

## UNHCR Position Paper

### **Delegate of:**

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The issues that will be discussed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees will be: Living Conditions and Sanitation in Refugee Camps, Recognition of the Crisis of Rohingya and Refugees from the Conflict, Solutions for Human Trafficking and refugees in Europe's Migrant Crisis. On behalf of our Prime Minister Theresa May and our Foreign Minister Boris Johnson, the delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland salutes the members of this committee and extends the invitation to collectively address the issues in this agenda.

### ***A) Living Conditions and Sanitation in Refugee Camps***

In 2015, more than a million refugees fled from their countries to arrive in Europe. This quickly became the biggest migrant crisis that Europe had ever faced and some European countries are struggling to accept these refugees. One of the strategies these countries uses to keep refugees in place and safe is by creating refugee camps. Supposedly, these camps provide a safe, temporary place where refugees can stay. They are supplied with food, water, medical aid, and protection. These refugee camps have been blooming all throughout Europe and are adhered to specific requirements that were established by the United Nations' High Commissioner for Refugees. Some of the requirements state that each refugee needs 2lt of water daily, 2000-2500 calories from food usually broken down in 3 meals a day, housing and health and safety regulations. Due to the huge amount of refugees some camps struggle to provide most of these needs. The camps that are limited in supplies and which can't host a big amount of refugees can create an unsafe environment for instance reduced portions of meals, overcrowding and the spread of sicknesses.

The United Kingdom a rather powerful country within Europe has been working extensively to help improve refugee camps, it has been stated that the UK is the second largest bilateral donor with refugee camp support. Contributing over 1.1 billion pounds to better camps and an additional 10m to help refugee minors. The United Kingdom has also been accepting a limited amount of refugees by the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Programme (VPR) and has promised to accept 20,000 refugees by 2020. The United Kingdom has also been accepting children giving them priority to enter the country. People who are granted refugee status through VPR can stay five years, after those five years they can apply to settle in the UK. Although the UK has been very accepting to a limited amount of refugees, there has been large investments to improve refugee camps. This country also believes that education should be a bigger part in refugee camps, since it helps the refugees learn the crucial skill sets that they need to live in a different culture.

The United Kingdom hopes that the refugees can be in safe areas where they can get the food and water they need, and desires that the conflict is resolved. This country has proposed

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multiple solutions to improve the refugee crisis by having countries backing more refugee camps and helping with funds. The United Kingdom has also been very supportive of the EU-Turkey refugee deal, where Turkey holds refugees in the country and gives them somewhere safe to stay. The United Kingdom would be open to back more deals similar to the EU-Turkey deal. Previous proposals made by former Minister of International Development Andrew Mitchell have also been taken into consideration, these proposals include having troops in Syrian refugee camps and establishing no fly zones. Former Prime Minister David Cameron had also expressed that the UK can not sustain large amounts of refugees. The United Kingdom believes that refugee camps need to be up to standard so people can have the necessary supplies to be able to live and be situated until the conflict is resolved.

### ***B) Recognition of the Crisis of Rohingya Genocide and Refugees from the Conflict***

The Rohingya, one of the largest percentage of Muslims in Myanmar, are fleeing because of the mass attacks that have been committed against them in their country. Just recently in August 25 2017 Myanmar military attacked and killed Rohingya people. 6,700 were senselessly murdered with at least 730 children under the age of five being victims. It was also reported that the military abused and raped Rohingya women. These attacks against Rohingya have been going on for a while, since 1962 more than 200,000 Muslims were pushed by Myanmar military into Bangladesh. In 1982 a citizenship law was passed identifying over 132 ethnic groups, the Rohingya were not included. This conflict has been building up to a point where the Myanmar army is just taking Rohingya lives away, destroying homes and raping women and children. The conflict in Rohingya is very concerning, Rohingya militants have also been trying to stop the senseless killing but with no success. It is estimated that one million Rohingya people are staying in Bangladesh since their homes, and their lives were destroyed.

The United Kingdom is absolutely appalled and disgusted on the actions that Myanmar has taken, and believes that these actions must stop. Prime Minister Theresa May has stated that this is a major humanitarian crisis that was created by the military and that it looks like ethnic cleansing. The Foreign Affairs Committee has stated that the violence against Rohingya people constitute crimes against humanity and might be considered genocide. The United Kingdom has also been extremely critical of General Min Aung Hlaing, who is the commander in chief of the Myanmar military, and have stated that he bears the ultimate responsibility for the violence and atrocities committed. The United Kingdom has also been extremely critical on State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi for not having the leadership, ability and willingness to speak out about this issue. This is a horrible situation that violates human rights, these actions need to be taken very seriously. Theresa May has also stated that she vows to tackle the inhumane destruction of the Rohingya people.

The United Kingdom is the number one donor towards this crisis and looks forward to continue contributing. This country also believes that serious consequences need to be placed on Myanmar for these horrific acts, whether it is cutting diplomatic ties or taking to the International

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Crime Court. Boris Johnson believes that Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi needs to recognize what happened and condemn what has happened before it is too late. The UK also recognizes that what happened in Myanmar is a crime against humanity and violates the Rome Statute. No one in this day or age should go through what Rohingya people went through, it is extremely appalling that issues like these still happen now a day. The Rohingya people have gone through decades of suffering and the recent events have been the worst attacks against them. The United Kingdom will work extensively to solve these issues and deems it unacceptable that no one has been punished for the atrocities that have been committed.

### **C) Solutions for Human Trafficking and refugees in Europe's Migrant Crisis**

Since the beginning of the Syrian Civil War, Europe has faced a massive influx of immigrants. This has caused a huge problem within Europe since there are some countries that do not want the immigrants or can not host them. This prompted the European Union to create a deal with the country of Turkey, known as the EU-Turkey refugee deal. This deal states that any migrant arriving in Greece is going to be sent to Turkey if they are not approved or apply for asylum. This helps Europe since the inflow of migrants is going to become lower, it also helps Turkey by receiving financial aid. Although this situation has been helpful it has also provided a huge problem of human trafficking. Human traffickers have taken advantage of people trying to get into Europe and exploiting them into slavery, most of these victims are children. 96,000 children have tried claiming asylum in Europe since 2015 and over 10,000 children have not been localized by refugee agencies (these numbers were reported by the European Commission). Children who are taken are usually sold for sums of money, and are usually sexually abused or exploited into slavery. Since the immigrant crisis started thousands of people have been affected by human trafficking and countries need to do something to prevent this number from increasing.

The United Kingdom finds this issue very concerning, both for immigrants and for their citizens. Police forces in Britain have been working hard to fight this issue since it has been increasing year by year. Children are being exploited day by day and everyone is appalled that this is happening. Prime Minister Theresa May has stated multiple times that this is the greatest human rights issue of our time and has committed to lead the way in defeating modern slavery. The United Kingdom has been investing large budgets into a nationwide campaign that helps to recognize the signs of human trafficking and modern slavery. There have also been anti-slavery teams implemented in airports to help identify victims and taking down human trafficking gangs. A Modern Slavery act was also created and has been extremely successful. Raising sentences for human traffickers, helping identify victims and compensating victims. EU law also states that any human trafficking victim (including migrants) have a 30-day recovery period where they are supplied with legal advice, accommodation and medical treatment, the UK increased the time to 45 days. The United Kingdom has also been backing ways to solve the Syrian crisis since that is where most refugees come from and when the refugees arrive in camps it is usually when they are lured into human trafficking.

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The United Kingdom has proposed multiple ways to solve the huge human trafficking crisis that Europe has faces. Working closely with INTERPOL and having better training with police forces. Finding ways to solve the Syrian crisis that has been the main source of most of the migrants, by proposing no fly zones. The Syrian conflict not only has caused a massive influx of migrants but also a huge increase on human trafficking. Children should not have to suffer forced labor and illegal sex trafficking. The Syrian conflict needs to be solved and the United Kingdom has been wanting to find solutions and has also backed actions taken by the United States, for example. The military strike that was launched under President Donald Trump and has helped pass the 30-day cease fire that was proposed in the Security Council. This is a conflict that needs to be solved since no one in this world should have to suffer the horrors of human trafficking.

### Sources: (APA FORMAT)

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