you respond with "present and voting" you cannot abstain from voting when voting for resolutions and motions. From there we will open up the speakers list in which everyone wanting to speak will be put on a list to speak about their solutions and country policies. After each speaker, we will be entertaining two comments in which we encourage delegates to criticize other delegates' solutions. We also highly encourage adding your own solutions into these comments.



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After a few speeches, delegates can raise their placards to motion for consultation, also known as caucuses. There are two types of consultations, the first being informal consultation, also known as an unmoderated caucus. This is where delegates will stand up and talk to each other about solutions for a period of time. An example of this is a “Motion for a 10-minute informal consultation.” The second is a formal consultation, also known as moderated caucus. These are short speeches on a specific topic in which multiple delegates are able to speak. Your goal in a formal consultation is to emphasize the need for attention on issues contained in the topic. For example, a “Motion for a formal consultation for 5 minutes with a 30-second speaking time on the topic of shelter for refugee children” is perfectly acceptable. Together, informal and formal consultations are used so that delegates can form a resolution group by the end of committee. This is where they combine their ideas and solutions into one paper to present to the committee. These resolutions will be voted on by the committee and either be passed or failed. It should always be your goal to pass your resolution but don’t worry if it does not pass as it does not affect your score.

Please if you have any questions do not be scared to reach out, we want you guys to have the most enjoyable and non-stressful experience possible. So if there is anything you are not sure about reach out to [socomunnoth@gmail.com](mailto:socomunnoth@gmail.com)!

## **Background**

30 million people have been forced to leave their homes to find a safe space due to war, natural disasters, gender orientation, poverty, and hunger. We are currently experiencing one of the worst refugee crises in history. Out of this 30 million, about 40% of refugees are under the age of 18, and an average of 385,000 children are born as refugees each year. In the United States, the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) is required to provide food, shelter, and medical care for the child until they can be released in a safe environment with family members or sponsors. However, these children are often forced to live in unsanitary and overcrowded refugee camps.

Even with efforts like the ORR, these children are prone to experience illness, malnutrition, and violence while waiting 5 to 20 years to be released into an environment they can thrive in. On average, refugee camps are 36% more likely to be below the national poverty line, with a budget of about 32 USD per person, per month. This makes it difficult for refugees to find basic needs like food, clean water, and clean clothes on a daily basis. Furthermore, most of these camps are overcrowded, causing the budget to lower due to them having more people than they can hold and afford. These camps also lack the budget for safety measures like security, making it easy for perpetrators to enter. This raises concerns for arms trafficking, drug trafficking, recruitment of soldiers, and human trafficking. While only 40% of refugees live in these overcrowded camps, the other 60% face dangers outside. Outside of these camps, they face dangers such as trafficking, lack of basic supplies like food, water, shelter, violence, weather conditions, and diseases. On average most refugees will have to avoid these deadly obstacles for a total of 5 years until they have a long-term plan for protection and permanent shelter.

Though the world is currently experiencing a massive refugee crisis, the Syrian refugee crisis in 2011 was the peak of this issue. In March of 2011, there was a violent government crackdown in response to anti-government graffiti made by a few teenagers. This would cause the death of over 3,000 civilians by the end of the year. It would also cause people to quickly leave Syria, thus starting the refugee crisis. Since then, there have been more than 14 million Syrians forced to leave their homes to protect their safety. 7.2 million Syrians remain in the



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country but are misplaced, with 70% of them in need of humanitarian assistance and 90% of them living below the poverty line. Only about 5.5 million of the total refugees have made it to neighboring countries like Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq. Very small amounts made it to various countries in Europe and Asia. Despite this, Germany has the largest non-neighboring number of Syrians, hosting a shelter for 850,000 Syrian refugees.

To add more strain, in February of 2023, two powerful earthquakes hit both Syria and Turkey, worsening conditions. This earthquake further displaced Syrian refugees and claimed the lives of over 60,000 citizens and refugees. As of today, this earthquake is estimated to impact 8.8 million people across Syria, about 40,000 people remain displaced from the earthquake, traveling to find a new home, and are living in temporary reception centers. With 13 years' worth of crisis in Syria, most children involved have completely lost their childhood. Of the 14 million Syrian refugees, it is estimated that about 47% of them are under the age of 18. Yet they have been exposed to 13 years' worth of violence, losing loved ones, and losing everything they have. They have grown to know nothing but this crisis. About 2.4 million Syrian children do not have access to education and 1.6 million are at risk of dropping out for various reasons. With little to no option, child labor in these areas has almost doubled as a last resort to keep families afloat.

But even in all the chaos and depression, there is still good being done for refugees on a global scale. Some of the leading UN organizations are the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the UN International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). Their vision for refugee children is to provide them with a fair chance at life, free from physical harm and exploitation. They should be able to live in clean and hygienic environments where they can learn and look forward to the future. To achieve this plan, these UN bodies have collaborated under the Strategic Collaboration Framework that will use their budget on education, WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene), child protection, social protection, statelessness, and data.

## Potential Solutions

When you are creating your solutions make sure you are always being creative and original! As a general rule it is always good to have a short, mid, and long term solution. Short term solutions don't require as much effort and resources so it can be done quickly and efficiently. Mid-term solutions can require a bit more funding, more volunteers, or increases of temporary shelters. Long term solutions could take up to ten years of research and a lot of volunteers but they should be of significant help to the problem. If you only have two of those and just made the third to check off the box, just keep the two. It's better to have two strong solutions than three weaker solutions. When creating your solutions, it is a good idea to reference solutions your country has already implemented. However, you shouldn't copy them exactly. On the flip side, you should make sure your solution sticks to your country policy. For example, Saudi Arabia should not have a solution on accepting more refugees, because of their concern that it might be obligated of them to accept refugees hostile to the regime. Though the delegate may still create other solutions like partnering with non-profits, as this is something Saudi Arabia has done in the past to help refugees. Lastly, at this conference, though funding solutions are encouraged, **the method of funding individual solutions will not be a topic of discussion, as any solutions that will be passed in voting bloc will be assumed to the UN's budgetary committee which currently has around \$3.59 billion.** However, if you are still struggling to find some solutions keep reading the topic synopsis as it will give you broad ideas to help you start to form your own.



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The first solution that the delegate can consider is providing food, shelter, and resources to these refugees. This can be done in many different ways, such as non-profits, organizations, UN entities, etc. But this may depend on which country you are representing. Many refugees lack the proper food and water they need on a daily basis, which causes all sorts of other problems like malnutrition and sickness. In addition, refugee centers are often overcrowded and this causes diseases to easily spread across the camp. This causes centers to turn people away and worsens the crisis by subjecting refugees to dangerous conditions outside.

Another possible solution could be implementing an education system in refugee camps. According to the UNHCR, child refugees are missing an average of 3 to 4 years of school because of forced displacement. In fact, 51%, which make up more than 7 million children of all school-aged refugee children, are not currently enrolled in school. In addition, the 49% that do attend schools are often enrolled in overcrowded schools that lack the proper resources like notebooks and pencils. Furthermore, refugees often struggle to learn the language of the state they are in, further decreasing the use they get out of their education.

Lastly, a solution that can be used for almost any MUN committee is raising awareness for child refugees. This can be done in so many ways like social media marketing, speaking panels, and the promotion of refugee-aiding organizations. Today, there is a growing issue of refugees lacking a voice. Many do not have a say in their rights or where they are placed. This causes refugees to become forgotten in many nations and for support to decrease. With fewer supporters, there is a decrease in donations, volunteers, and advocates speaking in favor of their rights.

## Questions to Consider

Delegates are not required to answer any of the following questions formally. They are simply starting blocks on where to research, consider any solutions, and how to gain a deeper understanding of the topic:

1. Where is the root of the problem? Is there any **realistic** way to prevent/get rid of it?
2. Is your country part of this root? If yes, is there anything you can do to improve upon the issue?
3. Are there societal ways to solve this problem? Is racism affecting refugees in your country?
4. What past actions, if any, has your country taken to protect child refugees?
5. Is your nation's migrant procedure/guideline up to date? Are there any actions your country can take to improve upon it?
6. How will you ensure your solutions will be enforced?
7. Are there any dangers refugees face that could be prevented?



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