



SRMUN ATLANTA 2022

November 17 - 19, 2022

hrc_atlanta@srmun.org

Greetings Delegates,

Welcome to SRMUN Atlanta 2022 and the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council (HRC). My name is Ashley Drop, and I am thrilled to serve as your Director this year. I have been a director before with SRMUN Charlotte and I enjoyed my time so much I decided to come back for SRMUN Atlanta! This will be my fifth experience as a committee Director as I have staffed other Model UN conferences before. After graduating in 2022 with a double major in Economics and Political Science with a minor in Communication, I work as an Application Program Analyst for a consulting company. Serving alongside me as your Assistant Director is Liam Sample. Liam is a sophomore studying Broadcast Journalism with a minor in Journalism. This is Liam's first time on SRMUN staff after having such a positive experience with his Model UN team.

The HRC's main goal is to protect and promote human rights in the international community. The Council examines human rights violations and its Member States come together to make recommendations. The Council is composed of 47 UN Member States chosen by the General Assembly and meets throughout the year at its headquarters in Geneva. By focusing on the mission of the HRC, we have developed the following topics for delegates to discuss at the conference:

- I. Creating Equity for Persons with Disabilities
- II. Addressing Human Rights Violations in Myanmar

This background guide provides an introduction to the committee and the topics that will be debated at SRMUN Atlanta 2022. It should be utilized as a foundation for a delegate's independent research. However, while we have attempted to provide a holistic analysis of the issues, the background guide should not be used as the single mode of analysis for the topics. Delegates are expected to go beyond the background guide and engage in intellectual inquiry of their own. The position papers for the committee should reflect the complexity of these issues and their externalities. Delegations are expected to submit a position paper and be prepared for a vigorous discussion at the conference. Position papers 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 detailed information about formatting and how to write position papers, delegates can visit srmun.org. **All position papers MUST be submitted no later than Friday, October 28th, 2022, by 11:59pm EST via the SRMUN website to be eligible for Outstanding Position Paper Awards.**

Liam and I are delighted to be serving as your dais for the HRC and wish you the best of luck in your preparations. As you begin your research for this committee, Liam and I leave you with this: enjoy this time. The opportunity to be a delegate is an incredible one. Use this experience to grow and push yourself out of your comfort zone. Please feel free to contact Deputy Director-General Emily Bowen, Liam, or myself if you have any questions.

Ashley Drop
Director
hrc_atlanta@srmun.org

Liam Sample
Assistant Director
hrc_atlanta@srmun.org

Emily Bowen
Deputy Director-General
ddg_atlanta@srmun.org

History of the Human Rights Council

Founded in 2006, the Human Rights Council (HRC) became the main intergovernmental body that focused on human rights in the United Nations (UN).¹ The HRC's responsibilities include "promoting universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all," as well as mitigating any systemic human rights violations.² In former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's 2005 report, "In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security, and Human Rights for All," human rights are presented as one of three pillars of the UN.³ Efforts toward maintaining credibility include reassessing the functionality and efficacy of the Council every five years, as per United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution 60/251.⁴

From 1946 to 2006, the UN created a "central policy organ" within the field of human rights that was a subsidiary under the UN Economics and Social Council (ECOSOC) called the UN Commission on Human Rights.⁵ In its first 20 years, the Commission exclusively partnered with other UN bodies to address human rights issues.⁶ In 1967, the Commission was granted explicit authority to act on violations of human rights, such as investigating issues surrounding human rights, evaluating any violation to international human rights law, and monitoring compliance with international human rights law.⁷ However, at the beginning of the 21st century, the UN Commission on Human Rights drew international criticism for allowing membership to Member States with histories of human rights violations.⁸ As a result, in 2006, the Commission dissolved, leading to the creation of the HRC.⁹

As the precursor to the HRC, the UN Commission on Human Rights is responsible for drafting key resolutions regarding human rights, most notably the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).¹⁰ The goal of the UDHR was to acknowledge the fundamental rights of every human and the need to protect these rights.¹¹ Since its 1948 ratification by the UNGA, the UDHR has been translated into 500 languages and has paved the way to over 70 permanent human rights treaties.¹² The Commission also created other human rights documents and specific types of human rights, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.¹³ The two optional protocols work to abolish the death penalty and allow for citizens to petition the Commission to address human rights violations.¹⁴

The HRC has a total of 47 members and are divided by geographical region: 13 from Asia; 13 from Africa; eight from Latin America and the Caribbean; seven from Western Europe and other Member States; and six from Eastern Europe.¹⁵ The membership election process takes place in the UNGA.¹⁶ Member States are required to be nominated by other Member States within their geographical region.¹⁷ The UNGA considers the potential Member State's action in upholding human rights and analyzes potential Member States' pledges and commitments to human

¹ "Welcome to the Human Rights Council," OHCHR, 2022, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/about-council>, (accessed February 24, 2022).

² "Welcome to the Human Rights Council." OHCHR.

³ "A Rough Guide to the Human Rights Council," Universal Rights Group, March 20, 2020, <https://www.universal-rights.org/human-rights-rough-guides/a-rough-guide-to-the-ohchr/>, (accessed August 17, 2022).

⁴ "Welcome to the Human Rights Council," OHCHR.

⁵ "The UN Commission on Human Rights (1946–2006) and the UN Human Rights Council," Encyclopedia Britannica, updated March 20, 2014, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/human-rights>, (accessed March 19, 2022).

⁶ "The UN Commission on Human Rights (1946–2006) and the UN Human Rights Council," Encyclopedia Britannica.

⁷ "The UN Commission on Human Rights (1946–2006) and the UN Human Rights Council," Encyclopedia Britannica.

⁸ "A Rough Guide to the OHCHR," Universal Rights Group.

⁹ "A Rough Guide to the OHCHR," Universal Rights Group.

¹⁰ "The UN Commission on Human Rights (1946–2006) and the UN Human Rights Council," Encyclopedia Britannica.

¹¹ United Nations General Assembly resolution 217 A, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, A/RES/217 (III) (December 10, 1948), <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>.

¹² United Nations General Assembly resolution 217 A, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.

¹³ "The UN Commission on Human Rights (1946–2006) and the UN Human Rights Council," Encyclopedia Britannica.

¹⁴ "The UN Commission on Human Rights (1946–2006) and the UN Human Rights Council," Encyclopedia Britannica.

¹⁵ "The United Nations Human Rights Council: Background and Policy Issues," Congressional Research Service, January 26, 2022. <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/row/RL33608.pdf>, (accessed August 17, 2022).

¹⁶ "Membership of the Human Rights Council," OHCHR, 2022, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/membership>, (accessed February 26, 2022).

¹⁷ "The United Nations Human Rights Council: Background and Policy Issues," Congressional Research Service.

rights.¹⁸ The duration for HRC membership terms is three years and members cannot be re-elected after two consecutive terms.¹⁹ Council members can be removed if they are found responsible for violations of human rights by a two-third majority vote required from other members.²⁰ As of January 2020, 117 Member States have served on the HRC.²¹

The HRC is aided by United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), which sets global human rights standard, monitors human rights issues, and supports human rights efforts on the ground.²² To assess Member State compliance with the OHCHR's standards, the HRC conducts regular sessions, special sessions, and Universal Periodic Reviews (UPRs).²³ In a regular session, the HRC receives a briefing from the OHCHR on current human rights issues, an examination of released UN reports on the protection and promotion of human rights, and discussions of thematic and country-specific violations of human rights within the international community.²⁴ Regular sessions of the HRC occur three times a year.²⁵ In addition to regular sessions, the HRC can also call special sessions.²⁶ Special sessions are invoked by one-third of the Council Members to address urgent human rights situations or emergencies, most commonly used to focus on a single Member State.²⁷ Five special sessions were called in 2021, for emergencies such as serious human rights concerns following the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan.²⁸ The UPRs are individual reviews of the human rights condition in all UN Member States.²⁹ Each UPR is prepared and submitted by the Member State under the auspices of the HRC.³⁰ This process is unique to the HRC, allowing each Member States to declare actions taken to fulfil their human rights obligations.³¹ Amendments to the UPR reports are updated in regular sessions.³² The Council can also take complaints about human rights violations for debate, aiming to produce a resolution that represents the position and mitigation efforts of the HRC.³³ The HRC has conducted investigative work into gross human rights violations across the globe since its creation.³⁴

Due to the limits of UN power, the Council has been limited in taking subsequent action. However, the HRC's UPR reports and resolutions have been crucial in discovering discrepancies in human rights within the international community.³⁵ While new in comparison to other UN committees, the HRC has made substantial progress in the means of international human rights.³⁶ Recently, the HRC has taken action and found progress in state-specific work.³⁷ During the 44th Session in 2020, the HRC launched investigations and reports involving human rights violations in Hong Kong, West Bank, and Syria, leading to many Member States and nongovernmental organizations to call for additional Special Sessions and monitoring mechanisms to hold violating Member States accountable.³⁸

¹⁸ "Membership of the Human Rights Council," OHCHR, 2022, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/membership>, (accessed February 26, 2022).

¹⁹ "Membership of the Human Rights Council," OHCHR.

²⁰ "Membership of the Human Rights Council," OHCHR.

²¹ "Membership of the Human Rights Council," OHCHR.

²² "A Rough Guide to the Human Rights Council," Universal Rights Group, March 20, 2020, <https://www.universal-rights.org/human-rights-rough-guides/a-rough-guide-to-the-ohchr/> (accessed August 17, 2022).

²³ "A Rough Guide to the Human Rights Council," Universal Rights Group.

²⁴ "A Rough Guide to the Human Rights Council," Universal Rights Group.

²⁵ "A Rough Guide to the Human Rights Council," Universal Rights Group.

²⁶ "A Rough Guide to the Human Rights Council," Universal Rights Group.

²⁷ "A Rough Guide to the Human Rights Council," Universal Rights Group.

²⁸ "Special Sessions," OHCHR, 2022, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/special-sessions>, (accessed August 17, 2022).

²⁹ "Welcome to the Human Rights Council," OHCHR, 2022, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/hrc/pages/aboutcouncil.aspx>, (accessed August 17, 2022).

³⁰ "Universal Periodic Review," OHCHR, 2022, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/upr-main> (accessed August 17, 2022).

³¹ "Universal Periodic Review," OHCHR.

³² "A Rough Guide to the Human Rights Council," Universal Rights Group.

³³ "A Rough Guide to the Human Rights Council," Universal Rights Group.

³⁴ "Assessing the United Nations Human Rights Council." Brookings, May 25, 2017.

<https://www.brookings.edu/testimonies/assessing-the-united-nations-human-rights-council/>, (accessed August 17, 2022).

³⁵ "Assessing the United Nations Human Rights Council," Brookings.

³⁶ "Assessing the United Nations Human Rights Council," Brookings.

³⁷ "Assessing the United Nations Human Rights Council,"

³⁸ "UN Human Rights Council: achievements and omissions of the 44th session," International Commissions of Jurists, July 17, 2020. <https://www.icj.org/hrc44-endstatement/>, (accessed August 17, 2022).

I. Creating Equity for Persons with Disabilities

“When we remove policies or biases or obstacles to opportunity for persons with disabilities, the whole world benefits.”

- UN Secretary-General António Guterres³⁹

Introduction

The United Nations (UN) has defined a person(s) with disabilities (PWD) as “those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.”⁴⁰ More than one billion people live with a disability, around 15 percent of people over the age of 15 years.⁴¹ The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), a living document that continues to permeate international law, functions as a global roadmap to guide Member States in their efforts towards freedom and equality.⁴² The UDHR protects the rights to “adequate food, water, sanitation, clothing, housing and medical care, as well as social protection covering situations beyond one’s control, such as disability, widowhood, unemployment and old age.”⁴³

Disability is a human rights issue.⁴⁴ PWD often have their rights violated through acts of prejudice and abuse due to their disability.⁴⁵ These violations can intersect with other forms of discrimination, such as gender, age, sexuality, and more.⁴⁶ The UDHR grants global citizens equality but not necessarily equity.⁴⁷ Equality means everyone receives the same resources and opportunities regardless of their circumstances.⁴⁸ Equity is the “absence of unfair, avoidable or remediable differences among groups of people” based on social, economic, demographic, geographic groups.⁴⁹ Essentially, equity provides resources and opportunities based on individuals’ differing circumstances.⁵⁰ Some social justice organizations argue that prioritizing equality over equity actually creates more inequity, because giving everyone every resource is not as effective as giving everyone the individualized resources they need to truly be equal.⁵¹

The Human Rights Council (HRC), and many other UN committees, have contributed to the great progress made by the worldwide disability rights movement through advocacy and inclusion efforts.⁵² Individual activists and local

³⁹ “New Disability Inclusion Strategy Is ‘Transformative Change We Need’, Says Guterres | UN News.” United Nations. United Nations, June 11, 2019. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/06/1040231>, (accessed May 21, 2022).

⁴⁰ “Convention of Rights for Persons with Disabilities,” opened for signature March 30, 2007, *Treaty Series* 2515 no. 3, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/article-1-purpose.html>.

⁴¹ World Health Organization. “Disability and Health.” World Health Organization, November 24, 2021. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/disability-and-health>, (accessed May 21, 2022).

⁴² “Universal Declaration of Human Rights.” Amnesty International, March 31, 2022. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/universal-declaration-of-human-rights/>, (accessed May 21, 2022).

⁴³ United Nations General Assembly resolution 217 A, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, A/RES/217 (III) (December 10, 1948), <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>.

⁴⁴ World Health Organization. “Disability and Health.”

⁴⁵ World Health Organization. “Disability and Health.”

⁴⁶ World Health Organization. “Disability and Health.”

⁴⁷ “Universal Declaration of Human Rights.” Amnesty International, March 31, 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/universal-declaration-of-human-rights/>, (accessed June 25, 2022).

⁴⁸ World Health Organization. “Health Equity -- Global.” World Health Organization, 2022, https://www.who.int/health-topics/health-equity#tab=tab_1, (accessed June 25, 2022).

⁴⁹ World Health Organization. “Health Equity -- Global.”

⁵⁰ “Equity vs. Equality: What’s The Difference - Examples & Definitions.” United Way NCA, June 22, 2021, <https://unitedwaynca.org/blog/equity-vs-equality/>, (accessed May 21, 2022).

⁵¹ “Equity vs. Equality: What’s The Difference - Examples & Definitions.” United Way NCA.

⁵² United Nations Human Rights Council resolution 7/9, *Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, A/HRC/RES/7/9, (March 27, 2008), <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/human-rights-council-resolution-79-human-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html>.

movements have continued the movement in their respective Member States.⁵³ There is, however, still a great deal of work to be done.

History

“Nothing about us without us” is a prominent slogan of the global disability rights movement, first coined by South African disability activists Michael Masutha and William Rowland.⁵⁴ The slogan emphasizes the PWD demand to be included in the creation of legislation and policies that directly affect them.⁵⁵ While some Member States have experienced individual disability rights movements dating back to the 1800s, the global movement is fairly new, having only gained substantive traction in the 1950s.⁵⁶ The 1800s is the beginning of the documented history of bias against PWD.⁵⁷ The community was seen as pitiful, tragic objects, unable to contribute to society.⁵⁸ Being viewed as abnormal, many PWD underwent forced sterilization and often were sent to asylums against their will.⁵⁹ This practice was seen as a “purification” of society and widely continued until after both World Wars when veterans came back with disabilities.⁶⁰ It was not until the creation of the UN that PWD saw any meaningful change in the way society viewed them.⁶¹

The creation of the UN was a catalyst for global discussion on the definition of human rights and which rights were explicitly included in that definition.⁶² In 1948, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the UDHR, a document that promotes the right to “life, liberty, and security” for all.⁶³ While the inclusion of PWD brought great progress and set a global principle of equality for all, the declaration approached PWD using a medical model of disability.⁶⁴ The medical model views disability as a defect and considers the only solution to be medical intervention to eliminate abnormal conditions.⁶⁵ The next few decades were spent by other UN bodies reaffirming the UDHR and its use of the medical model.⁶⁶ In 1971, the UNGA adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons, which was a significant step in recognizing the importance of education as a right for PWD.⁶⁷ However, this declaration still utilized the medical model.⁶⁸ The year 1975 brought monumental change for PWD as the Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons (DRDP) was adopted by the UNGA.⁶⁹ The DRDP was the first UN declaration that utilized the social model of disability.⁷⁰ The social model separates impairments (“the

⁵³ Bell, Beverly. “The Global Disability Rights Movement: Winning Power, Participation, and Access.” HuffPost. HuffPost, October 5, 2014, https://www.huffpost.com/entry/the-global-disability-rig_b_5651235, (accessed June 25, 2022).

⁵⁴ Bell, Beverly. “The Global Disability Rights Movement: Winning Power, Participation, and Access.” HuffPost.

⁵⁵ Bell, Beverly. “The Global Disability Rights Movement: Winning Power, Participation, and Access.” HuffPost.

⁵⁶ Bell, Beverly. “The Global Disability Rights Movement: Winning Power, Participation, and Access.” HuffPost.

⁵⁷ ADL Education. “A Brief History of the Disability Rights Movement.” ADL Education, June 19, 2015.

<https://www.adl.org/education/resources/backgrounders/disability-rights-movement>, (accessed July 29, 2022).

⁵⁸ ADL Education. “A Brief History of the Disability Rights Movement.”

⁵⁹ ADL Education. “A Brief History of the Disability Rights Movement.”

⁶⁰ ADL Education. “A Brief History of the Disability Rights Movement.”

⁶¹ ADL Education. “A Brief History of the Disability Rights Movement.”

⁶² “The United Nations and Disability: 70 Years of the Work Towards a More Inclusive World.” Division for Social Policy and Development. United Nations, 2018, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/>, (accessed July 29, 2022).

⁶³ “The United Nations and Disability: 70 Years of the Work Towards a More Inclusive World.” Division for Social Policy and Development.

⁶⁴ “The United Nations and Disability: 70 Years of the Work Towards a More Inclusive World.” Division for Social Policy and Development.

⁶⁵ “Office of Developmental Primary Care.” Medical and Social Models of Disability | Office of Developmental Primary Care. University of California San Francisco, 2018, <https://odpc.ucsf.edu/clinical/patient-centered-care/medical-and-social-models-of-disability>, (accessed July 29, 2022).

⁶⁶ “The United Nations and Disability: 70 Years of the Work Towards a More Inclusive World.” Division for Social Policy and Development.

⁶⁷ “The United Nations and Disability: 70 Years of the Work Towards a More Inclusive World.” Division for Social Policy and Development.

⁶⁸ “The United Nations and Disability: 70 Years of the Work Towards a More Inclusive World.” Division for Social Policy and Development.

⁶⁹ “The United Nations and Disability: 70 Years of the Work Towards a More Inclusive World.” Division for Social Policy and Development.

⁷⁰ “The United Nations and Disability: 70 Years of the Work Towards a More Inclusive World.” Division for Social Policy and Development.

effects of any given condition”) and disability (“restrictions imposed by society”).⁷¹ This model’s solution is not focused on “fixing” the individual, but rather altering societal barriers to be more inclusive of diverse needs.⁷² Since the DRPD, the UN has mainly utilized the social model of disability.⁷³

The year 2006 brought one of the largest global triumphs for PWD with the creation of the Convention of Rights for Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).⁷⁴ The CRPD designated one-third of its seats for PWD to ensure their voices were included; this way, decisions were not being made on their behalf but with them making decisions for themselves.⁷⁵ The disability community has been able to utilize the CRPD as an international human rights and development instrument to gain access to rights as well as a tool to continue to demand inclusion.⁷⁶ The success of the CRPD led to the creation of the International Disability Alliance (IDA), a hub that connects various disability rights-oriented organizations.⁷⁷ The IDA has the ability to negotiate with any UN committee to advocate for PWD within any resolution.⁷⁸ Another tool available to the disability rights movement is the #WeThe15 campaign by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.⁷⁹ #WeThe15 celebrates the 1.2 billion people (or 15 percent) globally with disabilities and their work toward changing the narrative on disability rights.⁸⁰ Working together with human rights-based UN bodies and non-profits, the campaign works to spread the word about the inequities PWD face daily as well as create inclusion opportunities for PWD, one being their efforts to expand the Paralympics games to several cities across the world.⁸¹

Current Situation

Rates of disability are significantly higher among populations with lower education attainment.⁸² In fact, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) claims 19 percent of people in populations with lower education attainment have a disability, whereas only 11 percent of populations with higher education attainment have a disability.⁸³ Globally, regardless of educational attainment, many students with disabilities are separated from their classmates due to their disability.⁸⁴ This segregation is a form of discrimination as it is used.⁸⁵ PWD are often stigmatized as individuals who cannot be educated, resulting in a lower-quality education and less opportunity for social development.⁸⁶ Inclusive education includes adaptive learning techniques to fit a diverse set of individuals in a classroom.⁸⁷ The CRPD has partnered with the HRC to push solutions to education inequity that include embracing diversity in the classroom and using it as an educational opportunity.⁸⁸

⁷¹ “Office of Developmental Primary Care.” Medical and Social Models of Disability | Office of Developmental Primary Care. University of California San Francisco.

⁷² “The United Nations and Disability: 70 Years of the Work Towards a More Inclusive World.” Division for Social Policy and Development. Division for Social Policy and Development. United Nations, 2018, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/>, (accessed July 29, 2022).

⁷³ “The United Nations and Disability: 70 Years of the Work Towards a More Inclusive World.”

⁷⁴ Bell, Beverly. “The Global Disability Rights Movement: Winning Power, Participation, and Access.” HuffPost. HuffPost, October 5, 2014, https://www.huffpost.com/entry/the-global-disability-rig_b_5651235, (accessed June 25, 2022).

⁷⁵ Bell, Beverly. “The Global Disability Rights Movement: Winning Power, Participation, and Access.”

⁷⁶ Bell, Beverly. “The Global Disability Rights Movement: Winning Power, Participation, and Access.”

⁷⁷ Bell, Beverly. “The Global Disability Rights Movement: Winning Power, Participation, and Access.”

⁷⁸ Bell, Beverly. “The Global Disability Rights Movement: Winning Power, Participation, and Access.”

⁷⁹ “#wethe15: A Global Human Rights Movement for the 1.2 Billion Persons with Disabilities.” OHCHR, August 20, 2021, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/stories/2021/08/wethe15-global-human-rights-movement-12-billion-persons-disabilities>, (accessed June 25, 2022).

⁸⁰ “#wethe15: A Global Human Rights Movement for the 1.2 Billion Persons with Disabilities.” OHCHR.

⁸¹ “#wethe15: A Global Human Rights Movement for the 1.2 Billion Persons with Disabilities.” OHCHR.

⁸² “Thematic Study on the Right of Persons with Disabilities to Education.” Human rights and disability - OHCHR. United Nations, December 18, 2013, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/disabilities/thematic-report-right-persons-disabilities-education>.

⁸³ “Thematic Study on the Right of Persons with Disabilities to Education.” Human rights and disability - OHCHR.

⁸⁴ “Thematic Study on the Right of Persons with Disabilities to Education.” Human rights and disability - OHCHR.

⁸⁵ “Thematic Study on the Right of Persons with Disabilities to Education.” Human rights and disability - OHCHR.

⁸⁶ “Thematic Study on the Right of Persons with Disabilities to Education.” Human rights and disability - OHCHR.

⁸⁷ “Thematic Study on the Right of Persons with Disabilities to Education.” Human rights and disability - OHCHR.

⁸⁸ “Thematic Study on the Right of Persons with Disabilities to Education.” Human rights and disability - OHCHR.

Lack of quality education can lead to issues for PWD in the workforce.⁸⁹ Developed Member States typically see about a 50 percent to 70 percent unemployment rate for PWD whereas developing Member States see about an 80 percent to 90 percent unemployment rate for PWD.⁹⁰ In fact, most developed Member States experience unemployment rates for PWD twice those of people with no disability.⁹¹ Having lower rates of PWD receiving degrees is one of many factors contributing to the lack of PWD in the workforce.⁹² Some activists also claim that stigmatization and lack of enforcement of disability laws contribute to such large unemployment rates.⁹³ High unemployment rates naturally lead to high poverty rates among PWD.⁹⁴ Disability can actually be considered a cause and a consequence of poverty, as it can lead to barriers that make it difficult to find a job and a consequence because poverty can limit access to healthcare, leading to increases in impairments.⁹⁵ These impairments can then become the barrier making it difficult to find a job, creating a vicious cycle.⁹⁶

Barriers to education or employment are not the only dangers to PWD.⁹⁷ Members of the PWD community are more likely to be victims of violence and sexual assault, and less likely to receive proper medical assistance or legal action.⁹⁸ Statistics are high due to the stigmatization and societal perceptions of PWD as weak and vulnerable.⁹⁹ A study in 2015 found that 82 percent of violent acts committed against PWD take place in health institutions.¹⁰⁰ Some activists argue abuse occurs in institutions inherently because institutionalization promotes the dehumanization of PWD.¹⁰¹ Additionally, law enforcement may be lacking adequate disability training, as the same 2015 study reported up to half of police violence is against PWD.¹⁰² The report addresses areas of law enforcement training that may lack recognition of when someone has a disability and knowing how to adjust their approach appropriately.¹⁰³

Actions Taken by the United Nations

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was created in 2015 with a goal of reaching a world overflowing with peace and prosperity.¹⁰⁴ The Agenda calls for all Member States to join in global partnership to work toward its 17 core goals.¹⁰⁵ These Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focus on ending global poverty, which in turn will “improve health and education, reduce inequality, . . . spur economic growth . . . and tackle climate change.”¹⁰⁶ The two most pertinent to the HRC are Goal 10 and Goal 11. Goal 10 looks to promote inclusion on social, economic,

⁸⁹ Smith, Morgan. “People with Disabilities Still Face Barriers Finding Work during the Pandemic – Here’s How Companies Can Help.” CNBC. CNBC, November 1, 2021, <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/10/29/people-with-disabilities-still-face-barriers-finding-work-during-the-pandemic-heres-how-companies-can-help.html>, (accessed July 30, 2022).

⁹⁰ “Disability and Employment,” Department of Economic and Social Affairs. United Nations, 2022, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/resources/factsheet-on-persons-with-disabilities/disability-and-employment.html>, (accessed July 30, 2022).

⁹¹ “Disability and Employment,” Department of Economic and Social Affairs. United Nations.

⁹² Smith, Morgan. “People with Disabilities Still Face Barriers Finding Work during the Pandemic.”

⁹³ Hernandez, Karina. “People with Disabilities Are Still Struggling to Find Employment – Here Are the Obstacles They Face.” CNBC. CNBC, March 3, 2020. <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/03/02/unemployment-rate-among-people-with-disabilities-is-still-high.html>, (accessed July 30, 2022).

⁹⁴ Vallas, Rebecca, and Shawn Fremstad. “Disability Is a Cause and Consequence of Poverty.” Talk Poverty. Talk Poverty, March 5, 2018. <https://talkpoverty.org/2014/09/19/disability-cause-consequence-poverty/>, (accessed July 30, 2022).

⁹⁵ Vallas, Rebecca, and Shawn Fremstad. “Disability Is a Cause and Consequence of Poverty.” Talk Poverty. Talk Poverty.

⁹⁶ Vallas, Rebecca, and Shawn Fremstad. “Disability Is a Cause and Consequence of Poverty.” Talk Poverty. Talk Poverty.

⁹⁷ “Factsheet on Persons with Disabilities Enable.” Department of Economic and Social Affairs: Disability. United Nations, 2022. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/resources/factsheet-on-persons-with-disabilities.html>, (accessed July 30, 2022).

⁹⁸ “Factsheet on Persons with Disabilities Enable.” Department of Economic and Social Affairs: Disability.

⁹⁹ Morgan, Cameron. “The Unacknowledged Crisis of Violence Against Disabled People.” Center for Disability Rights, Center for Disability Rights, 2015. <https://cdrmys.org/blog/advocacy/the-unacknowledged-crisis-of-violence-against-disabled-people/>, (accessed July 30, 2022).

¹⁰⁰ Morgan, Cameron. “The Unacknowledged Crisis of Violence Against Disabled People.”

¹⁰¹ Morgan, Cameron. “The Unacknowledged Crisis of Violence Against Disabled People.”

¹⁰² Morgan, Cameron. “The Unacknowledged Crisis of Violence Against Disabled People.”

¹⁰³ Morgan, Cameron. “The Unacknowledged Crisis of Violence Against Disabled People.”

¹⁰⁴ United Nations. “The 17 Goals | Sustainable Development.” United Nations. United Nations, 2015. <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>, (accessed May 27, 2021).

¹⁰⁵ United Nations. “The 17 Goals | Sustainable Development.”

¹⁰⁶ United Nations. “The 17 Goals | Sustainable Development.”

and political levels.¹⁰⁷ Goal 11 works to create affordable, inclusive, and sustainable cities for all.¹⁰⁸ Particularly, public spaces and transportation systems are spotlighted and in need of expansion to accommodate PWD.¹⁰⁹ One tool Member States can use to advance PWD rights is the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS).¹¹⁰ The UNDIS provides a policy and accountability framework to help guide Member States in their pursuit of PWD equity.¹¹¹ UNDIS works with the CRPD to improve pro-diversity initiatives, examines discriminations faced by PWD, and advocates for meaningful change in various committees in the UN, aiming to keep disability inclusion at the forefront of every discussion.¹¹²

In March 2008, the HRC passed A/HRC/RES/7/9, which focuses on naming and protecting rights of PWD.¹¹³ After reaffirming the creation of the CRPD and various individual mandates on PWD rights, A/HRC/RES/7/9 encourages the inclusion of PWD in the decision-making processes of policies that affect them.¹¹⁴ Per A/HRC/RES/7/9, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is tasked with conducting research on how well Member States have been holding themselves accountable to various international policies, as well as supporting the implementation of said policies.¹¹⁵ Member States are also accountable for providing accessible transportation, physical and internet resources, social and educational campaigns, and support for disability-focused organizations under A/HRC/RES/7/9.¹¹⁶

Case Study

Health Inequity

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), health inequity is a “fundamental component of social justice that indicates the absence of avoidable, unfair or remediable differences among groups of people due to their social, economic, demographic or geographic circumstances.”¹¹⁷ Health inequities come from social and economic processes that create and perpetuate differing access to healthcare.¹¹⁸ The WHO states disability is not seen as a health issue, as seen in the lack of attention and development seen in the disability sector.¹¹⁹ With public health trends showing the number of PWD quickly increasing globally, many UN bodies find it crucial to prioritize accessible healthcare to ensure PWD human right to healthcare is met.¹²⁰

PWD are often discriminated against and receive poor quality healthcare services.¹²¹ According to the WHO, PWD are three times more likely to be denied healthcare service and four times more likely to be treated unprofessionally by healthcare providers.¹²² The WHO identifies four main barriers PWD face when seeking medical care, stemming

¹⁰⁷ United Nations. “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Disability Enable.” United Nations, 2015.

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/about-us/sustainable-development-goals-sdgs-and-disability.html>, (accessed May 27, 2021).

¹⁰⁸ United Nations. “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Disability Enable.”

¹⁰⁹ United Nations. “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Disability Enable.”

¹¹⁰ United Nations. “UN Disability Inclusion Strategy.” United Nations, 2021, <https://www.un.org/en/content/disabilitystrategy/>, (accessed May 20, 2022).

¹¹¹ United Nations. “UN Disability Inclusion Strategy.”

¹¹² United Nations. “UN Disability Inclusion Strategy.”

¹¹³ United Nations Human Rights Council resolution 7/9, *Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, A/HRC/RES/7/9, (March 27, 2008), <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/human-rights-council-resolution-79-human-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html>.

¹¹⁴ United Nations Human Rights Council resolution 7/9, *Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities*.

¹¹⁵ United Nations Human Rights Council resolution 7/9, *Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities*.

¹¹⁶ United Nations Human Rights Council resolution 7/9, *Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities*.

¹¹⁷ Pan American Health Organization. “Health Equity.” PAHO/WHO | Pan American Health Organization, 2021.

<https://www.paho.org/en/topics/health-equity#:~:text=Health%20Equity%20is%20a%20fundamental,economic%2C%20demographic%20or%20geographic%20circumstances>, (accessed May 27, 2022).

¹¹⁸ Pan American Health Organization. “Health Equity.”

¹¹⁹ World Health Organization. “Disability and Health.” World Health Organization, November 24, 2021.

<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/disability-and-health>, (accessed May 27, 2022).

¹²⁰ World Health Organization. “Disability and Health.”

¹²¹ World Health Organization. “Disability and Health.”

¹²² World Health Organization. “Disability and Health.”

from a lack of awareness and appropriate guidelines on the part of healthcare services and providers.^{123,124} First, attitudinal barriers lead to there being little effort made for the patient to be included when making decisions that affect their body, due to the stigma that PWD are incapable of understanding their options.¹²⁵ This stigma is even stronger for women with disabilities, as health care professionals may hold the opinion that they are either asexual or unfit to be mothers.¹²⁶ Second, PWD are affected by physical barriers to medical care, categorized as the environment surrounding a medical practice being only conducive to people without disabilities.¹²⁷ Physical barriers include patients not having access to public transportation, the facility having stairs or fixed-height furniture, or unclear signage.¹²⁸ Third, communication barriers usually encompass practices not providing information in braille or simpler formats with visuals to help people with cognitive impairments.¹²⁹ Fourth, financial barriers keep over half of PWD from being able to afford medical attention, as a large portion of PWD live in poverty.¹³⁰ Traveling for proper care as well as the cost of medications are also factors that keep PWD from receiving healthcare.¹³¹

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it especially difficult for PWD to receive quality medical attention.¹³² Additional impairments or pre-existing conditions that PWD may have make the PWD community more susceptible to contracting the COVID-19 virus.¹³³ The OHCHR reports PWD experience more intense symptoms and higher levels of death due to the virus.¹³⁴ On average, PWD have more healthcare needs than non-disabled people, as PWD experience standard healthcare needs as well as additional needs due to an impairment.¹³⁵ Needing additional care makes the PWD community more vulnerable to inaccessible or low quality healthcare.¹³⁶ Healthcare inaccessibility is exacerbated when COVID-19 lockdowns are in place, as PWD who depend on daily care must go without the care they need.¹³⁷ PWD living in health institutions were and continue to be extremely vulnerable and, as a result, experienced high death rates during the COVID-19 pandemic.¹³⁸ When healthcare is administered, barriers only intensify due to the pandemic.¹³⁹ For example, given the scarcity of resources due to the COVID-19 outbreak, some practitioners in various Member States were given explicit criteria with the purpose of choosing non-disabled people to use their resources on.¹⁴⁰ These metrics disproportionately work against PWD.¹⁴¹ In May 2020, UN Secretary-

¹²³ World Health Organization. “Disability and Health.” World Health Organization, November 24, 2021, <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/disability-and-health>, (accessed May 27, 2022).

¹²⁴ World Health Organization. “Disability and Health.”

¹²⁵ World Health Organization. “Disability and Health.”

¹²⁶ World Health Organization. “Disability and Health.”

¹²⁷ World Health Organization. “Disability and Health.”

¹²⁸ World Health Organization. “Disability and Health.”

¹²⁹ World Health Organization. “Disability and Health.”

¹³⁰ United Nations. *Promoting Inclusion Through Social Protection: Report on the World Social Situation 2018*. United Nations, 2018, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2018/07/1-1.pdf>.

¹³¹ United Nations. *Promoting Inclusion Through Social Protection: Report on the World Social Situation 2018*.

¹³² World Health Organization. “Disability and Health.” World Health Organization, November 24, 2021, <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/disability-and-health>, (accessed May 27, 2022).

¹³³ United Nations Office of High Commission of Human Rights. “COVID-19 and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Guidance.” United Nations Office of High Commission of Human Rights, April 29, 2020, [https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Disability/COVID-19 and The Rights of Persons with Disabilities.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Disability/COVID-19%20and%20The%20Rights%20of%20Persons%20with%20Disabilities.pdf).

¹³⁴ United Nations: Office of High Commission of Human Rights. “COVID-19 and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Guidance.”

¹³⁵ “Covid-19 Outbreak and Persons with Disabilities.” United Nations. United Nations, September 8, 2021, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/covid-19.html>, (accessed June 22, 2022).

¹³⁶ “Covid-19 Outbreak and Persons with Disabilities.” United Nations.

¹³⁷ United Nations Office of High Commission of Human Rights. “COVID-19 and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Guidance.” United Nations: Office of High Commission of Human Rights, April 29, 2020. [https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Disability/COVID-19 and The Rights of Persons with Disabilities.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Disability/COVID-19%20and%20The%20Rights%20of%20Persons%20with%20Disabilities.pdf).

¹³⁸ United Nations Office of High Commission of Human Rights. “COVID-19 and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Guidance.”

¹³⁹ United Nations Office of High Commission of Human Rights. “COVID-19 and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Guidance.”

¹⁴⁰ United Nations Office of High Commission of Human Rights. “COVID-19 and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Guidance.”

¹⁴¹ United Nations Office of High Commission of Human Rights. “COVID-19 and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Guidance.”

General Guterres emphasized the equal rights of PWD to access healthcare and vital medical procedures during the COVID-19 pandemic¹⁴²

In 2020, the HRC adopted A/HRC/RES/43/23, calling upon Member States to educate and properly train healthcare providers to ensure adequate care for all.¹⁴³ The resolution suggests the use of public campaigns to help healthcare providers identify and understand stigmas that serve as barriers to PWD.¹⁴⁴ The resolution also discusses the benefits of improving access to quality healthcare on a national level, such as inclusion programs, universal healthcare, and access to basic health services such as sanitation and water.¹⁴⁵ Gender discrimination is outlined in various sections of the resolution, showing that intersectional discrimination can be included in the discussion of equity for PWD.¹⁴⁶

Conclusion

Creating equity for PWD is crucial for achieving a global society that serves all of its members.¹⁴⁷ PWD face discrimination daily that prevents them from enjoying the rights outlined for them in documents such as the UDHR and CRPD.¹⁴⁸ While various resolutions have been passed in the UN and there has been incredible progress since its creation, there is still inequity plaguing the disabled community.¹⁴⁹ This issue affects everyone as, according to the WHO, most individuals will experience some form of disability at some point in their life— temporary or permanent.¹⁵⁰ With current global events, such as a COVID-19 pandemic, inequities within the disability community are growing more transparent.¹⁵¹ While keeping inclusion and advocacy at the forefront of their discussions, Member States will be tasked with creating equity for one of the world’s most vulnerable populations.¹⁵²

Committee Directives

To understand this topic, delegates must first understand the difference between equality and equity. Delegates should have knowledge of their Member States’ policies and actions toward PWD equity and work toward common goals with fellow delegates. What advances towards equity can be made for PWDs in the workplace or the classroom? While conducting research, delegates should focus on building upon what the current UN-established bodies are already working on rather than creating new bodies within the UN system. Delegates should also focus on the issue as stated and not specific situations of a single Member State.

¹⁴² United Nations Office of High Commission of Human Rights. “COVID-19 and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Guidance.” United Nations: Office of High Commission of Human Rights, April 29, 2020. [https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Disability/COVID-19 and The Rights of Persons with Disabilities.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Disability/COVID-19%20and%20The%20Rights%20of%20Persons%20with%20Disabilities.pdf).

¹⁴³ United Nations Human Rights Council resolution 43/23, *Awareness Raising on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and Habilitation and Rehabilitation*, A/HRC/RES/43/23, (June 22, 2020), <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/RES/43/23>.

¹⁴⁴ United Nations Human Rights Council resolution 43/23, *Awareness Raising on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and Habilitation and Rehabilitation*.

¹⁴⁵ United Nations Human Rights Council resolution 43/23, *Awareness Raising on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and Habilitation and Rehabilitation*.

¹⁴⁶ United Nations Human Rights Council resolution 43/23, *Awareness Raising on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and Habilitation and Rehabilitation*.

¹⁴⁷ “Article 25 – Health,” in United Nations General Assembly resolution 217 A, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, A/RES/217 (III) (December 10, 1948), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2018/12/universal-declaration-human-rights-70-30-articles-30-articles-article-25>.

¹⁴⁸ “Article 25 – Health,” in United Nations General Assembly resolution 217 A, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.

¹⁴⁹ “The United Nations and Disability: 70 Years of the Work Towards a More Inclusive World.” Division for Social Policy and Development. United Nations, 2018, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/>.

¹⁵⁰ “Disability and Health.” World Health Organization. World Health Organization, November 24, 2021, <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/disability-and-health>, (accessed June 25, 2022).

¹⁵¹ “Human Rights Council – Resolution 7/9. Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities.” United Nations. United Nations, March 27, 2008, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/human-rights-council-resolution-79-human-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html>.

¹⁵² “Universal Declaration of Human Rights.” Amnesty International, March 31, 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/universal-declaration-of-human-rights/>, (accessed June 25, 2022).

II. Addressing Human Rights Violations in Myanmar

“The multiple vulnerabilities of all people across Myanmar and its regional implications require an urgent response . . . The people of Myanmar need to see concrete results.”
- UN Deputy Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, Farhan Haq.¹⁵³

Introduction

From a local to an international scale, the protection of human rights is one of the most important goals of both the Human Rights Council (HRC) and United Nations (UN).¹⁵⁴ One of the most severe and longest-running situations exists in the Union of the Republic of Myanmar (Myanmar), where for decades the international community has witnessed various human rights violations.¹⁵⁵ Since the mid-20th century, Myanmar has experienced constantly-changing military leadership, creating instability that often enables human rights violations to occur.¹⁵⁶ In February 2021, Myanmar’s military, the Tatmadaw, seized power in a coup d’état.¹⁵⁷ Since successfully gaining control of the government, the new Tatmadaw leadership has implemented laws limiting expression and minimizing access to education.¹⁵⁸ These policy changes are violations of Article 19 and Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the premier document on international human rights law.¹⁵⁹ Additionally, the Tatmadaw has been accused of attacking local towns and civilians.¹⁶⁰ There have also reported uses of torture, often targeting detainees and members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex (LGBTQ+) community.¹⁶¹ Considering the recent reports on the state of human rights in the Member State, it is crucial for action to be taken to protect the people of Myanmar.¹⁶²

History

Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, is a Southeast Asian UN Member State bordering the People’s Republic of China, Laos, Thailand, India, and Bangladesh.¹⁶³ Initially, Myanmar attempted to establish a parliamentary democracy following independence from the United Kingdom in 1948.¹⁶⁴ Severe economic struggles throughout the 1950s led to the first military coup d’état in the Member State, performed by the Myanmar military, the Tatmadaw.¹⁶⁵ In 1962, General Ne Win's Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP) seized control of the government and went on to rule Myanmar for the next 26 years.¹⁶⁶ The new military constitution, written in 1974, created an isolationist foreign policy and socialist economic policy that led the economy to further decline.¹⁶⁷ The 1974 constitution allowed the government to nationalize businesses, establish government monopolies on important

¹⁵³ Haq, Farhan. “Statement attributable to the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General - on Myanmar,” United Nations, January 2022, <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2022-01-30/statement%20attributable-the-spokesperson-for-the-secretary-general-%20myanmar>, (accessed August 1, 2022).

¹⁵⁴ United Nations, “Protect Human Rights,” United Nations, 2021, <https://www.un.org/en/our-work/protect-human-rights>, (accessed June 28, 2022).

¹⁵⁵ Amnesty International, “Everything You Need to Know about Human Rights in Myanmar 2020,” Amnesty International, 2021, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/asia-and-the-pacific/south-east-asia-and-the-pacific/myanmar/report-myanmar/> (accessed May 25, 2022).

¹⁵⁶ Lambert, Tim. “A Brief History of Myanmar,” Local Histories, March 14, 2021, <https://localhistories.org/a-history-of-myanmar/>, (accessed May 25, 2022).

¹⁵⁷ Amnesty International, “Everything You Need to Know about Human Rights in Myanmar 2020.”

¹⁵⁸ Amnesty International, “Everything You Need to Know about Human Rights in Myanmar 2020.”

¹⁵⁹ United Nations General Assembly resolution 217 A, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, A/RES/217 (III) (December 10, 1948), <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>.

¹⁶⁰ Amnesty International, “Everything You Need to Know about Human Rights in Myanmar 2020.”

¹⁶¹ Amnesty International, “Everything You Need to Know about Human Rights in Myanmar 2020.”

¹⁶² Amnesty International, “Everything You Need to Know about Human Rights in Myanmar 2020.”

¹⁶³ Lambert, Tim. “A Brief History of Myanmar.”

¹⁶⁴ Maizland, Lindsay. “Myanmar’s Troubled History: Coups, Military Rule, and Ethnic Conflict,” Council on Foreign Relations, February 9, 2021, <https://www.cfr.org/background/myanmar-history-coup-military-rule-ethnic-conflict-rohingya>, (accessed May 25, 2022).

¹⁶⁵ Lambert, Tim. “A Brief History of Myanmar.”

¹⁶⁶ Maizland, Lindsay. “Myanmar’s Troubled History: Coups, Military Rule, and Ethnic Conflict.”

¹⁶⁷ Maizland, Lindsay. “Myanmar’s Troubled History: Coups, Military Rule, and Ethnic Conflict.”

goods, and demand farmers to sell rice at a fixed, government-decided rate.¹⁶⁸ As a result, rice farmers had trouble generating profit from growing rice, causing production to decrease across the Member State.¹⁶⁹ Prices on rice and inflation began to increase, and the shortage of rice made it difficult for Myanmar to trade on the international market.¹⁷⁰

During this economic downturn, the living conditions in Myanmar rapidly deteriorated.¹⁷¹ In 1976, the average expenditure on food for families increased by 72 percent, and by 1982, 86 percent of rural families lived below the poverty line.¹⁷² Additionally, Myanmar faced widespread corruption, fluctuating currency value, and ongoing food shortages.¹⁷³ Protests due to the economy were held throughout the late 1980s, and in August 1988, tensions between protestors and the government peaked when the Tatmadaw killed and displaced thousands of civilians during a protest stemming directly from statewide food shortages.¹⁷⁴ Following the protests, General Ne Win formally stepped down as chairman, and the new Tatmadaw-controlled government began holding the nation's first nationwide, multiparty elections in 1990.¹⁷⁵ Aung San Suu Kyi, the daughter of Myanmar independence activist General Aung San, helped form the National League for Democracy (NLD) opposition party.¹⁷⁶ Following demonstrations against Tatmadaw rule, Suu Kyi and other NLD members were placed under house arrest and banned from being allowed to run in the upcoming national election.¹⁷⁷ Despite the ban, Suu Kyi and the NLD won the 1990 national elections.¹⁷⁸ However, the incumbent Tatmadaw-controlled government prevented the winning NLD opposition party from assuming power.¹⁷⁹ Throughout the 1990s and into the 2000s, the NLD, particularly Suu Kyi, were seen as heroes by members of the international community for attempting to create democratic change throughout the Member State.¹⁸⁰

In the early 2000s, Myanmar's citizens protested for a change in the Tatmadaw-controlled government, aiming to achieve more freedoms for civilians.¹⁸¹ On the heels of the reform change protests came a string of additional protests against high fuel prices that gained significant public support.¹⁸² In 2007, these protests culminated into the Saffron Revolution.¹⁸³ In response, the military government brutally suppressed the Saffron Revolution protests, detaining and killing many civilians.¹⁸⁴ These protests pressured the government into loosening restrictions and the Tatmadaw-controlled government held a promised referendum on a new constitution.¹⁸⁵ Myanmar passed a new constitution in 2008 with a 92 percent in-favor vote.¹⁸⁶ The 2008 constitution created more freedom by implementing civilian rule and elections.¹⁸⁷ In reality, the 2008 constitution, currently in place as of January 2022,

¹⁶⁸ Frankel, Laura. "Power & Money: Economics and Conflict in Burma." Cultural Survival, 2000. <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/publications/cultural-survival-quarterly/power-money-economics-and-conflict-burma>, (accessed July 25, 2022).

¹⁶⁹ Frankel, Laura. "Power & Money: Economics and Conflict in Burma." Cultural Survival, 2000.

¹⁷⁰ Frankel, Laura. "Power & Money: Economics and Conflict in Burma." Cultural Survival, 2000.

¹⁷¹ Frankel, Laura. "Power & Money: Economics and Conflict in Burma." Cultural Survival, 2000.

¹⁷² Frankel, Laura. "Power & Money: Economics and Conflict in Burma." Cultural Survival, 2000.

¹⁷³ Maizland, Lindsay. "Myanmar's Troubled History: Coups, Military Rule, and Ethnic Conflict," Council on Foreign Relations, February 9, 2021, <https://www.cfr.org/background/myanmar-history-coup-military-rule-ethnic-conflict-rohingya>, (accessed May 25, 2022).

¹⁷⁴ Maizland, Lindsay. "Myanmar's Troubled History: Coups, Military Rule, and Ethnic Conflict."

¹⁷⁵ Human Rights Watch, "Burma: 20 Years after 1990 Elections, Democracy Still Denied," Human Rights Watch, May 26, 2010, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2010/05/26/burma-20-years-after-1990-elections-democracy-still-denied>, (accessed August 16, 2022)

¹⁷⁶ Maizland, Lindsay. "Myanmar's Troubled History: Coups, Military Rule, and Ethnic Conflict."

¹⁷⁷ Lambert, Tim. "A Brief History of Myanmar," Local Histories, March 14, 2021, <https://localhistories.org/a-history-of-myanmar/>, (accessed August 1, 2022).

¹⁷⁸ Lambert, Tim. "A Brief History of Myanmar."

¹⁷⁹ Lambert, Tim. "A Brief History of Myanmar."

¹⁸⁰ Archives of Women's Political Communication, "Aung San Suu Kyi," 2022. <https://awpc.cattcenter.iastate.edu/directory/aung-san-suu-kyi/>, (accessed August 2, 2022).

¹⁸¹ Maizland, Lindsay. "Myanmar's Troubled History: Coups, Military Rule, and Ethnic Conflict."

¹⁸² Maizland, Lindsay. "Myanmar's Troubled History: Coups, Military Rule, and Ethnic Conflict."

¹⁸³ Maizland, Lindsay. "Myanmar's Troubled History: Coups, Military Rule, and Ethnic Conflict."

¹⁸⁴ Lambert, Tim. "A Brief History of Myanmar."

¹⁸⁵ Lambert, Tim. "A Brief History of Myanmar."

¹⁸⁶ Lambert, Tim. "A Brief History of Myanmar."

¹⁸⁷ Maizland, Lindsay. "Myanmar's Troubled History: Coups, Military Rule, and Ethnic Conflict."

made the government appear as civilian-ruled but kept military power within the government through the Tatmadaw-controlled Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP).¹⁸⁸ As such, the Tatmadaw-controlled government officially dissolved in 2011 and Myanmar began its transition into a USDP-dominated civilian parliament.¹⁸⁹

In the 2010s, the Myanmar government introduced several reforms, such as loosening media censorship, implementing economic policies designed to attract foreign investments, and holding multiparty elections.¹⁹⁰ In 2010, Suu Kyi was released from house arrest and won a seat in parliament with the National League for Democracy party by 2011.¹⁹¹ Suu Kyi was elected state chancellor in 2016, as the 2008 constitution prevented her from being president.¹⁹² However, despite prior international praise, Suu Kyi faced criticism for decisions made as state chancellor, including her prosecution of journalists and persecution of the Rohingya ethnic group in the Member State.¹⁹³

Myanmar is a diverse Member State, recognizing over 100 ethnic groups.¹⁹⁴ The majority population group is the ethnic Burman, the Bamar, who currently hold majority power in government and military positions.¹⁹⁵ Other ethnic groups within the Member State lack representation, resulting in discrimination, abuses, and economic inopportunities.¹⁹⁶ Civil wars between ethnic groups have been ongoing since the early years of Myanmar's existence, often stemming from conflicts surrounding the control of natural resources.¹⁹⁷ Notably, the Rohingya, a largely Muslim minority community based in the Rakhine State of Myanmar, have faced discrimination for decades.¹⁹⁸ In 2017, the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army, Muslim insurgents, attacked 30 of the Member State's police posts and a military base.¹⁹⁹ In response to the attacks, the Tatmadaw violently suppressed the Rohingya population in Rohingya-majority areas of northwest Myanmar.²⁰⁰ The Tatmadaw destroyed thousands of Rohingya houses, and its soldiers allegedly committed large numbers of human rights abuses, including mass killings of Rohingya people.²⁰¹ In September 2017, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights accused the Tatmadaw of ethnic cleansing in Rakhine, using satellite imagery of the state and accounts of unprovoked killings.²⁰² The Tatmadaw's operation in Rakhine has also led to 730,000 Rohingya fleeing for safety from the Tatmadaw into neighboring Member States, creating a refugee crisis.²⁰³

Current Situation

Despite the 2008 constitution and 2011 democratic parliament transition, the Tatmadaw had effectively maintained majority control of the Member State for 50 years.²⁰⁴ The 2020 general elections were a main spring leading up to the 2021 military coup.²⁰⁵ In these elections, Aung San Suu Kyi's NLD party and the military-backed USDP competed

¹⁸⁸ Maizland, Lindsay. "Myanmar's Troubled History: Coups, Military Rule, and Ethnic Conflict," Council on Foreign Relations, February 9, 2021, <https://www.cfr.org/background/myanmar-history-coup-military-rule-ethnic-conflict-rohingya>, (accessed May 25, 2022).

¹⁸⁹ Maizland, Lindsay. "Myanmar's Troubled History: Coups, Military Rule, and Ethnic Conflict."

¹⁹⁰ Maizland, Lindsay. "Myanmar's Troubled History: Coups, Military Rule, and Ethnic Conflict."

¹⁹¹ "A Biography of Aung San Suu Kyi," Burma Campaign UK, published date needed, <https://burmacampaign.org.uk/about-burma/a-biography-of-aung-san-suu-kyi/>, (accessed May 28, 2022).

¹⁹² Archives of Women's Political Communication. "Aung San Suu Kyi."

¹⁹³ Archives of Women's Political Communication. "Aung San Suu Kyi."

¹⁹⁴ Maizland, Lindsay. "Myanmar's Troubled History: Coups, Military Rule, and Ethnic Conflict."

¹⁹⁵ Maizland, Lindsay. "Myanmar's Troubled History: Coups, Military Rule, and Ethnic Conflict."

¹⁹⁶ Maizland, Lindsay. "Myanmar's Troubled History: Coups, Military Rule, and Ethnic Conflict."

¹⁹⁷ Maizland, Lindsay. "Myanmar's Troubled History: Coups, Military Rule, and Ethnic Conflict."

¹⁹⁸ Reuters Staff, "Two Years On, a Look at the Rohingya Crisis," Reuters, August 23, 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-rohingya-timeline/two-years-on-a-look-at-the-rohingya-crisis-idUSKCN1VD044> (accessed August 2, 2022).

¹⁹⁹ Reuters Staff, "Two Years On, a Look at the Rohingya Crisis."

²⁰⁰ Reuters Staff, "Two Years On, a Look at the Rohingya Crisis."

²⁰¹ Reuters Staff, "Two Years On, a Look at the Rohingya Crisis."

²⁰² Reuters Staff, "Two Years On, a Look at the Rohingya Crisis."

²⁰³ Reuters Staff, "Two Years On, a Look at the Rohingya Crisis."

²⁰⁴ Maizland, Lindsay. "Myanmar's Troubled History: Coups, Military Rule, and Ethnic Conflict"

²⁰⁵ Forum Asia, "Timeline: #WhatsHappeningInMyanmar," Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, March 19, 2021, <https://www.forum-asia.org/?p=34199>, (accessed July 27, 2022).

for 476 parliament seats.²⁰⁶ The NLD won 396 of those seats, with the USDP only securing 33 seats.²⁰⁷ The Tatmadaw suggested electoral fraud as the reason for the lack of support, but an investigation by the Union Election Commission, the national-level election commission in Myanmar, found no evidence to back up those claims.²⁰⁸ Despite the investigation, the Tatmadaw continued to claim election fraud until the end of January 2021.²⁰⁹ On February 1, 2021, the day the newly elected NLD-majority parliament was to begin meeting, the Tatmadaw overthrew the elected government.²¹⁰ In its coup, the Tatmadaw made military Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing the leader of the Member State.²¹¹ Over 100 politicians and activists were detained, including Aung San Suu Kyi and elected president Win Myint.²¹² Suu Kyi was sentenced to five years in prison for a corruption charge by the Tatmadaw-controlled court, charges Suu Kyi has denied.²¹³ In a statement issued a week before the coup, the Tatmadaw stated the military would work to uphold the Myanmar constitution, citing defense of the constitution as a justification for the coup. The international community has been critical of the Tatmadaw's justification, as the Tatmadaw violated other sections of the constitution by staging the coup d'état.²¹⁴

Numerous protests broke out across Myanmar to restore the NLD-majority government.²¹⁵ On February 3, 2021, healthcare workers organized a labor strike and were later joined by teachers and government workers.²¹⁶ In addition, the remaining members of the NLD, leaders of minority ethnic groups, and individual protestors created an opposition government, the National Unity Government, with the goal of restoring democracy.²¹⁷ The National Unity Government quickly established their own army, the People's Defense Force, and declared war on the Tatmadaw government.²¹⁸

Since the 2021 coup, the Tatmadaw have fought different ethnic groups across the Member State, leading to thousands of civilian deaths.²¹⁹ This has caused many human rights abuses against civilians in a variety of areas containing large numbers of ethnic minorities, including reported cases of torture, sexual violence, and forced labor.²²⁰ The Tatmadaw has attacked opposition civilians using rubber bullets, tear gas, live ammunition, and lethal force techniques on protestors.²²¹ Days following the coup, riot police under the Tatmadaw government were accused of murder.²²² According to the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, the Tatmadaw was also accused of extrajudicial killings of peaceful protesters.²²³ Furthermore, many parts of the Member State had entire villages demolished, with accused massacres of civilians believed to support the National Unity Government.²²⁴

²⁰⁶ Win, Pyae Sone. "Myanmar Election Commission Rejects Military's Fraud Claims," AP NEWS, May 3, 2021, <https://apnews.com/article/aung-san-suu-kyi-elections-myanmar-cc1b225b806c27dda748d3ab51d0e47f>, (accessed July 27, 2022).

²⁰⁷ Win, Pyae Sone. "Myanmar Election Commission Rejects Military's Fraud Claims."

²⁰⁸ Win, Pyae Sone. "Myanmar Election Commission Rejects Military's Fraud Claims."

²⁰⁹ Martson, Hunter. "Behind the Coup: What Prompted the Tatmadaw's Grab for Power?" New Mandala, February 12, 2021, <https://www.newmandala.org/behind-the-coup-what-prompted-tatmadaws-grab-for-power/> (accessed July 28, 2022).

²¹⁰ Martson, Hunter. "Behind the Coup: What Prompted the Tatmadaw's Grab for Power?"

²¹¹ Martson, Hunter. "Behind the Coup: What Prompted the Tatmadaw's Grab for Power?"

²¹² Martson, Hunter. "Behind the Coup: What Prompted the Tatmadaw's Grab for Power?"

²¹³ Peck, Grant. "Myanmar Court Sentences Suu Kyi to 5 Years for Corruption," AP News, April 27, 2022, <https://apnews.com/article/myanmar-aung-san-suu-kyi-30b821fc908b8164a8d6d18f4c0df335>, (May 25, 2022).

²¹⁴ Martson, Hunter. "Behind the Coup: What Prompted the Tatmadaw's Grab for Power?"

²¹⁵ Amnesty International. "Everything You Need to Know about Human Rights in Myanmar 2020," Amnesty International, 2021, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/asia-and-the-pacific/south-east-asia-and-the-pacific/myanmar/report-myanmar/>, (accessed May 25, 2022).

²¹⁶ Forum Asia, "Timeline: #WhatsHappeningInMyanmar," Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, March 19, 2021, <https://www.forum-asia.org/?p=34199>, (accessed July 27, 2022).

²¹⁷ Maizland, Lindsay. "Myanmar's Troubled History: Coups, Military Rule, and Ethnic Conflict," Council on Foreign Relations, February 9, 2021, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/myanmar-history-coup-military-rule-ethnic-conflict-rohingya>, (accessed May 25, 2022).

²¹⁸ Amnesty International. "Everything You Need to Know about Human Rights in Myanmar 2020."

²¹⁹ Maizland, Lindsay. "Myanmar's Troubled History: Coups, Military Rule, and Ethnic Conflict."

²²⁰ Maizland, Lindsay. "Myanmar's Troubled History: Coups, Military Rule, and Ethnic Conflict."

²²¹ Amnesty International, "Everything You Need to Know about Human Rights in Myanmar 2020."

²²² Forum Asia, "Timeline: #WhatsHappeningInMyanmar."

²²³ Forum Asia, "Timeline: #WhatsHappeningInMyanmar."

²²⁴ Maizland, Lindsay. "Myanmar's Troubled History: Coups, Military Rule, and Ethnic Conflict," Council on Foreign Relations, February 9, 2021, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/myanmar-history-coup-military-rule-ethnic-conflict-rohingya>, (accessed May 25, 2022).

Notably, the Tatmadaw has attacked and seized villages across the Member State, such as the Western town of Midat, which saw 160 houses destroyed.²²⁵ According to Amnesty International, as of December 2021, the Tatmadaw government had reportedly killed 1,384 people and arrested nearly 12,000.²²⁶ There have also been reported uses of torture against many of the arrested civilians, and air strikes on numerous Myanmar states with minority ethnic populations.²²⁷ The National Unity Government's combat efforts have prevented the Tatmadaw from gaining complete control of all of the territory throughout Myanmar, potentially averting more conflict and human rights abuses.²²⁸

Mass displacement has occurred within the Member State since the onset of the 2021 coup.²²⁹ Nearly 285,000 people, including over 76,000 children, have been displaced due to the conflict.²³⁰ Currently, the Tatmadaw is perpetuating violence toward displaced peoples by destroying roads, ambulances, and stockpiles of food and medication.²³¹ In addition, the Tatmadaw has made it difficult for humanitarian organizations to provide relief to those affected.²³² Amnesty International reports the Tatmadaw has blocked roads, denied aid-convoys access to vulnerable areas, and required travel authorizations for humanitarian organizations to enter Myanmar.²³³ These barriers have caused aid efforts to be largely delayed, leaving many civilians extremely vulnerable.²³⁴ In addition, thousands of refugees have escaped to neighboring Member States to seek shelter from the conflict.²³⁵

Action Taken by United Nations

After the February coup d'état, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) formally condemned the violence used during the 2021 Military Coup in A/RES/75/287, passed on June 18, 2021.²³⁶ In this resolution, the UNGA called for an arms embargo on Myanmar, restoration of the democratic transition of the government that was occurring prior to the coup d'état, and release of various government officials who were previously arrested, including Suu Kyi.²³⁷ The General Assembly has only condemned a military coup three times in the last three decades.²³⁸

The UN Security Council has also released statements on the situation in Myanmar, echoing many of the concerns of the UNGA.²³⁹ Following the February coup d'état, the Security Council emphasized the importance of returning to democratic processes and the need to respect human rights.²⁴⁰ Additionally, the Security Council expressed concern over Myanmar's restrictions on journalists and civil society, as well as the restrictions toward humanitarian aid.²⁴¹ The international community has been critical of the Security Council for its lack of action in addressing the Myanmar crisis, as no resolutions have passed the body on the conflict.²⁴² Some suspect strong alliances between

²²⁵ Amnesty International, "Everything You Need to Know about Human Rights in Myanmar 2020," Amnesty International, 2021, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/asia-and-the-pacific/south-east-asia-and-the-pacific/myanmar/report-myanmar/>, (accessed May 25, 2022).

²²⁶ Amnesty International. "Everything You Need to Know about Human Rights in Myanmar 2020."

²²⁷ Amnesty International. "Everything You Need to Know about Human Rights in Myanmar 2020."

²²⁸ Maizland, Lindsay. "Myanmar's Troubled History: Coups, Military Rule, and Ethnic Conflict."

²²⁹ Amnesty International, "Everything You Need to Know about Human Rights in Myanmar 2020."

²³⁰ Amnesty International, "Everything You Need to Know about Human Rights in Myanmar 2020."

²³¹ Amnesty International, "Everything You Need to Know about Human Rights in Myanmar 2020."

²³² Amnesty International, "Everything You Need to Know about Human Rights in Myanmar 2020."

²³³ Amnesty International, "Everything You Need to Know about Human Rights in Myanmar 2020."

²³⁴ Amnesty International, "Everything You Need to Know about Human Rights in Myanmar 2020."

²³⁵ Maizland, Lindsay. "Myanmar's Troubled History: Coups, Military Rule, and Ethnic Conflict,"

²³⁶ Lederer, Edith. "UN Assembly Condemns Myanmar Coup, Calls for Arms Embargo," AP News, June 18, 2021, <https://apnews.com/article/united-nations-general-assembly-united-nations-myanmar-business-global-trade-72dbb95927b735de2b83dc1a85abdd72>, (accessed June 29, 2022).

²³⁷ Lederer, Edith. "UN Assembly Condemns Myanmar Coup, Calls for Arms Embargo,"

²³⁸ Lederer, Edith. "UN Assembly Condemns Myanmar Coup, Calls for Arms Embargo,"

²³⁹ Security Council, "Security Council Press Statement on Situation in Myanmar," United Nations, February 4, 2021, <https://press.un.org/en/2021/sc14430.doc.htm>, (accessed June 29, 2022).

²⁴⁰ Security Council, "Security Council Press Statement on Situation in Myanmar."

²⁴¹ Security Council, "Security Council Press Statement on Situation in Myanmar."

²⁴² Charbonneau, Louis. "UN Security Council Should Act on Myanmar Atrocities," Human Rights Watch, January 25, 2022, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/01/25/un-security-council-should-act-myanmar-atrocities> (accessed June 29, 2022).

Myanmar and members of the recent Security Council to have hindered the Security Council's response to the coup.²⁴³

The HRC took action on Myanmar through a Special Rapporteur to obtain and provide information about the crisis.²⁴⁴ The research by Special Rapporteurs aids HRC members in understanding facts on the ground of the crisis.²⁴⁵ The Special Rapporteur for the Myanmar crisis has provided extensive reports to the HRC pertaining to the conflict.²⁴⁶ In the most recent report published March 16, 2022, the Special Rapporteur highlighted the continued human rights violations seen in previous reports, including violent attacks on the civilians in arson, extrajudicial killings, and airstrikes.²⁴⁷ The Special Rapporteur reported 1,600 citizens have been killed by the Tatmadaw since the 2021 coup and also provided information on the effort to oppose the Tatmadaw by the people of Myanmar.²⁴⁸ Through protests by the people of Myanmar, the March report described the risk of arrest or death civilians face daily to resist the Tatmadaw.²⁴⁹ The Special Rapporteur has continuously urged the international community to increase support for the current crises.²⁵⁰ In April 2022, the HRC extended the Special Rapporteur position through April 2023 and requested at least two additional reports in the upcoming HRC sessions.²⁵¹

Conclusion

The current situation in Myanmar is one of the most significant areas of human rights violations in the modern world.²⁵² On July 25, 2022, Myanmar confirmed it has used capital punishment for the first time in over 50 years against political prisoners.²⁵³ Considering this, the Tatmadaw continues to commit abuses and is provoking the international community to take action.²⁵⁴ The current crisis requires distinctive creativity to develop effective solutions.²⁵⁵ Undoubtedly, it is essential for Member States to unite to aid Myanmar in overcoming this crisis.

²⁴³ Maizland, Lindsay. "Myanmar's Troubled History: Coups, Military Rule, and Ethnic Conflict," Council on Foreign Relations, February 9, 2021, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/myanmar-history-coup-military-rule-ethnic-conflict-rohingya>, (accessed May 25, 2022).

²⁴⁴ "OHCHR | Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar," OHCHR, 2022, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-myanmar>, (accessed June 30, 2022).

²⁴⁵ United Nations Office of the United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights. *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar*. Thomas H. Andrews. Geneva, Switzerland, OHCHR, March 16 2022 <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/country-reports/ahrc4976-report-special-rapporteur-situation-human-rights-myanmar-thomas>, (accessed June 30, 2022).

²⁴⁶ "OHCHR | Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar."

²⁴⁷ United Nations Office of the United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights. *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar*.

²⁴⁸ United Nations Office of the United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights. *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar*.

²⁴⁹ United Nations Office of the United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights. *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar*.

²⁵⁰ United Nations Office of the United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights. *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar*.

²⁵¹ OHCHR. "Human Rights Council Adopts Seven Resolutions – Extends Mandates on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Myanmar and Iran." OHCHR, April 1, 2022, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/04/human-rights-council-adopts-seven-resolutions-extends-mandates-democratic>, (accessed June 30, 2022).

²⁵² Maizland, Lindsay. "Myanmar's Troubled History: Coups, Military Rule, and Ethnic Conflict."

²⁵³ Rising, David. "Myanmar Executes Ex-Lawmaker, 3 Other Political Prisoners," AP NEWS, July 25, 2022, <https://apnews.com/article/myanmar-terrorism-democracy-aung-san-suu-kyi-government-and-politics-ca87f032cb6c7407b1d776574f15c5a8>, (accessed July 28, 2022).

²⁵⁴ Reuters Staff, "U.N. Security Council Condemns Myanmar Executions," *Reuters*, July 27, 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/un-security-council-condemns-myanmar-executions-2022-07-27/>, (accessed July 28, 2022).

²⁵⁵ Ford, Billy. "As Myanmar Coup Spurs National Resistance, a Unified Nation Could Emerge," United States Institute of Peace, April 19, 2022, <https://www.usip.org/publications/2022/04/myanmar-coup-spurs-national-resistance-unified-nation-could-emerge>, (accessed July 28, 2022).

Committee Directive

Considering the power of the Human Rights Council and the complex nature of this situation, along with the large number of abuses allegedly committed by the Myanmar Government, delegates should consider: What can be done to mitigate and prevent human rights violations in Myanmar? With the ethnic diversity of Myanmar, what actions can HRC take to ensure the safety of minority groups? How can the committee build upon the past UN actions in aiding the civilians of the Member State? What other UN agencies will need to work with the HRC to be the most effective? Analyzing prior post-coup violence in recent history, what solutions can be used to help the people of Myanmar?

Annotated Bibliography

I: Creating Equity for Persons with Disabilities

Powers, Laurie E., Paula Renker, Susan Robinson-Whelen, Mary Oschwald, Rosemary Hughes, Paul Swank, and Mary Ann Curry. "Interpersonal Violence and Women With Disabilities: Analysis of Safety Promoting Behaviors." *Violence Against Women* 15, no. 9 (September 2009): 1040–69.
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1077801209340309>

Violence Against Women is an interdisciplinary magazine focused on providing research and information on violence against women. Researchers in this article examined interpersonal violence at the intersection of womanhood and having a disability. This study samples the behaviors and tactics women with disabilities use to keep themselves safe from abuse. The article provides additional information on the intersectionality between PWD and gender discrimination.

Agostine, Susan, Karen Erickson, and Charna D'Ardenne. "Sensory Experiences and Children with Severe Disabilities: Impacts on Learning." *Frontiers in Psychology* 13 (2022).
<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2022.875085/full>

Frontiers in Psychology is a peer-reviewed academic journal covering a wide scope of topics in psychology. This study specifically focuses on the sensory experiences of students with disabilities in school. The results paint a picture of how typical classroom environments limit sensory development for some students. Data in the study discusses classroom environments that do not serve every student equitably. Having an in-depth understanding of this inequity provides a more comprehensive perception of discrimination in education and practical solutions.

Corr McEvoy, Sandra, and Emer Keenan. "Attitudes towards People with Disabilities - What Do People with Intellectual Disabilities Have to Say?" *British Journal of Learning Disabilities* 42, no. 3 (2013): 221–27.
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/bld.12032>.

The *British Journal of Learning Disabilities* is an interdisciplinary, international, peer-reviewed journal and in the learning disabilities field. This study amplifies the voice of people with disabilities and attitudes or behaviors they have encountered in society due to having a disability. Using a qualitative methodology, researchers learned which situations yield positive and negative attitudes for people with disabilities. This information details true experiences of people with disabilities, providing an authentic point of view.

Gutnik, Alyssa, and Marcie Roth. "Disability and Climate Change: How Climate-Related Hazards Increase Vulnerabilities among the Most at Risk Populations and the Necessary Convergence of Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation." OHCHR. Wide Angle, 2018.
https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/ClimateChange/Submissions/Disabilities/Humanity_and_Inclusion.pdf.

Humanity & Inclusion is a nongovernmental organization focused on creating solutions to poverty, exclusion, conflict, and disaster for persons with disabilities. PWD are at a disadvantage when living with the effects of climate change, as one of the most resource-poor groups and often face marginalization due to intersecting factors such as gender, sexuality, ethnicity, religious adherence, level of education, and more. When a climate crisis occurs, PWD face the same barriers people without disabilities face, in addition to an additional set of barriers they face on a daily basis. Emergencies create vulnerabilities. When already vulnerable groups are caught in emergencies, there is more danger that can come from a situation.

United Nations. "United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability." United Nations. United Nations, 2020.
<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/about-us/united-nations-voluntary-fund-on-disability.html>.

The United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability (UNVF) is a monetary fund that aids the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in their efforts to promote inclusivity for people with disabilities. The UNVR can provide anything from small grants to funding for entire initiatives. It has worked to

improve the “livelihood and well-being” of people with disabilities, spread awareness, and develop strategies and policies to push for inclusive practices in national and international powers.

II. Addressing Human Rights Violations in Myanmar

International Rescue Committee. “Crisis in Myanmar: Violent Deadlock Leaves Millions in Need,” January 24, 2022. <https://www.rescue.org/article/crisis-myanmar-violent-deadlock-leaves-millions-need>.

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) is a nongovernmental organization providing aid to humanitarian crises globally. The IRC placed Myanmar on its IRC Watchlist following the 2021 coup, citing increased humanitarian needs as unrest continues, basic services collapse, and plummeting economy forces civilians further into poverty and food insecurity. While the United Nations response to any issue is crucial, analyzing what nongovernmental organizations are doing is also important to consider.

Pasya, Muhammad Maulana Nuha, and Yeni Widowaty. “Myanmar Coup and Connections of International Network Terrorism Affiliate in Transnational Legal View” *Unram Law Review* 5, no. 2 (2021): 129-145. <http://unramlawreview.unram.ac.id/index.php/ulrev/article/view/167>.

Unram Law Review is a peer-reviewed journal based out of Indonesia with a focus on law. In this report, the authors focus on terrorism in relation to Myanmar and their government. The article attempts to discover the causes and ways to combat the threat of terrorism. The report provides a look at the 2021 coup from a legal context, diving into the role of the Myanmar government in the threat of terrorism in the international community.

Rocha, Ian Christopher, et. al., “Myanmar’s coup d’état and its impact on COVID-19 response: a collapsing healthcare system in a state of turmoil,” *BMJ Military Health*, May 21, 2021, <https://militaryhealth.bmj.com/content/early/2021/05/21/bmjmilitary-2021-001871>.

BMJ Military Health is an online journal compiling research surrounding military health around the world. This article discusses how the 2021 coup d’état disrupted Myanmar’s COVID-19 pandemic response. Myanmar’s healthcare system was unable to provide COVID-19 testing for months following the coup, leading to an unknown number of cases the government cannot track for its COVID-19 pandemic response efforts. As COVID-19 cases went going undiagnosed, reports of doctors being dismissed from their position or being arrested caused grave humanitarian concerns for the Member State. The article provides a broader context to the struggles of Myanmar beyond traditional security concerns and provides information on how the Member State is facing the threat of two crises: a global health crisis and a military coup.

Samsouerizal, Adiningtyas Dwiputri, Eri Radityawara Hidayat, and Achmed Sukendro. “The Role of The International Community in Establishing Democracy in Myanmar.” *International Journal of Social Science and Business* 5, no. 4 (2021): 522-527. <https://ejournal.undiksha.ac.id/index.php/IJSSB/article/view/39400>.

The *International Journal of Social Science and Business* is a peer-edited journal promoting business and social sciences. This report focuses on the international community and its relationship with establishing democracy in Myanmar. Up to the 2021 coup, Myanmar’s path to democratization was influenced by powerful NGOs and Member States, creating international interest in the Member State. The study also looks at the dynamics of politics throughout the Member State up to the 2021 coup. This report provides an in-depth look to the international community’s roles in Myanmar’s government leading up to the 2021 coup, providing both international and regional context to Myanmar’s failing democratization.

Sullivan, Daniel P. “Dire Consequences: Addressing the Humanitarian Fallout from Myanmar’s Coup.” Refugees International, October 2021. <https://progressivevoicemyanmar.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/2021-10-21-Dire-Consequences-Addressing-the-Humanitarian-Fallout-from-Myanmars-Coup-en.pdf>.

Refugees International is a independent advocacy organization supporting displaced persons and stateless people. The article, “Dire Consequences,” discusses the international reaction to humanitarian and displacement crises ongoing in Myanmar following the 2021 coup. Additionally, the article calls out the

international community for inaction in holding the Myanmar government accountable for the human rights violations following the coup. The article provides examples of humanitarian recommendations for regional, NGO, and intergovernmental actors in solving the humanitarian crises within Myanmar.