



LOS PINOS
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HUMAN

Rights Council

A large, faint watermark of the United Nations emblem is visible in the background, featuring a world map surrounded by olive branches.

HANDBOOK



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Chair's letter

Welcome, dear delegates,

We are Luis Felipe González and Jorge Esteban Jaramillo, and we have the honor of being your chairs in this edition of PINNU X, in the Human Rights Council. We will cover topics that we have chosen some of the most significant conflicts we are facing as humanity concerning human rights violations and obstacles, and we are counting on you to treat these topics with the utmost care, respect, and responsibility.

We are thrilled to get to know the abilities that each one of you will bring to the table during the debate, and excited to see the ideas that you can draw together to solve the topics of the committee. This is a committee where you are not only against the complications of diplomatic relations, but you need to face the uncertainty of ethical dilemmas against the position of the delegation you will be representing, so we understand if any of you need a little more guidance towards how to work the debate, and that is the reason we are here!

Our main objective is to provide you with the most comfortable experience possible to foster healthy and productive debate, whether it is through solving any doubts you may have, to helping you with techniques that you may need to succeed, we will do everything in our capacities to allow you to grow into better diplomats as this model develops. The main things we want you to remember before the model arrives; trust, in yourselves and your capacities, in your fellow delegates and their work, and in us, as your chairs, to help you in anything you need,

We look forward to meeting you soon, and we wish you the best of luck in this committee.

“The Human Rights Council calls on states to ensure that national and international sustainable development efforts include a human rights perspective”

—Václav Bálek, Representative of the Czech Republic to the UN, Current President of the HRC

Committee Overview



The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is an intergovernmental body that forms part of the United Nations. It was founded in 2006 by resolution 60/251 and it was designated the role of promoting the protection of human rights around the globe. The Human Rights Council is shaped by 47 member states chosen by the United Nations General Assembly and it "has the ability to discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year" (Human Rights Council, 2020). Members of the council can only serve up to three years and only up to two consecutive periods.

Within the Human Rights Council human rights violations committed by or in all member states of the United Nations are discussed: "Regular sessions of the Human Rights Council (three per year) serve as a forum for dialogue on pressing thematic and country-specific human rights issues facing the international community" (Moller, 2016). The council is responsible for suggesting sanctions as well as measures to solve the different issues presented. The UNHCR works with "independent human rights experts with mandates to report and advise on human rights from a thematic or country-specific perspective".

The different legal documents from which the Council sets the rights being monitored are: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Whether in its consideration of States parties' reports, its adoption of general comments, or its examination of complaints by individuals or States alleging violations of the documents and treaties stated previously, the Committee with its character as an instrument, is the main entity guaranteeing fundamental rights and freedoms.

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Measures to combat discrimination against Rohingya Muslims and other prosecuted minorities in Myanmar

The Rohingya Muslims are a persecuted ethnic and religious minority group in Myanmar, also known as Burma. They primarily reside in the western state of Rakhine (formerly known as Arakan), but significant Rohingya populations are also found in other parts of Myanmar, as well as in neighboring countries like Bangladesh and Malaysia. The Rohingya are an ethnic and linguistic minority in Myanmar, with their own distinct culture and language.

Persecution of the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar has a long history, dating back to colonial times, but it escalated significantly in recent decades. The following are some key factors and events that delegates should consider regarding the persecution of the Rohingya and other minorities in Myanmar:

- **Citizenship Issues:** The Burmese government has long denied citizenship to the Rohingya, effectively rendering them stateless. The 1982 Citizenship Law in Myanmar explicitly excludes the Rohingya from citizenship eligibility, classifying them as "Bengali" immigrants, despite their centuries-old presence in the region.
- **Violence and Conflict:** The Rohingya have faced violence and discrimination from both the government and the majority Buddhist population. In 2012, intercommunal violence erupted in Rakhine State, leading to the displacement of thousands of Rohingya and the destruction of their homes.
- **Military Crackdowns:** The most significant and widely publicized event in recent years occurred in 2017 when the Myanmar military, known as the Tatmadaw, launched a brutal crackdown in response to attacks by Rohingya militants. This military operation involved widespread atrocities, including mass killings, sexual violence, and the burning of villages. Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya fled to neighboring Bangladesh to escape the violence.
- **Refugee Crisis:** The 2017 crackdown triggered a massive Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh, where hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees sought safety in overcrowded camps. This crisis became one of the world's largest and most dire refugee situations.
- **Ethnic and Religious Tensions:** Ethnic and religious tensions, fueled by nationalist and extremist Buddhist groups, have exacerbated the persecution of the Rohingya and other minority groups in Myanmar. Hate speech and discrimination against non-Buddhist minorities, including Muslims and Christians, have been widespread.
- **Ongoing Crisis:** Despite international pressure and some diplomatic efforts, the persecution of the Rohingya and other minorities in Myanmar continues. Many Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh have been unable to return to Myanmar due to concerns about their safety and the lack of a conducive environment for their repatriation.



The situation in Myanmar remains complex, with ongoing conflict, displacement, and human rights abuses affecting various minority groups, including not only the Rohingya but also ethnic Karen, Kachin, and others. Achieving a lasting solution to these issues requires addressing the root causes of discrimination, violence, and exclusion, as well as promoting reconciliation and national unity in Myanmar.

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Measures to fight against political prosecution of minorities religiously oppressed in the Middle East.

Religious oppression in the Middle East extends beyond minority religious groups and also affects marginalized communities within the broader religious framework, including women. Religious, cultural, and social norms can play a significant role in shaping the experiences of these groups:

- **Gender-Based Discrimination:** In many Middle Eastern countries, religious interpretations and cultural practices have contributed to gender-based discrimination against women. These norms can affect various aspects of women's lives, such as education, employment, legal rights, and freedom of movement.
- **Dress Codes:** In some countries, women are required or pressured to adhere to strict dress codes, such as wearing the hijab, niqab, or burqa, as dictated by religious authorities or societal expectations.
- **Access to Education:** While there has been progress in women's education in many Middle Eastern countries, disparities still exist, with limited access to higher education and certain fields of study in some cases.



- Legal Rights: Laws and legal systems in some Middle Eastern countries can discriminate against women, particularly in areas like family law, inheritance, and divorce.

It's important to note that attitudes and policies regarding women's rights can vary widely across the Middle East. Some countries have made progress in advancing gender equality, while others maintain conservative and restrictive policies influenced by religious interpretations.

Religious oppression can intersect with other forms of discrimination and marginalization, making the experiences of women in the Middle East complex and multifaceted. Advocates for gender equality continue to work to raise awareness, challenge discriminatory laws and practices, and promote inclusivity and acceptance within the region.

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Ensuring the protection of human rights in the Palestinian and Israeli borders.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been marked by numerous human rights violations on both sides, particularly along the borders and in the occupied territories. These violations have been documented and condemned by various international organizations, human rights groups, and governments. Here are some of the key human rights violations that have occurred on the Israeli-Palestinian borders:

- Excessive Use of Force: Both Israeli security forces and Palestinian militant groups have been accused of using excessive force during clashes along the borders. Israeli forces have used live ammunition, rubber-coated steel bullets, and tear gas against Palestinian protesters, resulting in deaths and injuries. Palestinian militants have also fired rockets indiscriminately into Israeli civilian areas, causing harm to civilians.



- Killing and Injuring Civilians: Civilians, including children, have been killed or injured during border clashes and military operations. Some of these casualties are a result of targeted attacks, while others are the unintended consequences of military actions.
- House Demolitions and Displacement: Israeli authorities have demolished Palestinian homes in the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem and the West Bank, citing security reasons. Palestinians argue that these demolitions are often punitive measures or are carried out to make way for Israeli settlements.
- Settlement Expansion: The construction and expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, have been widely criticized as a violation of international law. These settlements infringe on Palestinian land and resources and complicate the prospects for a two-state solution.
- Restrictions on Movement: Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip face restrictions on their freedom of movement, including checkpoints, roadblocks, and a separation barrier in the West Bank. These restrictions affect daily life, access to healthcare, education, and economic opportunities.
- Blockade of Gaza: The blockade of Gaza, imposed by Israel and Egypt, has severely limited the movement of people and goods in and out of the territory. This has led to dire humanitarian conditions, including shortages of essential supplies like food, medicine, and electricity.
- Detention and Torture: Palestinians, including children, have been detained by Israeli security forces, often without charge or trial. There have been allegations of torture and mistreatment during detention.
- Violence Against Journalists and Human Rights Defenders: Journalists and human rights defenders on both sides have faced harassment, arrest, and violence while documenting and reporting on the conflict and human rights abuses.

It's important to note that these violations have occurred in the context of a deeply entrenched and complex conflict with multiple historical, political, and security dimensions. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a longstanding and deeply sensitive issue, and efforts to address human rights violations and seek a peaceful resolution remain a significant international challenge. Many governments and organizations continue to call for a negotiated two-state solution as a means to address these longstanding issues and ensure the rights and security of both Israelis and Palestinians.

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