



**Forum:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Committee of the General Assembly  
**Issue:** Supporting international efforts towards the reunification of refugees with their families  
**Chair:** Anna Skov

Introduction:

The number of refugees has is at a record high. Never before in history have there been so many people, who where forced to leave their home. For many refugees, this means to leaf all their belongings behind just to have the chance for a decent life. But for a lot of refugees this also means that they either have to leave their families behind or lose them while they are on the run. This causes a lot of unnecessary suffering for the effected. There are already multiple organizations trying to reunite these families, one of them is the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights (UNHCR), but there are still many families with no reunification in sight.

Key Terms:

Refugee

"A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Most likely, they cannot return home or are afraid to do so. War and ethnic, tribal and religious violence are leading causes of refugees fleeing their countries." (UNHCR, <http://www.unrefugees.org/what-is-a-refugee/>)

IDP

"An internally displaced person (IDP) is a person who has been forced to flee his or her home for the same reason as a refugee, but remains in his or her own country and has not crossed an international border. Unlike refugees, IDPs are not protected by international law or eligible to receive many types of aid." (UNHCR, <http://www.unrefugees.org/what-is-a-refugee/>)

Geneva Convention

The 1951 Geneva Convention is the main international instrument of refugee law. The Convention clearly spells out who a refugee is and the kind of legal protection, other assistance and social rights he or she should receive from the countries who have signed the document.



Current Measures Taken:



<http://greece.greekreporter.com/files/REFUGEES-1.jpg>

Current International measures are focussing on the reunification of children with their families. The UNHCR is the United Nations (UN) highest authority in refugees, their policy is, that the minors next-of-kin is allowed to join them in the country where they are seeking refuge. But the decision is most of the time not to be made by the UNHCR, but by the refuge giving country.

Important Parties:

- UNHCR
- European Union
- The Syrian Arab Republic
- Human Right Watch
- United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

Useful questions for your Position Paper:

## Alster Model United Nations



- Is your Nation welcoming refugees?
  - How many?
- Is your Nation/Organization acting on this issue?
- Are they planning to?
- What are those actions?

### Useful sources:

<http://www.unhcr.org/refugees.html>

CIA Factbook

<https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/childrenonthemove/>

<http://www.un.org/en/>

[www.savethechildren.org](http://www.savethechildren.org)