



**SRMUN Atlanta 2014**  
***Revitalizing “An Agenda for Peace”: Preventative Diplomacy,  
Conflict Resolution, and the Making of Peace in Our Time Movement***  
**November 20-22, 2014**

Greetings Delegates,

Welcome to the Southern Regional Model United Nations Conference (SRMUN) Atlanta 2014 and the General Assembly Social, Humanitarian & Cultural - Third Committee. I will be your Director for this challenging, exciting, and rewarding committee. This is my sixth year participating with the conference and fourth year on staff. In the past I have served as an Assistant Director and this is my third year serving as Director; I am currently serving as Secretary-General for SRMUN Charlotte 2015. I am a graduate of Kennesaw State University with a Master of Business Administration in Management and Marketing. Serving as my Assistant Directors for this committee are Isabelle Lara, a graduate of Gulf Coast State College with a Bachelors of International Relations, and Fernanda Ramos, a graduate of Valdosta State University with a Bachelors of Speech Communications. This is Isabelle and Fernanda's first year on staff and they both are thrilled to be part of the dais.

The General Assembly allocates to its Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs Committee, commonly referred to as the "Third Committee", agenda items relating to a range of social, humanitarian affairs and human rights issues that affect people all over the world. Keeping in mind the objective of the committee and the conference theme, as such, we have chosen the following topics to discuss at this year's conference:

- I: The Right to Seek Asylum
- II: Global Efforts toward the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation

This background guide will serve as a strong foundation for your research, yet it should not be utilized as a complete means for these selected topics. A strong preparation is given to each topic to ensure that the delegates have a resource to guide them in their initial research. It is also expected that delegates do go beyond the guide when researching the topics in preparation for their position paper and to ensure that you are prepared for discussion come the conference in November.

Each delegation is required to submit a position paper for consideration. It should be no longer than two pages in length (single spaced) and demonstrate your Member State's position, policies and recommendations on each of the two topics. For more information regarding the position papers please visit the SRMUN website at (<http://www.srmun.org>). **All position papers MUST be submitted by October 31, 2014 by 11:59pm EST via the on-line submission system at <http://www.srmun.org>.** Isabelle, Fernanda and I send you the best regards as you prepare for the SRMUN Atlanta 2014 Conference and look forward to seeing you all in committee. Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions during your preparation for the conference.

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## The History of the United Nations General Assembly Third Committee

The United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) is one of the six main bodies stipulated within the UN Charter.<sup>1</sup> The responsibilities of the General Assembly are distributed among six committees with the intentions to address different topics that pertain to the international community.<sup>2</sup> Also referred to as the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee, the UN General Assembly Third Committee (GA 3<sup>rd</sup>) addresses a broad range of topics relating to social development, humanitarian affairs and human rights.<sup>3</sup> In particular, Article 13 of the UN Charter states clearly the focus of the Third Committee, which is to assist in the accomplishment of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all despite “race, sex, language or religion.”<sup>4</sup> Other issues discussed by the Third Committee include the advancement of women’s rights, the treatment of refugees, the elimination of racial discrimination, the promotion of the right to self-determination, and the promotion of indigenous freedoms.<sup>5</sup>

Along with the aforementioned issues, another important issue debated within the Third Committee includes the examination of human rights questioning.<sup>6</sup> The Human Rights Council (HRC) was established by the General Assembly resolution 60/251, and provides reports for the Third Committee to analyze, with the goal of improving Human Rights throughout the world.<sup>7</sup> In essence, these reports provide data that leads to the creation of various resolutions. Along with the ever growing concern to provide and protect basic human rights for all people, the Third Committee also works very hard to address important social development questions related to youth, aging, disabled persons, family, crime prevention, criminal justice, and drug control.<sup>8</sup> A critical component to each of these issues is the need to promote sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with resolutions passed such as those highlighted in General Assembly GA/SHC/4095<sup>9</sup>, by the General Assembly and recent UN conferences emphasizing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).<sup>10</sup>

Due to the organizational structure found within the United Nations system, rising obstacles and challenges are encountered by Member States when discussing topics within the Third Committee.<sup>11</sup> However, the same challenge can be perceived as a strong quality of the committee, given Member States’ ability to work together on matters of all different aspects. The Third Committee often engages in discussions of the Agenda items as set by the General Assembly Plenary, and once the Committee reaches a level of discussion on matters brought to their attention, this debate is brought up to the General Assembly Plenary in forms of reports, directives, and studies where each has a chance to reach consensus on a majority scale by all present Member States.<sup>12</sup> There are not any subsidiary organs that report to the Third Committee as stated by the Charter; however, the Third Committee is encouraged to engage in interactive dialogue in regards to the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council.<sup>13</sup> Furthermore, since the establishment of the HRC in 2006 as a subsidiary body, the HRC has provided knowledge, expertise and reports, which are considerable resources that the Third Committee utilizes in order to carry out its functions and responsibilities as

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<sup>1</sup> *Charter of the United Nations*. The United Nations. June 26, 1945.

<sup>2</sup> *Main Committees*. The United Nations. June 26, 1945.

<sup>3</sup> "General Assembly; Resolutions; Commissions." *UN News Center*. The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/ga/61/third/proposalslist.shtml> (accessed on February 12, 2014)

<sup>4</sup> Article 13. *Charter of the United Nations*. June 26, 1945.

<sup>5</sup> "General Assembly; Resolutions; Commissions." *UN News Center*. The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/ga/maincommittees.shtml> (accessed on July 21, 2014).

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> A/RES/60/251. *Human Rights Council*. United Nations General Assembly. April 3, 2006.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> "Third Committee Passes 11 Texts, Including One on Protecting Women Human Rights Defenders, as Members Conclude Their Work." *UN News Center*. The United Nations, November 27, 2013. <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2013/gashc4095.doc.htm> (accessed July 20, 2014).

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> A/RES/60/251. *Human Rights Council*. United Nations General Assembly. April 3, 2006.



stated in the Charter.<sup>14</sup> Delegates should be aware and take advantage of the stipulations of the UN Charter, in particular, Article 13, which states,

*“The General Assembly shall initiate studies and make recommendations for the purpose of a. promoting international co-operation in the political field and encouraging the progressive development of international law and its codification; b. promoting international co-operation in the economic, social, cultural, educational, and health fields, and assisting in the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.”*<sup>15</sup>

The Third Committee has submitted many important resolutions to the General Assembly Plenary, including *Strengthening of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme* (A/C.3/61/L.2), the *Education for All Resolution* (A/C.3/61/L.3), and the *International Cooperation in the prevention, combating and elimination of kidnapping and in providing assistance to victims* (A/C.3/61/L.3).<sup>16</sup> More recently, in its 65th session the Committee has addressed items such as International Drug Control, Human Rights Council Reports, and the Global Abolition of Racism.<sup>17</sup> So far, a number of recent issues addressed have resulted in recommendations to the General Assembly, including resolutions on social development, human rights, and illicit drug trafficking.<sup>18</sup>

As a reactive measure to the report on Social Development, A/65/448, the General Assembly Plenary has approved a number of resolutions, including A/RES/65/186: *Realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond*, which requests that the Secretary-General and Member States divert attention and resources to the advancement of disabled persons.<sup>19</sup> Additionally, the General Assembly Plenary Committee has adopted A/RES/65/208: *Extrajudicial, Summary, or Arbitrary Executions* and A/RES/65/206: *Moratorium on the Use of the Death Penalty*, on the report of the Third Committee A/65/456/Add.2 (Part II), calling on Member States to abolish and prevent the execution of citizens as judicial penalty.<sup>20</sup> International Crime Prevention and Illicit Drug Control was addressed with two reports to the General Assembly Plenary Committee: A/65/457 and A/65/458.<sup>21</sup>

All of Member States of the UN are represented in the General Assembly Third Committee.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> A/C.3/67/CRP.1. *Methods of work of the Third Committee: Report of the Chair of the Third Committee to be presented orally to the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General assembly*. United Nations General Assembly. 2012.

<sup>15</sup> Article 13. *Charter of the United Nations*. The United Nations. June 26, 1945.

<sup>16</sup> General Assembly; Resolutions; Commissions." *UN News Center*. The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/ga/61/third/proposalslist.shtml> (accessed July 21, 2014).

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> "Reports to the Plenary. Social, Humanitarian, & Cultural Third Committee" United Nations General Assembly. 2014.

<sup>19</sup> A/RES/65/186. *Realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond*. United Nations General Assembly. February 4, 2011.

<sup>20</sup> A/RES/65/208. *Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions*. United Nations General Assembly. December 21, 2010.

<sup>21</sup> "Reports to the Plenary. Social, Humanitarian, & Cultural Third Committee" United Nations General Assembly. 2014.

<sup>22</sup> "UN System Sites, General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council, ECOSOC, Trusteeship Council." *UN News Center*. The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/aboutun/structure/index.shtml> (accessed July 21, 2014).



## I: The Right to Seek Asylum

*"Refugees are the great survivors of our time. Many overcome immense hardship during years of exile, finally returning to their devastated countries to rebuild shattered communities. Others can never go home, and must forge new lives in strange lands. All of them deserve our encouragement, support and respect."*<sup>23</sup>  
-Secretary-General Kofi Annan on World Refugee Day, June 20, 2001

### Introduction

Every day, thousands of people are forced to leave their homes due to conflict, political persecution, religious discrimination and/or ethnic intolerance. Across the globe they are crossing deserts, climbing walls and taking to the sea with the hope of being granted asylum. Asylum is a form of protection offered to people fleeing from persecution based on the following personal characteristics: race, politics, nationality, religion or membership in a social group.<sup>24</sup> These individuals are called Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), refugees or asylees.<sup>25</sup> During travel, often asylees and refugees will use similar routes and modes of transportation as migrants do when crossing the border into another Member State.<sup>26</sup> What sets asylees and refugees apart from migrants however, is that living in their own Member State has been made virtually impossible by circumstances beyond their control.<sup>27</sup> Therefore, a refugee is a person who "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the Member State of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that Member State."<sup>28</sup> The main difference between an asylee and refugee is that a refugee asks entrance into a Member State when they are still outside its borders, while an asylee has already entered a Member States territory before asking for help from the government.<sup>29</sup>

Adopted in 1948, Article 14 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* guarantees individuals the right to seek and enjoy asylum in other Member States.<sup>30</sup> Modern refugee law has its origins in the aftermath of World War II, as well as the refugee crises of the interwar years that preceded it.<sup>31</sup> Since then, numerous regional human rights instruments have elaborated on this right in an attempt to guarantee everyone the right to seek and be granted asylum in a foreign territory in accordance with the legislation of the state and international conventions. Following the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* was the 1951 *Convention relating to the Status of Refugees* and its 1967 *Optional Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees*, which is now the controlling international convention on refugee law.<sup>32</sup> The 1951 *Convention* establishes the definition of a refugee as "an individual who is outside his or her Member State of nationality or habitual residence and who is unable or unwilling to return due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on his or her race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group."<sup>33</sup> Also outlined in the 1951 *Convention* is the principle of "non-refoulement", which states that "No Contracting Member

<sup>23</sup> "Refugees 'Are the Great Survivors of Our Time,' Says Secretary-General In Salute to World Refugee Day," United Nations Human Rights Council, June 20, 2001. <https://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2001/sgsm7848.doc.htm> . (accessed July 21, 2014).

<sup>24</sup> "Asylum," U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, January 22, 2013. <http://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/refugees-asylum/asylum> (accessed July 21, 2014).

<sup>25</sup> "Differences Between Refugee and Asylee," Difference Between, 2014. <http://www.differencebetween.net/miscellaneous/politics/differences-between-refugee-and-asylee/> (accessed June 10, 2014).

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> "What is the Difference between Immigrants and Refugees?," Iowa Pathways, [http://www.iptv.org/iowapathways/mypath.cfm?ounid=ob\\_000203](http://www.iptv.org/iowapathways/mypath.cfm?ounid=ob_000203) (accessed June 10, 2014).

<sup>28</sup> *Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees*. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Geneva: United Nations. December, 2010.

<sup>29</sup> "Differences Between Refugee and Asylee," Difference Between, 2014. <http://www.differencebetween.net/miscellaneous/politics/differences-between-refugee-and-asylee/> (accessed June 10, 2014)

<sup>30</sup> *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. United Nations General Assembly. December 10, 1948.

<sup>31</sup> "History," United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646cbc.html> (accessed July 8, 2014).

<sup>32</sup> "Asylum & the Rights of Refugees," International Justice Resource Center, <http://www.ijrcenter.org/refugee-law/> (accessed July 5, 2014).

<sup>33</sup> "The 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol." The 1951 Refugee Convention, <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49da0e466.html> (accessed July 10, 2014)



State shall expel or return (“refouler”) a refugee in any manner whatsoever to the frontiers of a territory where their life or freedom would be threatened on account of their race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion” as well as the rights afforded to those granted refugee status.<sup>34</sup> These rights include the basic minimum standards for the treatment of refugees, without prejudice to States granting more favorable treatment and rights to access the courts, primary education, work, and the provision for documentation, including a refugee travel document in passport form.<sup>35 36</sup> The *1951 Convention* further stipulates that, subject to specific exceptions, refugees should not be penalized for their illegal entry or stay.<sup>37</sup> This recognizes that the seeking of asylum can require refugees to breach immigration rules.<sup>38</sup>

Although the *1951 Convention* definition of “refugee” remains the current and dominant definition, unfortunately the *1951 Convention* does not define how Member States are to determine whether an individual meets the definition of a refugee.<sup>39</sup> Instead, the establishment of asylum proceedings and refugee status determinations are left to each Member State to develop on their own accord.<sup>40</sup> This has resulted in disparities among Member States as national asylum systems craft policies based on different agendas, national security concerns and histories with forced migration movements.<sup>41</sup> Efficiency of these asylum systems is paramount as they are there to decide which asylum-seekers legitimately qualify for refugee status.<sup>42</sup> Those judged through proper procedures not to be refugees, nor to be in need of any other form of international protection, can be sent back to their home countries.<sup>43</sup> During mass movements of refugees (usually as a result of conflicts or generalized violence as opposed to individual persecution), there is not - and never will be - a capacity to conduct individual asylum interviews for everyone who has crossed the border nor is it usually necessary, since in such circumstances it is generally evident why they have fled.<sup>44</sup> As a result, such groups are often declared “prima facie” refugees. A group determination on a *prima facie* basis means the recognition by a Member State of refugee status on the basis of the readily apparent, objective circumstances in the country of origin giving rise to exodus.<sup>45</sup>

Currently, one of the major factors contributing to the recent increase in the number of IDPs, refugees and asylees can be attributed to ongoing regional conflicts in several Member States. According to the annual Global Trends report published by UNHCR, 51.2 million people were forcibly displaced at the end of 2013, nearly 6 million more than the 45.2 million reported in 2012.<sup>46</sup> By the end of last year, the conflict in Syria had forced 2.5 million people into becoming refugees and internally displaced almost 6.5 million.<sup>47</sup> Major displacements were also seen in Africa during the last year, most notably in the Central African Republic with South Sudan also being a major contributor in the increasing amount of displaced individuals and refugees.<sup>48</sup> It is currently estimated that over 612,700 asylum applications were registered in 2013 in the 44 industrialized Member States, 133,000 claims more than the year before (+28%).<sup>49</sup> This is the third consecutive annual increase and the second highest annual level of the past 20 years.<sup>50</sup> Of these industrialized Member States, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Russian Federation, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Serbia

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<sup>34</sup> “The 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol.” The 1951 Refugee Convention, <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49da0e466.html> (accessed July 10, 2014)

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

<sup>36</sup> Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Geneva: United Nations. December, 2010.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid.

<sup>42</sup> “Asylum-Seekers,” United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646c137.html> (accessed July 6, 2014).

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

<sup>45</sup> “New Issues in Refugee Research,” United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, October 1, 2002. <http://www.refworld.org/pdfid/4ff3f8812.pdf> (accessed July 8, 2014).

<sup>46</sup> “World Refugee Day: Grim landmark reached as millions remember the forcibly displaced.” United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. <http://www.unhcr.org.uk/news-and-views/news-list/news-detail/article/world-refugee-day-grim-landmark-reached-as-millions-remember-the-forcibly-displaced.html> (accessed June 8, 2014).

<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid.

<sup>49</sup> *Asylum Trends 2013*. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. 2013. <http://www.unhcr.org/5329b15a9.html> (accessed July 10, 2014).

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.



were the five top source Member States of asylum-seekers in the 44 industrialized Member States.<sup>51</sup> Only in 2001 were more asylum applications registered among the group of 44 Member States.<sup>52</sup> The reported rise in asylum applicants during 2013 in 30 of the 44 Member States included in this report can primarily be attributed to an increase in Syrian and Russian asylum applications.<sup>53</sup> This increase was driven by the war in Syria, which still shows no sign of ending. This increase notwithstanding, the last quarter of 2013 followed the seasonal patterns observed in most years whereby asylum claims drop significantly toward the end of the year.<sup>54</sup>

Despite differences in Member States refugee policies, the overall goal of the international community should be to provide protection to any individual who is forced to flee from his or her home because their Member State is unwilling or unable to protect them.<sup>55</sup> The issue of the right to seek asylum is of particular importance to the Third Committee, as this committee deals directly with a wide range of social, humanitarian and human rights issues.<sup>56</sup> These issues include discussions on the advancement of women, the protection of children, the treatment of refugees, the elimination of racism through the promotion of fundamental freedoms, and the right to self-determination.<sup>57</sup> An important part of the work in this Committee will focus on is the examination of human rights questions brought forward in light of current events surrounding IDPs, refugees and asylees. This topic will address the issue surrounding asylees, refugees and IDPs coming from areas of conflict and attempt to find long-term solutions for people who have become forcibly displaced.

### ***History of the Right to Seek Asylum***

Although the right to seek asylum is typically considered a modern, Western tradition, its roots can be traced back to ancient Egypt and Greece as many important figures throughout history have sought asylum and for centuries, Member States have granted protection to hundreds of individuals and groups fleeing persecution. However, the modern refugee system is largely the product of the second half of the twentieth century.<sup>58</sup> The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* was written over the course of two years by the United Nations General Assembly and arose directly out of the experience of World War II, representing the first global expression of rights to which all human beings are inherently entitled.<sup>59</sup>

Following World War II, the UN refugee agency emerged to help those Europeans displaced by conflict.<sup>60</sup> The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was established on 14 December 1950, by the United Nations General Assembly and was charged with a three-year mandate to complete its work and then disband. The following year the United Nations *Convention relating to the Status of Refugees* was adopted.<sup>61</sup> By 1956, UNHCR was facing its first major emergency with the outpouring of refugees caused when Soviet forces crushed the Hungarian Revolution.<sup>62</sup> In the 1960s, the decolonization of Africa produced the first of that continent's numerous refugee crises needing intervention. The following two decades saw displacement crises in Asia and Latin America, developing refugee problems in Africa toward the end of the century and, turning full circle, new waves of refugees in Europe from the series of wars in the Balkans.<sup>63</sup>

In 2001, Member States parties issued a declaration reaffirming their commitment to the *1951 Convention* and the *1967 Protocol*, recognizing in particular that the core principle of “non-refoulement” is embedded in customary international

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<sup>51</sup> *Asylum Trends 2013*. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. 2013. <http://www.unhcr.org/5329b15a9.html> (accessed July 10, 2014).

<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid.

<sup>56</sup> “UN General Assembly - Third Committee - Social, Humanitarian & Cultural,” United Nations General Assembly, <http://www.un.org/en/ga/third/> (accessed June 1, 2014).

<sup>57</sup> Ibid.

<sup>58</sup> “Asylum & the Rights of Refugees,” International Justice Resource Center, <http://www.ijrcenter.org/refugee-law/> (accessed July 5, 2014).

<sup>59</sup> Ibid.

<sup>60</sup> “History,” United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646cbc.html> (accessed July 7, 2014).

<sup>61</sup> Ibid.

<sup>62</sup> Ibid.

<sup>63</sup> Ibid.



law.<sup>64</sup> Non-refoulement is acknowledged as a human right by Member States as it is expressly stated in human rights treaties such as Article 3 of the *Convention against Torture* and Article 22 of the *American Convention on Human Rights*.<sup>65</sup> Additionally, both regional and domestic courts have interpreted the rights to life and freedom from torture to include a prohibition against refoulement.<sup>66</sup> There are two important restrictions to this principle. Persons who otherwise qualify as refugees may not claim protection under this principle where there are "reasonable grounds" for regarding the refugee as a danger to the national security of the host country or where the refugee, having been convicted of a particularly serious crime, constitutes a danger to the host community.<sup>67</sup>

There are several examples in which Member States have provided subsidiary or humanitarian protection to people who do not meet the *1951 Convention's* legal definition of a refugee but are still in need of international protection.<sup>68</sup> Across the European Union (EU), the Qualification Directive provides subsidiary protection for those facing the following threats if returned to their Member State: the death penalty or execution, torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, or threats from an international or internal armed conflict.<sup>69</sup> The United Kingdom uses the legal term humanitarian protection to meet this Directive, and in 2012 granted 88 people humanitarian protection.<sup>70</sup> Another 751 applicants were given 'discretionary leave to remain', a form of temporary permission which is unlikely to be more than three years.<sup>71</sup> Debate over the meaning of free movement of persons kept Member States from reaching an agreement causing France, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands to establish a territory without internal borders in 1985 known as the "Schengen area."<sup>72</sup> *The Schengen Agreement of 1985* represents a territory where the free movement of persons is guaranteed. The signatory Member States to the agreement have abolished all internal borders in lieu of a single external border.<sup>73</sup> Here, common rules and procedures are applied with regard to visas for short stays, asylum requests and border controls. Simultaneously, to guarantee security within the Schengen area, cooperation and coordination between police services and judicial authorities have been upped.<sup>74</sup> Twelve years later, the *Treaty of Amsterdam of 1997* successfully incorporated this intergovernmental cooperation into the EU legal framework. However, all Member States cooperating in Schengen are not parties to the Schengen area.<sup>75</sup> This is either because they do not wish to eliminate border controls or because they do not yet fulfill the required conditions for the application of the Schengen *acquis*.<sup>76</sup>

### ***IDPs During A Time of Conflict***

IDPs are among the world's most vulnerable people, but unlike refugees or asylees, they remain within their Member State, having not crossed an international border to find sanctuary.<sup>77</sup> Legally, IDPs remain under the protection of their Member State even if the government is their reason for wanting to leave. As citizens, they still retain all of their rights and protection under both human rights and international humanitarian law.<sup>78</sup> Unfortunately, under the *1951 Convention* and the *1967 Optional Protocol*, IDPs, including individuals fleeing natural disasters and generalized violence, stateless individuals not outside their Member State of habitual residence or not facing persecution, and

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<sup>64</sup> A/RES/57/187. *Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees*. United Nations General Assembly. December 18, 2001.

<sup>65</sup> Article 3. *United Nations Convention against Torture*. United Nations General Assembly. December 10, 1984.

<sup>66</sup> Ibid.

<sup>67</sup> Ibid.

<sup>68</sup> "UNHCR: The *UN Refugee Agency* - United Kingdom." United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. <http://www.unhcr.org.uk/about-us/the-uk-and-asylum.html> (accessed July 10, 2014).

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

<sup>70</sup> Ibid.

<sup>71</sup> Ibid.

<sup>72</sup> Ibid.

<sup>73</sup> *Schengen Area and Cooperation*. European Union. 1985.

[http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/justice\\_freedom\\_security/free\\_movement\\_of\\_persons\\_asylum\\_immigration/13302\\_0\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/justice_freedom_security/free_movement_of_persons_asylum_immigration/13302_0_en.htm) (accessed July 10, 2014).

<sup>74</sup> Ibid.

<sup>75</sup> "The Schengen *acquis*". General Secretariat of the Council, May 1, 1999.

<http://consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cmsUpload/SCH.ACQUIS-EN.pdf> (accessed July 10, 2014).

<sup>76</sup> Ibid.

<sup>77</sup> "Internally Displaced People," United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646c146.html> (accessed July 12, 2014)

<sup>78</sup> Ibid.



individuals who have crossed an international border fleeing generalized violence, are not considered refugees.<sup>79</sup> Under these agreements, only a person who is outside their Member States territory owing to fear of persecution on protected grounds is considered a refugee.<sup>80</sup> This then renders true victims of persecution to their persecutor if returned to their country of origin irrespective of whether or not they have been formally recognized as refugees and is an appalling violation of the *non-refoulement* principle.<sup>81 82 83 84</sup>

The UNHCR's expertise on internal displacement has allowed the agency to help protect and assist millions of IDPs, recently through the "cluster approach".<sup>85</sup> Through this approach, the UNHCR helps oversee the protection and shelter needs of IDPs as well as coordination and management of camps.<sup>86</sup> In 2013, at least 33.3 million people across the world were internally displaced, with Syria recording the highest amount and one family displaced every 60 seconds.<sup>87</sup> The global figure is the highest ever recorded and represents a 16 percent increase in IDPs from the previous year as reported by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC).<sup>88</sup> Five Member States — Syria, Colombia, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sudan represent the majority of IDPs worldwide while Syria accounted for 6.5 million of recent IDPs in 2013.<sup>89</sup> About 9,500 people are displaced every day in Syria, remaining the "largest and fastest evolving" IDP crisis in the world.<sup>90</sup> Now, more than three years after the onset of the conflict in Syria, more than 9 million Syrians have been uprooted from their homes and externally exceeds 40 percent of Syria's pre-conflict population with at least half of the displaced being children.<sup>91 92</sup> The ongoing conflict in Syria has had major implications for both refugee and IDP operations, especially for access and operational space.<sup>93</sup> Insecurity restricts movements around the Member State, communications are often disrupted, and UNHCR's access to affected populations restricted.<sup>94</sup> This increases the importance of reaching, monitoring and assisting beneficiaries by alternative means, including through national partners. Overall planning concerning internal displacement has been made with the assumption that Syrian refugees and IDPs will be unable to return by the end of 2014.<sup>95</sup>

### ***Refugees Seeking Asylum Due To Political Persecution***

Refugees seeking asylum often have no protection from their Member State, as it is typically their own government threatening to persecute them. If other Member States do not grant them asylum, and do not help them once they are in, then they could be condemning them to death - or to an unbearable life of constant persecution, without support and without rights. In recent years, the UNHCR has revised its policies in order to protect people fleeing persecution due to their sexual orientation or gender identity.<sup>96</sup> This includes lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex asylum seekers and refugees and the UNHCR has called on Member States to support this commitment through improved

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<sup>79</sup> "Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees," United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, [http://www.unhcr.org/3b66c2aa10.html?\\_ga=1.46461669.399056040.1403409027](http://www.unhcr.org/3b66c2aa10.html?_ga=1.46461669.399056040.1403409027) (accessed June 5, 2014)

<sup>80</sup> "Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees," United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, [http://www.unhcr.org/3b66c2aa10.html?\\_ga=1.46461669.399056040.1403409027](http://www.unhcr.org/3b66c2aa10.html?_ga=1.46461669.399056040.1403409027) (accessed June 5, 2014)

<sup>81</sup> United Nations. *The United Nations High Commission for Refugees. Non-Refoulement No. 6 (XXVIII)*. UNHCR, 1977. Web. <http://www.unhcr.org/3ae68c43ac.html> (accessed June 7, 2014).

<sup>82</sup> Ibid.

<sup>83</sup> *Declaration on Territorial Asylum*. United Nations General Assembly. December 14, 1967. <http://www.refworld.org/docid/3b00f05a2c.html> (accessed June 5, 2014)

<sup>84</sup> deVattel, Emerich. *Principles of the Law of Nature Applied to the Conduct and Affairs of Nations and Sovereigns*. 1758. <http://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/vattel-the-law-of-nations-lf-ed> (accessed June 5, 2014)

<sup>85</sup> Ibid.

<sup>86</sup> Ibid.

<sup>87</sup> Lewis, Renee. "Over 33.3 Million People Internally Displaced in 2013." (2014) <http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/5/14/un-idp-syria.html> (accessed May 10, 2014).

<sup>88</sup> Ibid.

<sup>89</sup> Ibid.

<sup>90</sup> Ibid.

<sup>91</sup> *Syria Tops World List for Forcibly Displaced After Three Years of Conflict*. United Nations. UNHCR. 2014. <http://www.unhcr.org/5321cda59.html> (accessed on July 20, 2014)

<sup>92</sup> Ibid.

<sup>93</sup> "Global Appeal 2014-2015 - Syrian Arab Republic." *UNHCR News*. UNHCR, <http://www.unhcr.org/528a0a2d15.html> (accessed on June 20, 2014)

<sup>94</sup> Ibid.

<sup>95</sup> Ibid.

<sup>96</sup> "UNHCR - Search." *UNHCR News*. October 1, 2010. <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/search?page=search&docid=4ca5da949&query=LGBT> (accessed July 2, 2014).



understanding and recognition of the particular vulnerabilities of these groups.<sup>97</sup>

Recent issues surrounding the rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Trans-Gender (LGBT) asylum seekers have received international attention. In Uganda, the recent passing of the *Anti-Homosexual Act* states that first-time offenders can be sentenced to 14 years in prison and a lifetime sentence can be imposed for so-called “aggravated homosexuality”, which has been defined as sex with a minor or while HIV-positive.<sup>98</sup> The current version of the law, which was enacted in February 2013, bans LGBT advocacy, as well as imposing on individuals found guilty of LGBT advocacy, up to a lifetime prison sentence for homosexuality.<sup>99</sup> Unfortunately, anti-gay policies still exist in other African Member States and during the five years leading up to Uganda’s Anti-Homosexuality Act, many refugees have sought asylum in Uganda.<sup>100</sup> Other members of the LGBT community are coming from neighboring Member States such as the Democratic Republic of Congo or Burundi.

Having fled persecution in their Member States without the support of their families or local communities, they frequently are confronted with even more social exclusion, severe discrimination, and violence in the Member State of transit or asylum.<sup>101</sup> The marginalization they experience deepens the need for informed intervention by non-governmental organizations (NGOs).<sup>102</sup> NGOs, central to international refugee protection efforts, play an especially crucial role on behalf of these most vulnerable of refugees.<sup>103</sup> The existence of laws criminalizing same-sex relations in many Member States (including the death penalty in seven) poses significant problems for these asylum-seekers and refugees. Such laws, whether enforced or not, impede their ability to access state protection in their Member State.<sup>104</sup> When they flee, they are often reluctant to register for asylum. When they do register for asylum, they may be unlikely to testify truthfully at asylum hearings regarding the nature of their persecution.

### *Asylees and Their Ongoing Challenges*

Although the international community has swiftly and generously responded to refugee crises, over the past half-century some worrying trends have begun to emerge. Member States that once generously opened their doors to refugees have been tempted to shut those doors in fear of assuming open-ended responsibilities, abetting uncontrolled migration and people-smuggling, or jeopardizing national security.<sup>105</sup> Also, the real and perceived abuses of asylum systems have made some Member States wary of refugee claimants and concerns that resources are not being sufficiently focused on those in greatest need. This means that those who have reached a potential country of asylum have sometimes been turned away or sent back without being able to apply for asylum. Refugees are often the targets of violent attacks and intimidation, largely because they’re perceived as “different” from the communities in which they had temporarily settled.<sup>106</sup> Tensions between refugees and local populations erupt when refugees are seen as competitors for natural and economic resources.<sup>107</sup> Increasingly, governments have resorted to the detention of illegal entrants, which includes women and children, many of whom are seeking asylum.<sup>108</sup>

The new strategy, Beyond Detention, first calls for an end to the detention of children and second, to ensure that alternatives to detention are available in law and that they are implemented, and thirdly to ensure that conditions of detention when unavoidable fully meet international human rights standards.<sup>109</sup> While the irregular entry or stay of refugees and asylees presents many challenges to Member States, the detaining of people is not an effective solution.

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<sup>97</sup> Ibid.

<sup>98</sup> "Anti-Homosexuality Act," Uganda. 2014.

<http://wp.patheos.com.s3.amazonaws.com/blogs/warrenthrockmorton/files/2014/02/Anti-Homosexuality-Act-2014.pdf> (accessed January 1, 2014).

<sup>99</sup> Ibid.

<sup>100</sup> Ibid.

<sup>101</sup> Ibid.

<sup>102</sup> Ibid.

<sup>103</sup> Ibid.

<sup>104</sup> "UNHCR - Search." *UNHCR News*. October 1, 2010 <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/search?page=search&docid=4ca5da949&query=LGBT> (accessed July 2, 2014).

<sup>105</sup> "Refugee Protection: A Guide to International Refugee Law." Inter-Parliamentary Union, [http://www.ipu.org/pdf/publications/refugee\\_en.pdf](http://www.ipu.org/pdf/publications/refugee_en.pdf) (accessed on July 2, 2014).

<sup>106</sup> Ibid.

<sup>107</sup> Ibid.

<sup>108</sup> Ibid.

<sup>109</sup> "UNHCR calls for end to detention of asylum-seekers and refugees." United Nations High Commissioner Refugees, <http://www.unhcr.org/53b550239.html> (accessed on July 3, 2014).



Many argue that people who are seeking asylum should be properly received, allowed freedom of movement and access to services, as asylum is not illegal under international law.<sup>110</sup> People have a right to be treated humanely and with dignity, although the *1951 Convention* does not apply to those for whom there are serious reasons. For example, people who have committed war crimes or crimes against humanity, serious non-political crimes, or are guilty of acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Research has shown that the most stringent detention policies deter irregular migration and there are workable alternatives to detention that can achieve governmental objectives of security, public order and the efficient processing of asylum applications.<sup>111</sup> Furthermore, detention has many lasting effects on individuals, as it undermines their human dignity and can cause unnecessary suffering, especially in children.<sup>112</sup> The detention of children may have lasting effects on their physical, emotional and psychological development and in principle, should not be detained at all.<sup>113</sup> Detention can increase anxiety, fear and frustrations in all individuals and can exacerbate past experiences.<sup>114</sup> Asylum should not be treated as a lottery and the international community has a shared responsibility to welcome asylum seekers in a dignified manner, ensure they are treated fairly and that their case is examined in a uniform standards.

## ***Conclusion***

The ongoing international refugee crises highlight the need for Member States to properly and effectively address this issue and begin implementing the solutions. Ultimately, Member States should strive to contribute to the consolidation of the international refugee protection regime by strengthening and more effectively implementing the *1951 Convention* and its *1967 Protocol*. Member States can design and adopt national refugee legislation that conforms to international law and standards while overseeing their implementation. In the absence of concerted efforts on the part of developed Member States to find a balance between domestic concerns over proliferating refugee crises and the need to provide refugees with humanitarian assistance and genuine protection from persecution, current trends suggest that the right to seek asylum is in danger of becoming a right without substance.

While all Member State have the right to exercise their sovereignty, the manner in which they do directly affects refugees and their ability to seek protection from persecution. Without meaningful opportunity to make a refugee application and the "right" to seek asylum is rendered illusory. Pro-active and preventative diplomatic efforts taken by Member States can assist in peacefully resolving many conflicts. Cooperative and collective dispute resolution mechanisms combined with alternative measures must be taken in order to provide asylum seekers with humanitarian assistance and protection from persecution while at the same time taking into account the financial and social pressures on Member States.

## ***Committee Directive***

Keeping in line with this year's Conference Theme, *Revitalizing "An Agenda for Peace": Preventative Diplomacy, Conflict Resolution, and the Making of Peace in Our Time*, delegates are tasked with closing the gaps that exist in international policies regarding asylum seekers. This topic is one that affects every Member State and its interests. Delegates will be asked to assess whether documents such as *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, the *1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees* and the *1967 Optional Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees* do enough to protect IDPs, refugees and asylees. If not, what more can be done to ensure that refugees in politically war torn regions, such as Syria, are provided with the asylum they need? Should there be clearer definitions differentiating IDPs, refugees and asylees from each other and are these differences that should be formally established? Delegates should review the policies of their own Member State as well as those of other Member States to determine what has or hasn't been effective. Delegates should also be aware of whether or not their Member State falls short in certain areas of refugee national policy or if they meet United Nations standards. Additionally, delegates should highlight any policies that may exist in their Member State, which could serve as building blocks for the international community to build on.

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<sup>110</sup> Ibid.

<sup>111</sup> "UNHCR calls for end to detention of asylum-seekers and refugees." United Nations High Commissioner Refugees, <http://www.unhcr.org/53b550239.html> (accessed on July 3, 2014).

<sup>112</sup> Ibid.

<sup>113</sup> Ibid.

<sup>114</sup> Ibid.



By assessing both the current and ongoing situations around the world, the committee should be able to determine what gaps there are in existing policies, both nationally and internationally. Delegates should discuss appropriate corrective measures to set in place in order to fill these gaps and better protect asylum seekers. Furthermore, delegates should be knowledgeable on declarations mentioned in this background guide and any others that they might find relevant. Instead of comparing the declarations to one another, delegates should focus on the purpose of each one; assess how times have changed and whether or not they fall short. If so, what more can be done to ensure that refugees in politically war torn regions are provided with the asylum they need? The committee should work together to determine short- and long-term strategies for Member States.

## II. Global Efforts toward the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation

*"I welcome the chorus of voices calling for an end to the violence that affects an estimated one in three women in her lifetime. I applaud leaders who are helping to enact and enforce laws and change mindsets. And I pay tribute to all those heroes around the world who help victims to heal and to become agents of change."*<sup>115</sup>

*-Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon*

### Introduction

Culture is a term that is often used in global political discourse to protect, promote, and pass on socially symbolic practices across different populations.<sup>116</sup> At the same time, governments, policymakers, and other constituents around the globe are finding difficulties when faced with social issues often deemed "cultural."<sup>117</sup> Specifically, traditional practices such as honor crimes, dowry murders, forced or arranged marriage, as well as female genital mutilation or cutting (FGM/C) are framed as cultural problems that prompt outside intervention because they often test the boundaries of cross-cultural tolerance.<sup>118</sup> Therefore, human rights activists groups, Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (Third Committee) have engaged in the global discourse to end FGM/C.<sup>119</sup> Under the agenda item labeled "Advancement of Women" FGM/C surfaced among several topics discussed at the committee's 67th session.<sup>120</sup> In fact, the adoption of the General Assembly Resolution 67/146 on "Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations" (20 December 2012)<sup>121</sup> further marked the commitment towards the promotion, advancement and fulfillment of women's rights.<sup>122</sup>

Considered a form of violence against women and a violation of human rights, FGM/C is a "deeply rooted traditional practice that has severe health consequences for girls and women" because it directly affects "the rights to integrity of the person and the highest attainable level of physical and mental health."<sup>123</sup> On 4 February 2014, several UN officials, including the Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon called for a total end to FGM/C to promote the health, empowerment and well being of every girl, given that despite all current efforts, the practice continues to threaten millions of girls.<sup>124</sup> The World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) issued a joint statement in 1997, which defined FGM/C as comprising "all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs whether for cultural or other non-therapeutic reasons."<sup>125</sup>

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<sup>115</sup> Ban Ki-Moon, "Message" *International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women*. 2013.

<sup>116</sup> Lisa Wade, "The Politics of Acculturation: Female Genital Cutting and the Challenge of Building Multicultural Democracies," *Social Problems* (November 2011), <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1525/sp.2011.58.4.518> (accessed June 14, 2014)

<sup>117</sup> Ibid.

<sup>118</sup> Ibid.

<sup>119</sup> "Third Committee," The United Nations General Assembly, <http://www.un.org/en/ga/third/index.shtml> (accessed May 4, 2014).

<sup>120</sup> "Past Sessions," The United Nations General Assembly, <http://www.un.org/en/ga/third/archives.shtml> (accessed May 4, 2014).

<sup>121</sup> A/RES/67/146. *Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations*. United Nations General Assembly. December 20, 2012.

<sup>122</sup> Ibid.

<sup>123</sup> *Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation: An Interagency Statement UNAIDS, UNDP, UNECA, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCHR, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIFEM, WHO*. The World Health Organization. Geneva: 2008.

<sup>124</sup> SG/SM/15630/OBV/1299/WOM/1975. *Secretary-General, in Message, Says Operationalizing Resolution Declaring 'Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation' Can Have Profound Effect*. February 4, 2014.

<sup>125</sup> *Female Genital Mutilation: A Joint WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Statement*. The World Health Organization. Geneva: 1997.



In 2008, an in-depth, comprehensive, and updated interagency statement on the elimination of FGM/C was released by several UN affiliates including: WHO; UNICEF; UNFPA; the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA); the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR); the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); and, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).<sup>126</sup>

According to the newest interagency statement, FGM/C is an invasive procedure believed to cause physical and psychological harm to girls and women due to the direct removal or damage to healthy, normal genital tissue.<sup>127</sup> It is considered a painful and traumatic process that affects the natural functioning of the body and has immediate health consequences, such as severe pain, shock, and hemorrhage.<sup>128</sup> Long-term medical complications often include cysts and abscesses, damage to the urethra resulting in urinary incontinence, and infibulations.<sup>129</sup> According to recent statistical data provided by the UN and some of its related agencies such as WHO, UNICEF, and UNFPA, FGM/C is mostly concentrated in Member States from the Atlantic Coast to the Horn of Africa.<sup>130</sup> More than 125 million girls and women have undergone FGM/C in the following twenty nine Member States: Egypt (27.2 million); Ethiopia (23.8 million); Nigeria (19.9 million); Sudan (12.1 million); Kenya and Burkina Faso (9.3 million); Mali and United Republic of Tanzania (7.9 million); Guinea and Somalia (6.5 million); Côte d'Ivoire and Yemen (5 million); Chad and Iraq (3.8 million); Eritrea and Sierra Leone (3.5 million); Senegal, Mauritania and Niger (3.4 million); Liberia, Cameroon, and Benin (2.7 million); Ghana, Gambia, and the Central African Republic (1.3 million); and, Guinea-Bissau, Djibouti, Uganda, and Togo (919,000).<sup>131</sup>

Although the data provided by these agencies serves as a method to quantify the prevalence of violence against women in general, there is still a need for more accurate information.<sup>132</sup> Some cases of FGM/C have been reported in Member States such as India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Sri Lanka, and it is thought to be performed among some indigenous groups in Central and South America; however, this practice extends to immigrant communities that now reside in North America, Australia and Europe as well.<sup>133</sup> Given that FGM/C is not mandated by any religion and it is practiced among households of all educational levels and all social classes, there may be a deeper cultural symbolism or sentiment that policymakers have to take into consideration.<sup>134</sup> Cultural practitioners often perform FGM/C as a symbolic operation demonstrating a “coming-of-age” or “rite of passage.”<sup>135</sup> In addition, it has been justified as a manner of ensuring chastity and genital “purity” from women until marriage.<sup>136</sup> Currently, there are four types of FGM/C recognized and operationalized by UN affiliated agencies in order to facilitate the classification of the procedures: (1) Clitoridectomy; (2) Excision; (3) Infibulations; and, (4) all other modifications to the genitalia for non-medical purposes.<sup>137</sup>

### *Types of FGM/C and Other Terminology*

Although discrepancies are known between the classifications of practices of FGM/C, usually, the Third Committee utilizes publications, interagency statements, and other reports from WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, and other UN affiliated associations.<sup>138</sup> The reports and documents from such organizations have concluded in defining all forms of FGM/C as

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<sup>126</sup> *Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation: An Interagency Statement UNAIDS, UNDP, UNECA, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCHR, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIFEM, WHO*. The World Health Organization. Geneva: 2008.

<sup>127</sup> Ibid.

<sup>128</sup> Ibid.

<sup>129</sup> Ibid.

<sup>130</sup> United Nations Children's Fund, *Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: A statistical overview and exploration of the dynamics of change*. UNICEF, New York, 2013.

<sup>131</sup> Ibid.

<sup>132</sup> Priya Shetty, “Slow progress in ending female genital mutilation,” *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* (2014): 6-7.

<sup>133</sup> “Violence against Women – Facts and Figures,” The United Nations Development Fund for Women, 2007.

<sup>134</sup> Charlotte Feldman-Jacobs and Donna Clifton, “Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Data and Trends UPDATE 2014,” *Population Reference Bureau*. (Washington, DC, 2014): 2.

<sup>135</sup> “Violence against Women – Facts and Figures,” The United Nations Development Fund for Women, 2007.

<sup>136</sup> Ibid.

<sup>137</sup> *Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation: An Interagency Statement UNAIDS, UNDP, UNECA, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCHR, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIFEM, WHO*. World Health Organization. Geneva: 2008.

<sup>138</sup> Lisa Wade, “The Politics of Acculturation: Female Genital Cutting and the Challenge of Building Multicultural Democracies,” *Social Problems*, November 2011. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1525/sp.2011.58.4.518>. (accessed June 14, 2014).



harmful, and promote mobilization of opposition against this practice.<sup>139</sup> As stated in A/RES/67/146, the “empowerment of women and girls is key to breaking the cycle of discrimination and violence and for the promotion and protection of human rights, including the right to the highest attainable standard of mental and physical health, including sexual and reproductive health,” thus, the customary practice of FGM/C is considered a form of violence against women.<sup>140</sup> In depth, these are the classifications the WHO assigned to the different types of procedures in *Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation: An Interagency Statement*, published in 2008:

*Type I:* Partial or total removal of the clitoris and/or the prepuce (clitoridectomy).

*Type II:* Partial or total removal of the clitoris and the labia minora, with or without excision of the labia majora (excision).

*Type III:* Narrowing of the vaginal orifice with creation of a covering seal by cutting and positioning the labia minora and/or the labia majora, with or without excision of the clitoris (infibulations).

*Type IV:* All other harmful procedures to the female genitalia for non-medical purposes, for example: pricking, piercing, incising, and scraping and cauterization.<sup>141</sup>

In addition to the classifications provided above, there are other classifications for different forms of FGM/C across cultures that practice it and they often encompass a range of different procedures.<sup>142</sup> Generally, there are three types of operations: (1) “pharaonic” or infibulation (usually thought to be the most drastic); (2) intermediate; and (3) “Sunnah” (usually thought to be the least extreme).<sup>143</sup>

### ***Cultural Practice and the Opposition***

Historically, the first mention of male and female circumcision appears in the writings by the Greek geographer Strabo, who visited Egypt around 25 B.C.<sup>144</sup> Documentation from this period (15<sup>th</sup> Century) suggests a strong connection between the enslavement of Sudanic people by Egyptians and the adoption of FGM/C, particularly, in Egypt and Sudan.<sup>145</sup> Other documents further suggest that during the Islamic slave trade, female slaves were more lucrative if they were “infibulated in a way that made them unable to conceive.”<sup>146</sup> Alternative sources of information present a case for “female genital surgeries” to be seen as aesthetic enhancements of the body and should not be judged as “mutilations.”<sup>147</sup> Furthermore, these customary genital surgeries are not restricted to females, as in almost all societies there are parallel genital surgeries at similar ages and for the same reasons.<sup>148</sup> FGM/C is not practiced by all Muslims, and has been wrongly associated with Islam; furthermore, the main teachings of Christianity and Islam, as expressed in the Holy Bible and Holy Koran respectively, do not prescribe or enforce the practice of FGM/C.<sup>149</sup> FGM/C is currently practiced by some followers of Christianity, Islam, animists and other traditional religions; however, previous case studies point to religion and tradition to be the main justifications for the continuation of this practice.<sup>150</sup>

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<sup>139</sup> Ibid.

<sup>140</sup> A/RES/67/146. *Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations*. United Nations General Assembly. December 20, 2012.

<sup>141</sup> *Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation: An Interagency Statement UNAIDS, UNDP, UNECA, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCHR, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIFEM, WHO*. The World Health Organization. Geneva: 2008.

<sup>142</sup> Carolyn Pedwell, “Theorizing ‘African’ Female Genital Cutting and ‘Western’ Body Modifications: A Critique of the Continuum and Analogue Approaches,” *Feminist Review*, No. 86 (2007): p. 46. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/30140850> (accessed June 14, 2014).

<sup>143</sup> Ibid.

<sup>144</sup> Rossella Lorenzi, “How Did Female Genital Mutilation Begin?” *Discovery News*, December 10, 2012.

<sup>145</sup> Carolyn Pedwell, “Theorizing ‘African’ Female Genital Cutting and ‘Western’ Body Modifications: A Critique of the Continuum and Analogue Approaches,” *Feminist Review*, No. 86 (2007): p. 46. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/30140850> (accessed June 14, 2014).

<sup>146</sup> Ibid.

<sup>147</sup> The Public Policy Advisory Network on Female Genital Surgeries in Africa, “Seven Things to Know about Female Genital Surgeries in Africa,” *Hastings Center Report*, no. 6 (2012): 19-27.

<sup>148</sup> Ibid.

<sup>149</sup> Ashenafi Moges, *What is behind the tradition of FGM?* Eighth International Meropolis Conference. Vienna, September 15-19, 2003 <http://www.african-women.org/documents/behind-FGM-tradition.pdf> (accessed June 24, 2014)

<sup>150</sup> Ibid.



There is an obvious dichotomy present in the current discussion of the practice of FGM/C: a cultural relativism perspective and a human rights violation perspective.<sup>151</sup> The first one's proponents assert that "[FGM/C] is an important cultural ritual that symbolizes a rite of passage which must be preserved in order to maintain cultural identity."<sup>152</sup> Defenders of the practice usually deem FGM/C as safe and as a cultural identity-bound practice that is typically managed by women, for women and therefore should be supported.<sup>153</sup> On the other hand, human rights activists and the UN affiliated agencies argue incessantly that "the consequences of the procedure are unbearable and the practice should be banned because it amounts to an extreme form of child abuse"<sup>154</sup> They further maintain that FGM/C "is a nonconsensual torture of a woman's body as it causes permanent physical damage and sometimes death; and it is targeted in the most gender-specific way possible at the female genitalia."<sup>155</sup> The United Nations interagency statement further offers the following insight "In many societies, older women who have themselves been mutilated often become gatekeepers of the practice, seeing it as essential to the identity of women and girls. This is probably one reason why women, and more often older women, are more likely to support the practice, and tend to see efforts to combat the practice as an attack on their identity and culture."<sup>156</sup> FGM/C is a cultural practice in which "women may be wronged, in addition to being harmed, when they are subjected to the traditional custom of female genital cutting."<sup>157</sup> Given the history of actions taken by the UN, the African Union (AU), NGOs, cardinal rule of respect for cultural traditions for anthropologists, and other Member States governments, the generally accepted consensus worldwide resides in knowing that traditions such as FGM/C "must stand up to ethical scrutiny."<sup>158</sup>

The lack of sound, viable and durable solutions for this violation of human rights can be attributed in part to the inability to freely question, address, or even discuss the topic because historically, FGM/C has been a practice considered "too sensitive to discuss."<sup>159</sup> Although several instruments have been devised to counteract human rights violations, factors such as inaccuracy in the collection of data and lack of accountability, which is "a cornerstone of the human rights framework," increase the difficulty to design and implement feasible solutions.<sup>160</sup>

Additionally, Member States governments, NGOs, international organizations, and human rights activists have to account for effectively balancing the socio-cultural factors embedded in ending this practice.<sup>161</sup> Specifically, activists often work together supporting and coordinating projects ran by local people and use traditional forms of communication "such as theatre, dance, music and story-telling" to disseminate information.<sup>162</sup>

### ***Instruments of Opposition***

Besides the adoption of A/RES/67/146, there are several instruments of international scope of action which condemn FGM/C such as: the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (CRC)<sup>163</sup> and its *Optional Protocols*<sup>164</sup>; A/RES/34/180 on *Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW),<sup>165</sup> and its *Optional Protocol*

<sup>151</sup> Bhikhu Parekh, "Cultural Pluralism and the Limits of Diversity," *Alternatives* Vol. 20 (1995):431–57.

<sup>152</sup> Kola O Odeku. *Curbing the Surge of Female Genital Mutilation*. Bangladesh e-Journal of Sociology. January 2014.

<sup>153</sup> Ayo Kehinde, "Empathy and Rage: Female Genital Mutilation in African Literature by Tobe Levin; Augustine H. Asaah," *African Studies Review*, Vol. 53, No. 2 (September 2010): p. 206-207.

<sup>154</sup> Ibid.

<sup>155</sup> Ibid.

<sup>156</sup> *Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation: An Interagency Statement UNAIDS, UNDP, UNECA, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCHR, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIFEM, WHO*. The World Health Organization. Geneva: 2008.

<sup>157</sup> Ruth Macklin, "Aesthetic Enhancement? Or Human Rights Violation?" *Hastings Center Report* 42, no. 6 (2012) 28-29.

<sup>158</sup> Ibid.

<sup>159</sup> Malika Ladjali, Tracey W. Rattray and Rupert J. W. Walder, "Female Genital Mutilation: Both The Problem And The Solutions Rest With Women," *British Medical Journal*, Vol. 307, No. 6902 (August 21, 1993): p. 460.  
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/29720767> (accessed June 14, 2014).

<sup>160</sup> *WHO WILL BE ACCOUNTABLE? Human Rights and the Post-2015 Development Agenda*. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. 2013.

<sup>161</sup> Malika Ladjali, Tracey W. Rattray and Rupert J. W. Walder, "Female Genital Mutilation: Both The Problem And The Solutions Rest With Women," *British Medical Journal*, Vol. 307, No. 6902 (August 21, 1993): p. 460.  
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/29720767> (accessed June 14, 2014).

<sup>162</sup> Ibid.

<sup>163</sup> A/RES/44/25. *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. United Nations General Assembly. November 20, 1989.

<sup>164</sup> A/RES/44/49. *Children's Rights Convention*. United Nations General Assembly. September 2, 1990.

<sup>165</sup> A/RES/34/180. *Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women*. December 18, 1979.



(A/RES/54/4), as well as A/RES/144 on *Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women*.<sup>166</sup> In addition, other UN bodies have been established, issued resolutions, and held conferences in order to close the gaps in terms of protection of women and children rights.<sup>167</sup> In particular, the establishment of the Human Rights Council in 2006, the Security Council Resolutions “On Women Peace and Security;” and, Resolution 1996/6 or *Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women* adopted by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and issued on 22 July 1996.<sup>168</sup>

Several UN affiliated organizations and bodies are committed to preserving and promoting the rights of women and making progress toward promoting gender equality and empowering women.<sup>169</sup> In particular, recommendations include to “[i]ntegrate a rights-based approach, including specifically with respect to reproductive and sexual health, into the work of United Nations [...]”<sup>170</sup> Others include the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE), and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s UNITE to End Violence against Women Campaign as part of this collective progress. The adoption of the resolution on intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations, “[...] represented the culmination of discussions begun some time ago by African Member States, aiming to eliminate female genital mutilation on a global level.”<sup>171</sup> Thus, it is in this regard that the international community and governments should strive to further hasten the end of this practice.

### ***Addressing Medical Harm***

The harmful effects of FGM/C have prompted women’s groups in several Member States to organize awareness campaigns that can be traced back to the 1960s and 1970s.<sup>172</sup> Doctors state that “observed patients suffering from complications of FGM began to document the procedure and to write about its clinical complications in medical journals,” particularly in Nigeria, Somalia and Sudan.<sup>173</sup> Although there are current groups in support of medicalization of the procedure, rejections of medicalization surged as early as 1979.<sup>174</sup> One of the main organizations contributing to addressing the medical harm is WHO, which sponsored the first Seminar on Harmful Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children in Khartoum (Sudan).<sup>175</sup> The conclusion reached by medical professionals and participants was that FGM/C should not be performed at all, not even under “favorable hygienic conditions.”<sup>176</sup> Medical harm associated with FGM/C varies from individual to individual just as much as attitudes towards the subject do.<sup>177</sup> Immediate complications incorporate pain, shock, sepsis, inability to urinate, and can result in death.<sup>178</sup> Urinary and tissue complications include abscesses, cysts, and infections such as tetanus, gangrene as well as blood-borne viruses such as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis B and hepatitis C.<sup>179</sup> In addition, FGM/C can have negative consequences in terms of gynecological, obstetric, and sexual complications resulting in depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).<sup>180</sup>

### ***Conclusion***

Due to the importance of recognizing race, nation, and cultural differences when devising instruments to assist in the protection of human rights, the international community, governments, as well as other constituencies should strive to put FGM/C under further international scrutiny. Although the ability of populations to maintain, pass on, and cherish

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<sup>166</sup> Ibid.

<sup>167</sup> *Applications of Human Rights to Reproductive and Sexual Health*. United Nations Population Fund. Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights. 2001.

<sup>168</sup> 1996/6. *Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women*. United Nations Economic and Social Council. July 22, 1996.

<sup>169</sup> *Applications of Human Rights to Reproductive and Sexual Health*. United Nations Population Fund. Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights. 2001.

<sup>170</sup> Ibid.

<sup>171</sup> A/C.3/67/L.21/Rev.1. *Draft resolution on intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations*. United Nations General Assembly. 2012.

<sup>172</sup> *Female Genital Mutilation A Matter of Human Rights: An Advocate’s Guide to Action*. Center for Reproductive Rights. (New York, 2006).

<sup>173</sup> Ibid.

<sup>174</sup> Ibid.

<sup>175</sup> Ibid.

<sup>176</sup> Ibid.

<sup>177</sup> Louise Terry, Kate Harris, *Female Genital Mutilation: a Literature Review*. Nursing Standard. 28, 1. London: 2013 (41-47).

<sup>178</sup> Ibid.

<sup>179</sup> Ibid.

<sup>180</sup> Ibid.



culture is a right in itself, these rights must stand against tests of ethical scrutiny. Given that FGM/C predates both Islam and Christianity, any connections or religious justifications of the practice are usually deemed erroneous, although these associations are very common.<sup>181</sup> The point is to question and dismantle the ethnocentrism of these practices while increasing cross-cultural and transnational dialogue.<sup>182</sup> Utilizing international instruments of law and other resources could further restrict the medicalization of this procedure and step towards total eradication. An example of this is to have FGM/C characterized as a form of gruesome torture in order to place it within the ambit of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment 1984 (CAT) and its enforcement mechanisms.<sup>183</sup> Specifically, this would enable the Committee against Torture under CAT to prosecute and punish perpetrators of the practice and the institutions that have developed around it.<sup>184</sup> Some activist campaigning against FGM/C attest that education is the best way to stop the practice, although the practice is known to affect women from all socio-economic and education levels.<sup>185</sup>

### *Committee Directive*

Given all of the information presented above, delegates should discuss the current state of FGM/C at a domestic and the international level while carefully balancing the sociocultural aspects associated with the practice. Delegates should also discuss and assess the current actions taken by the UN, NGOs, and further human rights activists groups in order to create solutions that can speed up the process towards the eradication of FGM/C. It is important that delegates keep in mind that these solutions must be brought to resonate from within the local communities, given that it is the same communities that maintain and support these traditions. Therefore, an analysis of current measurement instruments that have been developed must correctly gauge the current trends in cultural attitudes. In addition to quantitative methods of research, delegates should look into how to incorporate qualitative methods of research, which can give depth to an existing quantitative assessment in terms of providing accounts of beliefs, traditions, and worldviews, which are ultimately the main drivers of the practice. Other important aspects to look into include areas of concordance between the protection of human rights; specifically, under Children's rights and women rights in order to devise strategies that serve all constituents in a holistic manner. Lastly, delegates ought to keep in mind that when discussing such a particular and complex subject, cultural sensitivity and mindfulness must be a top priority when addressing other delegates, and in order to avoid falling into the traps of stereotyping, which would prove devastating when trying to create solutions to this problem.

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<sup>181</sup> Ashenafi Moges, *What is behind the tradition of FGM?* Eighth International Meropolis Conference. Vienna, September 15-19, 2003 <http://www.african-women.org/documents/behind-FGM-tradition.pdf> (accessed June 27, 2014).

<sup>182</sup> Carolyn Pedwell, *Theorizing 'African' Female Genital Cutting and 'Western' Body Modifications: A Critique of the Continuum and Analogue Approaches*, *Feminist Review*, No 86 (2007) <http://www.jstor.org/stable/30140850> (accessed June 14, 2014).

<sup>183</sup> Kola O Odeku. *Curbing the Surge of Female Genital Mutilation*. Bangladesh e-Journal of Sociology. January 2014.

<sup>184</sup> Ibid.

<sup>185</sup> "Education Needed to Eradicate Female Genital Mutilation," *Reproductive Health Matters*, Vol. 14, No. 27, Human Resources for Sexual and Reproductive Health Care (May, 2006), p. 210. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3775886> (accessed June 14, 2014).



## Technical Appendix Guide

### Topic I: The Right to Seek Asylum

"Sri Lanka." *UNHCR News*. UNHCR Global Appeal 2014-2105, July 22, 2014. <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49e4878e6.html>. (accessed July 21, 2014).

This article focuses on the overall issues of Seeking Asylum found within some regions of South Asia. The UNHCR also demonstrates its efforts in protecting those who seek asylum due to any reason. Challenges and Financial are also discussed, as these represent some of the top weighing factors of many Member States when deciding if they should consider harboring citizens of foreign nations who seek asylum.

"Syria." *Syrian Refugees*. July 22, 2014. [http://syrianrefugees.eu/?page\\_id=513](http://syrianrefugees.eu/?page_id=513) (accessed July 21, 2014).

This source allows us to explore the refugee situation in Syria and the impact it is having on its neighboring Member States. It further allows the reader to gather information on the amount of aid given to Syria, and the European Union response to the crisis in the Middle East. Also, the source provides us with a statistical data that indicate the asylum rate in Syria from 2010 to 2014.

"Syrian Couple Sentenced for Fleeing Malta Illegally | News | DW.DE | 11.07.2014." *DW.DE*. Deutsche Welle, July 11, 2014. <http://www.dw.de/syrian-couple-sentenced-for-fleeing-malta-illegally/a-17780212> (accessed July 21, 2014).

This article discusses the European Union Law about refugees and asylum. Refugees are only allowed to seek asylum into the first Member State that they first arrive in, trying to flee into another Member State could result into imprisonment. Additionally, this article also covers the impact Sweden and Germany are faced with, seeing that 56% of the Syrian refugee are seeking asylum in those two Member States.

"UNHCR Calls for End to Detention of Asylum-seekers and Refugees." *UNHCR News*. The UN Refugee Agency, 3 July 2014. <http://www.unhcr.org/53b550239.html> (accessed July 21, 2014).

This article talks about the effect that detention centers have on refugees and asylum-seekers, more specifically children. The article urges Member States to do away with said facilities and provide refuge to stateless people. UNHCR also talks about a global strategy (Beyond Detention) aimed to assist Member States in eliminating the detention centers and allowing the refugees to be incorporated into society.

"UN Refugee Agency Warns Sudan over Forced Return of Eritrean Asylum Seekers." *United Nations News Centre*. July 4, 2014. <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48206#.U85uBNxhPwI> (accessed July 21, 2014).

This article talks about Sudan sending back dozens of Eritrean refugees and other asylum seekers to return to their home Member States per UNHCR. The article further discusses Sudan's violation of the 1951 Refugee Convention and the Sudanese Asylum Act 2014. Furthermore, the article sheds light on UNHCR's growing concern that many refugees around the world are being mistreated and being sent back to their home Member States, without proper protocol.

"Asylum Levels and Trends in Industrialized Countries, 2013." *UNHCR News*. UNHCR, March 26, 2014.

This report provides us with the asylum levels and trends in industrialized Member States in 2013. The report further discusses the data collected within 38 European and six non-European industrialized Member States in regards to national laws and procedures for asylum. Also, UNHCR reports the refugee status of people as determined by its mandate and further analyzes the global and regional trends.

"Full Report - Beyond Proof. Credibility Assessment in EU Asylum Systems." *UNHCR News*. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, July 22, 2014.

This report examines the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) and how it's used across Europe. The purpose of the CEAS is to ensure that each applicant has a fair review of his or her asylum application and that decision rendered do not differ from each other if similar cases are presented in different applications. With this report, UNHCR hopes that it will be able to streamline asylum practices amongst various Member States.

Lee, Jane, Sarah Whyte, and Michael Gordon. "Asylum Seeker Resettlement Deals 'not Just about Safety': UNHCR." *The Sydney Morning Herald*. April 24, 2014.

This article discusses what responsibility Member States have to asylum seekers. Often Member State ensures the Safety of the asylee, but they do not offer them education or labor rights. This specific article focuses on the case of the Abbott government who prepares to do a deal with the crisis in Cambodia. Additionally, the issue of Refugee



Convention comes into the discussion and if it needs to be updated and what responsibility do the Member States have, who are signatories to the convention.

## **Topic II: Global Efforts toward the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation**

A/68/184. *Measures taken and progress achieved in the promotion of women and political participation*. Report of the Secretary General. July 24, 2013

The present report, submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/130, provides precise data on the political participation of women at all levels and describes measures taken by Member States to ensure women's equal participation. It concludes with recommendations for further action to accelerate the achievement of equality between women and men in political participation at all levels.

A/HRC/DEC/24/117. *High-level panel on the identification of good practices in combating female genital mutilation*. Human Rights Council. United Nations General Assembly. October 4, 2013

"Calls upon the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to organize a high-level panel discussion on the identification of good practices in combating female genital mutilation and to consult with States, institutions, the treaty bodies, special procedures mandate holders, the relevant regional human rights mechanisms, parliamentarians, civil society, including nongovernmental organizations, and national human rights institutions with a view to ensuring their participation in the panel discussion"

E/CN.6/2012/8. *Ending female genital mutilation*: Report of the Secretary-General. December 5, 2011.

Pursuant to resolution 54/7 of the Commission on the Status of Women, the present report provides information on measures taken by Member States and activities carried out within the United Nations system to address female genital mutilation. The report concludes with recommendations for future action.

P. Stanley Yoder, Shanxiao Wang, and Elise Johansen. "Estimates of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting in 27 African Countries and Yemen" *Studies in Family Planning*. Vol. 44 (2013): p. 189-204

This article discusses the female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C), which has been documented in many Member States across Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. The data presented to us in the article does raise question about its credibility and what major challenge girls/women are face with from FGM/C. Furthermore, the study estimates that women aged 15 years or older have undergone FGM/C in 27 African Member States.

Amel Fahmy, Mawaheb T El-Mouelhy and Ahmed R Ragab. "Female genital mutilation/cutting and issues of sexuality in Egypt" *Reproductive Health Matters*, Vol. 18, No. 36, (November 2010), p. 181-190

This articles covers the existence of female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C), often refered to as female circumcision and community level as tahara (cleanliness), is still ongoing in Egypt. This study was conducted from 2008-2009 in two separate rural communities; one in Upper Egypt and second in the slum area of Cairo. The data was collected both between men and women via focus groups and individual interviews.

E. Turillazzi and V. Fineschi, "Female Genital Mutilation: The Ethical Impact of the New Italian Law," *Journal of Medical Ethics*, Vol. 33, No. 2 (February 2007): p. 98-101

This article covers the spread of female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) despite the global and local efforts to combat FGM/C. The spread is attributed to growing numbers in immigration and there non-traditional methods of performing FGM/C. Due to their non-traditional ways, health risk have significantly increased in Member States who are often not accustomed to FGM/C as part of their societal norms. Furthermore, the article covers laws and regulation that Member States are putting in place to eradicate FGM/C.

"New UN Data Shows Need for Urgent Action to End Female Genital Mutilation, Child Marriage." *UN News Center*. United Nations, June 22, 2014.

This article covers the relationship between female genital mutilation cutting (FGM/C) and child marriage, as reported by UNICEF. It is widely believe that the two have a direct correlation with each other in local communities who still practice FGM/C. The article also talks about needing a global answer to both of these issues, but encourages Member States to start addressing them on a local level first.

"Escaping the Scourge of Female Genital Mutilation in Tanzania | UN Women - Headquarters." *A Maasai Girls' School Provides Scholarships for Those at Risk*. United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, November 28, 2012.



<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2012/11/escaping-the-scurge-of-female-genital-mutilation-in-tanzania-a-maasai-girls-school-provides-schol/> . (accessed July 21, 2014).

This article discusses a personal experience of a Tanzanian woman and her running away from her family to avoid female genital mutilation cutting (FGM/C). The article states that per the World Health Organization, about 140 million women and girls are living with the consequences of circumcision and mainly in Africa. At the age of 9, in the Maasai culture, it is expected that girls go through (FGM/C). This article talks about refuge that young Maasai girls are getting in a Lutheran Church Secondary School in Monduli.