



Background Guide

# WSO MUN

GEMS Wellington Academy Model United Nations  
March 22nd - 24th

COMMITTEE: UNHCR

*Lead The Change...*

## Welcome Letter from the Secretary General

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Distinguished delegates of the UNHRC committee,

It is my absolute honor to invite you to the second largest high school Model UN in the country; the first edition of the WSO Model United Nations conference held at the GEMS Wellington Academy - Dubai Silicon Oasis. I am beyond ecstatic and humbled to serve in the capacity of Secretary-General for this year's conference. In order to ensure that our conference's quality is of the highest caliber on an international scale, we have set up ideals and standards that orient us towards our goal while also providing us with the dedication necessary to make a difference. Our conference aims to engage and encourage the youth to participate and to share their ideas and beliefs about different and various global issues. The aim of our conference is to give students a unique experience where they are able to harbour their diplomatic skills and explore current affairs through a simulation of the United Nations. We strive to help students foster skills necessary for every day life, and provide education beyond the desk as practice is the best way to process theory.

Everything changes; but change itself is the only thing that doesn't. Remembering that nothing remains the same and even in the worst situation we face, we can and should rely on the fact that change is the constant. Throughout the conference, our aim is to develop solutions to issues which we currently face and widen our vision, while using the idea of change to our advantage. WSO Model united nations possesses an unique ability to bring forth students from diverse backgrounds to collectively work towards a cohesive and united goal. WSOMUN welcomes young leaders to portray onto a platform, values to be abided by, in order to create a change in the international community.

To this end, the members of the Secretariat have been working painstakingly, around the clock, to ensure that you enjoy every breath of this conference experience. I assure you that the final step of this journey will draw a higher academic and organizational line to satisfy all your expectations.

Looking forward to welcoming you this March!

With Best Regards,

**Varsha Venkatraman**

Secretary General

WSOMUN 2018

## Welcome Letter from the Dias

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Delegates of the United Nations Human Rights Council,

Welcome to the first session of the Wellington Silicon Oasis Model United Nations! The dais representing the High Commissioner for Human Rights, warmly welcomes you and is eagerly looking forward to meeting you once this session begins.

Seeing as you have more than enough text below to keep you busy, the introduction won't drag on for too long. Be this your first, fifth, or hundredth Model UN, it is certain that this session will be one that will leave a lasting impact on you, teaching you more than you could imagine and will hopefully shape the way you view international relations and the United Nations as a whole. To complement such, it is a priority for the dais to hone your public speaking skills and enunciate the diplomatic prowess in every delegate.

But it does not stop there. Within yourself should be the ability to work as a cohesively in your bloc, to be prepared to diplomatically defend your nation's dignity to rival countries, to reach intellectual solutions for a resolution, to indoctrinate the stance of your nation as your own, but above all, to learn.

Till the session begins.

Regards,

**Chair:** Mohammed Zamaa  
**Co - Chair:** Raiaan Mubash Shir  
**Co - Chair:** Adham Elhenawy

## United Nations Human Rights Council



The Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe and for addressing situations of human rights violations and make recommendations on them. It has the ability to discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year. It meets at the UN Office at Geneva.

The Council is made up of 47 United Nations Member States which are elected by the UN General Assembly. The Human Rights Council replaced the former United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

As the principal United Nations office mandated to promote and protect human rights for all, OHCHR leads global human rights efforts speaks out objectively in the face of human rights violations worldwide. The HRC provides a forum for identifying, highlighting and developing responses to today's human rights challenges, and act as the principal focal point of human rights research, education, public information, and advocacy activities in the United Nations system.

Since Governments have the primary responsibility to protect human rights, the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) provides assistance to Governments, such as expertise and technical trainings in the areas of administration of justice, legislative reform, and electoral process, to help implement international human rights standards on the ground. They also assist other entities with responsibility to protect human rights to fulfil their obligations and individuals to realize their rights.

**Source:** <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/WhatWeDo.aspx#>

# AGENDA 1

## Evaluating potential human rights infringements by technological development



### Introduction to the topic

Stated by the United Nations General Assembly in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and enforced by GA Resolution 217 A, there are 30 unnegotiable articles that enforce, protect, and clearly state the rights of every human being, regardless of country, race, and every attribute listed under Article 2. And although the presence of a multitude of these rights empower man, it brings a rise to a greater rate of infringements on all planes; but specifically, as explained in this document, by technological advancement.

Subject to personal opinion, 'modern technology' is up for interpretation, but for the duration of this briefing, it will be referred as the period immediately after the industrial age, when the first point-contact semiconductor was successfully invented, circa 1947. Capable of binary language, it can be considered the birth of computer software. Over the decades, technology has only seen a greater and greater exponential growth, from the mechanical Enigma machine to semiconductor units to Artificial Intelligence. This is only indicative of the boom of technological growth that the world will come to witness as the years pass, thereby making this agenda one of utmost importance.

As stated by Article 12, privacy is never subject to be undermined and is protected by law against any attack that might threaten privacy. Infringement of this Article is one of the largest human right breaches caused by technological advancement. Data can be stored as 'Big Data', incapable of being processed through normal software, brings rise to a more accessible and permanent record for various details of an individual or his activities.

Thereby as cybercrime is seeing unprecedented growth, bits of private information stored electronically is prone to falling in the wrong hands, leading to serious human right violations. Specific examples are undertaken in the following portion of the briefing.

Along with invasion of privacy, Artificial Intelligence, also called AI, has been labelled as a serious impending danger to nations and their citizens, to the stretch that the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), has opened a new wing which focuses on development of robotics and AI and their dangers. This highlights the grave threat artificial intelligence poses on human rights. Capable of destabilization of the global economy through unemployment for people, research states that upwards of 30% of jobs in Britain are in danger of being taken over by robots, and that 85% of all customer interactions will be through robots by 2020. This is an arguable direct violation of Article 23 and the right to employment. Lastly Article 19 has also seen violations, as rights to expression have been suppressed through the use of software that block certain words and phrases on the internet and use of algorithms on social media websites such as Facebook where certain content will be censored, and not always to protect the user from malicious information.

### **History of the topic**

Several cases enunciate the aforementioned statements for the various human right violations, from which the most notable ones will be highlighted below as reference and provide a direction for further research.

On a global scale, key areas of risk stem from cybersecurity attacks with an agenda arising from racial, social or personal ideals. Such malicious attacks, such as those on healthcare network systems, are one of the worst human right violations, put the individual and their health in dire risk. Reported by the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHR), in March 2015, the Anthem was breached, and over 100 million reports being leaked, with nearly 78.8 million people having their rights severely violated. This becomes a case of international espionage, as few investigators reported to the Financial Times that the cyberattack could be traced back to China. The HHR has also reported an exponential growth in these forms of attacks from 10 attacks in 2010 to nearly 55 in 2015.

As previously mentioned, censorship of free speech is a direct human right violation. In May 2017, journalist Matthew Caruana Galizia and his team, assigned to the Panama Papers leak, published 4 Facebook posts evidence of crimes committed by the Maltese Prime Minister uncovered from the Panama Papers, to which Facebook responded by deleting the posts and temporarily banning their accounts on excuse of violating community guidelines. Coincidentally, this occurred during the Maltese government elections, a time where such information would prove jeopardizing for the Prime Minister Joseph Muscat.

To finally touch upon unemployment caused by technological advancement, several jobs are susceptible to automation, with a gradual but definite increase in automation used in manufacturing processes due to its hard labor and mostly simple to learn tasks. Although more specialized jobs are more difficult to be replaced due to complexity of the algorithms that have to be developed, there is an extent till when education can hold up against technological advancement.

### **Discussion of the topic**

As explained in the previous sections of this topic, the three most important potential already occurring human right violations are- right to privacy, right to free speech, and right to employment. Needless to say, those are not the only rights that technological advancement can violate. Opinions, debates and solutions to undiscussed human right violations will be looked favourably upon by the dais as it will indicate an out-of-the-box thinking.

Although solutions have not been discussed, this is to incite delegates to procure solutions based on their own research, but as a guideline, solutions can include anything from; global initiation of a worldwide effort to prevent censorship of journalists and the general public, or down to a more individual level, such as setting up a separate department within a country to deal with such violations through the process of preventing developments which will outright harm the country's people.

Previous actions the UN other than the construction of the UNICRI wing should also be discussed after bloc formations, but prior to the submission of working papers. Also, considered should be the actions to be taken against countries which do not follow certain clauses of a resolution that is passed.

## **Bloc Positions**

The positions delegates as countries can hold are one amongst three. The two most contrasted opinions will be countries which support technological development no matter which human rights are violated. Such countries are technologically advanced in comparison to the global average and have reports which prove their non-competence to placing human rights as top priority. The other end are countries which place their citizens and populations of the globe and their rights as utmost priority, overthrowing the importance for technological advancement to provide safety and trust to the people. Such countries are not very technologically diverse and have on several occasions been to aid nations in times of distress, such as terrorist attacks or natural disasters and are known to have a government that works quickly to ensure the safety of its people. The third are countries that simply do not have a firm stance on either end of the range. A few select countries have a policy that aligns with this stance, thus the dais would look favourably upon blocs that are made in committee on the two aforementioned stances.

## **Questions to consider**

1. Do the pros of technological advancement outweigh the human right violations?
2. Is right of free speech only violated through social media platforms? Where else are these violations reported?
3. Based on previous failures or successes, will the new wing of the UNICRI be successful?
4. What can be done to combat exponential growth of cybercrime which violates right to privacy?
5. Is the right of privacy limited to cybercrime and hacking? If not, which other mediums are exploited for violations of privacy through technology?
6. What sort of advancement in technology would cause the greatest violation of human rights?
7. Should development of AI be hindered, or stopped completely, to prevent human right violations?

## **Further Research**

Refer to the bibliography as below to find links that will accurately guide you in the direction of the sort of information required from research done. After such, a few HIGHLY recommended websites as listed below will act as a strong foundation for knowledge in this agenda.

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9. Kalev Leetaru, When Facebook Censors Journalists, 2017. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/kalevleetaru/2017/06/17/when-facebook-censors-journalists/#b43d0177e4e8> 16. Kara Scannell and Gina Chon, Cyber Security, 2015. <https://www.ft.com/content/f3cbda3e-a027-11e5-8613-08e211ea5317>
10. Friedrich Soltau, Automation and Artificial Intelligence, 2016. [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/968825\\_Soltau\\_Automation%20and%20artificial%20intelligence%20-%20what%20could%20it%20mean%20for%20sustainable%20development.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/968825_Soltau_Automation%20and%20artificial%20intelligence%20-%20what%20could%20it%20mean%20for%20sustainable%20development.pdf)

## AGENDA 2

### Deploring the Rohingya persecution in Myanmar to aid urgent action to prevent the possibility of genocide



### Introduction to the topic

The Rohingya are a minority group consisting of 1.1 million people that reside in the Rakhine state of Myanmar. Although being predominantly Buddhist, the government of Burma recognizes 135 distinct ethnic groups and the Muslim Rohingya are not included in this list and the crisis revolves around this fact. The Rohingya are not recognized as lawful citizens of the nation and the Myanmar government justifies this as they believe the minority group had migrated from Bangladesh decades ago when these countries were part of the British colony. The Burmese government have gone as far as to reject the term 'Rohingya' within their borders. Since August 2017, around 400,000 Rohingya Muslims have migrated from Burma to Bangladesh, 40,000 to India and many others to countries such as but not limited to Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia, this is due to the raping and abusing of the people of the ethnic group as well as burning of their villages. Although the government refuses it has committed such acts and rejects any outside investigators, some satellite reports and studies have confirmed the burning of villages. Some hold the military junta guilty while Burma themselves state the Rohingya had burned down their own villages. All information if any has been collected by investigators at the border of Bangladesh. The result since 1982 when they were denied citizenship, till date is the lack of rights such as the freedom of movement, of speech, of any employment, financial or business opportunities.

The UN has described the current situation as a textbook example of ‘ethnic cleansing’. A term that is used only in the most extreme cases of violence and is defined by the UN as a purposeful design by one religious or ethnic group to remove the population of another ethnic group from a specific geographic area via means of terror-inspiring means. Aung San Suu Kyi, a diplomat and politician at Myanmar, is the first woman to take on the title of Minister of Foreign Affairs. What makes her relevant to this situation is that she is a Nobel Peace Prize winner and was recognized for her acts throughout the international community but, she fails to even address the situation in Myanmar.

### **History of the topic**

This conflict goes back to the second world war when the country was under British rule and the Japanese had invaded. The Rohingya Muslims decided to support the British as their simple way of life wasn’t going to be disturbed while the now Burmese people pledged their allegiance to the Japanese in hopes of ending the British rule and gaining back their land. A direct conflict between the two groups was non-existent but once the Burmese government won independence in 1945, they had passed the Union Citizenship Act which neglected the Rohingya. It was not a large issue as in the 1960’s there were Rohingya officials in the Burmese government and steps for citizenship were being taken.

About 50 years ago, the country of Myanmar (then called Burma) had a military coup d’etat. They were successful, and it resulted in the evaporation of the constitution along with the setup of a military dictatorship which promoted fierce nationalism based on the Buddhist identity of the country. The new government burned any chances of the Rohingya from getting national registration cards instead of foreign ones. The first major event after this occurred in 1978 called ‘Operation Dragon King’ which forced more than 200,000 Rohingya to flee due to the military resorting to violence and rape to drive them out. Later, most of the minority group returned but just 4 years after the event, Burma excluded them from the Citizenship Act again rather calling the Rohingya illegal immigrants.

Thus, this resulted in the people of this ethnic group to be stateless as well as easy to be abused. The state was named Myanmar in 1989 and the intensity of its Islamophobic acts were increasing exponentially as the Buddhists find it a threat to their identity. In 1991, the Burmese government decided to use its military to launch another campaign called, ‘Operation Clean and Beautiful Nation’. This event resulted in a wave of refugees which includes more than 250,000 Rohingya migrating to countries mentioned previously.

## Discussion of the topic

Although the conflict has been going on for years now, the recent events is clearly the most violent and controversial. Tensions were high in the 2000's but were first broken with a spur of military attacking the Rohingya in 2012 when rumours of 4 Muslim men were accused of raping and killing a Buddhist woman circulated around the country. The nationalists were backed by Rakhine security forces destroyed up to 210 Muslim villages and set fire to the neighbourhoods. Tens of thousands of more Rohingya were left homeless and were constantly persecuted during these struggles. In 2016, the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Ar(ARSA) emerged as a militant group and organized small-scale attacks on border police stations which resulted in 12 police dead and sparked the fire that is the crisis the innocent civilians face today. The Myanmar government claims the ARSA is a terrorist organization which is causing chaos in the Rakhine state and must be tackled using violence. The Myanmar government also claims that all of their actions were against the ARSA but the Rohingya were simply in the crossfire of the conflict.

A week-long visit was conducted in Rakhine by the former secretary general Kofi Annan along with a nine-member commission. It was done to address the issue in Rakhine and found several violations of human rights in the area resulting in reports against the government of Myanmar. Later that year, John Mckissick, a senior UN official, accused the government of Myanmar of abusing the people and in December 2016, the UN itself strongly criticized the actions of the government as well as calling out the Nobel laureate Suu Kyi to respond to the violence.



On 4 October 2017, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) requested “to immediately stop violence in northern Rakhine State, and to promptly and effectively investigate and vigorously prosecute cases of violence against women and children.” Earlier in February this year, the Jordanian Prince, as well as the UN high commissioner for Human Rights, stated strong words against the acts of the government of Myanmar.

Several resolutions have been made by the United Nations security council with a list of demands such as to stop all military actions by Myanmar in Rakhine, allow humanitarian aid to reach the Rohingya in Rakhine and permit investigators to enter and further seek out better solutions in the region. Others impose sanctions onto the Myanmar government but most if not all of these resolutions have been vetoed. The Myanmar government opposes these resolutions for obvious reasons and they have a strong ally in the region: China. This is due to China’s national self-interest to build oil pipes under the Rakhine State but need the help of the Myanmar government to proceed.



In 2017, there were several critics, citing her silence over the situation, say that her Nobel Prize should be revoked. She states that taking sides when violence has been committed by both sides is against her integrity, but she fails to mention the acts committed by her government. The international community questions her character as Burma is known as a democratic government and her general democratic stance is one that has popularized her. Other say she is forced into a situation of silence because her party does not have as much control as does the military party and is bound by the constitution. This means that the military has far more influence on the ground than does the civilian government. The actions of the military are an example of the country’s Buddhist identity which means there is little to no sympathy for the Muslims and thus any word in favour of the Rohingya would leave her politically exposed as well as seen as a failure to hold up the Burmese identity. One of the crucial actions include the Four Cuts Act, the strategy cuts off food, funds, recruitment and information from the outside world, virtually isolating these people using military helicopters.

## **Bloc Positions**

The simplest solution which has seen support from much of the international community and might be integrated to any resolution is the idea of more aid towards the Rohingya Muslims. At this time, the Myanmar government reject a lot of aid coming towards the Rohingya and the United Nations have made quite an effort to continue.

Another stance is that of predominantly Myanmar which is the Rohingya people will be pushed out of their borders and migrate to others who should be willing to accept them in the eyes of the Burmese.

Another supposed solution which has equal support and backlash is that the Rohingya people should return to Myanmar and the government should integrate them back into the society that resides there.

The delegates must also investigate other ideas such as but not limited to: Removal of the Military Junta and returning to the constitution, Peace talk between the reluctant Burmese, supporting the ARSA with arms and sending ships to the Rohingya for migration.

## **Questions to consider**

1. What have been the previous resolutions submitted by countries such as but not limited to China and how has the different countries in the international community reacted?
2. Which countries have taken acts such as imposing their own sanctions unto the Myanmar government to show their stance against the Burmese?
3. Investigate why the Myanmar government has rejected any outside aid to help find and prosecute the sinners in this conflict.
4. What are the intentions or national self-interests of the countries willing to get involved and how the foreign policies coincide with their actions.
5. Why has the Rohingya people been prosecuted for so long?
6. Should Aung Sun Suu Kyi take any stance in this conflict and which international bodies expect her to (also which side).
7. Has there been any troops sent by the international community, to support which side and what are the intentions behind it?

## Further Research

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3. <https://www.crisisgroup.org/asia/south-east-asia/myanmar/myanmar-s-new-government-finding-its-feet>
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