

SOC HUM

Georgia Tech Model of United Nations

Committee
Social, Humanitarian and Cultural
Committee



General Assemblies

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Georgia Tech
Model United
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#GTMUN2024

*Bridging
technology
and
diplomacy.*



INDEX

- 5** Letter from the Sec-Gen
- 7** Introduction to the Committee
- 8** Disclaimer
- 9** Position Papers
- 10** Topic 1: Protecting Journalistic Freedom of Expression and Reporting within Regions of Conflict
- 18** Topic 2: Safeguarding the Rights of Migrant Workers
- 25** Bibliography

#GTMUN2024



Letter from the Secretary General

Dear esteemed delegates,

Welcome to the twentyfifth edition of the Georgia Model of United Nations. I am incredibly excited to be your Secretary General for GTMUN 2024!

My first Model UN conference was GTMUN, six years ago, and it's given me a joy and passion for diplomacy that has lasted since. This year, the secretariat team has worked extraordinarily hard for months to assemble an incredible array of committees and topics to test your abilities and push you to grow as a delegate and as a future leader. As a person who was in your position six years ago, reading the GTMUN background guides, I know how it feels to prepare for a committee. Though this resource is invaluable, I encourage you to go beyond in terms of studying about your topic(s) and your country's diplomatic position. I firmly believe that the greatest moments in Model UN happen when you have resiliently prepared through different resources to bring your member state's view into the committee. It is a sincere hope of mine that you enjoy the conference, and take the fullest advantage of what GTMUN has to offer, from public speaking skills, to critical thinking and policy creation. It is opportunities like these when you can connect with fellow, like-minded delegates to bring ideas into the table and construct the progress that people across the globe need, and that only the United Nations can deliver.

GTMUN is an amazing chance to brainstorm to solve current issues creatively and practicing being the leader of tomorrow. I wish you the best in preparing for and participating at the upcoming conference!



GTMUN XXV Secretary General
Jonah Isaza





Introduction to the Committee

Known as the third committee or GA 3, The Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Issues Committee (SOCHUM), prides itself on solving “a range of social, humanitarian affairs and human rights issues that affect people all over the world” (United Nations). The committee was among the first few founded after World War II in the wake of numerous human rights violations committed during the war. Subsequently, SOCHUM has vowed to protect “the most fundamental of all UN objectives – the protection and promotion of human rights” (United Nations), beginning with its first piece of legislation, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

7

The UN UDHR represents a grand shift in the global position on human rights, with the discussion of human rights as innate, inherent, and intangible to individuals no matter their position on the globe. Additionally, the drafting process of the UDHR welcomed perspectives from “representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world”¹, and promoted this document as a framework applicable to experiences worldwide, as they translated it into 500 languages setting the tone that every individual no matter their race, gender, culture, etc. is deserving of these basic protections. Since then, the committee has focused on issues such as the advancement of women, the

treatment of refugees, prison reform and other social, humanitarian and cultural issues at the forefront of their resolutions. With this in mind, the discussion and resolutions passed in the SOCHUM committee at GTMUN XXIV should reflect this humanitarian nature and empowerment of cultural diversity in order to make substantive progress. Delegates should seek to create unique solutions that ultimately approach the topic with a comprehensive and empathetic solution in mind.

Disclaimer

8

While there are many ongoing humanitarian and cultural conflicts that do have merit to the discussion of topics within this committee, these issues –regardless of position on the matter– are a sensitive matter and should be treated as such.

Delegates should represent the nation that they have been assigned, whilst ensuring that they act in accordance with the GTMUNXXV delegate handbook, the values of the GTMUN program and Georgia Tech as a whole.

We ask that when collaborating with the other delegates in this room that you are respectful of their personal experiences and beliefs and focus on creating

productive, meaningful and constructive debate. If there is any confusion whether a topic is appropriate for discussion in this committee, please reach out and act in correspondence with the Chair and Secretariat's discernment.

That being said, the issues on the table:

- 1. Protecting journalistic freedom of expression and reporting within regions of conflict***
- 2. Safeguarding the rights of Migrant workers***

Position Papers

A position paper is a document which expresses a member state's policy or position regarding the topic(s) that will be discussed in the committee. It can also help as a forefront to ideas, perspectives, solutions, or approaches that a delegate expects to prioritize in committee. It is recommended that a position paper includes the following: **a) member state's view on the topic(s), b) information on how the nation has addressed (or not) the issue in the past, c) proposed solutions based on research and policy.**

Sample Position Paper

The United Mexican States

Committee: Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Topic Area: Heroin Trafficking

"My sole ambition is to rid Mexico of the class that has oppressed her and giving the people a chance to know what real liberty means. And if I could bring that about today by giving up my life, I would do it gladly"

Although "El Centauro del Norte" spoke these words during the Mexican Revolution more than a century ago, the Mexican people are far from knowing the meaning of "real liberty". Mexico is suffering the consequences of being a key player and a large contributor in a growing illicit drug market, which each year seems to be more diversified and more difficult to trace. Mexico's protagonic and problematic stance provoked former president, Felipe Calderón, to declare open a new theater of the War against Drugs in 2006, as a strategy to counter the violence of the cartels. The low-intensity conflict has left a toll of more than 150.000 deaths and 23.000 disappearances. These painful numbers have placed Mexico as the second most dangerous country in the world.

Currently, drug trafficking and organized crime industry in Mexico is like energy: it is not destroyed, but transformed from one form to another, since each cartel dismantled by the Mexican Government gives way to more small and irrepressible groups. The strategy of the war on drugs, which was based on punctual operations to eliminate the highest branches of the cartels, has not had the desired results.

Mexico recognizes that instead of addressing the problem by the branches, we must change our strategy and attack it from its roots. The first step is understanding that fiercely repressing the violence of the cartels only results in the bloodshed and loss of precious lives of innocent citizens. We invite fellow representatives to consider our modern history, experiences and learnings as a reference.

The United Mexican States notes the necessity to promote the enhancement of international cooperation and exchange of information with the purpose of strengthening the common front in the face of transnational organized crime. For this reason, we must take the responsibility of attending and repairing the social damage of vulnerable communities that are bonded with illicit drug markets. Furthermore, we must develop integral prevention programs against violence, exclusion and weakening of the social tissue, aiming towards the most vulnerable demographics.

TOPIC 1

Protecting Journalistic Freedom of Expression and Reporting within Regions of Conflict



Key Terms and Acronyms

Freedom of the Press	<i>A form of freedom of expression, Freedom of the Press is the right to express and publish information without it being censored by higher authorities. It can be critical or constructive in nature, but not defamatory or hateful.</i>
Investigative Journalism / Reporting	<i>Journalism focused on uncovering details of conflicts/situations that involve obstruction of information and turning the details into a thorough analysis that clarifies the subject to the public.</i>
Censorship	<i>Suppression of words, images, or ideas.</i>
Whistleblower	<i>An individual that leaks information about an organization's illegal, unsafe, or unethical actions, practices, or policies.</i>
Fair Use	<i>Protects copyrighted material from being used, with the exception of criticism, comment, teaching, research, parody, and news reporting.</i>
Editorial Independence	<i>The ability for editors to publish without being censored by the publication's owners.</i>
Authoritarianism	<i>A political system where power is concentrated in the hands of a single authority.</i>

*“Each time a journalist dies or is injured, we lose a fragment of that truth”
Carlos Martinez de la Serna (CPJ Program Director)*

Introduction

Freedom of expression and information is an important pillar of international law, despite this, according to a 2022 report, only 15% of the global population is able to receive and share information freely, furthermore 80% of the world's population has seen a decrease in freedom of expression over the past decade². An important element of this freedom of expression is that of journalists during times of conflict, as they can often sway the public perception of a conflict in drastic manners. For example, within the USA journalism played a key role in shaping the American public's view on the Vietnam war due to the immense negative reporting and uncensored coverage of the brutality of the conflict, eventually contributing to the American withdrawal from Vietnam. This is just one of countless examples of how journalism played a crucial role, and was significantly important in a conflict.

Despite their importance in providing the public with accurate and timely information, journalists it is common for journalists to face denial of access, censorship, harassment, arbitrary detention and attacks. Furthermore, journalists reporting within regions of conflict face a heightened risk of violence, with a CPJ (Committee for the Protection of Journalists) report finding that over a

10 year span (1996-2006), there were 337 journalists killed in regions of conflict, of which 67 journalists died in crossfire, and 244 or 72% were murdered, often as a reprisal for their reporting³. Despite the 244 murders, there were only 35 cases in which someone was prosecuted for it. A 2023 report by UNESCO found that 38 journalists were killed in countries in conflict, a number that has nearly doubled since 2021, when 20 were killed⁴. These alarming statistics demonstrate the significant risk and threat on freedom of expression that reporters face.

In 1975, the UN defined the term "journalist" as "any correspondent, reporter, photographer, and their technical film, radio and television assistants who are ordinarily engaged in any of these activities as their principal occupation"¹. However, within conflict zones, journalists are often divided into two distinct classes. The first of which is, war correspondents, who are accredited to armed forces who are specialized journalists who under the protection and authorization of an army report on the theater of operations with a goal to provide information on the ongoing hostilities. Some war correspondents have historically been embedded within units, wearing uniforms, and having the same privileges as officers within the unit. Due to this, war correspondents under international law have a unique set of protections. As they are not members of

the armed forces, they are entitled to civilian status, and its associated protections. However since they are also associated with the war effort they can receive prisoner of war status if captured. The second of which is "independent journalists", who are journalists not directly affiliated with a group of armed forces⁵. As they are not affiliated with an armed group, they share the same protections as civilians under international law.

There are a variety of positions that journalists can have during a conflict and under international law they are all protected "against arbitrary measures taken by a party to the conflict when they fall into that party's hands"⁵. However this protection vanishes if a journalist takes direct part in hostilities, in which case they lose their immunity -Creating propaganda does not count as taking direct part in hostilities-. Despite these protections, as previously mentioned journalists reporting on wars often face a lack of freedom of expression, and reprisals for their correspondence, thus causing a significant threat to the freedom of information within regions of conflict.

History

During the second world war, due to the invention of new communication

technologies, and the global scale of the war, journalists reported to the public en masse on the status of the fronts, combat, and a variety of other topics within the war torn regions. However, they were not free to do so without military approval. For example, in the US, the Office of War Information (OWI) and the Office of Censorship existed in order to censor any stories that were deemed inappropriate⁶. Which aided the American government in not only keeping information from not only its enemies, but also in boosting morale on the homefront through the spread of propaganda, and the diminishment of defeats.

Contrary to the censorship which occurred within the first half of the 1940s decade, during the war, the second half saw journalistic freedom be bolstered, firstly through the declaration of human rights, whose article 19 states "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."¹ and secondly through the Geneva convention, which protects journalists as non-combatants, under article 79. These freedoms were quickly tested during the cold war, which saw conflicts all around the world, and a new rise of authoritarian nations.

Within authoritarian nations, such as Cuba, China, and the Soviet Union, these rights have been blatantly ignored. The press is often state controlled, heavily censored, or journalists face threats of incarceration for their reporting. This is especially the case for times of conflict, where the public is often fed heavily censored news, and propaganda.

The Algerian civil war, which was sparked by the cancellation of elections by the Algerian army in 1992, saw the freedom of press suffer substantially due to both sides of the conflict. During the war, there was a 3 year long assassination campaign by extremists which led to the deaths of 58 journalists. On the other side of the conflict, the state used blanket censorship, incarceration and the shutting down of newspapers. This led to many journalists self-censoring and not discussing topics such as the lack of freedoms, government corruption, and other topics that would criticize the state.

On the other hand, democratic nations often have higher levels of freedom of press. Within the Vietnam war, the US government did not impose any restrictions on journalists reporting. However, it did have guidelines in place about what journalists could and could not report on in order to protect the safety of troops⁷. Although there was a lack of restrictions on reporting, the American government still opted not to

share nonpublic information that would have painted the war effort in a negative light, such as the total casualty counts for an extended period of time, in order to try and prevent a crash in public morale.

When discussing the Gulf War, Captain Jon Morgan stated "Many people fail to realize that a war zone legally never has been a place for unfettered reporting. All-too-often said but forgotten is information is power. Wars are won and lost often based on the quality and timeliness of intelligence, information that unfettered reporting and scrutiny can compromise"⁸. Operation Desert Storm saw between 1400 and 1600 journalists within Saudi Arabia, a number significantly larger than the 90 war correspondents during WWI or the 461 journalists covering the D-Day invasion during WW2. Although censorship during the conflict was rare and often limited to only frontline reporters who were assigned to combat units, reporters faced many logistical issues, including the military's inability to properly accommodate all of them, and delays when transferring dispatches. There however was a screening process for journalistic reports, which flagged only 5 of the 1.300 filed reports as potential security violations.

Despite the progression in freedom of press during combat time within many nations, reporters still often face violence, and death when reporting. According to

the Committee to Protect Journalists, since 1992, 1592 journalists have been killed⁹. Of which 633 have been directly covering conflict, and many more were killed in regions of conflict. Including recently Muawiya Abdel Razek who was murdered on June 4, 2024 in Sudan. Of the 1592, 325 journalists died due to crossfire, 292 died from 'dangerous assignment' and 964 were murdered. Of the murders, 762 saw no one be punished for them, and only 47 saw full justice where someone was convicted, which is less than a 5% full justice rate. Breaking down the number of journalists killed into some of the major conflicts that occurred during the 21st century, it can be seen that 140 journalists were killed during the Syrian Civil. In the Iraq war between 2003 and 2011, there were 150 journalists killed. During the American occupation of Afghanistan, between 2001 and 2020, 51 journalists were killed. These numbers demonstrate the threat that journalists often face in regions of conflict.

Current events

Please keep in mind that the topics discussed within this section are related to ongoing conflicts, and therefore are of sensitive nature. Please keep this in mind when discussing and writing about them, and ensure that you are respectful of those who have been

impacted by them. Any behavior that does not follow this request, will result in action from the secretariat.

The ongoing global conflicts have seen journalistic freedom of expression come under serious threat. Within the war between Russia and Ukraine, despite abiding by war time requests of not sharing troop movements and intelligence that could risk front line battalions, Ukrainian journalists have seen an increase of restrictions being placed upon them¹⁰. With many journalists practicing self censorship. This has led to alarm within many watchdog communities regarding the freedoms of journalists. However, Zelenksy has not publically pushed for increased censorship, in fact he has done the opposite condemning an instance of journalists being spied upon. Nevertheless, press freedoms in Ukraine seem to indicate some causes for concern.

On the other hand, Russia has seen a complete lack of freedom of press since its invasion of Ukraine, with almost every independent news agency being banned, blocked or declared as foreign agents¹¹. Furthermore, journalists face threats of violence and assassination regardless of whether or not they are in Russia or abroad. The conflict so far has seen 15 journalists killed within Ukraine, all of which have been due to crossfire or "dangerous assignment"⁹.

The invasion of the Gaza strip by Israel has been one of the deadliest conflicts in modern times for journalists, with 97 journalists being killed between 2023, at the time of this writing (8.9.2024). Within Palestine, journalists have to deal with the blockade from Israel, and the ongoing violence. Furthermore, journalists who are suspected of collaborating with Israel are often hampered in their work by groups such as Hamas¹². There have also been Israeli politicians who have called for journalists in Gaza to be punished. Within Israel pressure on journalists has increased substantially, with many journalists relaying government propaganda regarding the conflict. Some journalists have also faced intimidation, and there have been crackdowns on journalists covering anti government protests.



Al Jazeera's Gaza bureau chief Wael al-Dahdouh attends the funeral of his son and fellow journalist, Hamza.

Despite freedom of press being guaranteed within the Sudanese constitution, during the Sudanese civil war, threats to journalists

have increased with the rise of new militias and armed movements. Furthermore, during demonstrations journalists are often systematically targeted, arrested or tortured by the Sudanese army and Rapid Support Forces. Journalists who publicize information that is considered compromising are also monitored by the government and its agencies. Finally, women journalists are often subject to threats, intimidation and reprisals. All of these factors caused the Reporters Without Borders organization to give Sudan the 149th rank out of 180 nations in terms of freedom of press¹³.

Directives

The goal in this committee for this topic is to create guidelines to ensure the protection of journalists and freedom of expression in conflict zones. Delegates can use the following questions as a guide when researching their position and creating a draft resolution:

- ***What is your government's stance on press freedom?***
- ***How can we ensure that freedom of expression of journalists is respected in regions of conflict?***

- *How can freedom of expression be addressed in another nation without violating sovereignty?*
- *How can we promote international cooperation regarding protecting journalists?*
- *Where can the UN gather funding from in order to implement these solutions?*
- *Are there any national policies regarding journalists, and their freedom of reporting that would be beneficial to implement globally?*

TOPIC 2

Safeguarding the Rights of Migrant Workers



Key Terms and Acronyms

Migrant Worker	<i>A worker working in a state in which they are not a national</i>
Trafficking of Persons	<i>The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, selling of individual through illegal or abusive means for the purpose of exploitation</i>
Forced Labor	<i>Work compelled by means of force, fraud, or coercion.</i>
Recruitment Fees	<i>Fees/costs workers pay to employers in order to secure employment.</i>
Exploitation	<i>The act of taking advantage of someone else, typically from a position of power, to profit in their place. In the workforce, this typically means the employer reaps the benefits at the cost of their employees</i>
Decent Work Conditions	<i>A work environment that does not endanger its workers and allows its workers to work without facing discrimination</i>
Remittances	<i>A monetary (or non-monetary) value a migrant sends to their family in their home country.</i>
Standard of Living	<i>The degree of wealth and material available to a person or community</i>
Poverty Line	<i>Level of income that a person or family must be below to be considered poor by the government</i>

“When I see the migrant workers’ broken bodies and eyes without hope, I want to embrace and wipe away their fears. It makes me angry and helps me to keep fighting the oppressive system”

Irene Fernandez (Malaysian human rights activist and politician)

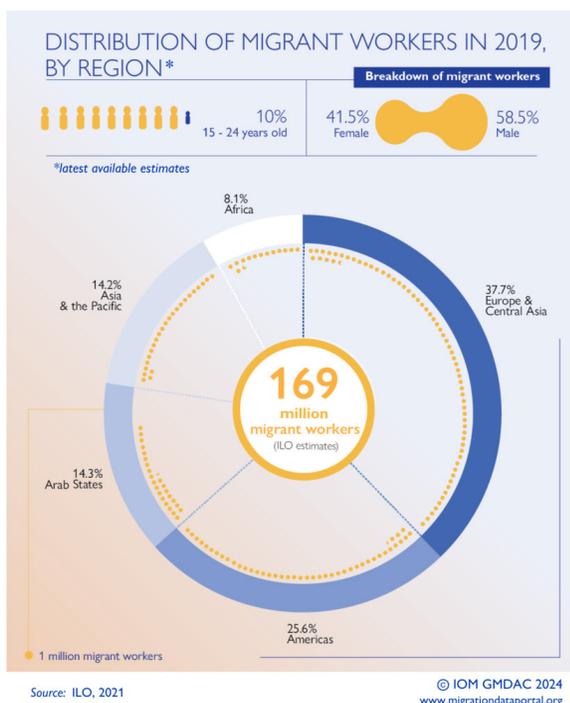
Introduction

According to the ILO, there were an estimated 169 million migrant workers globally in 2019, nearly 2/3 of these migrants live in Europe or Asia¹⁴. Migrant workers account for over 2% of the global population, 4.9% of the global labor force, and 69% of the world's international migrant population of working aged individuals.

challenges of increased and diversified migration, often instead suffer negative social and economic consequences. A failure to sustainably integrate migrants into society often leads to strained relationships between migrants, and their host society, which often leads to animosity and hostility. These strained relationships can in turn lead to xenophobia and other discrimination against migrant workers.

In order to combat this, the UN has taken numerous steps in order to combat violence against migrant workers, and safeguard their rights such as the adaptation of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, in 1990, a resolution dedicated to protecting the rights of migrant workers and their families. However, despite this, migrant workers are still at heightened risk of violence due to a variety of factors including but not limited to; racism, discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance¹⁵.

20



Although many nations have reaped the benefits of incoming migrant workers to not only improve the living situation of migrants, but also the society as a whole, others have faced more challenges than rewards. In fact countries that are ill prepared and equipped to meet the unique

Almost half of the aforementioned 169 million migrant workers are women, who are often put at an increased risk. Women migrant workers are often more exposed to human rights violations, worse standards of living, increased health risks, and lack access to social services. Furthermore, they are placed at an increased risk of harassment, economic and sexual exploitation, and trafficking¹⁶.

However, physical violence, trafficking, and discrimination are not the only factors that disproportionately affect migrant workers; as they are often exposed to poor living and economic conditions. Within nations such as the United States of America, migrant workers often face challenges including but not limited to; low wages, inadequate housing, underemployment, and unsafe working conditions.

Undocumented migrants face these issues the most, with wages that are on average 40% less than what native-born workers make, and 35% less than what documented migrant workers make. Furthermore, 33% of migrant workers in the USA are classified as low-income compared to the 15% national average. The jobs that migrant workers are given also tend to be more dangerous than those of native-born workers, with 73% of countries having a higher rate of fatal occupational injuries for migrants than native-born citizens.



Migrant workers in cramped Gulf dorms fear infection

Due to the variety of situations which create migration, including but not limited to; political unrest, lack of opportunities, overcrowding, natural disasters, economic hardship, war and political instability, the topic of migration, and ensuring the rights of migrant workers has been constantly evolving since the onset of the UN. Some key events within its history include:

- **1949:** *ILO creates one of the first international agreements with the goal of protecting migrant workers; the Migration for Employment Convention.*
- **1965:** *UN adopts International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.*
- **1975:** *ILO creates the Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, which was designed to combat migration in abusive conditions, and to promote equality of opportunity and treatment.*
- **1990:** *UN adopts the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.*
- **2006:** *ILO creates The Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration, a set of non-binding principles and guidelines with the goal of assisting governments, social partners and other groups in their efforts to regulate labor migration and protect migrant workers.*
- **2007:** *Global Forum on Migration and Development is established.*

- **2007:** The EU established the blue card directive with the goal of facilitating migration for skilled workers.
- **2015:** Adaptation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.
- **2016:** Adoption of New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, with the goal of pledging robust support to countries affected by migration, agreement upon the core elements of a refugee response framework, and agreement to work towards the adoption of a global compact on refugees, and global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.
- **2017:** ASEAN (The Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers, with the goal of cooperation on migrant workers in the region and to contribute to the ASEAN Community building process.
- **2018:** Adoption of Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration with the goal of improving global cooperation about all facets of international migration.
- **2024:** Overhaul of EU's migration system in order to; "manage arrivals in an orderly way, create efficient and uniform procedures, ensure fair burden sharing between member states"¹⁷.
- **2024:** UN migration agency aims to raise 7.9 billion in funding in order to protect migrants, reduce displacement and expand avenues to migrate legally

Current Developments

Burmese Fishermen in Thailand

Burmese migrant workers hailing from Myanmar (Burma), have been working abroad in Thailand's waters as fishermen, in hopes of sending their salaries as remittance to their families¹. However, their work taking place out at sea has left the Burmese migrant workers extremely vulnerable to recruitment fees and exploitation. The workers have been isolated not only from land, but also from the law. For the majority of the workers' tenure in Thailand they have lacked legal protections under the Thai law for their safety. Additionally, being at sea the fishermen are stuck on boats, reducing the oversight over the working conditions on the boat. Fishermen have reported experiences of being forced to work longer hours, receiving lower or no wages, and poor living conditions (i.e., food and medicine shortages, dirty environments). In 2015, Thailand released a Royal Ordinance to create decent working conditions, rehabilitating their public image. However, the Pheu Thai administration looks to loosen regulations in favor of increasing profits putting the fishermen in a vulnerable position.

This year, the Fishers' Rights Network reported on January 25th that 99% of surveyed fishermen were not being paid through bank accounts, and that 83% did not have access to their identification documents—being held by bosses instead.



Workers from Myanmar sort seafood on the jetty in Ranong, Thailand, on May 22, 2022.

Qatar's FIFA workforce

Following Qatar's announcement that it had received the right to host the 2022 World Cup, it began preparation efforts including building new stadiums and accommodations to host the event. During this process, tens of thousands of migrant workers were hired to complete these projects coming from many different countries including India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and more, totalling over 30,000. However, since the work on the stadiums began, Qatar has been criticized for its poor

treatment and working conditions towards migrant workers. BBC reports that in 2016 Amnesty International, a human rights NGO, released accusations of forced labor, indecent working conditions, huge recruitment fees, and wages withholding occurring whilst constructing the stadium. Furthermore, many migrant workers have passed away due these poor working conditions and other abuses, with allegedly 6,500 migrant workers passing away since construction began. Following these accusations, the Qatari government announced and implemented measures to protect migrant workers by improving their working standards, but in 2021 the Human Rights Watch claimed that there was still exploitation taking place such as punitive and illegal wage deductions and unpaid labor. Post World Cup, Qatar and FIFA have still struggled with remediating this conflict and providing compensation for the migrant workers and their families that have been impacted since coming to work in Qatar.



500 Indian workers dead in Qatar in last two years

Turkey

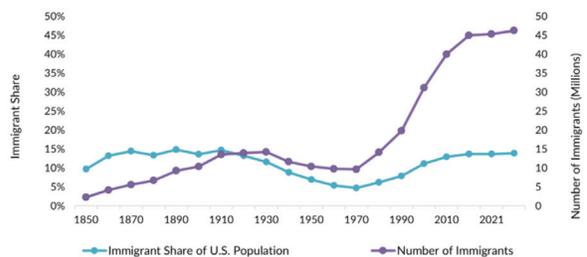
Historically Turkey has been a nation that has lost many migrant workers. However since the 2010s, Turkey has not only become the world's largest refugee hosting nation, but also a large migrant worker hosting nation, with over 4.4 million foreign nationals present within Turkey. Due to the unique geographical location of Turkey in between Europe, Asia and the Middle East many migrants go to Turkey regardless of whether or not it is their intended / preferred final destination.

Due to its geographical position, it has often been used as a buffer within the European Union's migration efforts. In agreements between Turkey and the EU, the EU has agreed to support the accommodation and integration of migrants and refugees within Turkey. However despite this, working conditions for unskilled migrant laborers within Turkey are often poor and often businesses are able to exploit migrant workers, especially illegal migrant workers by lowering compensation, and the aforementioned poor working conditions in order to reduce their labor cost. Syrians living in Turkey are often victimized by this, with in 2018, of the 1.6 Syrians in Turkey of working age only 20,000 had working permits¹⁹. This often leads to Syrians getting jobs without documentation that lack respect for basic labor rights, and

wages that are often under the minimum wage and paid late. In order to aid these migrant workers, the UN has historically provided support through NGOs and funding for underdeveloped areas.

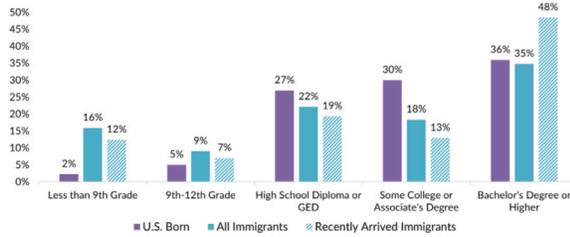
United States

The United States hosts the most migrants, and migrant workers in the world. In fact, they host more migrants than the next 4 leading nations combined, which are Germany, Saudi Arabia, Russia, and the United Kingdom in order. According to UN population division data, the US migrant population is 20% of the global migrant population²⁰. In 2022 the US had 44.6 million migrants.



Like many other first world nations, the working migrant population tends to be very polarized in terms of education, with 48% of recent migrants to the US having at least a bachelor's degree, 9% higher than the US average, and 19% of recent migrants, and 25% of total migrants not having a high school diploma, numbers substantially higher than the 7% average in the US. Due to this, the poverty rate for

migrant workers is higher than US born citizens (14% vs 12%).



Furthermore 18% of migrants lack health coverage, a number more than double that of American citizens²⁰. This is partially caused by the job distribution of migrant workers within the US labor force, with a higher percentage of migrant workers having jobs in the following industries; service occupations (21% vs 15%), natural resource, construction and maintenance operations (12% vs 8%), along with production, transportation and material moving occupations (15% vs 13%). All of which are jobs that traditionally have fewer benefits and lower wages than the jobs than sales and office occupations (15% vs 21%), and management, business, and art occupations (37% vs 44%) which have a higher percentage of US-born workers²⁰.

Within their jobs lesser-educated migrants are more commonly exposed to hazardous conditions including but not limited to pesticides, and heat. This is especially the case for the 11.2 million illegal immigrants (as of 2021), who also often face trafficking, a lack of a wage and threats. Historically the UN, and NGOs have supported some American migrants by providing them with

aid, including cash assistance when they are migrating to the US in order to help them transition to a new country with less difficulty.

United Kingdom

Since its departure from the EU in 2020, the migration system does not differentiate between EU and non-EU migrants, therefore greatly reducing the ability for citizens of EU members to migrate for work. Despite this in 2023 the net migration was 685,000, which has primarily been fueled by migration for studying and work by non-EU citizens²¹. With 41% of the people immigrating to the UK in 2023 doing so for work related reasons. Of which 91% were from non-EU nations. Under British law these migrant workers are entitled to the same rights as British born workers, including but not limited to; benefits, a minimum wage, discrimination free workplace, and working hours limits. Under British law it is also illegal for companies to hire those who do not have the right to work in the UK.

However, migrant workers often face discrimination, and have reported feeling unsafe, they are often exploited and face unsafe working conditions, and often face barriers with obtaining help, such as a lack of knowledge and availability. With one South African migrant saying in an

interview “Even before we start work the supervisors would be screaming at us... they would treat you like an animal”²². Furthermore, many face substantial debt due to the costs of migration which they struggle to pay off. In order to protect migrant workers, the UN has taken several actions including but not limited to; Reintegration programs, the establishment of the UN Network on Migration, aid in implementing a Ukrainian sponsorship scheme. Despite these positive steps, it has also raised concerns over the violation of rights of migrant workers in the UK, including but not limited to debt bondage along with unsafe and unsanitary living conditions.

- ***How can we address the specific needs of vulnerable groups of migrant workers (e.g., domestic workers, undocumented migrants)?***
- ***How can we promote international cooperation to better manage migration flows and protect worker rights?***
- ***Where can the UN gather funding from in order to aid migrant workers?***
- ***Are there any national policies regarding migrant worker rights that would be beneficial to implement globally?***
- ***How can you protect migrants and their rights whilst respecting national sovereignty?***

26

Directives

These are a few questions delegates should consider when doing research and preparing for debate on this topic:

- ***How can we ensure ethical recruitment practices and prevent exploitation of migrant workers?***
- ***What are effective mechanisms for social security and labor protection for migrant workers?***

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