



# SOCOMUN XXXII

NOT FRESHMAN H

TOPIC: PROTECTING REFUGEES

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## Protecting Refugee Children

Hi delegates! My name is Johnny Qian, and I will be your chair this year. I am a senior at Santa Margarita Catholic High School, and this is my third committee chairing. I have been involved in MUN for four years and I have been to numerous conferences, including UC Berkeley and NAIMUN at Georgetown. I enjoy playing tennis, going to the beach, and playing the guitar. SOCOMUN is a great conference for everyone, and I hope that everyone can learn something from this conference. I can't wait to see everyone in September!

My name is Danielle Gorrell, and I will be your vice chair for this committee. I am a junior at Santa Margarita Catholic High School, and this is my second committee that I am chairing. This is my third year in MUN and about my 12<sup>th</sup> conference I am attending. I have been fortunate enough to travel around California for conferences from UCSD to stay overnight with my class at UCSB. Outside of MUN I enjoy swimming, surfing, and roller skating. I also have two dogs at home, my oldest being a dachshund named Rolly and the youngest being a border terrier named Buzz. I hope that our committee will have a positive experience with MUN and maybe even make a friend or two, feel free to email us if you have any questions.

Hello! My name is Blake Eli and I attend Santa Margarita Catholic High School as a sophomore currently. I look forward to being your rapporteur for this year's 2023 SOCOMUN Conference. It is now my second year in MUN, and I have enjoyed being in the program. I am eager to explore more about MUN and attend further conferences as well as to research and discuss new topics on the world's horizon. In my free time I find myself practicing Lacrosse in a park with friends, mountain biking, designing graphics, or spending time with family and friends. I am privileged to assist all of you guys in this year's SOCOMUN 2023 conference as your rapporteur. I wish you all the best of luck and I hope you enjoy and look forward to attending this year's conference at SMCHS. Work hard and good luck!

I hope that all of you are excited about this conference as we are, and we look forward to hearing your unique solutions. If you have any questions at all feel free to contact us at [socomunoth@gmail.com](mailto:socomunoth@gmail.com) Its encouraged to ask questions because we know that for some of you this may be your first conference and do not fully understand how a committee normally runs. This is totally okay! We are here to help you and make sure that this conference is an educational and fun experience for all of you. To go over a few basic rules of procedure, I'll start by explaining roll call. When your country name is called upon at the beginning of committee, you can answer with either "present" or "present and voting." The difference between the two means when we enter voting procedures for the resolutions you make if you answered "present and voting" you must vote either yes or no for all resolutions. However, if you said "present" you can abstain from voting either yes or no. I'll of course make sure that everybody understands when we come in for committee. After roll call, we then proceed to opening the speaker's list where you will present a speech containing your country's policy and the solutions that your country has come up with. At SOCOMUN, we highly encourage spending more of your speech

introducing your solutions instead of facts and statistics. After a delegate finishes their speech, I will call on two other delegates to give comments regarding the previous speaker's speech. Throughout the committee delegates can motion for either a moderated or unmoderated consultations. Moderated consultations are used when you want to make shorter speeches on a specific topic. Unmoderated consultations are a way to collaborate with other delegates to create resolutions. These resolutions will be presented and voted on at the end of committee. Just to reiterate, we will explain all this again when we meet in committee. We are so excited to meet you!

### **Background:**

With millions of people being compelled to leave their homes because of war, persecution, and natural disasters, the world is currently experiencing one of the worst refugee crises in history. Numerous children who were uprooted from their houses and kept apart from their families are included among these refugees. Governments and humanitarian groups are obligated to provide these children with protection because they are especially susceptible to maltreatment, exploitation, and neglect. In addition to being morally necessary, protecting immigrants' children is also required by international law. Every kid has the right to protection from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. According to the United Nations Convention on the Rights which has been ratified by all nations in the world, children who are refugees have the same rights to protection as children in their nation of origin.

Despite this legal structure, it is still very difficult for refugee children to obtain protection. Many are compelled to live in filthy, overcrowded refugee camps where they are vulnerable to illness, malnutrition, and violence. Others who embark on migration are torn away from their families, making them fall prey to human trafficking and other forms of abuse. Governments and humanitarian groups must place a high priority on the protection of refugee children to address these issues. This includes ensuring access to schooling, healthcare, and safe and secure housing, as well as reunifying broken-up families. To avoid further refugee crises, it also entails addressing the fundamental causes of displacement, such as conflict and poverty. In addition, governments, aid agencies, and local communities must work together in a coordinated manner to safeguard refugee children. To guarantee that the needs of refugee children are met, and their rights are protected, it is not enough for one group to act alone; everyone must collaborate. In conclusion, safeguarding immigrant children is a serious problem that needs immediate attention. No matter where they were born or what their immigration situation was, every kid has the right to safety, security, and protection from harm. We can guarantee that these defenseless children have a brighter future by putting the needs of refugee children first and collaborating to address the main causes of displacement.

For many years, the United Nations has been heavily involved in protecting children who are refugees. After World War II, when millions of people were driven from their homes by war, persecution, and other reasons, the problem of protecting refugees and their children took on particular significance. To safeguard and assist refugees, including children, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was founded in 1950. The 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees created a framework for defending refugees' rights and was drafted with assistance from UNHCR. This Convention, which was later expanded in 1967 to

include a wider definition of a refugee, laid the foundation of what international refugee law is today. Children who are refugees are even better protected due to the 1989 adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). CRC acknowledges that all children, including those of refugees, have a right to protection from violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The fact that almost all nations in the world have signed the Convention shows that there is widespread agreement that safeguarding children's rights is important. To meet the unique needs of refugee children, the UN has also created numerous specialized organizations and programs. These include the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). UNICEF works to advance the rights and welfare of all children, including those who are displaced or residing in refugee centers. The group offers a variety of services, such as protection from abuse and exploitation, health treatment, nutrition, and education. The UNRWA was founded in 1949 to aid Palestinian refugees who were uprooted because of the Arab Israeli war. The organization offers Palestinian refugees in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria access to healthcare, education, and other important services.

The protection of refugee children continues to be a major challenge despite the efforts of the United Nations and its collaborating organizations. Children who are refugees run the risk of being exploited, abused, neglected, and coerced into labor, among other things. Due to frequent family separations, they are more susceptible to human trafficking and other kinds of exploitation. Additionally, they might experience stigmatization and discrimination in their host towns. The UN has created a variety of initiatives and strategies to safeguard refugee children to handle these issues. A few of these are: creating a safe and secure living environment as refugee children are frequently compelled to live in crowded, unhealthy circumstances in informal communities or refugee camps, malnutrition, infectious diseases, and problems with one's emotional health are just a few of the health issues that can result from these conditions. Ensuring that refugee children have access to secure housing is crucial for their protection. This involves letting children have access to services for education and health care, as well as providing them with a safe place to live, clean water, and sanitary facilities. Additionally, it is critical to safeguard refugee children from exploitation and violence, including sexual assault and human trafficking.

### **Possible Solutions –**

Some solutions can include providing shelter, food, and resources to these refugees. Many refugees are malnourished and do not have a place to stay. It is also important to note that human and sex trafficking is prevalent among children, and many refugees carry diseases that can be devastating to a community. Another solution can be countries around the world setting up a program which allows refugees to stay at. Each country can contribute some of their areas according to their capability. Providing refugees with government jobs can also be helpful for those that are in need. Providing refugees by setting up refugee camps is another solution many countries have begun to establish and put into practice. These camps can hold a vast number of refugees from all over the world with only a limited amount of space because of their efficiency. These camps provide all the essentials these refugees need to survive on a daily basis. The camps can be sustained for a long time until future notice of how these refugees will be managed, either transporting them to a close by nation, or sending them to another safer and more sanitary place.

One common solution is to advocate and spread the message of these refugees so others can volunteer. People can donate food, water, hygiene products, and other equipment that helps the refugees to maintain a decent life. Volunteering at these refugees' camps is a very good solution to add to your possible solutions, as there are more refugees than camps and volunteers, which makes many refugees desperate for help. The mental health aspect of these refugees is another big problem due to the loss of their home and possessions. Incorporating solutions that treat refugees' mental health can be a great solution many does not realize.

### Questions to Consider –

1. What are the challenges these refugees are facing?
2. What is the root of the problem?
3. How are refugees treated in each individual country?
4. Which countries are more prone to help refugees?
5. What ultimately happens to these refugees when they arrive at a safe place?

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