

Canadian International Model United Nations
United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)
RESOLUTION 1.5

Sponsors: UK, Nicaragua, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Argentina

Signatories: US, France, Costa Rica, Paraguay, Italy, St. Kitts and Nevis, Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Guyana

Topic (b): REVIEW OF THE 1951 CONVENTION ON THE STATUS OF REFUGEES

Recognizing that the agency of the UNHCR is responsible for the protection and security of refugees,

Considering that the issue of protecting refugees is a global problem that affects all states,

Acknowledging the continuing relevance and resilience of this international refugee regime of protection guided by human rights and humanitarian principles,

Recognizing the enduring importance of the 1951 Convention as the primary refugee protection instrument which, as amended by its 1967 Protocol, sets out rights and minimum standards of treatment that apply to persons falling within this scope,

Reaffirming the 1951 Convention, as amended by the 1967 Protocol, should be further developed as appropriate in a way that takes into account current international situations,

Considering the limited and already stretched resources of the UNHCR and its extensive commitments to provide aid and assistance,

Considering the competency of other UN bodies responsible for disaster relief including the UNDP and WFP to assist natural disaster victims and nations,

Recognizing the distinct forms of persecution women may face, as outlined in the UNHCR Guidelines on Gender-based Persecution,

Commending the positive and constructive role played by refugee-hosting countries and recognizing at the same time the heavy responsibilities taken by some, especially developing countries,

The UNHCR,

1. Reaffirms the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as the underlying principle of refugee protection;
2. Reaffirms the 1967 Protocol's amendments to the definition of 'refugee' in the 1951 Convention;

3. Reaffirms the distinction between Internally Displaced Persons and refugees as two separate groups;
4. Decides that the timeline provided in the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol shall be amended to include recognized refugees from today and *hereafter*;
5. Reaffirms the existing numerous grounds for persecution under Art. 1 in the 1951 Convention;
6. Reaffirms the importance of voluntary repatriation of refugees as the primary and ultimate objective;
7. Directs the UNHCR to include provisions to allow the recognition of persons who are forced to flee their home country as a result of a natural disaster as 'Convention refugees' if and only if they have exhausted all domestic alternatives for protection, particularly in the case of 'small island nations'; natural disasters, in this case, referring to catastrophic acts of nature that force people to evacuate;
8. Encourages States to recognize the distinct forms of persecution women face, such as, but not limited to: acts of sexual violence, family/domestic violence, coerced family planning, female genital mutilation, punishment for transgression of social mores, and discrimination based on sexual orientation;
9. Strongly encourages all States to comply with the UNHCR Guidelines of Gender-based Persecution;
10. Directs the UNHCR to amend the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees as well as the 1967 Protocol to include gender-based persecution as a ground included in Article 1(a) for protection;
11. Recommends the implementation of educational programs for members of national and international executive and judicial bodies in host countries to promote distinct forms of persecution women may face, so that women's refugee claims can be properly determined.