



*American Model United Nations*

**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**

## Report to the General Assembly on Refugee Protection and Sexual Violence

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## Executive Summary

At its 25th session, held November 22nd through November 25th of 2014 the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) considered its first agenda topic: Refugee protection and sexual violence.

The first chapter of this report consists of resolutions, which the commission presents to ECOSOC requesting that the Council consider the resolutions for adoption. There were four resolutions adopted within our body on the topics of Education, Legal Aspects, Healthcare and Safety, and Transitional States.

Chapter two of the report outlines the discussions that occurred during debate of agenda topic one. The discussions are organized by informal sub-committees. The sub-committee topics are as follows; Education, Health Care and Security, Legal Issues, Data Collection Methods, Gender Equality and Culture, and lastly, Transitional States; Education, Legal consideration, transitional states, and healthcare and safety were the main concerns of the body. These sub-committees were the basis for the four resolutions that were adopted within this body, and the main focuses of these sub-committees were as follows:

- Regarding education, the body reached consensus on the urge for creation of broad-based educational programs for refugees and UN personnel.
- Regarding healthcare and safety, the body suggested oversight within refugee camps, the provision of basic necessities to refugees, and the strengthening of national health systems in order to address the demands that sexual violence provides.
- Regarding legal considerations, the body suggested the creation of a UNHCR Refugee Identification Program, and also suggests that legal counsel be provided to all refugees affected by sexual violence.
- Regarding transitional states, the body encourages the prioritization of refugee protection by mission personnel in order to assist in the transition of refugees from conflict zones to refugee camps. Additional structures provided through the Program in Assisted General Evacuation (PAGE) will protect refugees from threats of sexual violence.

- 1 The last chapter details the acceptance of this report for the General Assembly Plenary's
- 2 consideration.
- 3

# Matters calling for action by the United Nations General Assembly

## ***Draft resolutions for adoption by the General Assembly***

- 4 The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees recommends to the General  
5 Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

### **Draft resolution I/1**

UNHCR/I/1

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Refugee Protection and Sexual Violence

SUBMITTED TO: The United Nations High Commissioner  
for Refugees

*The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,*

6 *Deeply concerned by all forms of sexual violence inside and outside refugee*  
7 *camps,*  
8

9 *Welcoming the efforts made by Member States to implement sexual violence*  
10 *education programs,*  
11

12 *Reaffirming the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugee and its 1967*  
13 *optional protocol,*  
14

15 1. *Suggests for the creation of two educational based programs for United Nations*  
16 *personnel and refugees located at United Nations refugee camps;*

17 (a) *Calls for the implementation of a program especially for United Nations*  
18 *personnel that teaches individuals how to respond in an effective and timely manner that*  
19 *is ethnically and culturally sensitive of the refugees affected;*  
20

21 2. *Recommends for the utilization of an educational program and community*  
22 *organization that specifically informs refugees of the rights afforded to them under*  
23 *international law and further calls for the educational programs to inform victims of*  
24 *sexual violence of the possible legal avenues;*

25 (a) *Reminds Member States of the importance of quality reproductive health*  
26 *education;*  
27

28 3. *Requests the use of a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural*  
29 *Organization set of protocols to teach voted refugees how to become counselors that*  
30 *specifically assist fellow refugees with the aftermath of sexual violence and the various*

means to notice and prevent incidents of violence:

(a) Provides for the opportunity of prior victims who have come to peace to act as mentors for the refugee population;

(b) Recognizing the importance of a safe and welcoming community to improve the quality of life of all victims of assault;

4. *Further requests* additional programs to cover sensitivity training to avoid discrimination on the basis of race, religion, creed, gender or sexual orientation;

5. *Further requests* the additional resources of translators to address the insurmountable need of proper communication for all languages spoken inside refugee camps especially during educational opportunities relating to sexual violence and the rights of refugees;

6. *Notes the* difficult nature of an educator's job within a refugee camp and recognizes that many educators are volunteers drawn from the refugee population;

7. *Encourages* the creation of comprehensive awareness campaigns specifically designed for sexual protection, reproductive health, and family planning;

8. *Strongly requests* that should a Member State be able, they integrate refugee women and children into their local classrooms in the manner of the Peoples Republic of China if the refugee shows interest to do;

9. *Welcomes* the implementation of hiring female doctors and nurses to conquer this cultural taboo thus encouraging women and children to reach out to those medical officials for purposes of education;

10. *Stresses* the necessity for confidentiality in all interactions between refugees and United Nations personnel.

Passed, Yes: 60 / No: 8 / Abstain: 8

## Draft resolution I/2

UNHCR/I/2

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Refugee protection and sexual violence

SUBMITTED TO: The United Nations High Commissioner  
for Refugees

*The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,*

*Deeply disturbed* at the higher proportions of sexual violence against refugees in transition,

DOC:311

63  
64       *Noting* the current propensity for United Nations (UN) personnel to engage in active  
65 interference in conflict situations in attempts to make, rather than keep, peace,

66  
67       *Recognizing* that refugee camps are inherently more dangerous and prone to sexual  
68 violence than stable communities, as noted by the International Red Cross and Red  
69 Crescent Movement,

70  
71       *Noting* that refugees are under threat of sexual violence in every situation in which  
72 they exist,

73  
74       1. *Encourages* the re-prioritization of mission personnel forces to protect civilians, with a  
75 special focus on sexual violence;

76  
77       2. *Supports* the integration of refugees already present in camps into safer environments  
78 and calls for hosting nations to provide refugees with the same basic rights as citizens in  
79 accordance with those afforded under the United Nations Universal Declaration of  
80 Human Rights;

81  
82       3. *Recognizes* that UN-authorized interpreters help prevent sexual violence by increasing  
83 trust between military personnel and refugees;

84  
85       4. *Recommends* the establishment of a ‘Program for Assisted General Evacuation’  
86 (PAGE) for the purposes of facilitating evacuation procedures for refugees in conflict  
87 zones and protecting them from threats of sexual violence both internal and external:

88           a. These added structures will deter sexual violence due to the presence of the  
89 vigilant, neutral third party;

90           b. Facilitators of this program could potentially include both UN personnel and  
91 Non-Governmental Organizations;

92           c. This program is ‘opt-in’; individuals will voluntarily choose participation;

93       5. *Emphasizes* the importance of the use of transit centers to ensure uniform care and  
94 protection during transitions in order to prevent a lapse of protection from external and  
95 internal sources of sexual violence during intermediary stages.

Passed by consensus, with 10 abstentions

96   **Draft resolution I/3**

UNHCR/I/3

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION:       Refugee protection and sexual violence

SUBMITTED TO:                   The United Nations High Commissioner  
for Refugees

*The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,*

DOC:311

97           *Reaffirming* the Gateway Protection Program started by the United Kingdom in  
98 2004 to offer citizenship to vulnerable refugees,

99  
100           *Additionally Reaffirming* the past and current efforts of the United Nations High  
101 Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) to provide identification to refugees,

102  
103           *Recognizing* the need for greater data collection of relevant details concerning  
104 incidents of sexual violence against refugees,

105  
106           *Recalling* resolution 2106 and all other relevant resolutions and the  
107 recommendations therein,

108  
109           *Additionally Recognizing* the Declaration on Preventing Sexual Violence in  
110 Conflict,

111  
112           *Deeply concerned* for the need for anonymity within data collection processes that  
113 pertain to cases of sexual violence against refugees,

114  
115           1. *Welcomes* states willing and able to provide permanent citizenship or  
116 permanent residence through programs similar to the Gateway Protection Program so that  
117 refugees at risk of further sexual violence in camps;

118  
119           2. *Urges* the acceptance of the UNHCR refugee identification program as  
120 legitimate identification for refugees in all member States to create a more secure and  
121 stable status and reduce vulnerability to sexual violence;

122  
123           3. *Further urges* the expansion of the current UNHCR identification program to  
124 better protect refugees from sexual violence by implementing a more consistent and  
125 inclusive identification program;

126  
127           4. *Requests* the UNHCR assist in capacity building for UNHCR refugee  
128 identification programs within States seeking to better protect refugees from acts of  
129 sexual violence;

130  
131           5. *Encourages* willing States to emulate Estonia's example of inviting the  
132 UNHCR to provide oversight and advisement in regarding legal counsel to refugees who  
133 are victims of sexual violence;

134  
135           6. *Reminds* all States that the protection of refugees against sexual violence is the  
136 responsibility of all but that there are many organizations willing to provide aid and  
137 advisement.

Passed by consensus, with 7 abstentions

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Refugee protection and sexual violence

SUBMITTED TO: The United Nations High Commissioner  
for Refugees

*The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,*

*Enhancing* the measures already outlined in United Nations High Commissioner  
for Refugees (UNHCR) Action Against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Report,  
which are applicable to current problems on sexual violence against refugees,

*Noting* with deep regret the lack of ability of present medical facilities to  
appropriately respond to cases and allegations of sexual assault,

*Stressing* the vulnerability of refugee communities and the responsibility of the  
international community as a whole to protect these stateless peoples,

*Considering* the need for refugees to trust the United Nations (UN) workers who  
are charged with their protection,

*Recognizing* the need for safe and reliable transportation of refugees around the  
world due to the prevalence of sexual violence outside of refugee facilities,

*Acknowledging* the need for refugee protection from sexual violence outside of  
sanctioned camps,

*Understanding* the need to empower women in refugee camps,

1. *Encourages* strengthening national health systems to cope with increased  
demand related to sexual assault and battery through the following methods:

- a. Providing national health systems with more resources, including rape kits and  
other related medical equipment, as well as the proper literature on its treatment;
- b. Educating healthcare workers to deal with sexual assault in sensitive and  
efficient ways;

2. *Advocates* for health and sexual education that is sensitive to regional norms  
and values from a community approach, with the following bodies involved in creating  
curriculum and teaching:

- a. Teachers and school administrators;
- b. Healthcare workers;
- c. Community leaders;
- d. Any interested locally established non-governmental organizations (NGOs);



174  
175 3. *Recommends* creating a technology based information system such that, in  
176 regions where it is feasible, individuals can text questions and concerns anonymously to a  
177 panel of doctors that can provide information about HIV, sexually transmitted infections  
178 (STIs), and other sexual abuse concerns;

179  
180 4. *Suggests* providing additional health resources to health facilities within  
181 refugee camps including:

- 182 a. Rape kits and other related medical equipment;
- 183 b. Culturally sensitive pamphlets educating refugees about health options  
184 concerning sexual violence and self-protection;
- 185 c. Investing in infrastructure that provides immediate health care to victims of  
186 sexual assaults and rapes, in the form of emergency rooms, treatment of sexually-  
187 transmitted diseases, and treatment of physical damage sustained during assault;
- 188 d. Establishing anonymous psychological and mental health facilities as well as  
189 confidential consultation for refugees who have experienced sexual and gender-based  
190 violence;
- 191 e. Further investing in rehabilitation facilities that provide health care for long-  
192 term effects of sexual assaults and rape, and pre- and post-natal care for mothers of  
193 children of rape;

194  
195 5. *Calls upon* the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) to address the  
196 issue of a lack of oversight within refugee camps, specifically concerning the ability of  
197 refugees to trust UN officials by:

- 198 a. Conducting random check-ins of the UN workers at refugee facilities to prevent  
199 or address sexual violence occurrences;

200  
201 6. *Encourages* refugees to take leadership roles within refugee camps, especially  
202 women;

203  
204 7. *Reaffirms* the necessity for refugees to have access to basic human necessities  
205 in order to prevent continuous migration which leads to sexual violence, including:

- 206 a. Food;
- 207 b. Water;
- 208 c. Shelter;
- 209 d. Education;

210  
211 8. *Encourages* member states with a substantial amount of refugee camps to  
212 request UNHCR's assistance with tracking, registering, and reporting the existence of  
213 unofficially recognized refugee camps in order to provide resources that prevent sexual  
214 violence to currently unrecognized camps;

215  
216 9. *Suggests* creating safe houses for women and children refugees in urban  
217 locations to protect them from sex trafficking and exploitation, common forms of sexual  
218 violence against refugees in urban locations.

Passed by consensus, with 3 abstentions

## **Consideration of Refugee Protection and Sexual Violence**

At its 2014 session, the Commission considered agenda item1: Refugee Protection and Sexual Violence

For its consideration of this item, the Commission had before it the following documents:

- (a) Need to Know Guidance Report of the UNHCR-Working with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Persons in Forced Displacement UNHCR 2011;
- (b) Need to Know Guidance Report 4- Working with Men and Boy Survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Forced Displacement UNHCR 2012;
- (c) Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees (A/RES/2198 XXI/1951);
- (d) Security Council Statement on Women and Peace and Security (S/PRST/2014/21);
- (e) Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women and Peace Building (S/RES/1325);
- (f) UNHCR Action Against Sexual and Gender-based Violence; An Updated; Strategy;
- (g) UNHCR Report Sexual and Gender-based Violence Against Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons; Guidelines and Prevention and Response;
- (h) Executive Committee Conclusion on Refugee Women and International Protection no. 39 (XXXVI), 1985;
- (i) Executive Committee Conclusion on Refugee Protection and Sexual Violence no.73 (XLIV), 1993;
- (j) UNHCR Camp Security and Refugee Guidelines- Vulnerable Groups, 2001;
- (k) UNHCR Guidelines on the Protection of Refugee Women, 1991;
- (l) Statue of the Office of the UNHCR, General Assembly Resolution 428 (V) 1950;
- (m) Security Council Report of the Secretary General on Women, Peace and Security, U.N. Doc. (S/2002/1154);
- (n) World Health Organization, Counseling Skills, Training in Adolescent Sexuality and Reproductive Health; Facilitator's Guide, Doc. WHO/ADH/93.3, WHO Geneva, 1993;
- (o) People Oriented Planning; A Framework for People Oriented Planning in Refugee Situations Taking Account of Women, Men and Children, December 1992;
- (p) Protecting Refugees; A Field Guide for NGOs, May 1992;

## ***Deliberations***

Delegates discussed the following concerns in regards to education:

DOC:311

Education of UN Personnel:

Delegates seek to create an education-based program that informs both personnel and refugees of their responsibilities and rights to prevent and report sexual violence. Representatives have suggested the incorporation of a process to teach medical personnel to notice the signs of sexual violence and handle these incidents in a culturally and ethnically sensitive manner.

Sexual Education:

Due to the destabilizing conflicts currently consuming the world, the United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees views education and community engagement as a long-term solution as it relates to refugee protection and sexual violence. According to the Basic Education Coalition, in many areas of the world, less than one-third of the educators inside refugee camps have sufficient primary education. Furthermore, representatives indicated a need to create a multi-regional approach to fundamental education in order to address the understanding of sexual violence. Because of this lack of primary education, many refugees doubling as education volunteers miss out on the building blocks of their education that would further their understanding of these important issues. This only contributes to the lack of sexual education and reproductive health inside of the camps, thus decreasing the chances of sexual violence ever being reported inside of a camp setting.

Defense and avoidance of unwelcome sexual encounters:

The body recognizes the need for an increase in education on defense technique, avoiding sexual encounters, and other preventive methods in order to alleviate the issue of sexual violence. Increased awareness of the resources available to sexual violence victims is crucial to encouraging victims to report their cases and seek help.

Sensitivity and Confidentiality Training:

In addition, delegates advocated for awareness campaigns that will encourage men, women, and children to report incidents of sexual violence. With that said, we recommend an education program that will facilitate sensitivity training as it relates to culture, religion, and gender. In this context, we also encourage confidentiality training of the United Nations officials and personnel; especially refugees doubling as volunteers inside the camps to protect refugees from sexual violence. Refugees who have chosen to volunteer need to understand the importance of safeguarding case-specific information.

In this nature, we strongly suggest this awareness initiative to be implemented as an educational system for volunteers and not in the community engagement system. Because of side conversations typically conducted inside the camps, many exchanges of information can happen amongst fellow refugees. While the intention may not be negative in nature, it's vitally important that volunteers who are refugees must know the consequences of exchange of personal information.

Resolution UNHCR/1/1 operative clause four was written to address this issue. Original text of operative clause four of this resolution read as "further requests additional

300 programs to cover sensitivity training to avoid discrimination on the basis of race,  
301 religion, creed, gender, or sexual orientation.” This language was altered by a friendly  
302 amendment removing the term “sexual orientation.” This friendly amendment was  
303 written without the input of the United States. The United States believes this omission is  
304 highly unfortunate. Refugees identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and  
305 intersex often face acute forms of sexual violence that create damaging psychological  
306 effects. The United States believes that the removal of sexual orientation ignores this fact.  
307 Addressing sensitivity to sexual orientation in the formal training of UN personnel will  
308 address the issue of sexual violence faced by these marginalized group as a preventative  
309 measure.

#### 310 311 Language Barriers:

312 As a base to our suggested resolution, we recommend the hiring of additional translators  
313 to further facilitate refugees in an integral capacity. According to the State of the World  
314 Refugees document, many refugees feel unheard because of the language barriers that are  
315 typically not addressed effectively in existing camps. Because of this, many refugees  
316 willingly leave refugee camps without proper repatriation practices due to the emotion of  
317 not making progress.

#### 318 319 Grassroots Organizations:

320 Further, we advocate for the creation of a grassroots organization dedicated specifically  
321 to community development for purposes of communication, networking, fostering  
322 community outreach program, and relationship building. In this context, representatives  
323 would advocate for the use of centers as basis for communal organizations that advocate  
324 for victims support, reconciliation, and long-term healing. This grassroots organization  
325 would house several other smaller organizations that would focus on women and children  
326 as a whole. In addition, representatives saw this as way to educate refugees in a  
327 community setting on their rights in their host country. This initiative would allow for  
328 refugees that are victims of sexual violence to understand their rights in relation to the  
329 reporting of the incident along with their rights when seeking medical treatment due to  
330 the crime. Similarly, several representatives recommend the creation of a sexual health  
331 outreach program within this house of grassroots organizations so those affected by  
332 sexual violence have an assembling space to foster meaningful relationships.

#### 333 334 Exhaustion of Resources:

335 Continuing this theme, we suggest the removal of barriers such as overburdened  
336 classrooms. In several areas of the world, classrooms can reach up to more than 150  
337 students. Because of this, education officials do not have the time or the resources to  
338 provide psychological support. Therefore, many intimate interactions inside of a class  
339 room setting will go completely unnoticed thus ignoring exact situations overall. The lack  
340 of one-on-one interaction with students and education officials only creates a disconnect  
341 between the relationship of mentor and student thus contributing to a lack of faith in the  
342 organization as a whole. Because of this lack of attention to relationships, problems with  
343 reporting sexual violence in refugee camps are exacerbated Overall, representatives see  
344 this as a connection to the further problem of lack of reporting of sexual violence. When

there is a lack of attention paid to the individual, there is a lack of equality for refugees as a whole. With the slowing progression of response, this only further discourages refugees, especially women, from seeking out counseling or education because they see this overburden as an exhaustion of resources in the camp.

Given all of the means suggested, we further emphasize patience in implementing these processes. These suggestions will not be achieved overnight nor are they meant as a method of immediate relief. Through a theme of education and community engagement, UNHCR strongly suggests the adoptions of all of our recommendations.

Delegates discussed the following issues in regards to health care and safety of sexual violence victims:

#### Mental/Psychological Healthcare:

Attention to mental and psychological healthcare for sexual violence victims is particularly lacking. Victims often have severe trauma post-encounter. It is of upmost importance that healthcare workers are provided training focusing on the sensitivity of these cases. The establishment of rehabilitation centers for victims, group counseling, and increased confidentiality efforts will help women feel safer to report about their experience. Placing women in leadership roles will allow for increased trust between women who have been victims of sexual violence.

#### Health Care Facilities at Refugee Camps:

The body is concerned with the lack of health care available to refugees within camps. They believe that providing health care facilities and well-trained workers to refugees within camps will alleviate the influx of refugees who are forced to seek other public health care options. Several initiatives within these camps could include rape kit availability, extended resources for victims, and preventive information. The establishment of prenatal and post-natal care options within camps would ensure victims feel safe seeking healthcare during pregnancies resulting from sexual assault or violence, and provide a safe environment for reporting of these cases.

#### Female Refugee Leadership Councils:

Delegates suggested creating councils of women to advise the administrative board on a variety of issues. In order to counter this, delegates discussed involving female leadership councils in the distribution of resources and encouraging them to provide input on how best to do this. Moreover, female refugee input could be used to determine camp layout. Simple layout changes such as , inserting more locks, and reducing communal areas with both genders could reduce opportunities for sexual violence. Delegates agreed that refugees themselves would best understand what sorts of changes would help the most.

#### Gender of Medical Professionals:

An important concern raised by the delegates is refugees that are victims of sexual violence need to be able to choose the gender of the medical professional or therapist and

others to whom they report. This choice would allow them to be more comfortable in reporting their victimization. Naturally this is a logistical concern. There are limits on the number of medical professionals in each refugee camp but choice is needed whenever possible.

#### Division of Refugee Camps:

An effective strategy to prevent sexual violence in refugee camps has been to divide the refugee camps into three groups. These three groups are as follows; women and children, family camps and single men. Several delegations expressed concern that if there were a division between women and children and single men, boys reaching maturity would be forced away from their family. The family camp division helps to alleviate this problem and allow the family to remain together. The definition of family would include extended family, and it would be up to the state where the refugee resides to determine how limited or expansive family is.

#### Transgender and Intersex Concerns:

In informal caucusing, delegations from Ireland, United Kingdom, Madagascar, Cabo Verde, United States, Portugal, the Netherlands and the Russian Federation expressed concern regarding intersex and transgender individuals that are vulnerable to sexual violence and become even more vulnerable when they are refugees. Russian Federation noted that it had allowed transgender individuals to have identification cards that expressed their chosen sex rather than biological sex since 1997. Representatives suggested that identification reflect the gender that the person identifies as (provided they meet the requirements to do so according to the state that they had relocated to) rather than biological sex so that documentation matches the refugee's presentation of their gender. In this way, refugees are not forced to reveal themselves as intersex or transgender and open themselves up to discrimination-based violence. They also note the importance of bathroom facilities that are secure, not just for transgender and intersex refugees. It is crucial that an adequate amount of privacy and lighting surround these areas. In this way, refugees may feel comfortable and safe when using the bathroom. Many delegations from the Middle East (Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq, Lebanon, Yemen and others), and Africa (Chad, Uganda, Tunisia, Cameroon and others) expressed deep reservations about these deliberations and did not feel that these deliberations should be included in the report. They expressed that many states across the world do not recognize transgender or intersex persons and expressed concern that this not become legally binding so that these recommendations do not infringe on sovereignty of those states.

#### Lighting in Refugee Camps:

A lack of lighting in refugee camps has consistently been discussed as a contributor to sexual violence. An economic and ecologically friendly solution would be to provide refugee camps with inexpensive solar-powered lighting. Proper lighting can also provide security to vulnerable people, so that they are not afraid to go outside at night.

#### Sexual Favors for Food and Shelter:

Delegates were particularly disturbed by the existence of sexual favors for food and

shelter. Women can be forced to deliver sexual favors by authority figures in order to receive the food and services they need to survive. A possible solution discussed was to make sure that there are enough females distributing food to other females to prevent sexual favors from becoming a problem. The delegation from Chad expressed dissent for this statement, as Chad does not see sexual favors as an issue.

#### Basic Needs:

There is a growing need for integration and settlement of refugees by their host nation in regard to their quality of life. UNHCR recognizes the lack of regard for human dignity particularly in the housing of refugees, and would encourage policy that worked to better the living conditions of refugee camps. Often times refugees are forced to continue their migration in search for basic human needs, exposing them to larger possibilities for sexual violence. Continued migration and resettlement of refugees can be prevented by ensuring proper food, water, sanitation, and shelter provisions, a basic principle of the United Nations Charter itself. Ensuring that government officials and states have a basic and clear understanding of which basic needs are to be met will provide for a more universal, positive outcome.

#### FGM:

Delegates from Russian Federation, United Kingdom, Madagascar, Cabo Verde, United States, South Africa, Portugal, Netherlands, Senegal and the Syrian Arab Republic mentioned the specific problem surrounding refugees taking the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) into the state that the refugee flees to. FGM performed in refugee camps is particularly concerning because refugee camps are often not sanitary environments and access to proper medical care can be a problem. These delegates suggested states that do not have laws surrounding FGM to consider implementing these laws, especially if they have a refugees from areas where FGM is traditionally practiced. Many delegations (Morocco, Chad, and others) expressed cultural concerns surrounding outlawing the practice of FGM. These delegations argued that FGM is a cultural issue specific to the state where it exists. They expressed strong concerns that laws forbidding FGM would infringe on religious freedom and sovereignty in general.

#### Transportation:

Safe and reliable transportation to and from separate refugee camps would reduce the opportunities for sexual violence to occur. The cooperation of other nations in acceptance of refugees is a crucial part of provide ensuring security measures within transportation. We urge further protection efforts for refugees en route both to and from camps.

#### Urban Refugees:

While acknowledging the security and safety issues within refugees camps remains a crucial task, another 2/3 of refugees seek safety from conflict in scattered urban areas where they are vulnerable to exploitation, specifically sexual abuse and trafficking into the sex and bride industries. Therefore a high percentage of this population remains in hiding due to fear of discrimination, harassment, detention, and forced eviction. As an integral mechanism within the international community the UNHCR calls for cooperation

between international organizations, National Governmental Organizations, local organizations, and governments to create safe houses for these women and children to protect them from exploitation and trafficking. Within these safe houses women will have access to education, including but not limited to sexual education, social skills, and basic human needs they would have no access to otherwise.

Delegates discussed the following concerns regarding Legal issues faced by victims of sexual violence:

#### Identification Systems:

In its most recent 2014 expansion the UNHCR biometric identification of refugees system added fingerprinting, photographs for facial recognition, and biographical data to the iris identification program. This new system was created through a partnership with the private sector to make it more durable and user friendly in any conditions. Previously, this system recorded only iris identification but included no other personal or demographic information. An iris scanner was used to submit the iris identification in to the system. If the individual had not already been submitted to the system a customer information number (CIN) was created and attached to the UNHCR application as proof that the individual had been successfully registered in the official UNHCR Refugee Certificate Program.

The 2014 expansion is an important step towards a more comprehensive identification system. As stated in resolution 2106 there is a great need for “timely, objective, accurate, and reliable information” to create a strong foundation for prevention of sexual violence. Through documentation the UNHCR will have more reliable information concerning numbers and demographics of victims of sexual violence. With this more reliable information the UNHCR can then implement more effective sexual violence prevention programs. The existence of past expansions reflects the importance of this sexual violence prevention strategy to member states and it is this reasoning that leads delegates to recommend further expansion of the identification program as requested in a widely supported resolution by this body.

We would urge States in cooperation with the UNHCR to further expand the identification system to include identification cards to refugees that are recognized as legitimate legal identification by host countries. We recommend that these identification cards include language and blood type of the refugee. Delegates mentioned this need in particular because it will lead to more effective medical services for victims of sexual violence. States who have implemented a card system have found it to be effective and life changing for victims of sexual violence.

#### Legal Aid:

Delegates discussed the difficulties refugees faced seeking justice for sexual violence committed against them. Refugees are often forced to flee with very little notice and are then unable to find work once they find a place to settle. It is important that lack of



monetary resources does not stand in the way of their receiving justice. Delegates mentioned using Estonia as a model to help combat this problem. In Estonia, refugees are provided free legal council by law school students. In this way, law students are able to receive valuable experience and refugees do not have to worry about the monetary costs of legal representation.

#### Security:

Representatives expressed concern over security of nations borders and its relation to dangerous situations in the process of migration of refugees. This need for further security in the transition process must be addressed on a camp-by-camp, state, regional, and international basis. Many representatives were in favor calling upon the Security Council and UNHCR to provide United Nations security personnel in regions with high influx and intake of refugees. This utilization of United Nations Security forces to monitor the influx of refugees can not only protect them from those who impose sexual violence, but expedite the process of registering them with the UNHCR. This process will take less time due to the reduction of arrests and incarceration of these refugees for crossing the border or not having the proper paperwork.

#### Refolement:

Refolement based on HIV/AIDS status is particularly unfair considering the possibility that those with HIV/AIDS were victims of forced prostitution or other extremely damaging forms of sexual violence. Delegates suggested a moratorium on refolement of refugees based on their HIV/AIDS status because of the possibility that states are forcing victims to return to a home that may no longer exist because they were forced into sexual acts against their will and now have an incurable disease. This suggestion was controversial and many delegations (Gabon, Chad, Lebanon, and Iraq) disagreed with this concept.

#### Female Officers:

We see the direct affect of insufficient personnel as a rising problem. Many cultures have a certain taboo that relates to women interacting with men. Therefore, we see the solution of hiring more female doctors and nurses to thus accommodate this cultural relativism to increase comfort levels amongst the female refugee population, which will lead to a higher reporting rate of sexual violence. The necessity to include involvement by female officers and mental health professionals will help to make these personnel more sensitive to female problems including sexual violence. A proposed solution is similar to Millennium Development Goals to increase female representation in police force by 20 percent by 2018.

#### Lack of Legal Work:

Delegates expressed concern that lack of legal work forces women to be sexually exploited. Prostitution of the destitute is an unacceptable reality. Providing female refugees with the opportunity to serve within the administration of the refugee camps would help promote gender equality within the camp. Additional female representation can promote gender equality which is fundamental to prevention of sexual violence. If

552 routes for legal work were provided, refugees would not have to resort to such measures  
553 to survive.

554  
555 Expansion on the OIOS:

556 Acknowledging that not all refugee camps are guarded by UN officials, the body does  
557 recognize refugee's inability to trust those UN officials who are meant to protect and  
558 serve them as a fundamental piece of the sexual violence crisis. The UNHCR suggests the  
559 OIOS focus on oversight in areas of refugee protection, and encourage randomized  
560 checks into refugee campuses with the goal of discovering those security officials who  
561 abuse their power through sexual violence.

562  
563 Empowering refugees into leadership roles, specifically concerning women, within  
564 refugee camps will encourage trust between refugees and authority figures, leading to a  
565 decrease in instances of sexual violence and minimize the fear often associated with  
566 reporting these acts. The skills being gained from these leadership roles will equip  
567 refugees with the knowledge to better defend themselves and the motivation to better  
568 their quality-of-life. This expansion of the OIOS will allow the UN to further their efforts  
569 in ending sexual violence across the world.

570  
571 Strengthening National Healthcare:

572 Refugee camps often don't have proper health facilities, causing them to resort to public  
573 health systems, healthcare offered by NGO's, and other options available to them. Many  
574 nations with influxes of refugees don't have strong health care systems. The body  
575 discussed encouraging Member States to strengthen healthcare options within their nation  
576 in order to combat the influx of refugees. This will ensure refugees have sufficient  
577 healthcare options when they are not available at the camps.

578  
579 Delegates discussed Data Collection Methods and reporting regarding victims of sexual  
580 violence:

581  
582 Data Collection:

583 There is an extreme problem regarding data collection and attempts to find the true  
584 numbers of victims with regards to sexual violence. Due to stigma and shame, many  
585 victims do not feel comfortable relaying their experience to a medical professional.  
586 Representatives then discussed the creation of support groups lead by United Nations  
587 (UN) personnel . These support groups would attempt to reduce shame by connecting  
588 victims to other victims to know that they are not alone. Delegates were highly  
589 concerned with accurate and comprehensive data as a means of prevention.

590  
591 Sample Sizes:

592 In regards to the difficulties in discovering victims of sexual violence delegates  
593 recommended using a sample size of the population of the refugee camp to explain  
594 problems they are facing. This sample will be able to refugees to state the problems they  
595 are facing to provide a clear picture of the patterns of the crime, place, time and  
596 conditions can be drawn out of it. Rather than interviewing each refugee, focus could be

597 spent on a few to outline the problems of the whole.

598  
599 NGOs:

600 Non-governmental organizations have been instrumental in the past in education and data  
601 collection efforts. Delegations emphasized the need to include their input when  
602 attempting to combat this problem. Better cooperation and integration with NGOs can  
603 better serve to help refugees and ensure that victims are heard.

604  
605 Military and Sexual Violence:

606 Often times, the violent armed conflicts that create refugees include the use of sexual  
607 violence as a systematic approach to degrade the will to fight, specifically target female  
608 fighters, appease the perverse needs of some elements of armed forces and are often  
609 included in a larger effort to terrorize or eradicate a specific community, often defined by  
610 a religion or ethnicity. While many of these affronts to basic human rights occur through  
611 the actions of non-state actors, which do not fall under the jurisdiction of the United  
612 Nations, they are also committed on occasion by state military forces, especially those  
613 that are improperly trained. This body recommends all states who have signed and  
614 ratified the UN Charter of Human Rights and the Geneva Convention to take care to  
615 include basic sexual education for the purpose of preventing abuses and rapes committed  
616 by state military forces.

617  
618 Delegates discussed the following concerns with regards gender equality and culture:

619  
620 Boredom in Refugee Camps:

621 Delegations discussed boredom as a problem that leads to many types of crime including  
622 sexual violence. After refugees enter a refugee camp, they have been displaced from their  
623 work, friends and comforts from home. Delegates discussed the promotion or creation of  
624 sports clubs to give young men an activity where they can direct their frustration, and  
625 bond with other young men. Uganda refugee camps have partnered with the International  
626 Olympic Committee to create co-ed football teams to promote gender equality. Congo  
627 disagreed with the idea that boredom is a cause of sexual violence.

628  
629 Gender Equality:

630 Gender equality has been advocated by many delegations to prevent sexual violence.  
631 Within refugee camps, promoting gender equality has been an effective strategy in  
632 preventing sexual violence. For example, during the previously mentioned soccer games  
633 in Uganda, there have been creative programs to promote gender equality. During  
634 halftime, men are taught how to perform so called "women's chores." In this way, the  
635 barriers between gender and what constitutes acceptable male and female tasks is blurred.

636  
637 Regional Focus:

638 Many delegations mentioned the need for a regional focus. There are many different  
639 cultural factors to consider when attempting to prevent sexual violence. A possible  
640 solution discussed was training those from the region to work within that region so that it  
641 is not an outsider discussing what can possibly be modified about the culture to better

prevent sexual violence. Many strategies appear to be ineffective in the past because of a top-down approach to addressing negative elements in culture rather than more effective change from within. These counselors would seek to alleviate the pressure of talking to an “outsider” who normally cannot fully understand the plight of refugees.

Other special concerns based on refugees and sexual violence:

Men as Victims:

In past discussions of sexual violence, there has been much discussion regarding avoiding the victimization and stigmatization of female refugees. This is a fair judgment to make considering the majority of reported sexual assaults are with female victims.

Representatives would like to emphasize that men can also be victims of sexual violence and that men are stigmatized in different ways than women are. Men often feel a loss of masculinity and a stigma that they were not “masculine” enough to prevent this from happening. A possible pre-emptive strategy to prevent this problem is a summit on masculinity and what it means to be male.

Developing States and Developed States:

Developed states generally struggle much less to prevent sexual violence than developing countries. Developed states often have a stronger rule of law, a more active civil society and a large amount of resources to work with, all of which contribute to fewer incidence of sexual violence in these countries. Delegates asked that the more developed share strategies that work well within their own borders with states that are less developed. Many delegates also suggested that developed nations share resources with those states that needed the most help.

Xenophobia:

Xenophobia and sexual violence are linked and therefore integration into society is key for refugees who have experienced sexual violence. The documentation of refugees who have been subject to sexual violence would open opportunities and abilities for them to feel as though they are part of a community or society. This is an incredible imperative to the prevention of sexual violence because without proper documentation, victims of sexual violence are adrift and lack the proper institutional and social framework and knowledge to deal with their incidents and seek justice. The fact that victims lack the framework and knowledge to seek justice further incentivizes the perpetrators. In addition, South Africa has an effective system currently in place which attempts to bring basic protections and freedoms to refugees and those refugees who are victims of sexual violence that incorporates all basic principles of protection including freedom of movement, the right to work, access to basic social services, and access to emergency assistance, for instance, food and shelter, to the most vulnerable individuals. The UNHCR believes that adopting similar measures in additional Member States would help deter sexual violence and allow those who have been affected the ability to properly report their incident. Being granted those social services would allow refugees who experience sexual violence to feel less like outsiders and more like residents of that country. This would therefore lead to more encouragement to disclose sexual violence information.

Delegates discussed the following concerns of Transitional States and protection of refugees from sexual violence:

Delegates worked to define what transitional refugees are and how they came from their nation of origin and noted that they should receive similar rights to those of citizens especially in regards to sexual assault. They worked to expand international partnerships to create a asylum allowing for non citizens to still receive temporary citizen rights as refugees.

Additionally, representatives recommend new and innovative partnerships between UN agencies to bridge the gap in the protection of transitional refugees, possibly funded by UN humanitarian aid organizations.

The UNHCR encourages all mission personnel to return to the founding purposes of protection of citizenry. Delegations noticed a current trend and propensity of such personnel to attempt to “make” peace. Instead, the UNHCR feels that the best way to protect refugees from any and every threat of sexual violence is to prioritize civilian protection.

The Ethiopian delegation brought forth the idea of a Programme of Assisted General Evacuation for the purposes of protecting refugees from external and internal threats of sexual violence in the transitions from conflict zones to refugees camps. Several delegations referenced the need for uniformity in protection to be achieved by waystations with oversight. Montenegro endeavored to create environments conducive to growth and protection for both male and female victims.

Delegates worked to create an approach to incorporate policies for aiding nations with transitional refugees, who are especially vulnerable to sexual violence. The amount of responsibly each country is expected to take will be based upon a country’s monetary ability; we should note that this has to be a give and take system. Thus, governments will have to recognize and aid refugees as temporary citizens.

In conclusion:

Given all of the means suggested, we further emphasize patience in implementing these processes. These suggestions will not be achieved overnight nor are they meant as a method of immediate relief. Through the specified themes addressed above UNHCR strongly suggests the adoptions of all of our recommendations.

### ***Action taken by the Commission***

Adoption of the Report