

AGENDA

Strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights in Afghanistan with special emphasis on women and children.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the United Nations Human Rights Council. We are eager to welcome you for three days of productive and stimulating debating.

For us, Model United Nations have become integrated into our lifestyle; we view it as educational as much as it's empowering to have the ability to construct opinions on global issues through the eyes of several different countries. We hope that as soon as you log into the committee session, you learn something new and that hopefully by the end of the conference you have grown in one way or another; whether it's your ability to overcome your fear of public speaking or your ability to lead large groups of people.

Please feel free to approach either of us at any point in the conference for any concerns you have.

Regards,

Chirag Kundra

President

Aanya Malik

Vice President

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

The Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system made up of 47 States responsible for the promotion and protection of all human rights around the globe.

It can discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year. It meets at the UN Office in Geneva. The Council was created by the United Nations General Assembly on 15 March 2006 by resolution 60/251. Its first session took place from 19 to 30 June 2006. One year later, the Council adopted its "Institution-building package" to guide its work and set up its procedures and mechanisms.

Among them was the Universal Periodic Review mechanism which serves to assess the human rights situations in all United Nations Member States, and the Advisory Committee which serves as the Council's "think tank" providing it with expertise and advice on thematic human rights issues and the Complaint Procedure which allows individuals and organisations to bring human rights violations to the attention of the Council.

The Human Rights Council also works with the UN Special Procedures established by the former Commission on Human Rights and is now assumed by the Council. These are made up of special rapporteurs, special representatives, independent

experts and working groups that monitor, examine, advise and publicly report on thematic issues or human rights situations in specific countries.

Best Practices to Research before MUN

- Read the Agenda Guide, at least 1-2 days before the conference, and make a note of everything that needs to be understood. Do read the Background guide. In case of a crisis, always read and look for the analysis and plausible rationale of the updates that may be issued a week before the MUN.
- Google/Search everything and find related documents (UN, News articles, Scholarly articles) for whatever was not understood.
- After fully understanding (subject to how in-depth you wish to go for the research), try understanding your allotted country's perspective on the agenda.
- Make the stance per the country's perspective on the agenda which shall also define your foreign policy (history, past actions, etc.)

- Understand the cues and hints that are given minutely in the Background Guide that may come in handy while the presentation of contentions in committee.
- Take a good look at the mandate of the committee as to what you can discuss and what you can do in this council. This point is placed here, just because your knowledge base shouldn't be limited to the mandate of the council. Know everything, and speak whatever the mandate allows.
- Follow the links given alongside and understand why they were given. Read the footnotes and the links and hyperlinked text.
- Predict the kind of discussions and what subtopics can take place, thereby analysing the subtopic research you have done and preparing yourself accordingly. Make a word/page document and put your arguments there for better presentation in the council.
- Download the United Nations Charter, Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, Convention on the Political Rights of Women (1954), Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and other relative treaties and documents given.

- Ask questions regarding procedures to speak something etc., if you have any, on the day of the conference.

INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA

Human Rights Situation in Afghanistan

Parties to the conflict in Afghanistan continued to commit serious violations of international humanitarian law, including war crimes, and other serious human rights violations and abuses with impunity. Indiscriminate and targeted killings reached record levels. Human rights defenders, women activists, journalists, health and humanitarian workers, and religious and ethnic minorities were among those targeted by the Taliban and non-state actors. A wave of reprisal killings was unleashed during the Taliban takeover of the country. Thousands of people, predominantly Shia Hazaras, were forcibly evicted. The limited progress made towards improving women's rights was sharply reversed under Taliban rule. Rights to freedom of assembly and expression were drastically curtailed by the Taliban. Access to healthcare, already severely compromised by the pandemic, was further undermined by the suspension of international aid.

Afghanistan is currently one of the most difficult countries in the world to identify as a woman. Political and economic insecurity, educational inequality, sexual violence, and poor health are pervasive amongst Afghan women and children,

but when equipped with powerful vocational and economic tools, women can change their lives, regardless of circumstance.

Keeping this scenario in mind, we urge the delegates to come up with solutions for this committee.

Erosion of women's and children's rights

Eleven months after Afghanistan's abrupt transition to Taliban rule, the erosion of women's rights is one of the most notable aspects of the de facto administration to date.

Women and girls have seen their rights to access education, the workplace and participate in public life, restricted. Not allowing girls to go to secondary school means that a generation of girls will not complete their full 12 years of basic education.

Instead of economic, social, and political empowerment, Afghan women in rural areas—where an estimated 76 per cent of the country's women live -- experience the devastation of bloody and intensifying fighting between the Taliban and government forces and local militias. The loss of husbands, brothers, and fathers to the fighting generates not only psychological trauma for them but also fundamentally jeopardises their economic survival and ability to go about everyday life. Widows and their children are thus highly vulnerable to a panoply of debilitating disruptions due to the loss of family men. Not surprisingly, the position of Afghan

women toward peace varies greatly. Educated urban women reject the possibility of another Taliban emirate. They dream of a peace deal in which the Taliban are a weak actor in the negotiations and are given some political and perhaps government representation, but not the ability to shape the rewrite of the Afghan constitution and the country's basic political dispensation. Rather than yielding to the Taliban, some urban women may prefer for fighting to go on, particularly as urban areas are much less affected by the warfare than are rural areas, and their male relatives, particularly of elite families, rarely bear the battlefield fighting risks. For them, the continuation and augmentation of war have been far less costly than for many rural women.

ACTIONS TAKEN BY UNITED NATIONS TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION

1. Maintaining Peace and Security

By sending 69 peacekeeping and observer missions to the world's trouble spots over the past six decades, the United Nations has been able to restore calm, allowing many countries to recover from conflict. There are now 16 peacekeeping operations around the world, carried out by some 125,000 brave men and women from 120 countries who go where others can't or won't go.

2. Combating Terrorism

Governments coordinate their counter-terrorism efforts through the United Nations. In 2006, they adopted at the UN the first-ever global strategy to counter terrorism. UN agencies and programmes have helped countries to put in practice the global strategy, providing legal assistance and promoting international cooperation against terrorism. The UN has also put in place a legal framework to combat terrorism. Fourteen global agreements have been negotiated under UN auspices, including treaties against hostage-taking, aircraft hijacking, terrorist bombings, terrorism financing and nuclear terrorism.

3. Combating Sexual Violence in Conflict

Rape has increasingly been used as a weapon of war. An estimated 60,000 women were raped during the civil war in Sierra Leone (1991-2002), up to 60,000 in the former Yugoslavia (1992-1995), up to 250,000 during the genocide in Rwanda (1994), more than 40,000 in Liberia (1989-2003) and at least 200,000 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo since 1998. Sexual violence has characterized conflicts from Afghanistan to Iraq and from Somalia to Syria

4. Promoting Women's Well-being

[UN Women](#) is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and

girls, UN Women seeks to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide. UN Women supports countries as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to implement these standards.

Certain Suggestions for sub-topics:

- Explanation of Human Rights and their impact
- The extent of human rights violations in Afghanistan state of women and children in the country
- The stakeholders involved and the history of human rights over time and the change in status
- The explanation of the crisis in Afghanistan
- Solutions to the problem

Points to address

The UNHRC recommends that delegates should address three specific questions, applying them in generality to the topic in question.

1. “What has been done so far and why hasn’t it been enough?” The second part of this question is particularly important, given the efforts clearly haven’t sufficed in any aspect of this theme. It is also important to regard all aspects of the matter, such as societal mindset, values, history and others.

2. “What can be done (in solution form) in the future?”
This regards special consideration of economic and political background, as well as cultural and societal issues as per discussed earlier in the document and should turn out to be the basis of a resolution.

3. “How do countries, governments and organisations ensure this solution to be both viable and sustainable?” Delegates should take special regard with areas torn by war, serious human rights violations, corruption and others.