

PORGMUN Conference – Committee Introduction: Refugees and Humanitarian Aid Committee

PORGMUN Refugees & Humanitarian Aid Committee is a committee based on the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which is a United Nations agency addressing the protection and support of refugees. It strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another state, with the option to return home voluntarily, integrate locally or resettle in a third country. The nature of the PORGMUN Refugees & Humanitarian Aid Committee slightly differs from the nature of the original UN office. At PORGMUN we will address important issues and problems that surround our global world and expand the committee's mandate so that it can deal with more contentious issues, increasing the scope and possibilities of the delegates attending this committee's meetings.

Among the issues addressed by the RHA you may find:

- *Addressing the situation of North Korean refugees.* This country, which has, according to the United Nations panel, committed crimes against humanity and has many people escaping its totalitarian regime. The refugees that flee to China are in most cases returned back to DPRK where they face severe punishment.
- *Finding a solution to the problem of statelessness.* Stateless individuals, in other words individuals that are not considered citizens of any state, face multiple problems since they have none of the rights that are inherent with citizenship. These rights, such as the right to travel, are often taken for granted, however, being stateless can have an immense impact on an individual's life.
- *Improving the life chances of Syrian refugee children.* Since the outbreak of the Syrian civil war in March 2011, over two and a half million Syrians have fled their country in search of a safer home elsewhere. The situation of many refugees, often closed in refugee camps without any chance of improvement and lawfully unable to acquire a job, is tragic.

PORGMUN Refugees & Humanitarian Aid Committee allows for great creativity in the matters of protecting civilian victims of both war conflicts and political regimes. It combines humanitarian aid with finding an internationally viable solution to return refugees back into their ordinary lives.