

Germany's Legislature on Humanitarian Aid for Refugees in the Middle East

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I. Introduction

This paper was originally a position paper for the 2019 Tustin High School Model United Nations Conference, the ECOSOC committee. While this paper does not focus on a specific law or laws, this paper does provide Germany legislature's stance and perspective on giving humanitarian aid for refugees in the Middle East.

II. Background

Currently, there are over 71 million people that have been forcibly displaced by war. These people are forced to leave their homes and accept their future in living outside of their homelands. There is a strong divide between countries that are willing to accept these refugees and countries that are not. For the countries that are open to accepting refugees, there is a limit on the number of refugees that they can accept, meaning not every refugee who hopes to seek refuge in a certain country will be able to. Obviously, for the countries that are not open to refugees, refugees will not be able to take refuge into those countries. Now, let's say that some of these people were able to make it inside a country and build a new life, pillared by education, family, and friends. The unfortunate part is that children of refugees do not get citizenship status but instead also get refugee status. This serves as another obstacle for refugees trying to adapt to their new ways of life. Their children will have to live under the fact that they are not citizens but instead just people taking refuge in the country.

III. UN Involvement

The United Nations have attempted to alleviate the problem by establishing agencies to oversee the crisis and providing aid to refugees through refugee camps. UNHCR, since its establishment in 1950, has acted over decades to solve refugee problems. When the committee was first made, it was made to solve the refugee problem at hand at first and disband right afterwards. Since then, UNHCR has been acting to solve refugee crises across the world. Another UN agency that relates to this topic is UNRWA. Short for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, UNRWA has been working to help specifically Palestine Refugees.

IV. Country Policy and Involvement

While Germany has become a little less open to refugees in recent years, Germany has been generally open to refugees. In 2015, Angela Merkel famously said "We can do it," and went on about how they can accept refugees. Now, Germany has been taking a step back as we reach a limit on the number of refugees we can admit. However, over the past decades, Germany has been extremely involved with this topic and has accepted refugees. For other humanitarian aid issues, such as food and supply for the people, Germany has strongly been giving out these materials so that the living standards of refugees do not fall below what is considered humane.

V. Possible Solutions

Germany proposes as a solution that instead of closing its doors on refugees completely, that countries across the world look at the crisis with an open mind but instead secure that the

refugees add to the production of the country. Oftentimes, countries will ban refugees completely as they end up adding to the unemployment rates and serve as hindrances to society as they have trouble adapting to their new environment. However, Germany believes otherwise. We believe that if given the right amount of education and care, these refugees will be able to lead our world in the right direction. This is especially true for children, as if they are given the right education and opportunities, they will be able to become the next generation leaders.

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