



Committee: UNHCR

Topic: Displacement of refugees with political powers in the world

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INTRODUCTION

The objective of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is to look out for and defend the rights of refugees around the world, ensuring that everyone can exercise their right to apply for asylum in another country and that it is safe to do so. This includes the right to life, the freedom from torture and other forms of cruel treatment, the right to one's nationality, the freedom to travel freely, and the right to leave, and back to any country. Including one's own, and freedom from forcible deportation. Another point is the process of integration in the host countries, to achieve long-term solutions for the refugees so at some point they can return to their country. Political refugees are those who have left their homes because of violence, conflict, persecution, and natural causes and require international protection. These people at the time of becoming refugees become vulnerable people because they are at a point where they cannot plan their future, many lose their assets, experience trauma, and many women suffer gender-based violence.

"The perception that displacement challenges can only be addressed by humanitarian means is ill-conceived," according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees because long-term displacement presents developmental, political, and economic challenges in addition to humanitarian ones. This has either prevented or prolonged the implementation of long-term fixes or made it challenging for people who have been displaced for an extended period to terminate their need for humanitarian aid and resume their normal lives. The UNHCR shows that 85% of refugees live in developing countries, from which they receive minimal assistance to care for these people. Four out of five refugees remain in neighboring countries. Violence and wars have caused a new number of displaced people in history in 2017, this figure amounts to 68.5 forcibly displaced people. As violence, poverty, and climate change create more crises, the issue of displacement does not appear to be going away. Finding lasting solutions for refugees is getting more difficult as the COVID-19 pandemic causes economic and social destruction around the world, xenophobia is rising, and countries continue to impose admission restrictions.

When an emergency is declared in the agency, it automatically begins to look for places for people forced to flee to find a safe space where they can attend, but the emergence of new crises and existing crises have been increasingly difficult to solve. Finding long-term solutions for refugees, such as helping them return to their homes safely and voluntarily, assimilating into the local culture in a country of asylum, or settling in a third country, became more challenging as the conflicts dragged on, also many countries strengthened their borders. Only 4 million refugees were able to return to their home countries during the last decade, as opposed to 10 million during the previous decade. In 2019, less than 0.5% percent of the world's refugees were offered resettlement. Operating around the world is notoriously complicated, and involves hiring new staff and ensuring their safety in dangerous conditions, as well as purchasing everything from food shipments and medical supplies to charter flight plans, which has become increasingly difficult.

BODY

For the first time in over 20 years, War has struck Europe, this time in the Slavic countries of Ukraine and Russia, resulting in 7,536,433 Ukrainian refugees (as of September 30th, 2022) totaling a whopping 16% of registered Ukrainian citizens, with Germany and Poland bearing most of the brunt. It is estimated that more than 8 million people will have permanently left Ukraine for more western countries by the time this conflict is over. Additionally, some 700,000 Russian men, women, and children have fled in hopes of avoiding the newly implemented draft that states all men aged between 18-27 have to conscript in the army for a minimum of 12 months. The announcement of the draft widespread protests have erupted all across Russia, the most notable of which has been in Moscow. With the threat of imprisonment in forced labor camps or outright execution, the figures of mass immigration are growing each day with no signs of stopping.

Europe is no stranger to these kinds of situations, in 2015 a mass immigration crisis occurred on the borders and outskirts of Europe, Also known as the Syrian refugee crisis about 1.3 million Syrian refugees fled to Europe, and images of people huddled up in rafts and trucks spread all around the globe sparking outrage at the inappropriate handling of the situation by European countries. At that time European policy dictated that all migrants were to be detained at the border, questioned, and placed in temporary housing for at least 18 months, however, this was hardly a successful policy as violence in this temporary housing became unsafe for many women and children prompting illegal immigration to become widespread.

Or take the Balkans as well, when in the 1990s Bosnia and Herzegovina experienced widespread violence about 2 million people were displaced with half of them being internal and the other half fleeing out of the country with Serbia, Montenegro, and Croatia receiving 40% of the migrants. After the signing of the Dayton peace agreement, a cease-fire was negotiated with the hopes that a large portion of displaced citizens would return to their countries however this yielded less than desirable results when only about a quarter of a million people made it home with a substantial majority returning to areas in which they form part of the majority group, and even this low figure does not paint the whole picture as an additional 80,000 people were displaced in the same period due to a change in territories between the 2 nations. Most of the refugees could not return due to various issues, like a change in policy regarding property owners, a lack of available work, or obtaining back their citizenship.

Now, this issue is one of the past since then the Ukrainian war has provided Europe with a chance to change for the better, with the mass displacement of so many Ukrainians Europe has opened up to almost every refugee, with free transport, food and political support has undoubtedly proved immensely helpful to everyone affected by the war. However, this is not the case for non-Europeans who still face discrimination when trying to apply for asylum.

Europe is not the only area with displacement due to political powers. We can find some cases in Asia, after the overthrowing of the Myanmar government via a military coup approximately 30,000 people have fled the country, and many of them are currently in danger of being trafficked or assaulted. A similar yet fundamentally different example is North Korea, an estimated 50,000 people North Koreans were living in China by the end of the year 2000, additionally, over 100,000 people have been internally displaced. North Korean refugees already have many opportunities when outside of the country, recently the number of people fleeing has dropped down to the low hundreds due to the government's policy of no one leaving the country unless with special permission, while the situation has stagnated North Korea's example can help us have a reference of a system in which people can be taken care of should they flee their home country.

All of these cases highlight not only what happens to refugees that are displaced but what happens when they try to return home. One of these is the issue of repatriation (i.e being granted citizenship for their former country of origin). There are 3 main issues involving repatriation:

- 1) The flawed understanding that returning people to their former property will suffice for victims.
- 2) A lack of a long-term system in which a government can ensure the care of returning residents.

3) A misplaced focus on returning people to rural areas but neglecting a very large portion of urban refugees.

The same issues can be seen when looking at people who have been away for a long time such as a big change in environment, for the vast majority of people their decision lies in whether they can survive long-term in their previous residence.

Additionally, many people have security concerns when returning to their former property including tensions over the property with their neighbors. Another reason for people not returning to their previous land is if a change in government has occurred that could potentially be harmful to their economic and social security, or mistrust in their new regime because of political issues that can ultimately lead to resentment and a possible uprising among similarly minded refugees.

Ultimately this issue is multifaceted and doesn't have a simple solution when a situation is developing delegates may not be able to implement specific solutions from another issue, this must be treated on a case-to-case basis and delegates must build a framework upon which individual countries can build.

CONCLUSION

After all this, we can conclude that the Displacement of refugees with political powers in the world is an important problem to solve. Unfortunately, there are still few answers to this problem. Although little progress has been made in restoring peace, wars and conflicts remain the main causes of relocation. In 2017, around 5 million internally displaced people were able to return home, although many did so under pressure or in dangerous circumstances. Furthermore, as a result of states offering fewer resettlement places, there were approximately 100,000 fewer refugees who were relocated, a decrease of more than 40%. Even with all this, there is still reason for optimism. A new strategy to respond to the refugee crisis has been created and implemented by 14 nations, and the new Global Compact on Refugees will be ready for approval by the UN General Assembly. Some possible solutions to implement in this situation are:

- With medical visas, If the government chooses to provide their visas to a region where they can obtain them, refugees with significant medical conditions may be able to receive life-saving treatment.

- Let people learn, refugees have visas from schools to begin or continue their education abroad. This chance can change people's life by allowing them to finish their education, integrate, and give back to society.
- Unite families, people who are still adjusting to a new life and culture, frequently while recuperating from severe trauma, might greatly benefit from having close family nearby.
- Offer work visas or employment, finding employment is a critical part of the answer for many refugees. It aids individuals in surviving, providing for their families, and maintaining their independence and sense of self, aside from assimilating into a new community.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is a committee that over the years has been constant and has tried to make changes to this problem so that it can be solved since they have been allowed to carry out their tasks efficiently so that both respond to the needs that it develops.

Useful sites:

- <https://www.unhcr.org/news/latest/2020/11/5fbf73384/climate-change-defining-crisis-time-particularly-impacts-%20displaced.html>.
- <https://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2022/>
- <https://www.unhcr.org/flagship-reports/globaltrends/globaltrends2019/>
- https://www.unhcr.org/news/latest/2020/6/5eea140f4/global-forced-displacement-vastly-widespread-2019.html#_ga=2.81787991.1772790921.1665509630-1854002177.1665509630

- https://www.un.org/en/pdfs/Draft%20SG's%20Action%20Agenda%20for%20consultation_for%20dissemination.pdf
- <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/refugees>
- https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2018/6/5b27c2434/forced-displacement-above-68m-2017-new-global-deal-refugees-critical.html#_ga=2.109949893.1772790921.1665509630-1854002177.1665509630
- https://www.unhcr.org/news/latest/2022/10/634436c54/unhcrs-grandi-political-inaction-deepening-displacement-crisis.html#_ga=2.85909337.1772790921.1665509630-1854002177.1665509630
- https://www.unhcr.org/people-forced-to-flee-book/wp-content/uploads/sites/137/2021/10/Adam-G.-Lichtenheld_Strategic-Displacement-and-the-Politics-of-Wartime-Mobility.pdf
- <https://www.unhcr.org/4bbb2a199.pdf>

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