

*Background Guide*

**International Organization for Migration**  
**Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees**

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**JACKRABBIT MUN VIII**

**L.B. POLY - MAY 23th, 2026**

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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Chair Letters.....	3
Topic Synopsis.....	5
Committee Description.....	6
Background.....	7
United Nations Involvement.....	11
Bloc Positions.....	13
Questions to Consider .....	17
Works Cited.....	18



# CO-HEAD CHAIR LETTERS

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Dear Delegates,

My name is Alaina Castillo and I will be serving as one of your co-chair for this committee! I am beyond excited to be part of JackrabbitMUN this year and to work with this incredibly talented dais team. I am committed to making this experience the best it can be for delegates and hope this background guide is clear and informative.

A bit about me, outside of Model United Nations I am Poly's ASB Secretary, president of the Equity, Inclusion, & Change club, president of Poly's Best Buddies chapter, and am on the varsity cheer team. I am passionate about politics, social justice, community, and learning, these passions have helped foster my love for Model UN. I have been involved with Poly's Model UN program since my seventh grade year and even attended BunnyMUN and JackrabbitMUN. I have grown to love the learning, challenges, and community that come with MUN. Before this committee, I served as a vice chair and shadow on other daisies for JackrabbitMUN.

Inclusion of migrants and refugees is a critical human rights issue. It is nuanced and requires the collaboration and understanding of all groups. I cannot wait to hear all the innovative solutions and perspectives I know you will all bring. I am eager to partake in this amazing event and meet you all. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions, we are here to support you!

Sincerely,

Alaina Castillo

IOM | Co-Chair | [Lainyrcastillo@gmail.com](mailto:Lainyrcastillo@gmail.com)



# POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES

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- Position Papers are due at 11:59 PM on **Sunday, May 17th**.
- Delegates **must** submit position papers to be eligible for **research AND committee awards**.
- Position Papers can be submitted through a Google form:
  - <https://forms.gle/H3ruhahP2SQuEPs38>
- At the top of each paper, include your character/country name, first and last name, school name, and appropriate committee.
  - United States
  - First Last
  - School Name
  - IOM: Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees**
- Papers should be emailed as a PDF file
  - Paper content should also be copied and pasted into the body of the email so it can still be graded in the event of any technical difficulties
  - Please name the file and subject line of the email [Committee\_Country]
    - Ex. **IOM\_United States**
- Papers should be 1-2 pages in length with an additional Works Cited page in MLA format
- Papers should be single-spaced in Times New Roman 12 pt. font and include no pictures or graphics
- Please include the following sections for each committee topic:
  - Background & UN Involvement
  - Position of your Country
  - Possible Solutions

If you have any questions or concerns, please email one of your chairs.



# TOPIC SYNOPSIS

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Worldwide, migrants and refugees alike suffer from lack of support, whether it be from discrimination or country policy. The conditions of migration are precarious, with high mortality rates upwards of 74,000 since 2014. Even those who brave the worst of it are met upon arrival with unmanaged, unorganized, and near unlivable conditions. Immigration systems worldwide are often backlogged, taking it upwards of 7 years to receive citizenship. Asylum seekers have also been denied proper process, and have been failed by systems they should be able to trust. Even then, those who eventually obtain citizenship are often not well-received, as xenophobia can be observed in the workplace and within healthcare systems. There is often widespread lack of access to humanitarian aid, welfare, and real estate options. Migrants are not only failed by the injustices of country policy and systems but also by the prejudices of society.

Delegates will gather to debate solutions on how to ameliorate the damages done by the exclusion of migrants; countries and governments will find ways to accommodate migrants by providing equal opportunities in jobs, residency, healthcare, and education, while at the same time navigating social structures and prejudices.



# COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION

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The International Organization for Migration (IOM) was established in December 1951 and began its operations in early 1952 as the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration. Its Constitution was adopted on 19 October 1953 and came into force on 30 November 1954. Following amendments made to the Constitution on 14 November 1989, the Organization was renamed the International Organization for Migration and, on 21 November 2013, the Executive Committee was abolished. IOM possesses full juridical personality and has its Headquarters in Geneva. It currently has 174 Member States.

The main functions of the Council, as set out in the provisions of the IOM Constitution, are to: determine, examine and review the policies, programmes and activities of the Organization; review the reports, approve and direct the activities of any subsidiary body; review the reports, approve and direct the activities of the Director General; review and approve the programme, the Budget, the expenditure and the accounts of the Organization; and to take any other appropriate action to further the purposes of the Organization.



# BACKGROUND

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## INTERNATIONAL LAW

States (IOM) a refugee is anyone outside their home country refusing to return on the well-founded fear of persecution of religion, race, or nationality. Migrants are defined as persons who are moving across an international border or a state away from their country of residence regardless of legal status, voluntary/involuntary movement, cause, or length of stay. The 1951 Convention outlines migrant and refugee rights after WWI and WWII, which caused mass displacement, especially in Europe. Along with the 1967 Protocol, which amended the original document to include migrants and refugees from around the world instead of centering on European specifics. The main right granted within the 1951 Convention is non-refoulement, in which a refugee cannot be sent back to a country where they face persecution threatening their life, or freedom. Migrants/Refugees are also granted basic standards of living wherever they reside, such as the rights to work, education, and housing. International Law concerning the 1951 Convention does not apply to war criminals, those who have committed crimes against humanity, or those who have committed serious non-political crimes outside the country of refuge.

## PROMINENT EVENTS

The 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol which outlined and eventually amended for global inclusion for basic migrant/refugee rights. Additionally, The Global Refugee Forum occurs every four years hosted by the UNHCR, bringing together organizations of all kinds, authorities, researchers, refugee communities, and many more to discuss development of migrant/refugee inclusion. The Global Refugee Forum takes action



while having these groups make financial, material, and policy related pledges during the meetings. The International Dialogue on Migration hosted by IOM annually supports migrant benefits and inclusion worldwide. Similar to the Global Refugee Forum, the IDM welcomes groups from many different branches to collaborate on innovative policy, and resolutions to global migrant crises.

### **MIGRANT/REFUGEE DIFFICULTIES**

Commonly faced with discrimination in the workplace, healthcare systems, education, and housing. Those especially vulnerable face exploitation of labor, left underpaid and overworked. For housing especially, migrants/refugees are constantly marginalized into environmentally degraded areas, undesirable by the majority. Highly educated migrants/refugees are refused high paying complex jobs due to discrimination/prejudice, assumptions that they are not capable of certain tasks. Within healthcare systems, migrants/refugees are the least prioritized compared to nationborn citizens while still paying high prices which are more than likely unaffordable considering the typical migrant/refugee treatment/QOL.

### **MIGRANT/REFUGEE POLICY BENEFITS**

Best countries for migrant/refugee support and benefits include Sweden, who offers free healthcare, job assistance, housing, and education. Germany, which possesses high concentrations of asylum seekers, provides language learning services. Canada, Australia, Uganda, Norway, and New Zealand similarly provide free programs and benefits to ease and speed up the integration progress into a new country. Benefits and supports that directly help the livelihood of migrants/refugees include access to rights to housing, work, and healthcare. More often than not, such



necessities are withheld from migrants requiring tedious amounts of paperwork and waiting periods. For example, healthcare is free in many countries but sometimes its coverage is ineligible to migrants/refugees without legal documentation, or registration among local authorities. Some of the worst countries for migrant/refugee support include Japan, Qatar, Poland, Hungary, and Latvia. The last three are characterized by heavy migrant discrimination, with lengthy processing times and refusing to allow migrants the right to work. Qatar is heavily against migrants/refugees, with the fact that it takes decades to receive citizenship. Those who do not intend on becoming citizens, suffer from lack of legal protections and necessary rights concerning work, healthcare, and education. Japan is among one of the worst countries for migrant/refugee support due to its extremely selective immigration system. Japan is generally against dual citizenship, and requires decades of waiting with strict guidelines pertaining to behavior and steady employment to have a chance at being chosen. In some cases, migrants are paid to leave the country.

### **MIGRANT/REFUGEE SOCIOECONOMIC BENEFITS**

The biggest benefit that migrants/refugees bring to foreign nations is economic growth. The majority of the nations worldwide suffer from labor shortages, in which migrants fill. Additionally, with citizenship, migrants also have to pay the same taxes as everyone else, providing more money to the state. Migrants/refugees have other developed perspectives, bringing innovation to foreign lands which provide new opportunities for jobs, business ventures, and more. For select countries that suffer from unbalanced age demographics, younger migrants/refugees fill those gaps and



raise birth rates, as many come to start stable families. Development and integration of different cultures help foreign nations become more accepting, educated, and enriched by differing communities.



# UNITED NATIONS INVOLVEMENT

## **Overview**

The International Organization for Migration was originally named PICMME (1951) renamed ICEM(1952) then ICM(1980), and finally IOM (1989). IOM helps through overseeing natural disasters and deploying aid to affect areas. Some of their most well known aid deployments include Hungary 1956, Czechoslovakia 1968, Chile 1973, the Vietnamese Boat People 1975, Kuwait 1990, Kosovo and Timor 1999, and the Asian tsunami and Pakistan earthquake of 2004/2005.

## **Resilience Campaign**

The UN's Resilience Campaign aims to secure \$100 million USD to help with IOM's humanitarian operations. This campaign emphasizes shared commitment to protecting migrants, human rights, and inclusion. Some contributors to this campaign include countries like Cyprus, Mongolia, Nigeria, Tajikistan, Georgia, Uruguay, Mali, Uzbekistan, and more.

## **CBI (Cash based interventions)**

UN and IOM cash based interventions provide flexible funding to support IOM initiatives such as emergency aid to help migrants. "In 2024, IOM reached over 3 million beneficiaries (93% in crisis settings) through CBI in 124 countries and territories. At the same time, IOM enhanced its inter-agency cash coordination through active participation in the Global Cash Advisory Group and more than 50 national cash working groups." In this way, the UN and IOM are able to effectively assist migrants and refugees in more accessible ways.



# BLOC POSITIONS

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**African Bloc:** Practices a well-managed migration system, stemming from the Migration Policy Framework for Africa (MPFA), and the 2009 Kampala Convention. The MPFA establishes policy focused on labor and economic development concerning migrants. Granting security to incoming refugees across Africa. The Kampala Convention provides rights of support and protection under the law for internally displaced persons (IDPs), due to natural disasters or armed conflict. The AU also practices the Free Movement of Persons, although this proves difficult due to constant conflicts between African states. Making it hard to provide consistent protections to migrants and refugees across the continent under the law.

**Asia-Pacific Bloc:** Reputably successful in efforts to provide equitable, profitable, and safe environments for temporary migrants/refugees concerning labor. Countries in the Asia-Pacific Bloc, especially East/Southeast Asia have extremely low numbers of permanent migrants, and only allow them into the country on temporary work visas. The above mentioned believe the labor force to be the cornerstone to development, holding it in very high regard. This explains why so many countries in Asia provide amazing supportive opportunities for temporary migrants, but rarely for those seeking permanent residence. Majority of the countries in Asia aren't signatories of the 1951 Convention Agreement, meaning they are not held up to the same migration policy standards as many other countries. Nations such as Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia having not signed, heavily restrict permanent immigration/residence and have little to no protections under the law for migrants/refugees. For many of the Asian-Pacific nations, the 1951 Convention Agreement and 1967 ratification were established to the



benefit of World War II migrants/refugees, rendering it unimportant to countries that were uninvolved. Overall, countries like the Philippines have been trying to implement new programs to introduce permanent residence in their nation for migrants/refugees, but as for the others only time will tell until we start to see changes.

**Western European and Developed Bloc:** Currently has been tightening border control and increased asylum procedure management. Despite the 1951 Conference's establishment of non-refoulement, these nations have been redefining asylum requirements making the process slower, and exclusive. For example, a new protocol established by the USA making asylum seekers remain in Mexico regardless of their situation during processing. On the other hand, Canada despite its policy changes continues to provide education, housing, and healthcare support for incoming migrants and refugees. The EU has established the “Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion” to support migrants and refugees in their attempts to integrate into foreign society. The EU’s plan includes increased access for healthcare, workforce opportunities, and a heavy emphasis on education. The EU has done a phenomenal job including migrants and refugees into society on local levels, and taking preventative measures against discrimination. On the contrary, the EU’s border policies seem to contradict their internal successes. Although the EU’s asylum procedures are working fluidly, the EU has otherwise strengthened their borders and strictly regulated entry hoping for an organized and safe approach.



**Middle Eastern Bloc:** The Middle Eastern Bloc is divided between multiple viewpoints and group legislations. One being groups of host countries, states who host the most refugees/migrants. In this case, the highest demographic are Palestinian refugees from Gaza, who arrive in floods to countries like Jordan, Turkey, and Lebanon. Host countries have begun strict reinforcements on their border due to the alarming amount of refugees in their country causing discrepancies among their infrastructure such as healthcare, education, and housing. Cases in Turkey have even caused their governments to begin encouraging Syrian migrants to return back to their country. On the other hand, Gulf Countries who have not signed the 1951 Convention Agreement such as the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar do not follow the same guidelines as other countries. Therefore, they do not follow any process related to asylum seekers. The only migrants allowed in their country are for temporary labor, as it is extremely difficult to obtain permanent citizenship in these countries similar to cases like Japan.

**Latin American and Caribbean Bloc:** In Latin America, most of the countries are characterized by their welcoming policies to migrants/refugees. But as of late with over 6.9 million displaced Venezuelan refugees, many countries have begun to change their policies and strengthen border control. For example, Mexico has established enhanced border control measures with the help of the United States. On the other hand, countries such as Columbia have enacted policies like the Estatuto Temporal de Porteccion which grants 10 years of legal status to Venezuelan refugees while also providing healthcare and education access. Other countries have also sought to do the same, but have yet to yield results as beneficial as Columbia's. In the case of the Caribbean, most countries are reforming their policies to further accommodate the spike in Venezuelan refugees. Countries like Trinidad, Belize, Tobago etc. have



improved their process for asylum seekers and have increased access to free healthcare, and the labor market. But it is most important to mention the Quito Process, which has been signed by 11 countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region to provide benefits for the mass influx of Venezuelan migrants/refugees. Such benefits have already been mentioned, but a formal legislation provides security for the refugees as the countries not only have to provide them equitable access to jobs, healthcare, and education but also must protect them against human trafficking and provide for vulnerable children.



# QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

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1. Should the 1951 Convention Agreement be something that all countries should have to agree to? Are the rules it lays out beneficial to all who sign or only to all who have the money or means of development to uphold them? What does this say about those who have not signed?
2. What are the benefits to countries who only permit migrants into their countries on work visas? What are the detriments? Why is it that some countries are condemned for their strict border policies, but others are unacknowledged for their prohibition of permanent residence?
3. In what ways are migrants/refugees beneficial to the political landscapes of different countries? Try to think outside the box and not just economic and sociocultural benefits!
4. How can the IOM improve safety on popular migration routes to host countries?
5. (This question is similar to question 1) Should there be a set of unalienable rights for all migrants/refugees worldwide? How could this benefit the global economy and cultural landscape? How could this affect countries with strict humanitarian laws?



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