

ACIBADEM

MODEL UNITED NATIONS



**SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN &
CULTURAL COMMITTEE
(SOCHUM)**

STUDY GUIDE

AYLA ALTUNLU
NİSA ÖZER
BORA AKAR

Letter from the Secretary-General

Distinguished participants and my future family members,

I, as the Presidents of Acibadem University Model United Nations Club and Acibadem University Model United Nations Conference 2020, would like to welcome you all to the very first session of ACUMUN which will be held on 17-20 January 2020. It is more than an honor for me to be able to lead such a precious and professional team under the umbrella of newly-established ACUMUNC as, with its unprecedented campus and well-qualified members, it will be one of the most important entities in MUN community.

In this conference, we prepared highly special committees with very specific procedures which are gathered from not only United Nations bodies but also other governmental bodies. Before stating several details upon our committees, I would like to proudly mention Midnight Crisis system which was simulated by me and my crisis team for the first time in Turkey and spread throughout other conferences. Since our first application of this unique procedure in HPALMUN, we have been supervising the ways to implement it in a better way and hopefully, you will have the chance to experience it. Starting from our committees, we have SOCHUM from our previous conference as being the most demanded committee within our application process. Our committees are all in Harvard Rules of Procedure so you can really experience a high-level academic quality even if it is commonly suggested to beginners and intermediate delegates. What is more, we have expert committee on child rights which is a common and remarkable subject lately, considering latest news upon numerous violations. Apart from them, we have security-based committees with cabinets, councils, secret FBI missions, futuristic councils and of course, world wars. Although it is really hard to define every single of them as having complicated Rules of Procedures, you should believe me on that it will not even resemble to any of your previous experiences. Operations will be more detailed, this simulation would not be separated from its real version, so please check the real functions of your committees before coming to our conference. One more difference from your other experiences, -if you have experienced my crisis committees before when I was an USG, you would definitely know this- you will be experiencing really intense crisis

committee with significant number of updates and outcomes of your actions. You will be in need of tackling every single issue detailedly and also simultaneously with other issues. It might seem like it will be hard, yes but, you will be enjoying the themes very much that you would not like to leave this conference on 20th January.

Apart from the context of the committees, whole committees will be directed in accordance to Harvard Rules of Procedure which is more delegate-centered version that allows the members of the committees to firstly discuss the content of possible resolutions and then write it jointly. Other crisis committees would have several additional procedures that are specific to committee structure. Summing up, we are preparing a conference with the best academic and organizational quality. We will have numerous surprises for you within the conference process.

Do not forget, we are Acibadem, it is your place, it is where we unite the worlds.

I am really excited to see you all in the Conference.

Yours sincerely,

Korhan KARADENIZ

President of ACUMUNC and ACUMUN 20'

Letter from the Under-Secretary General

Esteemed participants of SOCHUM,

To start with, it is my utmost pleasure to welcome you all to the first edition of ACUMUN. I am Ayla Altunlu and I am a junior of Political Sciences and Public Administration in Marmara University. I am more than glad to serve you as the Under-Secretary General, I am looking forward to witnessing your passion and dedication as you share your opinions on very important topics which concerns each and every one of you.

Take these three days as a chance to save the humanity. Try to fix what has been done. Act like your solutions will really affect the world. Because in the future, you might be the one who will solve these crucial issues with your brilliant ideas.

Lastly, I would like to thank my hardworking Academic Assistants Nisa and Bora. They helped me so much throughout this journey. Also, a big and warm thank you to Secretary General Mr. Korhan Karadeniz for having me in this conference, with a beautiful team.

Please take your time to read the study guide thoroughly but remember that this is just the starting point for your research, and I hope you will do further research on the topics for yourself, especially regarding your designated countries. If there is something you are not sure about, do not hesitate to contact me via aylaaltunlu@yahoo.com.tr. I am here to help you in any way possible.

Ayla Altunlu

Letters from Academic Assistants

Most esteemed ACUMUN participants,

I am Nisa Özer and a freshman in Koç University majoring International Relations. It is my greatest joy and utmost pleasure to welcome you all to the First Annual Session of Acıbadem University Model United Nations Conference, where I have been given the privilege and responsibility of being one of the Academic Assistant of this committee alongside my Under-Secretary General Miss. Ayla Altunlu and Academic Assistant Mr. Bora Akar.

Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Committee (SOCHUM), will be covering two agenda items which are *the issue of climate refugees and forced migration* and *modern slavery*. I am looking forward to your solutions that will shape the world and social issues focusing those two topics.

Also, I would like to thank all academy, especially our Secretary-General Mr. Korhan Karadeniz for trusting me and giving me this opportunity and Miss. Ayla Altunlu and Mr. Bora Akar for their help.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via nisaozer2000@gmail.com . I am eager to address any concerns about the committee you may have before, during and after the conference. I hope that our hard work will exceed your expectations, and that we will send you away with memorable experience you will remember for a life time. I look forward to meeting all of you on our fruitful sessions.

Thank you all for getting involved, and for standing up for the shared values of all humanity.

Sincerely,

Nisa ÖZER

Dear Participants,

First of all, we, as the academic team, are honored to welcome you all to the first annual session of ACUMUN 2020. I am Bora AKAR and I am studying at 50.Year Tahrn Anatolian High School as an 11th grader.

I am very grateful and honored to be an academic assistant and do my best for you to have such an incredible and fruitful conference. With our talented and experienced academic team, there are no doubts that you are going to experience the quality and you are going to be passionate and ambitious to work harder and harder at our conference.

The reason why the participants are going to be passionate and ambitious is well-chosen committees and their agenda items. They are pointing the issues that every person must be aware of. Especially the agenda items of the SOCHUM committee are the ones that the issues are being forgotten or being forced to be forgotten by some powers in order to keep their powers. We wanted these issues to not be forgotten and we wanted to raise awareness upon these issues. The first topic is “The Issue of Climate Refugees and Forced Migration”. There are many refugees that are being forced by many reasons such as political chaos, wars, climate, etc. Many of those refugees do not have the right of explaining their problems and their rights must be secured by the persons that are aware of their desperation. This is why this agenda item is important to discuss. The second topic is “Modern Slavery” which is not considered a problem from many countries. The countries are not considering modern slavery as a major problem are the ones that make the most profit from the modern slaves. Many of them cannot secure their rights because of the risk of losing their jobs and the source of money. There are some non-governmental organizations to secure their rights but they are not enough to do it so this is why this agenda item is also important.

SOCHUM committee’s study guide had been written by our dear Under-Secretary-General Ayla Altunlu, our dear Academic Assistant Nisa Özer and me with passion and hard work. We have written the study guide detailed for participants to prepare easily and have the best experience that they ever had. Lastly, I would like to thank the Secretary-General, Korhan Karadeniz for his effort and hard work in order for the participants to have incredible moments and experience.

Bora AKAR

Committee Overview



The Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee

(SOCHUM) is the United Nations General Assembly's Third Committee and was established at the end stages of World War II in 1945. This committee serves as the principal global body for deliberative and worldwide diplomatically discussed policy making with regards to multilateral discussion of transnational issues covered by the UN

Charter. The committee convenes in late September at the UN Headquarters in New York City where leaders from around the world participate in the General Debate over a number of days about pressing issues from all over the world. The Third Committee still continues to exercise the most fundamental UN objective, the protection and promotion of human rights, but also secures the subject matter of humanitarian, social and cultural affairs.¹

In the past the SOCHUM committee has discussed questions relating to the advancement of women, indigenous issues, the promotion of fundamental freedoms through the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, the protection of children, the treatment of refugees and the right to self-determination.²

¹ "The UN General Assembly's Third Committee – Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Issues | UN DESA Department of Economic and Social Affairs." United Nations. Accessed April 13, 2019. <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news/ecosoc/un-ga-third-committee.html>.

² "United Nations, Third Committee, Social, Humanitarian, Cultural, Main Body, Main Organs, General Assembly." United Nations. Accessed April 13, 2018. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/third/index.shtml>

TOPIC A: Climate Change and Forced Migration

INTRODUCTION

The term environmental refugee is relatively hard to define as the people it is applied to do not fulfill the typical criteria for refugees. The International Organisation of Migration (IMO) has proposed the following definition:

"Environmental migrants are persons or groups of persons who, for compelling reasons of sudden or progressive changes in the environment that adversely affect their lives or living conditions, are obliged to leave their habitual homes, or choose to do so, either temporarily or permanently, and who move either within their country or abroad." ³

This can include people forced to flee their home country, people who become internally displaced and so called environmental exiles, migrants in danger of becoming stateless⁴. Despite the lack of a uniformly accepted definition for the term, the concept has had an increasing importance with the UNHCR estimating that there have been at 24 million who have been forced to relocate for reasons relating to their natural environment⁵.

Climate change is responsible for people being displaced due to environmental issues. As a result, most of the people most vulnerable are located in the developing world. It is worth noting these areas are the ones least responsible and have benefitted the least from industrialization, which is the main reason behind rising CO₂ levels.

³ IMO. "DISCUSSION NOTE: MIGRATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT." http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/about_iom/en/council/94/MC_INF_288.pdf

⁴ Byravan, Sujatha, Chella Rajan, Sudhir. "Before the Flood". The New York Times, 9 May 2005. <https://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9402E0DE1230F93AA35756C0A9639C8B63>

⁵ Byravan, Sujatha, Chella Rajan, Sudhir. "Before the Flood". The New York Times, 9 May 2005. Accessed August 15, 2017. <https://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9402E0DE1230F93AA35756C0A9639C8B63>

beginning of our existence. For example, desertification of Arabian Peninsula led to the displacement of people living there. They migrated to a place with more resources: The Nile. It might be surprising that these people who migrated from the Arabian Peninsula to the Nile, were the foundation of the Ancient Egypt as we know. Also, another surprising fact is that we always think the climate change is a term made up in the last centuries, and, after seeing its effects, we started to get more interested in the matter. But the reality is just the opposite! After the industrialization of the world in the 19th Century, the climate change, more generally, environment lost its importance. Yes, we got used to the term and hearing about its effects to the environment, but the environment actually was not getting the same amount of care it was getting once. Enterprises “butchered” the environment in order to keep it up with the competitive market and the governments were not keen on preventing this, the reason is being that they have been profiting from it as well. About migration, when talked upon it, until recently no one thought about climate change, let alone thinking it was a reason or merely affecting it. Also, today, not everyone is on board with the idea of a “climate refugee”. Most people think that it is a factor, but not a sole reason of a migration or displacement. Most attribute the migration to social, economic, and political reasons. There are some who thinks that the climate change can be the sole reason for a migration / displacement, but to be honest, they are outnumbered as of now⁷. The definition of “refugee” under the 1951 UN Convention, does not include the link between “climate change” and “migration”. So, people who are displaced or migrated cannot get the benefits of refugees since they are not qualified as a refugee. This gap in the definition led the studies about the matter be less focused on the link between climate change and migration as well. And really, it is not that common to see a study solely about the climate change and its effects on people movement.

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) can be defined as maritime countries with common development challenges, such as growing population levels, limited access to external sources, remote locations and fragile environments prone to natural disasters. A total of 57 territories are recognized under this category, from which 37 are UN member states. Most of the remaining 20 SIDS territories are politically associated with UN member states. The

⁷ "Environmental Refugees." Globalisation 101. <http://www.globalization101.org/environmental-refugees/>.

above-mentioned characteristics make these territories particularly vulnerable to climate change.

Legal Basis for Refugees

The 1951 Geneva Convention defines what a refugee is in the international law:



“A person who owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.”

Environmental refugees do not have a legal and unified status under international law, and are often simply referred to as “displaced”. People flee because of punctual events such as an earthquake, a tsunami, a sandstorm... but also because of a slow degradation of their habitat (acidification of the soil, rise in temperature or modification of sea levels...). Usually, these displaced people move within the boundaries of their countries or go to the neighboring country. All these circumstances make it difficult to undertake a good census of these demographic flows which are more important than those displaced by war and political repression combined⁸.

The UNHCR has “identified five climate change related scenarios that may directly or indirectly cause human displacement”:

- Hydro-meteorological disasters (flooding, hurricanes/typhoons/cyclones, mudslides...)

⁸ National Geographic News, “Climate Change creating millions of ‘ecorefugees’, UN warns”, March 2012

- Zones designated by Governments as being too high-risk and dangerous for human habitation
- Environmental degradation and slow onset disaster (e.g. reduction of water availability, desertification, recurrent flooding, salinization of coastal zones...)
- The case of ‘sinking’ small island states
- Violent conflict triggered by a decrease in essential resources (e.g. water, land, food) owing to climate change⁹

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and others predict that migrations of environmental refugees will increase in the years to come and urge countries and global institutions to legislate¹⁰. A program named “Climate Justice” is pushed forward by 70 NGOs such as Greenpeace or WWF alongside legal experts to contribute to the instauration of new rules and status. Such a status of “environmental refugee” could include the populations displaced after natural disasters such as a tropical storm or an earthquake.

Effects of climate change

The world is facing the biggest environmental challenge that has no borders which is climate change and it has become one of the major problems of the twenty-first century. Climate change causes a wide range of impacts that affects virtually every living (faunas, floras and human beings) on the planet in increasingly severe ways. The most important cause of climate change is global warming, which creates negative consequences on physical, biological and human systems as well as other effects. The main impacts include the melting of the ice, which in turn causes rising sea level, floods which threatens coastal environments through small islands which are under the risk of disappearing entirely that leads to the creation of climate refugees and destruction of food chain, economy, especially in developing countries.

⁹ “Climate Change, natural disasters and human displacement: a UNHCR perspective”, <http://www.unhcr.org/4901e81a4.pdf>, UNHCR 2009 Report

¹⁰ http://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/mecc_outlook.pdf, “IOM Outlook on Migration, Environment and Climate Change”, 2014

Moreover, the changes in the climate increase the chance of drought, fire, desertification, death of animal and plant species. The experts expect that the impacts will intensify.

According to a Special Report on Global Warming made by The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), climate change impacts at the current $\sim 1^\circ\text{C}$ global warming as well as the risks of reaching 1.5°C and more. It is becoming a high priority as the change of the weather conditions is faster than some living things are able to adapt for a long run and has distributed the balanced ecosystem. It is accepted by most of the climate change experts that greenhouse gases are - that prevent heat from leaving the Earth's atmosphere- responsible for the increase in the temperature. Rising levels of temperature impacts are observable both for the physical and biological environment. A rise in sea levels due to the melting polar ice, drought, floods are physical effects on the environment where extinction, desertification are considered as biological impacts. A policy to cut emissions across all sectors of the economy should immediately be implemented in order to limit the increase of warming.

Rising ocean, sea and lake levels are some of those climate change affects. There is about an average of 23 centimeters increase in the sea levels since 1880, with about 8 centimeters of those gained in the last 25 years. There are three primary factors that link to the change in sea levels all induced by ongoing global climate change, those being thermal expansion, melting glaciers, loss of Greenland and Antarctica's ice sheets. As a rapid rise in sea levels, even a small increase can cause devastating effects on coastal habitats. For father inland, it can cause aquifer and soil - used for an agricultural purpose- contamination with salt, the lost habitat of a variety of faunas and floras. Furthermore, the effects on human beings should not be underestimated. Climate-related migration and displacement is a growing challenge for our era.

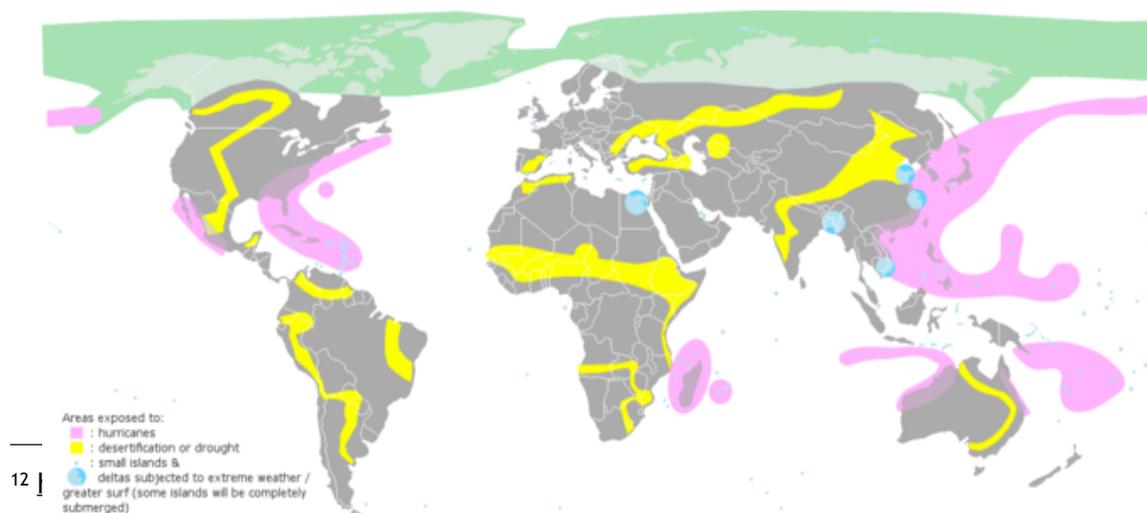
Drought affects the environment and the communities in many different ways. Water is vital that drought has economical, environmental and social impacts on the environment and societies. As drought destroys or undermines food sources, people go hungry¹¹. If the drought

¹¹ <https://www.thebalance.com/drought-definition-effects-examples-and-solutions-4157896>

is severe and continues for a long period of time, hundreds of people may die because of hunger as a result. Furthermore, drought often creates a lack of accessibility to clean water for drinking, public sanitation, and hygiene which causes life-threatening diseases. Every year millions of people get sick or die because they are not able to access clean water to sanitize yet droughts only make it the problem worse. Thanks to rising temperatures following droughts, the frequency of wildfires have increased by %40 since 1970.



It is declined that the world biodiversity has declined rapidly and alarmingly in the last 50 years, more than 25,000 species are in danger of extinction. Climate change will be responsible for 8% of these. The reason for extinction are degradation and loss of habitats and microhabitats, environmental changes as temperature, shifts in climatic conditions and water availability/quality that species can not tolerate, distributions of environmental cues¹². It is estimated by WFF scientists that most species -including plant- will have to move faster than 1 kilometer per year in order to keep within the climate zone which they need survival. Given present knowledge shows that many species will not be able to redistribute themselves enough that may well become extinct.



KEY COUNTRIES AND BLOC POSITIONS

The member states of the **European Union (EU)** usually set ambitious objectives in terms of the reduction of GHG. These developed countries, alongside Nordic countries like **Sweden, Norway and Iceland (the last two are not EU members)** are highly effective in reducing their GHG, using alternative sources of energy production such as geothermal energy or offshore wind power for instance in Denmark or in the United Kingdom (UK). France was at the origin of the success of COP21 thanks to the efficiency of its diplomacy and its new environmental policies. Also, the EU is accepting refugees. Even though, it is a limited number of refugees, in case of an environmental refugee crisis situation, EU may let the refugees in.¹³

South Korea, Singapore and Japan are on the same line as the European countries. They all face the consequences of climate change. Rising water in the Netherlands or in Italy (Venice), heat waves or forest fires in continental Europe are pressing issues in Europe.

Other developed countries such as the **United States of America (USA), Canada, Russia or Australia** have a completely different stance on climate and refugees. That is because as of 2016, Russia was the world's largest oil producer with more than 10 million barrels per day, the USA came third and Canada at the seventh place. In terms of GHG emission per capita, Australia is the seventh country as of 2015, the USA, Canada and Russia are also amongst the 20 countries that are performing badly¹⁴. These countries have a record of high GHG emission, an oil dependent industry and a lack of political willingness to diversify their energy production. They could face environmental refugees on their own soil with droughts, hurricanes or extreme temperatures. Concerning refugees, if Canada is more liberal and progressive on the issue, the others do have tougher and more conservative stance on the

¹³ Eurostat, Asylum Quaterly Report, http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statisticsexplained/index.php/Asylum_statistics, June 2017

¹⁴ EU Joint Research Centre, Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric Research (EDGAR), <http://bit.ly/2uUCAjd>, 2015

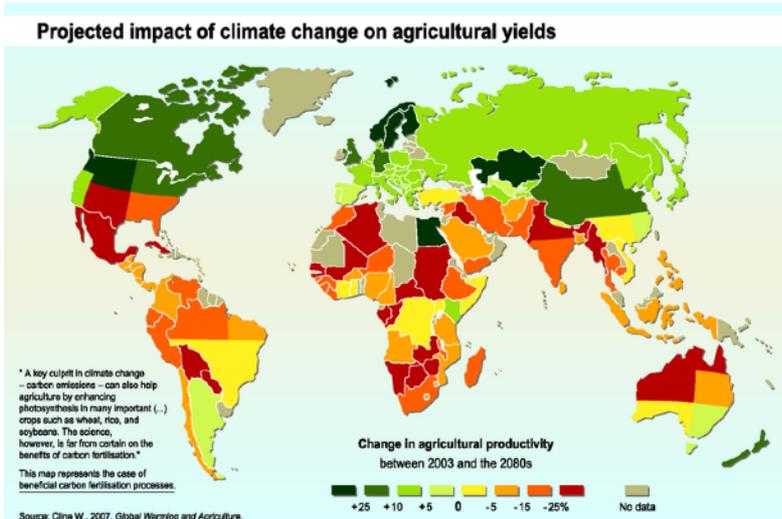
welcoming of refugees despite the fact the USA and Russia were the top two destinations for refugees as of 2010.

China and India have as a mid-term objective to place themselves as potential world leaders, and they both have increasing financial and technological means to achieve this in the coming decades. To increase their credibility on the international scene and be a model for all, they will position themselves as proactive in tackling global warming. This was made clear when China ratified the Paris Agreement before the USA did. Both countries still have a great amount of effort to undertake in order to minimize their GHG production but they have the human potential and political support to do so. China and India will face environmental refugees in their own countries, and their large populations will be subject to floods, droughts or natural disasters.

Middle Eastern countries already face high temperatures and water scarcity, and are highly dependent on their oil and gas production. The unstable region is also the ground of destructive wars that have led to recent refugee crisis. The richer countries in the area such as **Jordan, Lebanon, Iran, Israel, Saudi Arabia** and the Gulf States are welcoming millions of refugees, and they will surely welcome more and more in the years to come.

Latin American countries are usually progressive on climate change (like **Costa Rica or Uruguay**), with the notable exceptions of **Brazil and Venezuela**, large oil producers. Brazil deforests thousands of acres of primary forest for agricultural purposes; this produces a lot of GHG. The area is also subject to natural disasters: **Chile** faces the risk of earthquakes and the melting Argentinians' glaciers might cause sea levels to rise, while the Caribbean Islands are also exposed. When solely focusing on refugees, Mexico is already an important migration route from South America to North America.

The Maldives is an island nation that is located southwest of Sri Lanka. As the flattest country on Earth, the Maldives is susceptible to rising sea level and faces the threat of its land to be inundated by the end of this century. As a method of preventing such occurrence, the



Maldivian Ministry of Home Affairs has identified possible solutions. Some of them include increasing rainwater harvesting, protecting groundwater, and increasing the elevations of infrastructures. In the year 2008, the president of the Maldives proposed to purchase a new homeland elsewhere.

The Republic of Kiribati is an island nation located in the Pacific Ocean. It has long been predicted that the rising sea level will make the island uninhabitable in the next thirty to sixty years. In the year 2007, a man named Ioane Teitiota from Kiribati moved to New Zealand and overstayed the duration of his given visa. The Kiribati man moved to New Zealand claiming that his island back home was unsafe for him and his family. He has made a bid to become the world's first climate change refugee. However, his efforts went futile as the New Zealand's Supreme Court rejected the bid and deported him. Unrelated to this event, in 2014 the president of the Republic of Kiribati stated that he never encouraged any of his people to become refugees. He further emphasized the importance to acknowledge the reality of the rising sea and that the islands cannot accommodate all of his citizens. Hence, Kiribati people have to relocate in the future, but not as refugees.

MAJOR PARTIES INVOLVED

Greenpeace, international organization dedicated to preserving endangered species of animals, preventing environmental abuses, and heightening environmental awareness through direct confrontations with polluting corporations and governmental authorities. Greenpeace also actively sought favourable rulings from national and international regulatory bodies on

the control of environmental abuses, sometimes with considerable success. The organization has a small staff and relies largely on voluntary staffing and funding.¹⁵

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.¹⁶

In 2012 UNEP partnered with OCHA (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), UNU (United Nations University), IOM, and CILSS (the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel) to analyze climate trends and identify at-risk populations in the Sahel. The analysis featured in the work on Livelihood Security – Climate Change, Migration and Conflict in the Sahel helped to inform the UN integrated strategy on the Sahel.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM), is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration which has been established in 1951. IOM has been established for working closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners. IOM works in the four broad areas of migration management:

Migration and development

Facilitating migration

Regulating migration

Forced migration.¹⁷

¹⁵ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Greenpeace>

¹⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/knowledge4policy/organisation/unep-united-nations-environment-programme_en

¹⁷ <https://www.iom.int/about-iom>

According to the IOM member states, working on migration, environment and climate change was a requirement for securing the migrates who have been immigrated because of unbearable climate conditions and climate change, and they have been requesting to work on these problems since 2007. At the beginning of 2015, Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division was created by IOM in order to solve these issues. More than 1000 projects have been funded and implemented by IOM.

IOM is pursuing a policy that supports the ones that are trying to attract attention and making activities for securing rights and developing the life quality of climate refugees to solve these issues.¹⁸

In 2018 alone, 17.2 million new displacements associated with disasters in 148 countries and territories were recorded (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre) and 764,000 people in Somalia, Afghanistan and several other countries were displaced following drought

CLIMATE REFUGEE OR MIGRANT?

One important issue is whether people displaced by climate change should be defined as ‘climate refugees’ or as ‘climate migrants’. Campaigners have long used the phrase ‘environmental refugee’ or ‘climate refugee’ to convey added urgency to the issue. They argue that, in the most literal sense of the words, such people need to ‘seek refuge’ from the impacts of climate change. Any other terminology, they maintain, would downplay the seriousness of these people’s situation. The word ‘refugee’ resonates with the general public who can sympathize with the implied sense of duress. It also carries fewer negative connotations than ‘migrant’ which tends to imply a voluntary move towards a more attractive lifestyle. However, the use of the word ‘refugee’ to describe those fleeing from environmental pressures is not strictly accurate under current international law. The United Nations’ 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol relating to the status of refugees are clear that the term should be restricted to those fleeing persecution.

While the available evidence on how climate change and environmental degradation affect human mobility is growing and is uncontested, the current focus of the debate on establishing

¹⁸ <https://www.iom.int/migration-and-climate-change>

a climate refugee status can lead to a narrow and biased debate and would provide only partial solutions to address the complexity of human mobility and climate change.

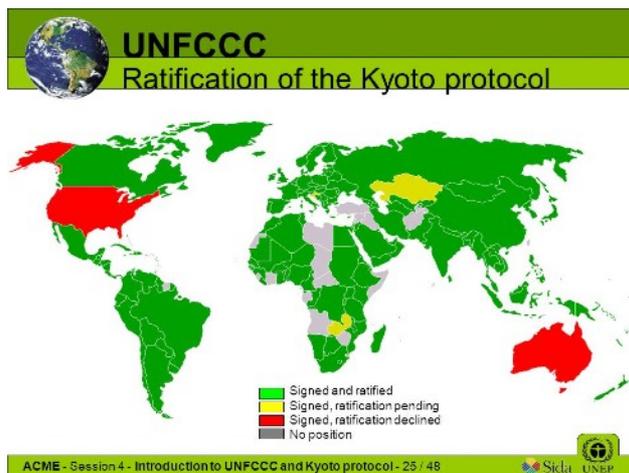
Yet reducing the issue of migration in the context of climate change to the status of “climate refugees” fails to recognize a number of key aspects that define human mobility in the context of climate change and environmental degradation. Here are a few:

1. **Isolating environment/climatic reasons is difficult**, in particular from humanitarian, political, social, conflict or economic ones. It can sometimes be an impossible task and may lead to long and unrealistic legal procedures.
2. Creating a special refugee status for climate change-related reasons might unfortunately have the opposite effects of what is sought as a solution: **it can lead to the exclusion of categories of people who are in need of protection**, especially the poorest migrants who move because of a mix of factors and would not be able to prove the link to climate and environmental factors.
3. **Human rights-based approaches are key for addressing climate migration**: states of origin bear the primary responsibility for their citizens’ protection even if indeed their countries have not been the main contributors to global warming; they should, therefore, apply human rights-based approaches for their citizens moving because of environmental or climatic drivers.
4. **Climate migration is mainly internal**: when migration is internal, people moving are under the responsibility of their own state, they do not cross borders and are not seeking protection from a third country or at the international level.¹⁹

Please bear in mind that these clauses are about environmental ‘migrants’. There are also, environmental ‘refugees’. A clear distinction should be made so governments and NGO’s can imply their legislations according to that.

¹⁹ <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2019/06/lets-talk-about-climate-migrants-not-climate-refugees/>

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE?



The **Kyoto Protocol** signed in 1997 and effective in 2005 was the result of intense negotiations that began in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro with the UN Conference on Environment and Development. The Rio talks resulted in the creation of the Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC, also known as UNFCCC)

with the annual Conference of the Parties (COP), the first one met in Berlin in 1995. The Kyoto Protocol was a major piece of legislation, one of the most important of its kind with 192 signatory parties. It is important to underline that all UN members with the exception of Andorra, South Sudan, Canada and the USA are parties (Canada withdrew in 2011). The Kyoto Protocol is legally binding and was effective between 2005 and 2012. However, the Protocol's only focus was the reduction of Greenhouse Gases (GHG) as a means to reduce rising temperature and did not mention environmental refugees at all. So far, the Kyoto Protocol and the Parties have not fully met their objectives.

Paris Agreement/ COP21

The Paris Agreement is an agreement among the leaders of more than 170 countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit the global temperature increase to below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 F) above pre-industrial levels by the year 2100. Ideally, the agreement aims to keep the increases to below 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 F). The agreement is also called the 21st Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.²⁰

²⁰ Climate Analytics, Paris Agreement Ratification Tracker, <http://climateanalytics.org/hot-topics/ratificationtracker.html>

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

In the short term, the needs of the people forced to flee their homes must be accommodated. That underlines the importance of understanding the reasons behind migration patterns and establishing the criteria of what constitutes an environmental migrant.

It is important to note that nations facing the biggest threat caused by climate change are the smallest environmental polluters. With that in mind a possible solution to be explored is helping those nations improve their existing infrastructure and safeguard themselves from threats like rising sea levels and desertification. A big part is to be played by NGOs within a frame that needs to be clearly defined.

QUESTIONS THAT A RESOLUTION MUST ADDRESS

- What should the definition of climate refugees be?
- What initiatives should be undertaken to prevent the issues that cause environmental migration?
- Should resources be utilized to create the appropriate infrastructure in the countries expected to be the sources and destinations of environmental refugees?
- Should countries that are big polluters be responsible for granting asylum to environmental refugees?

Topic B: Modern Slavery

INTRODUCTION

Slavery was one of the major problems of our planet and it has never stopped until today. Slaves had to work non-stop and obey the rules that their owners determine. If the slaves would be against the rules and would not obey the rules, they would be punished with whipping or death punishment according to their owner's decision. The League of Nations have prohibited slavery and considered slavery as a serious violation of international law in 1926 after the breakup of the League of Nations, United Nations have continued to prohibiting slavery. Because of slavery, approximately 17 million people have died while transporting to the place that they will be slaves

After the prohibition of slavery, slavery did not stop and continued as "modern slavery". It is also known as contemporary slavery or neo-slavery. There were 46 million modern slaves in 2016 and the number of modern slaves is increasing day by day. Modern forms of slavery can include debt bondage, forced child labours, forced marriage, domestic servitude, forced labours, sex trafficking, child sex trafficking, etc. Those forms of modern slavery are mostly affecting low-income families and migrant labours. Low-income families mostly work on physically demanding jobs and have a danger of employment termination. If those families would lose their jobs, they would face starvation, poverty and risk of being homeless. On the other hand, migrant labours' are facing more difficult situations because they are not a first-class citizen in the country that they have immigrated. They always have a risk of being deported back to their countries. If they have a family, they will have to leave their families back in their countries because with the wage that they earn in the country that they have immigrated, they cannot provide the sufficient supplies for their families and their families would suffer poverty and starvation.

Modern slavery is not cruel and mortal as real slavery that has been implemented before 1926 but some non-governmental organizations such as Anti-Slavery sees that as one of our world's major problems. Anti-Slavery is a UK-based non-governmental organization that works to end slavery and secure slave's rights and freedom throughout the world.

“Throughout 2018 we faced significant challenges to human rights, from the callous treatment of those seeking asylum in Europe and the US, to a rise in populism across the world. But in the midst of them, there has been an enormous fight back. As slavery continues to hit the headlines, our growing anti-slavery movement is having an impact. In the last year alone our members, supporters and donors have helped strengthen over 17 anti-slavery movements across 19 projects in 14 countries. Together we have changed laws and policies to stop slavery in its tracks. I hope you will continue to be a part of this movement, fighting now, for freedom for all.”, the CEO of Anti-Slavery, Jasmine O’Connor says.

-Definition of slavery and modern slavery

Slavery is a system that allows individuals to own, buy and sell other individuals without their permission and forcing them to work on physically demanding jobs and the jobs they would not want to do in their lives before they were not slaves such as working as a maid, footman, hamal, etc. On the other hand, modern slavery refers to institutional slavery that continues to occur in present-day society. Estimates of the number of slaves today range from around 21 million to 46 million, depending on the method used to form the estimate and the definition of slavery being used. The estimated number of slaves is debated, as there is no universally agreed definition of modern slavery; those in slavery are often difficult to identify, and adequate statistics are often not available.

The Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in-person agency of the United States Department of State says that "'modern slavery', 'trafficking in persons', and 'human trafficking' has been used as umbrella terms for the act of recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing or obtaining a person for compelled labor or commercial sex acts through the use of force, fraud, or coercion". Besides these, a number of different terms are used in the US federal Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 and the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, including "involuntary servitude", "slavery" or "practices similar to slavery", "debt bondage", and "forced labor".

According to an American non-governmental organization that secures the rights of modern slaves which is Free the Slaves, modern slavery occurs "when a person is under the control of another person who applies violence and force to maintain that control, and the goal of that control is exploitation".

The impact of slavery is expanded when targeted at vulnerable groups such as children. According to this definition, research from the Walk Free Foundation based on its Global Slavery Index 2016 estimated that there were about 40.3 million slaves around the world in 2016.

In another estimate that suggests the number is around 45.8 million, it is estimated that around 10 millions of these contemporary slaves are children. Bales warned that, because slavery is officially abolished everywhere, the practice is illegal, and thus more hidden from the public and authorities. This makes it impossible to obtain exact figures from primary sources. The best that can be done is an estimate based on secondary sources, such as UN investigations, newspaper articles, government reports, and figures from NGOs. Modern slavery persists for many of the same reasons older variations did: it is an economically beneficial practice despite the ethical concerns. The problem has been able to escalate in recent years due to the disposability of slaves and the fact that the cost of slaves has dropped significantly.²¹

Key Terms/ Forms of Slavery

Fortunately, slavery does not exist and it is not protected legally anymore. However, there are still people out there who are under control of another or being exploited. Today, there are a couple of common forms of slavery that observers agreed on. What they have in common is enslavement. The victims of modern slavery are not only obliged to work involuntarily and unwillingly but also they are not able to quit once they have started. The forms of slavery that we are facing today are down below.

Forced labor is defined by International Labour Organization Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) as “all work or service which is exacted from any person under the threat of a penalty and for which the person has not offered himself or herself voluntarily.” This definition both useful for people in the labor camps and workers whose wages and identity papers are taken by employers²². Forced Labour is the most prevalent form of modern slavery and it is the most extreme way of people exploitation. Millions of men, women all around the

²¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slavery_in_the_21st_century

1) ²² Forced labor. What is forced labor? - Anti-Slavery URL: <https://www.antislavery.org/slavery-today/forced-labour/>

world get affected. Mostly, they are found in industries that have lots of workers and little regulations. Such as, agriculture and fishing; construction, mining; manufacturing, packaging...²³Business owners in the private sector exploit 90% of the world's forced laborers which comes to mean that gaining a profit is the largest and most effective motivation behind the institution of slavery. Also, many state and rebel governments practice forced labor in state prisons, in convict leasing programs, military forces or rebel arm groups.

Bonded Labor (debt bondage/ debt slavery) occurs when a person is forced to work undesirable to pay off a debt. They are pushed into working for little money or none without any control over their debt. They are exploited in slave-like conditions for their debts. It is one of the most prevalent forms of modern slavery. However, it is least known. Here's how it works. Generally, business owners(as factory bosses, landowners, etc.) have a number of tricks to exploit workers. The ones who borrowed the money are working with very low wages to repay. Interest rates and the additional money borrowed for medicine, clothes or basic needs are added as well. In most of the scenarios, up to half of the payment of the day is taken for debt and the remaining is cut for breaking a rule or poor work performance. Laborers try to buy some food and daily supplies with what little income remains. They often don't have enough to live on therefore they borrow more to survive. Any illness mainly caused by working conditions is not only more money to spend on medicine but also less money to be earned as the laborer is not able to work. A serious example of bonded labor can be given from South Asia. Anti-Slavery International works in India to prevent the extreme exploitation and abuse of thousands of men, woman, and children forced to work as bonded laborers, brick kilns and agriculture.²⁴

Domestic Servitude is a sector that easily turns into domestic slavery and exploitation on the score of unique circumstances of working inside a private household combined with a lack of legal protection and rights. It is extremely hard to take notice as they work in the private residents as it not only seems normal in practice but also authorities can not inspect homes as easily as they can formal workplaces. The tasks that the workers perform are cooking,

²³ Forced Labor | Modern Day Slavery - End Slavery Now URL: <http://www.endslaverynow.org/learn/slavery-today/forced-labor>

²⁴ What is bonded labor? - Anti-Slavery International URL: <https://www.antislavery.org/slavery-today/bonded-labour/>

cleaning, laundry, childcare, looking after the elderly. Some of the domestic workers are considered 'on-call' for 24 hours as they live in their employers' houses. The wage is very small and frequently delayed. In addition, some are not fortunate enough to get a salary but only accommodation and food. Forced domestic servitude is a violation of human rights all around the world. Especially, for migrants, it becomes vulnerable to domestic servitude as their agencies trap them with confiscation of their documents. Domestic servitude can turn into bonded labor if immigrants incur debt when they reach a destination country. It is impossible for the domestic servitudes to complain about the job or quit it due to the lack of ability to speak the language of the country, being unconnected to the outside of the home or the fear for immigrant offices.²⁵

Sex Trafficking is the illegal form of trafficking human mostly (96%) women and girls for sexual purposes. Sex trafficking is defined in three different forms: exploitation, acquisition, and transportation. Also, sex trafficking crimes include child sex tourism(CST) domestic minor sex trafficking(DMST) or other examples of commercial sexual exploitation of prostitution and children. According to current statistics, there are 4.5 million sex trafficking victims around the world.²⁶ Sex trafficking is a criminal enterprise with the highest growing rate, worth nearly 100 billion dollars each year. In spite of the fact that sex trafficking is criminalized through international law (contribution of 158 countries). Sex trade -an alternative destination- is still legally and socially acceptable in some states.²⁷ People in poverty, politically marginalized, unable to access education are particularly vulnerable to sex trafficking. The UN General Assembly passed several resolutions on measures to eliminate human trafficking. In 2010 the UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons was adopted. Various other organizations have engaged in global efforts against sex trafficking.

When a child (under the age of 18) is maintained to perform a commercial sex act for any reason that is defined as child sex trafficking. Children are much more easily intimidated because of their vulnerable characteristics, naïve structure, size, and tendency. It is mentioned

²⁵ Domestic slavery: what is it? - Anti-Slavery International / URL: <https://www.antislavery.org/slavery-today/domestic-work-and-slavery/>

²⁶ Hammond, Gretchen; McGlone, Mandy (March 22, 2014). "Entry, Progression, Exit, and Service Provision for Survivors of Sex Trafficking: Implications for Effective Interventions". *Global Social Welfare*.

²⁷ END SEX TRAFFICKING/ Equality Now/ URL:https://www.equalitynow.org/end_sex_trafficking_campaign

by The International Labor Organization that 5.5 million of 20.9 million people who are trafficked in the world (for all types of work) are children. Without exception of any cultural or socioeconomic background use of children for commercial sex is prohibited in most countries. Sex trafficking can have devastating effects for children both physical and psychological damage including long-lasting trauma, disease (as HIV/AIDS), drug addiction, unwanted pregnancy, and even death.²⁸

Forced Marriage is included in the new estimates of people in slavery by the International Labour Organization (ILO). It occurs the bride, groom or both are forced to get married despite their unwillingness. Marriages can be made both secretly and also on a plan made by parents, family or someone with religious, economic power. Promise for going abroad, physical and emotional threats are some of the inducements. It is a violation of human rights, abuse of human beings including children²⁹. Girls are more vulnerable in this situation. There are more than 650 million women living and married as a child. Every year at least 12 million girls (before the age of 18) are married, it comes to 28 girls every minute. The number doubles in the less developed countries.³⁰

“**Child Labor** is the employment of children in an industry or business, mostly illegal or considered exploitative.” UNICEF estimated that there are a total of 152 million children-64 million girls and 88 million boys- in child labor globally which is equal to one in every ten children worldwide. The dynamics of child labor is described up to one third till the beginning of the millennium, but the process is not fast enough. Children are labored in bounded labor, trafficking and child soldiers. As an example, South Asia has a variety of industries such as carper waving, agriculture, brick kilos, garment making that children work. Additionally, children are facing other forms of exploitation that are online like sexual abuse materials and child pornography. Child labor comes up from lots of different points such as poverty, lack of workplace for adults, migration, social norms and status. Gender, socioeconomic status, race, and ethnicity affects the areas that children work also the roles of children in those jobs. The

²⁸ Sex Trafficking | Human Trafficking for Sex - End Slavery Now/ URL: <http://www.endslaverynow.org/learn/slavery-today/sex-trafficking>

²⁹ Anti-Slavery International. (2019). Official: forced marriage is slavery as 40 million in slavery across the world. [online] Available at: <https://www.antislavery.org/official-forced-marriage-slavery/>

³⁰ What is Modern Slavery? - United States Department of State/ URL: <https://www.state.gov/what-is-modern-slavery>

consequences depend on the work children forced to do. Mostly they are harmful to the child, determined by yet intensity of work, time and allocation of the work.³¹

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Slavery dates back to old times and evidence of slavery predate written records. Even that it is written in the records, slavery was rare among the hunter-gatherer populations. Slavery is old

as civilizations such as Sumers in

Mesopotamia, ancient

Egypt, ancient China,

the Akkadian Empire,

Assyria, Babylonia,

Ancient Iran, Ancient

Greece, etc. According

to the philosophy

researchers, one of the

most important philosophers, Aristotle said that ‘That one should command and another obey

is both necessary and expedient. Indeed some things are so divided right from birth, some to

rule, some to be ruled’. This means that back in these times, slavery was common. After

years, many empires back at the time such as Babylonia, Ancient Egypt and the Roman

Empire have used the slaves in order to achieve economic and political expansion. Even years

passed, slavery was also common at the time. For example, The city of Rome contained a

slave population of nearly 40% in the 1st century CE. The status of slaves in the Roman law

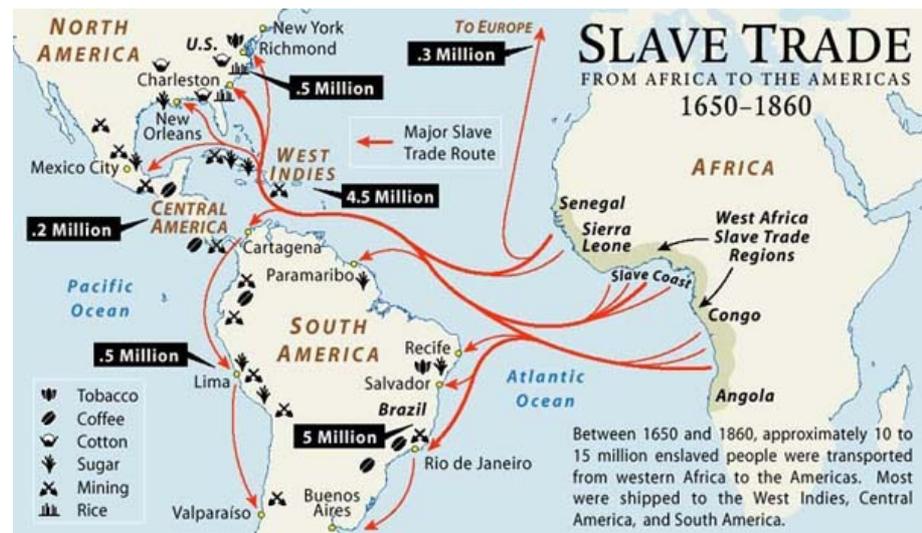
states that “a slave’s status combined subjection with disability. As regards subjection, he or

she was subject to the slave owner’s orders. A slave could be sold, given as a gift, left by the

owner’s last will, surrendered for a wrong committed by the slave, mortgaged or pledged for

the owner’s debts. Slaves did not control their own way of life. They were items of property,

things (res) in the legal sense. Unlike a free person, they had no rights enforceable by law. But



³¹ Unicef.org. (2019). Child labour and exploitation. [online] Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/what-we-do/child-protection/child-labour-and-exploitation> [Accessed 15 Oct. 2019].

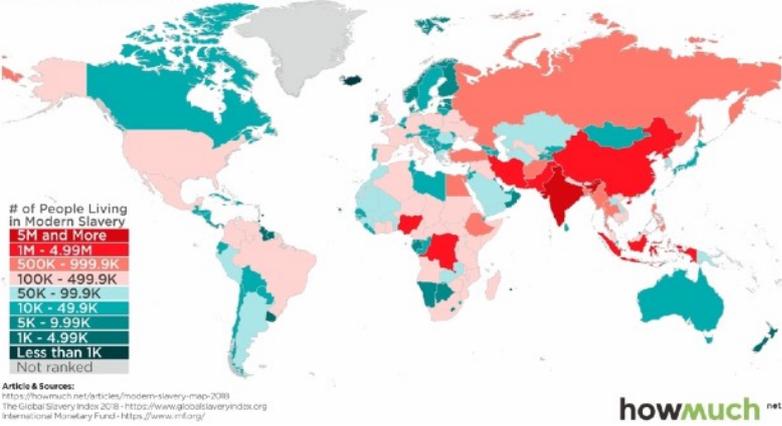
they were nevertheless persons (...). Roman law, then, made an effort to deal with the paradox that, legally speaking, these items of property were human beings who, as free people, took part in ordinary life. They had families and friends. They could be doctors, actors, teachers, bookkeepers, bankers, agents, farmers, actuaries, philosophers. But they did not have the legal standing of free people: the capacity to have rights in law, to own property, to make contracts, marriages, and wills, to sue and be sued in the civil courts.”

Slavery continued in the Middle Ages. In the late fourteenth century, following the Black Death, Europe began to engage in the transatlantic slave trade. The slave trade operated within the ‘triangle’ – traders’ ships were leaving Europe for West Africa, where African slaves were bought in exchange for goods from Europe. From West Africa, the ships sailed with the slaves for the ‘New World’ of the Americas and the Caribbean. The journey was referred to as the ‘Middle Passage’ and lasted for 6–8 weeks. Conditions on-board slave ships were deplorable, with many slaves dying due to malnutrition, exhaustion, cruelty or violence.³²

In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, the abolition movement has been started in order to abolish slavery all over the World. After the French Revolution, in 1879, the French Declaration of the Rights of Man has been declared in order to ensure equality between people. It was a declaration that affected all over the World and let the people secure their rights all over the World. Also, it was the first declaration that ensures equality between people. In 1818, France officially abolished the slave trade.

World Map of Modern Slavery 2018

Estimated Absolute Number of Victims



In 1863, the US President, Abraham Lincoln, issued the Emancipation Proclamation declaring ‘all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then,

32 <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/people-politics-law/the-law/modern-slavery/content-section-1.1>

thenceforward, and forever free'. However, it was not until the end of the Civil War in 1865 that the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution abolished slavery and involuntary servitude in the United States. The 13th Amendment stated that 'Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction', effectively rendering slavery illegal in the United States³³.

The last country in the world to abolish slavery was Mauritania in 1981.³⁴

After the abolition and prohibition of slavery, some of the superpowers have realized that slavery was a thing that makes a great profit for the country and they have designed and implemented a system called modern slavery but none of the people have recognized this until many organizations have been established. Nowadays, modern slavery is considered a crime but there are so many modern slaves all over the World and they are not even able to secure their rights because they have to earn money to survive in most of the countries.

Legal Situation

In the history of human rights, slavery was one of the first threats which was on international focus and which is formally abolished since the 19th century. However, it still continues in different forms. There are three modern conventions which are directly related to slavery. The first declaration which dealt with the issue of slavery was the Slavery Convention of 1926 which was brought forward by the League of Nations. This Convention was replaced by the Slavery Convention in 1953 which was brought forward by the successor to the League of Nations, the United Nations. The aim of this convention is to suppress and prevent the slave trade and to bring about the abolition of any kind of slavery. Followed by the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of Prostitution of Others which was adopted by the General Assembly in 1949 to prevent prostitution and to integrate

³³ Society, N. (2019). *A History of Slavery in the United States*. [online] National Geographic Society. Available at: <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/interactive/slavery-united-states/> [Accessed 1 Dec. 2019].

³⁴ <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/people-politics-law/the-law/modern-slavery/content-section-1.1.1>

prostitutes. Another milestone in abolishing slavery was the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery which broadened the definition of slavery to include practices and institutions of debt bondage, forced marriage and the exploitation of children in 1956. 106 member states of the United Nations ratified the convention. General abuses of human rights fall under the broad definition of slavery in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990) brought the attention of the international community to combat slavery-like practices of child victims. With this convention children from economic, sexual and other forms of exploitation have guaranteed protection by the states which have ratified the convention. In 2007, the United Nations Human Rights Council in A/RES/6/14 created the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, in order to better address the issue of contemporary forms of slavery within the United Nations system. With resolution A/RES/15/2 (2010), A/RES/24/2 (2013) and A/RES/33/1 (2016) the Human Rights Council extended the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for three more years. The working group collects information on which aspects 10 of the conventions against slavery were implemented by the member states (United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner 2019). To sum up, the international community defined slavery by conventions signed by almost all member states, which includes trafficking in women and bonded labour³⁵.

MAJOR PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE ISSUE

North Korea– DPRK (Democratic People’s Republic of Korea)

North Korea, with its economy crippled by the worldwide sanctions imposed by the UN’s Security Council, attempts to rebuild it by sending North Koreans to countries all over the world as labourers, working under slavery–like conditions. This is nothing new and has been done by the tyrannic government for decades, but since Kim Jong–un has risen to power the number of these workers has tripled to 65.000. They work around 12 hours a day in jobs that

³⁵ Bbc.co.uk. (2019). *BBC - Ethics - Slavery: The law against slavery*. [online] Available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/slavery/modern/law.shtml> [Accessed 1 Dec. 2019].

require heavy physical work under extremely harsh conditions like for example in Siberian forests, mines in Mongolia or in construction sites in Qatar for the coming World Cup 2022. They allegedly have a monthly income of about 650 Euros, nevertheless they only receive about 10% of the money, barely enough for survival. The workers claim that the rest of the money will be given to their families or that it will be given to them upon their return to North Korea. However it is widely known that in reality the chain of North Korean state-run bodies are the ones that profit from the exploitation of their people. These bodies are controlled by «Office 39», a department that covers the expenditures of Kim Jong-un’s lifestyle. But the truly horrifying fact is, that in North Korea it is seen as a privilege to be sent to another country as a labourer since the conditions as a labourer in North Korea are even worse! But since the DPRK has shut its doors to the world it is hard to get accurate information on the exact working conditions there, but it is safe to say that they are very harsh, maybe even inhumanely slavery like.³⁶

Qatar

Notorious for its 2022 World Cup facilities under construction, with the labourers estimated to be dying at a rate of 1 a day due to the inhumane working conditions. These are the statistics of 2014. In 2013 Qatar promised to improve working conditions following news reports that revealed how harsh conditions were. The labourers are providing heavy physical work in mandatory long shifts with very high temperatures leading to the labourers suffering cardiac



arrests. The migrant workers’ passports are taken away or they are tricked into signing contracts bounding into 5 years of commitment to their employers. The element of bounded and forced labour

07/qatar-north-korean-forced-labour Pattison, Pete. "Qatar’s Ambitious Future Driven on by North Korean ‘forced Labour’." The Guardian. N.p., 7 Nov. 2014.

cannot be overseen in Qatar. It has even been accused of being «A 21st century slave state». With its population being the richest per person in the world, there shouldn't be any lack of money to facilitate better conditions for its migrant workers. Amongst the migrant workers there are as mentioned above also workers from the DPRK.³⁷ Through this, Qatar is indirectly funding the totalitarian Government in Pyongyang. Mauritania Statistically seen Mauritania is doing the worst globally in terms of slavery. According to estimates by NGOs such as SOS slavery, the percentage of the country's citizens that are enslaved ranges from 5%–20%. It was the last country in the world to legally abolish slavery. Slavery is deeply enrooted in Mauritania's structure of society. While in other Western African countries «only» slavery-like conditions persist, in Mauritania the situation is being described by experts as worryingly severe.

Union of Myanmar (Burma)

Myanmar is known for in spite of being a country very rich in resources, due to its regime's mismanagement the population especially in the rural areas suffers poverty and hunger. In hope of better economic opportunities lots of Burmese people are being trafficked to Thailand, China, Bangladesh, India, South Korea or Pakistan where they become subject of sexual exploitation and forced labour.³⁸

The People's Republic of China

According to estimates, in China we can find around 10% of the world's enslaved people: 3 million. China is especially notorious for its child slavery. Children under the age of 16 are allowed to work under «Educational Labour». This is often abused by school officials that are making the children work under heavy labour. Also, every year in China around 70 000 children are kidnapped and sold to companies for child labour or to households for domestic slavery.

³⁷ <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2014/nov/07/qatar-north-korean-forced-labour> Patisson, Pete. "Qatar's Ambitious Future Driven on by North Korean 'forced Labour'." The Guardian. N.p., 7 Nov. 2014. Web. 27 Dec. 2014.

³⁸ <http://homepages.uc.edu/thro/doe/doe-unocal.pdf>

India and Pakistan Labelled as «The World's Slave Capitals», India and Pakistan are home to 45% of the entire world's slaves. Most heavily prevalent, are forced labour, trafficking for sexual exploitation and forced marriage. Often entire families are being enslaved by construction, agricultural, brick making and manufacturing companies and factories. In India the ones affected the strongest are the Dalits, the people of the lowest cast

Walk Free Foundation

Tackling one of the world's largest and most complex human rights issues requires serious strategic thinking. Walk Free approach this issue by integrating world class research with direct engagement with some of the world's most influential government, business and religious leaders. They invest their time and resources in a collaborative manner to drive behaviour and legislative change to impact the lives of the estimated 40 million people living in modern slavery today³⁹.

Walk Free undertakes research to build the world's most comprehensive evidence-base of modern slavery – the Global Slavery Index. This publication, now in its fourth edition, uncovers the scale of the problem and enables robust solutions at a country level. They campaign for our cause by working with political, business, religious and community leaders to drive system change. They partner directly with stakeholders to liberate people trapped in slavery around the world. ⁴⁰

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is the United Nations agency for the world of work. It sets international labour standards, promotes rights at work and encourages decent employment opportunities, the enhancement of social protection and the strengthening of dialogue on work-related issues. The ILO has a unique structure, bringing together governments, employers' and workers' representatives. It was founded in 1919 and has 187 member States.

³⁹ Walk Free Foundation (2018): Unravelling the numbers. Retrieved from: <https://www.globallslaveryindex.org/2018/findings/highlights/>

⁴⁰ https://www.minderoo.com.au/walk-free/?utm_medium=301&utm_source=www.walkfreefoundation.org#what

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE BEFORE?

In the United States of America, The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) was authorized in 2000 and was the first federal law to address sex trafficking and labor trafficking in the United States. The TVPA focused on the prevention and protection of trafficking survivors, as well as prosecution for traffickers.

The TVPA was reauthorized in 2003, 2005, and 2008 as the Trafficking Victim's Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA), and each reauthorization offered positive changes. For example, the TVPRA of 2008 required the Department of Labor to publish a list of products produced by child labor or forced labor. But the TVPRA expired in 2011 and is in need of an



update to keep up with the rapidly evolving landscape of human trafficking. This year, a bill to reauthorize the TVPRA has been reintroduced to Congress. It holds government contractors accountable for using foreign labor recruiters that use exploited labor, helps law

enforcement prevent and prosecute sex tourism, and creates a grant-making program to prevent trafficking in humanitarian crises (such as in the case of Haiti or Syria). To learn more, you can read the Alliance to End Slavery & Trafficking's information about the take to ensure the U.S. remains a leader in the movement to end human trafficking.

On the state level, while there has been a vast improvement in some legislation, a few states have a long way to go. Massachusetts rated one of the most improved states by the Polaris Project, created a Human Trafficking Task Force, which strengthens protections for victims of trafficking and makes using the internet as a trafficking tool a punishable offense. On the other hand, there are states like Wyoming, where until January 29, no state law existed to punish traffickers. The just-passed House Bill 133 adds human trafficking legislation to the

lawbooks, and the bill will now go onto the Senate, which is a step in the right direction for the state.

In India, more than 200,000 Indian children are trafficked each year and forced into domestic servitude or labor in brick kilns or embroidery factories. But while government-sponsored Anti-Trafficking Units, which are supposed to investigate human trafficking cases, continue to be established and more prosecutions are occurring, the laws are not widely enforced. Part of the problem is that it's hard to say if one universal trafficking law can work and be enforced for a country as large and regionally diverse as India. At the same time, factors like corruption and lack of training and resources make it difficult to ensure that programs are effective.

In Cambodia, The Law on Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation is intended to curb human trafficking efforts and was implemented so that the country could comply with U.S. anti-trafficking recommendations. However, this law has been criticized for conflating sex work and human trafficking, making those who engage in sex work either go into hiding or be at risk for prosecution. As one of the poorest countries in Asia, sex work is often considered economically rational—especially for those from rural areas—and it becomes challenging to discern who is trafficked and who is participating by choice⁴¹.

QUESTIONS THAT SHOULD BE ANSWERED

- Can contemporary forms of slavery be found in your country?
- Are the current international human rights norms being sufficient for a global eradication of contemporary forms of slavery and slavery-like practices?
- Are different additional mechanisms needed to deal with particular kinds of violations or thematic issues relevant to the prevention of slavery?

⁴¹ <https://www.themuse.com/advice/whats-being-done-to-stop-human-trafficking>

- Are the existing international human rights monitoring systems effective in the process of national implementation and compliance with international human rights norms on the prohibition of slavery and its contemporary manifestations?