



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Table of Contents

- 2... An Introduction from your Chairs
- 3... A Note on Research and Preparation
- 4... Committee Background

Protecting the Rights of Women & Girls in Conflict-Affected Areas of the DRC

Introduction and History
Issues and Discourse
International Action

Guiding Questions

Must-Know Vocabulary

Dear Delegates,

Hello to everyone! My name is Chelsea Ezeako and I will be your chair for this committee. Currently, I am a senior at Centennial High School and I plan to pursue further studies in Public Health and Medicine. I've been doing Model UN for 3 years now, and have truly enjoyed my experience in it. I hope your time in this committee and MiniMUN will create similar optimistic experiences, and I look forward to hearing the various ideas you all have. Outside of Model UN, I am also in the Environmental Club, C5 Georgia, Spanish Honors Society, and enjoy spending a lot of time reading and listening to all kinds of music. For the past three years, I've also helped to prepare MiniMUN through administration and page roles. However, this will be my first time chairing, but I'll be sure to ensure this committee is the best it can be. I look forward to meeting and hearing all of your inspiring solutions and discussions.

Hi! I'm Olivia Hazelwood and I am your co-chair for this committee! I am also a senior at Centennial High School and I hope to study Music Performance or International Relations in the future. This is my 3rd year in Model UN, and I have truly grown from every experience and joined a great community full of people with diverse interests. Other than Model UN, I also am part of Chorus Leadership (as a passionate choir kid), Tri-M Music Honors Society, Spanish Club, Spanish Honors Society, Roswell Dance Theatre's MoCo Company, and Environmental Club. Besides my occupied extracurriculars, I love cooking different recipes, trying new food, and watching The Office. Last year, I helped run administration for MiniMUN 2023, and I'm so excited to help chair and support the growth of new ideas for a very important topic.

Throughout your time preparing for MiniMUN 2024, we wish you the best of luck in your research endeavors.

If you guys have any questions please be sure to contact us!

Chelsea Ezeako: cchinelo@gmail.com

Olivia Hazelwood: ohazelwood2005@gmail.com

Research and Preparation

I have found in my time at MUN that research and preparation are essential to being successful as a delegate. Through this background guide provided to you, it is expected that you complete research on your topic and country with reputable sources on your own. When preparing for this conference keep in mind that it is expected that you have extensive knowledge of your country and your topic and that you can demonstrate constant, substantive engagement throughout the conference.

It is also encouraged to print out all helpful research that you have compiled, as **MiniMUN is NOT a tech conference**. This means that any form of technology is not allowed during debate, and all resources including research and position papers must be printed if you wish to refer to them. Any unpermitted use of technology will be considered when chairs are determining awards.

To accurately represent one's country, delegates must be knowledgeable and discuss their country's policies. To do so, delegates are **required** to write a position paper for the topic on the committee's agenda. Any delegation that has not submitted a position paper will **automatically be ineligible for an award**. Additionally, **AI use is prohibited** and any delegate suspected of using ChatGPT or any other generative AI will be reported to their sponsor and will become automatically ineligible for an award. For more information about writing a position paper please refer to our MiniMUN website, but each paper should consist of the following points:

- I. **Topic History** - At the beginning of your paper there should be an overview of the topic alongside any relevant information you think is essential to address before committee. This does not have to be extensive but rather focuses on details that correspond to delegates' countries' policies and proposed solutions.
- II. **Country Policy** - The second aspect of a delegate's position paper should include their countries' policies. Any past actions (solutions, policies,) relevant to the topic are important to demonstrate. Establish why your country is relevant to the topic and include your country's credentials in this paragraph. Simply ensure why they matter.
- III. **Proposed Solution** - The final paragraph of the position paper should be your solution(s) to the problem. Solutions should be meticulous and well thought out, with consideration of the limits of the committee. However, it must be noted that pre-written working papers are against MiniMUN rules, and any delegation in violation of this rule will become automatically ineligible for awards.

Committee Background

The United Nations Human Rights Committee, or OHCHR, is a principal organ of the United Nations established in 1966 under the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) and per Articles 28 to 39 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) treaty. As a treaty body, the OHCHR functions through an established group of 18 experts tasked with monitoring the implementation of all human rights (racial and ethnic rights, LGBTQ+ rights, women's rights, rights to assembly, and many more) in member states.



In ensuring its purpose of promoting and protecting human rights as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the OHCHR meets for three four-week sessions per year to consider the Universal Periodic Reports (UPR) submitted by the 173 States



parties. Through this reviewing process, its experts can ensure member states' compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), a multilateral treaty that commits nations to respect the civil and political rights of individuals. Further, they provide feedback and recommendations for addressing human rights abuses to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

The OHCHR also assesses non-UN parties when investigating reports on human rights. NGOs and other civil society organizations, regardless of accreditation, may submit reports (sometimes called "shadow reports") to the Committee, comment on state reports, and attend all Committee sessions as observers to create holistic approaches to investigating international human rights abuses.

Delegates should remember the OHCHR's work in resolving human rights crises and conflicts through mediation efforts, monitoring mechanisms, and support for peacebuilding and reconciliation processes is limited. This committee may not impose solutions and can only provide recommendations to the issue on this committee's agenda.

For more information about the OHCHR, its activities, reports, and resolutions, please visit the official website: [United Nations Human Rights Committee](https://www.unhcr.org/committees)

Protecting the Rights of Women & Girls in Conflict-Affected Areas of the DRC

Introduction and History

In early 2022, the eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) reached new levels of insecurity, which led to even more cases of sexual violence and extreme restrictions on humanitarian space. This is only a small change, as there have been decades of violence between multiple armed groups that have led to several instances of gender-based violence, the displacement of over 6.1 million people, and the forced search of 1 million people to find asylum outside of the DRC.

Historically, this conflict has been developing over several decades in the DRC. The 1994 Rwandan genocides, killing 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus, led to millions of Rwandan refugees pouring into the eastern province. In the First Congo War in 1996, Rwanda and Uganda invaded the DRC to pinpoint the perpetrators of the Rwandan genocide, in which a coalition between the armies of Uganda and Rwanda with Congolese opposition leader Laurent Désiré Kabila defeated the dictator Mobutu Sese Seko. The Second Congo War had countries fighting each other in the DRC, where it ended with the Luanda Agreement between Uganda and Congo, and Joseph Kabila (the son of recently assassinated President Kabila) won the presidency of democratic elections. In 2008, Rwanda and the DRC joined to defeat the FDLR (the Federation for the Liberation of Rwanda- perpetrators of the genocide), but they ended up splitting and dissolving into other militia groups.

Issues and Discourse

In the conflicts in the present-day DRC, multiple groups such as the Allied Democratic Forces, the National Liberation Forces, and many others continue to terrorize civilians and block peace. One prominent issue that is a significant part to address in this complex situation is the severity of violence towards women and girls. Several UN entities have recognized and have urged for action around the targeting of women and girls by armed men in and around internally displaced persons (IDP) camps in the eastern province of the DRC. Other risks that are associated with this issue include sexual exploitation, enslavement, and forced marriage. There are 145 brothel sites that have been identified, with 67 of them in the IDP sites of Karisimbi and Goma. This information demonstrates the urgency necessary to call upon government action to push the closure of these brothels and create more services that support women in these circumstances.



International Action

In the past, the UN Action Network has developed the Framework for the Prevention of CRSV (which stands for conflict-related sexual violence). These structures are heavily set in prevention approaches on different levels such as increasing peacebuilding by promoting women's participation in leadership for peaceful structures, decreasing military spending to increase social programs, regulating small arms and light weapons, and focusing on gender-sensitive justice to increase human security.



Another large part of prevention in this framework includes increasing the diversity in communities and protecting them through support efforts towards diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, rural community members, and indigenous and displaced populations. These international legislations are important for governments to implement to protect international human rights laws and align with the 5th Sustainable Development Goal to promote universal gender equality.

It is also important that survivors of gender-based violence have accessible opportunities to reach services that offer support. The government of the DRC has been urged by the UN to also push for psychological, medical, legal, and socio-economic support, especially towards women and children who have been through circumstances of gender-based violence. This is a necessary action to relieve current struggles in the DRC by providing services of support.

Throughout all of these factors and impacts, it is vital to consider the role of the OHCHR in supporting the DRC. It should be considered how we can address these issues in the eastern province of protection and services while also putting in comprehensive frameworks for future prevention.

Guiding Questions

1. What measures can be implemented to prevent sexual violence against women and girls in conflict-affected areas of the DRC?
2. What has your country done currently or in the past that can apply to this issue?
3. How can collaboration among government agencies, civil society organizations, and international actors be strengthened to address this issue?
4. What role does the UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict (UN Action Network) play in preventing and/or remediating this issue?
5. What failures resulted from past actions in the DRC, and how will new resolutions work to alleviate this issue?

Words to Know

Internally Displaced Persons: Someone who is forced to leave their home but remains within their country's borders– they're often referred to as refugees, but they do not fall within the legal definitions of a refugee.

UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict: A network of 25 UN entities, united with the goal of ending sexual violence during and in the wake of armed conflict.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV): Harmful acts of abuse and violence directed against a person that is rooted in an unequal balance of authority between men and women.

UN Sustainable Development Goal 5: A goal that aims to eliminate all forms of violence, discrimination, and harmful practices such as forced marriage against women and girls. Additionally, it includes women's “full and effective participation and equal leadership opportunities,” and access to medical and sexual health services.