COMMITTEE: UNHCR 2

**Topic: Refugee Crisis in Asia**

**Chairs: Audrey Bishop and Connor Edwards**

Honorable delegates, we are delighted to have the opportunity to moderate on the ongoing issue of the refugee crisis in Asia. Residents in these two countries, Afghanistan, and Myanmar, are being forced from their homes due to conflicts within the respective nations at an alarming rate. Over 158,000 Afghans have fled the country after the Taliban’s attainment of power; from Myanmar, over 31,000 people have become refugees during 2021 alone. This is a matter of global importance, as neighboring nations cannot adequately house these displaced peoples.

The topic of conflict in Afghanistan occupied the floor of the United Nations General Assembly since 1980. For multiple sessions, the General Assembly deliberated on and discussed the issue and in 1999, the Security Council implemented *Resolution 1267* addressing the human rights concerns and the displacement of people and seeking cooperation with the Afghan government in the face of the security threat from extremist groups such as the Taliban and Al-Qaida. As evidenced by the Global Report in 2021, these issues continue to be unresolved.

Fighting has pervaded the Rakhine state in Myanmar since 2012. A military coup in 2017 overthrew the existing government. Due to the hostility between militia groups and the commanding military, over 1 million Rohingya people, a Muslim minority group facing oppression and discrimination in the majority Buddhist nation, fled to neighboring Bangladesh. Those remaining in Myanmar face higher rates of poverty and discriminatory laws regarding religious or interpersonal practices. Many larger and more powerful nations have either limited their support or abstain from supporting the Rohingya people as it is not economically advantageous.

During your research, be sure to factor in the geographical proximity to the crises, the potential economic or humanitarian alliances, the impact that an influx of refugees would cause your respective countries, and other relevant pieces of information. Feel free to include other conflicts in Asia contributing to the continent’s refugee crisis but place an emphasis on the two listed above. If you have any questions pertaining to research for your respective delegations, you can contact me by email: bisam-25@rhodes.edu.

Sources/Resources to aid research:

<https://reporting.unhcr.org/globalreport2021/asia-pacific>

[www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/A\_C.3\_75\_L.34.pdf](http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/A_C.3_75_L.34.pdf)

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11625-021-00955-6>

<https://www.un.org/en/ga/62/plenary/afghanistan/bkg.shtml>

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N99/300/44/PDF/N9930044.pdf?OpenElement>

**Listed below are the respective countries that delegates can choose from upon registration:**

Afghanistan

Armenia

China

United States

Iran

Iraq

Israel

Japan

Myanmar

Pakistan

Russian Federation

India

Saudi Arabia

Bangladesh

India

Egypt

Turkey

United Kingdom

Pakistan

Republic of Korea

Vietnam

Yemen

Bhutan

Democratic People’s Republic of Korea

Belarus

France

Italy

Poland

Romania

Ukraine

Serbia

Tajikistan

Uzbekistan

Turkmenistan

Oman

Thailand

Cambodia

Nepal

Lao’s People’s Democratic Republic

Malaysia

Indonesia

Kazakhstan

Mongolia

Papua New Guinea

Serbia

Sudan

Australia

Canada

Switzerland

Sweden