

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the SOCHUM Committee of the Mid-South Model UN 2019!

My name is Ben and I am currently a senior here at Rhodes College, majoring in International Studies and Chinese Studies. I also minor in Latin American Studies. I have studied abroad a few times in China, spending a semester at Sichuan University. This past Summer, I completed an internship in São Paulo, Brazil working with a consulting firm that specializes in international trade. I am passionate about global politics, especially when it comes to politics of East Asia and Latin America. However, I do enjoy learning about different regions of the world. I am very involved with groups like Society of World Affairs, Greek Life and Rhodes Diplomats. This will be my eighth year of Model UN and third year of working at MSMUN!

SOCHUM (Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Affairs Committee) is one of the six subcommittees in the United Nations General Assembly. This subcommittee was established in 1948 after the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Therefore, SOCHUM focuses on issues relating to human rights, criminal justice, protection from discrimination and protection of well-being. The topics we will be focusing on in this committee are the Rohingya Refugee Crisis, global human trafficking and food security. All of these topics are major human rights issues that must be addressed. However, they are more complicated than they seem. Many human rights issues come in conflict with sovereignty. Multilateral cooperation works best to solve these issues. The issues of human trafficking and food security are global issues and the issue may vary from different regions around the world. Therefore, each topic must be looked at carefully before writing a resolution.

The main objective of SOCHUM is the protection and the promotion of human rights. All members of the general assembly are also members in SOCHUM. Some countries may have varying opinions on human rights, which is what will make debate in our committee more challenging. Another piece of advice is to study and understand the cultures of different countries in the committee. Using this knowledge will allow you to formulate partnerships that is understanding and will benefit both sides. I must remind you delegates to work diligently and get in depth into the issues. Our time is limited at this conference, so we must get as much done as

possible. However, I think an important part of this conference is having fun and meeting new people. The Mid-South Model UN is an experience you cannot forget, so take advantage! Delegates can learn about global politics and open up to new experiences. If you have any questions, please contact me. My email is trabg-19@rhodes.edu

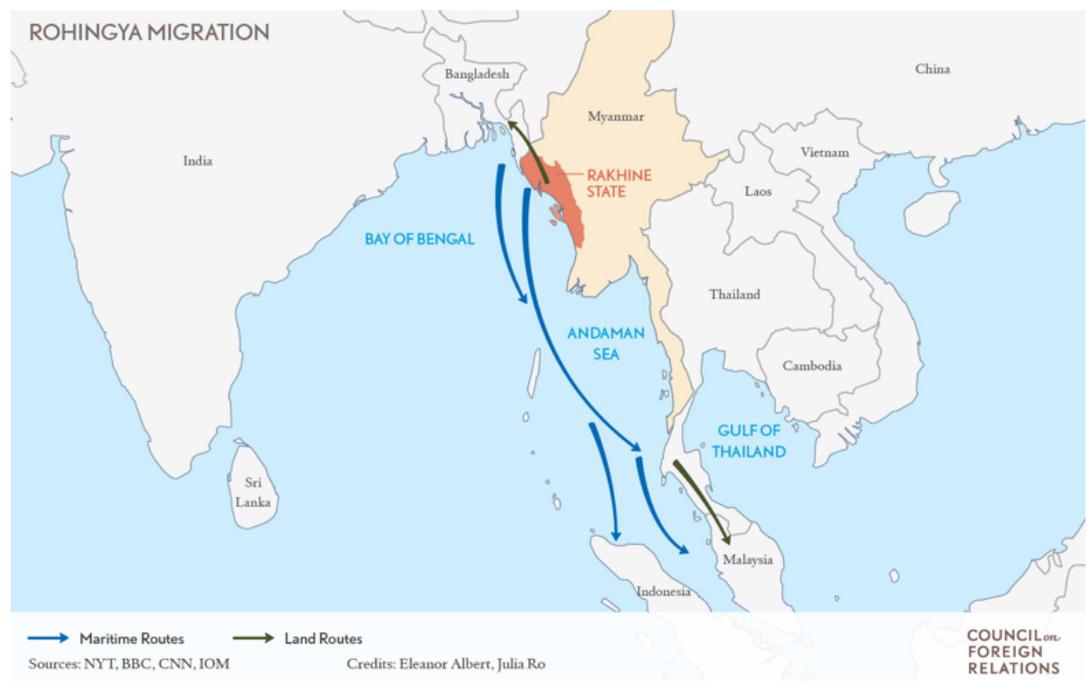
Sincerely,

Chair, Ben Tracy

ROHINGYA REFUGEE CRISIS

The Rohingya people is a stateless ethnic group that reside in the southwestern region of Myanmar. The population in total is estimated to be around 2 million with more than half living in Myanmar's Rakhine State. The majority of the Rohingya people are Muslims, while the rest of Myanmar is majority Buddhist. According to the 1982 Myanmar Constitution, Rohingya people were denied citizenship. The United Nations has stated that the Rohingya people are one of the most persecuted in the world. Myanmar's military regime began crackdowns during the 1970s and 1980s out of fear of separatism. In 2012, Rohingya people were targeted by Rakhine people over religious beliefs. During the riots, more than 160 people were killed and 90,000 were displaced from their homes. Some human rights group criticized the Burmese government for discriminating against the Rohingya, while some governments praised the Burmese military's efforts to stop the riot. Nonetheless, the riot sparked outrage across the Muslim world. Saudi Arabia offered aid up to \$50 million to assist the Rohingya, Iran publicly condemned the Burmese government and there were massive demonstrations in Pakistan against the attacks. Meanwhile, many western countries such as the United States, United Kingdom as well as many European countries expressed concern over the treatment of the Rohingya and insisted that they would continue to

monitor the issue closely. The Burmese government attempted to negotiate resettling more than a million Rohingya in neighboring countries, but the offer was rejected



by the United Nations. Another issue that came to light during this crisis was that several UN human rights workers were arrested by the Burmese military, accused of inciting the riots.

The riot of 2012 set the stage for the next crisis. Starting in 2015, more than 20,000 Rohingya fled Myanmar and went to Bangladesh, Malaysia or Thailand. Many of the refugees simply wanted to escape attacks from the Burmese military and Rakhine militants. The current refugee crisis intensified with the Burmese crackdown on the Rohingya in 2017. On August 25, 2017, the Burmese government announced that more than a dozen soldiers were killed in an attack by what appeared to be the Arkan Rohingya Salvation Army, a separatist group based in Rakhine state. After this incident, the Burmese army began burning Rohingya villages, massacring thousands and displacing thousands of people. World leaders were outraged, French president Emanuel Macron described the crackdown as a “genocide” while US officials called it an ethnic cleansing. It is believed that 10,000 Rohingya people died during the military crackdowns and nearly a million people were displaced. According to UN statistics, nearly 700,000 Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh. Journalists covering the crackdowns have been arrested by the Burmese army as well. The main concern for this topic is how to resolve the refugee crisis. How can we resettle the nearly one million refugees already in Bangladesh? What should be done about the human rights violations committed against the Rohingya? How can we improve the well-being and rights for the Rohingya people? What sort of aid can be given to Rohingya refugees? Should sovereignty be respected in times of a humanitarian crisis? These issues are essential to the mission of not only refugee rights, but also human rights as well.

RESOURCES:

https://www.hrw.org/reports/2000/burma/burm005-02.htm#P132_34464

<https://www.hrw.org/report/2013/04/22/all-you-can-do-pray/crimes-against-humanity-and-ethnic-cleansing-rohingya-muslims>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-38799586>

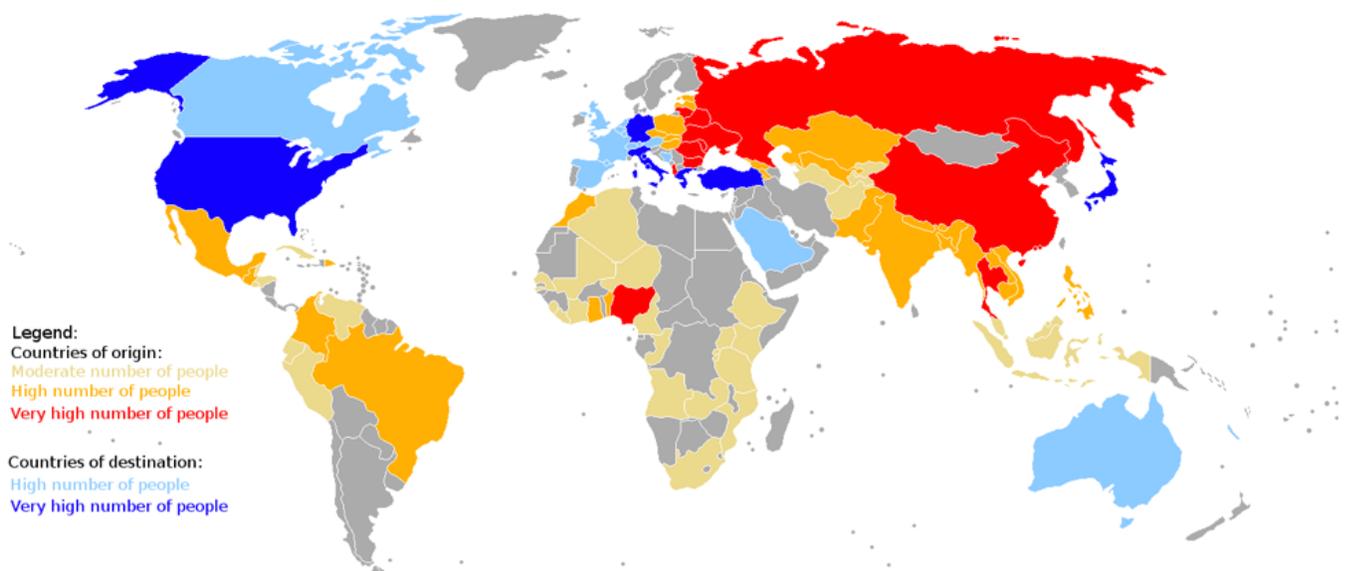
HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is the practice of illegally transporting people within a country or internationally for the purpose of forced labor or sexual exploitation. Victims of human trafficking can be anyone from any social background. According to United Nations records, forced labor generates nearly \$200 billion in profits. The International Labor Organization stated that nearly 15 million people are trafficked for forced labor. Human trafficking is a dangerous form of human exploitation and it is believed to be the fastest growing international crime issues. In 2000, the *Trafficking Protocol* was signed and included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This protocol defines human trafficking as the following:

- (a) [...] the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal, manipulation or implantation of organs;
- (b) The consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation set forth in sub-paragraph (a) of this article shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) have been used;
- (c) The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered "trafficking in persons" even if this does not involve any of the means set forth in sub-paragraph (a) of this article;
- (d) "Child" shall mean any person under eighteen years of age.

There is a misconception that human trafficking victims are simply kidnapped and are forcefully exploited. In reality, many of the victims are lured in with promise of a

special economic opportunity or social benefit. For example, one person may sign a contract to work abroad because they were promised a high wage and safe living conditions. However, once they are in that foreign country, their bosses take their passports, and their wages are extremely low and working conditions are harsh. Nonetheless, the victim cannot escape because they do not have money or their documents to return home. Countries, such as Qatar, has received plenty of international condemnation after allegations that the country exploits foreign workers to work on stadiums for the 2022 World Cup. According to the United Nations, the majority of victims are women and another disturbing fact is that one third of victims are children. According to statistics, the majority of trafficking victims are originally from Central Asia, the Middle East, East Asia and Eastern Europe. The largest destination countries are in Germany, United States, Qatar, UAE and Japan. UN Secretary General Gueterres stated that the issue of human trafficking should be one of the top priorities of the UN. One of the fastest growing form of human trafficking is the illegal organ trade. Many victims are pressured into giving up an organ in exchange for financial compensation or the organ is removed without the knowledge of the victim. The main reason for the illegal organ trade is that waiting time for patients receiving transplant organs is long, thus they look towards the black market for a solution.



Human trafficking is an international issue and thus, requires cooperation. First, we have to look into the root causes of trafficking and once we understand the origin and destination of trafficking victims, countries can work together to draft resolutions that will directly combat the traffickers financially or discourage future operations. The Declaration of Human Rights and the Trafficking Protocol will be important to consider.

RESOURCES:

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/>

<http://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNTOC/Publications/TOC%20Convention/TOCebook-e.pdf>

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/sgsm19146.doc.htm>

<https://www.interpol.int/Crime-areas/Trafficking-in-human-beings/Types-of-human-trafficking>

FOOD SECURITY

Food is considered to be one of the most essential needs for humans to survive. Ever since the beginning of time, humanity has found various ways to adapt to their environment, whether in a desert or tropical, to find food sources. Over time, we have discovered ways of making farming more efficient to meet our needs. Nonetheless, due to Earth's rapidly growing population, it is becoming more and more difficult to properly supply this growing population. Food security is defined as having access to healthy and nutritional foods. This issue is considered one of the key commitments in the UN Millennium Goals. The term "food security" was coined at the Food and Agriculture (FAO) conference meaning:

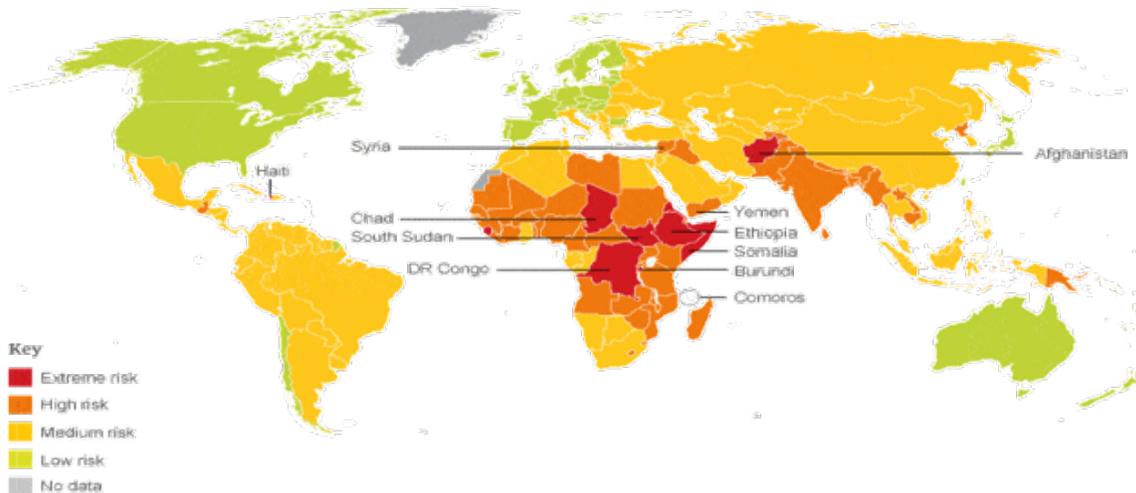
"availability at all times of adequate, nourishing, diverse, balanced and moderate world food supplies of basic foodstuffs to sustain a steady expansion of food consumption and to offset fluctuations in production and prices"

The FAO also uses four pillars of food security which are: availability, access, utilization, and stability. Most of the developed world is food secure, while regions such as Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and the Middle East are highly food insecure. In the recent years, food security has become more of an issue, food prices are rising. This has only exacerbated food insecurity in the third world. Grains such as wheat, corn and soy are important components in various nutritional foods. Many of the food insecure countries are heavily dependent on importing various grains to support their population and the rising prices are making importation more difficult. There are fears that food will be used as a weapon during conflicts to pressure a certain group to surrender. Recent cases involve Yemen and Syria, in which it is alleged that Syrian government forces blockaded humanitarian supplies, including food, from coming in through the Mediterranean Sea. This only added fuel to the flame of the humanitarian crisis in Syria.

There are multiple factors in the growing issue of food insecurity. One of the main reasons for food price increase is due to the fact that grains are being used as fuel. For example, corn and sugarcane are becoming sources of ethanol and fuel, limiting the

amount used as food. Due to the growing population, demand for these grains are increasing, thus, the price is also

Food Security Risk Index 2013



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increasing. Other products such as soybeans are also being used as alternative diesel fuel. Although alternative energy may benefit the environment, the effects on food security must be considered. Another factor of food security is war and conflict. The majority of food insecure countries have active conflicts. Examples include Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia. Conflicts often reduce agricultural production as well as food accessibility by destroying farm land and food distribution centers or markets. As mentioned before, conflict increases the likelihood of using food or hunger as a weapon, which can lead to serious human rights abuses. Thirdly, many UN officials point to climate change as a cause of food insecurity. Climate change has increased the likelihood of extreme weather and natural disasters such as flooding, hurricanes and drought, all of which can negatively affect agricultural production. Lower food output will lead to lower access to nutritional foods. Most countries at risk for extreme weather by climate change are in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia. In conclusion, food security should be a major concern for all UN members and solutions addressing food accessibility and stabilizing food prices must be considered. The main questions this committee should address are: How can the international community supply food to conflict zones? How can the UN ensure better access to nutritious foods in the developing world? What solutions will ensure stability of agricultural production?

RESOURCES:

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/005/y4671e/y4671e06.htm>

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/Summit/Docs/Final_Declaration/WSFS09_Declaration.pdf

<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/advocacy-report-v013-final.pdf>

<https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2018/01/16/577649838/turning-soybeans-into-diesel-fuel-is-costing-us-billions>

<http://www.ifpri.org/topic/conflict-and-food-security>

<https://www.wfp.org/climate-change/climate-impacts>