**Committee:** UNHCR 1

**Topic: Displacement in Colombia**

**Chairs: Molly Hirner and Sarah Kate Childs**

**Report of the Chairs**

1. **Rationale**

* **Violence is forcing thousands of people in Colombia to leave their homes and move either to somewhere else within the country or to another country entirely**
* **In Colombia “at the end of 2021, some 53.2 million people were internally displaced due to armed conflict, generalized violence or human rights violations”**
* **This is important to the international community for many reasons**
  + **Internal displacement is a violation of human rights**
  + **Indigenous and Afro-Colombian populations are especially at risk for displacement**
  + **Other countries are affected by this displacement as the number of refugees from Colombia is increasing**
* **The international community has an obligation to address this issue because “the UN refugee agency reiterates the need to ensure that the civilian population has access to protection and assistance.”**
* **The goal of the international community should be to first guarantee these displaced peoples security and decent living in their new location** 
  + **The long-term goal is to return displaced peoples to their area of origin once it is safe to do so**
  + **The international community must work to address the internal issues in Colombia for this long-term goal to be accomplished**

1. **Background of the Topic**

* **Displacement has been occurring in Colombia for over 50 years**
* **Displacement occurs in waves as violence breaks out between guerrilla groups, paramilitaries, drug cartels and Colombian armed forces**
* **Failure of Peace Agreement between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)** 
  + **Since the agreement was signed, violence has actually increased in the country and thus so has displacement**

1. **Contemporary Evidence of the Topic**

* **In 2018, there were 7,671,124 internally displaced people in Colombia**
  + **This means Colombia has the second-highest number of internally displaced persons in the world**
* **Around 250,000 Colombian refugees are in Ecuador**
  + **But only about 15,000 have been recognized as refugees by the country (legal recognitions makes refugees eligible for government assistance and legal permits)**
* **There are also many Colombian refugees in Panama and Venezuela** 
  + **Refugees in both countries are having difficulty gaining governmental recognition as well as accessing jobs, schools, and healthcare systems**

1. **Reference and Research Resources**

**“10 Facts Regarding Colombian Refugees.” *The Borgen Project*, 16 June 2020,**

**https://borgenproject.org/10-facts-colombian-refugees/.**

**“Colombia.” *The UN Refugee Agency*, United Nations,**

**https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/colombia.html.**

**“Forced Displacement Growing in Colombia despite Peace Agreement.” *UNHCR*, United**

**Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 10 Mar. 2017,**

**https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/briefing/2017/3/58c26e114/forced-displacement-**

**growing-colombia-despite-peace-agreement.html.**

**“Internally Displaced People.” *UNHCR,* United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,**

**https://www.unhcr.org/internally-displaced-people.html.**

1. **Note to the Delegates**

* **Esteemed delegates, we are honored to have the opportunity to moderate a conference on such a pertinent issue being the displacement in Colombia. While preparing for the conference, first consider why this crisis is occurring. What exactly is happening in Colombia that is causing this displacement and what can the international community do to address these internal issues? It is also important to think about how this crisis in Colombia impacts other nations. What countries are impacted by the increase in Colombian refugees and how are they addressing this issue? What can the international community do to support these refugees and refugee-host nations? In addition, you might want to research existing resolutions and what they have done both successfully and unsuccessfully in addressing this issue. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me at any time. My email is chisk-25@rhodes.edu.**

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

**Colombia**

**Venezuela**

**Guyana**

**Suriname**

**Ecuador**

**Peru**

**Bolivia**

**Chile**

**Argentina**

**Paraguay**

**Uruguay**

**Brazil**

**Panama**

**Costa Rica**

**Nicaragua**

**El Salvador**

**Honduras**

**Belize**

**Guatemala**

**Mexico**

**United States**

**Canada**

**Cuba**

**Turkey**

**Germany**

**France**

**Korea**

**China**

**Japan**

**Dominican Republic**

**Haiti**

**India**

**Indonesia**

**United Kingdom**

**Spain**