

## Forum: Population Movement Council (PMC)

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### TOPIC 1:

**The question of country of origin, transit, and destination responsibility for migrants and asylum seekers.**

[Link to Libguide](#)

#### I. Introduction to the Topic

Overall, the estimated number of international migrants has increased over the past 5 decades. The total estimated 281 million people living in a country other than their countries of birth in 2020 was 128 million more than in 1990 and over three times the estimated number in 1970. Along with the increase in migrants, there is also a significant increase in the number of asylum seekers who applied for international protection in the EU member states mostly due to the military aggression of Russia on Ukraine. Under all these circumstances, questioning the country of origin, transit, and destination responsibility for them will be more crucial than ever.

#### II. Definition of Key Terms & Concepts

**Obligation and Responsibility:** Obligation is a duty or commitment of an individual or a group of people while responsibility is having a duty to deal with something or having control over someone. In order to fully focus on our topic of questioning who is/are responsible or having obligations to protect migrants and asylum seekers, showing understanding and using basic terms of “Obligation” and “Responsibility” are required.

**Human rights:** According to the United Nations, Human rights are rights to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status. Human rights include the right

to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education, and such. As consideration of migrants and asylum seekers' human rights should be included when questioning the responsibility of them, fully understanding and utilizing the word "human right" are highly required.

**Sustainability:** Sustainability is a societal goal that broadly aims for humans to safely co-exist on Earth over a long time. In order for the solution to our topic to be effective for a long period of time, considering how sustainable the solution is significant. Not only that, this term will allow us to better focus on our conference theme of "Are we capable of finding sustainable solutions to our current sources of insecurity?".

### III. Key Stakeholders

#### International Federation of Red Cross:

The International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network. The network aims to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and other situations of violence and to provide them with proper assistance. Taking consideration on how the actions of the Red Cross can be related to determining the country of origin, transit, and destination responsibility for migrants and asylum seekers.

#### OHCHR:

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is to work for the protection of all human rights for all people; to encourage people to realize their rights; and to assist those responsible for upholding such rights in ensuring that they are implemented. As the consideration of Human Rights is necessary for dealing with the topic, making a connection to the key stakeholder of OHCHR will be significant.

#### Minority:

Minority is defined as a group of people whose practices, race, religion, ethnicity, or other characteristics are fewer in numbers than the main groups of those classifications. As minority groups, especially children and women are more susceptible to maintain their basic rights while being moved, careful consideration of minorities and their rights should be done while finding solutions for our topic.

### **International Organization for Migration:**

International Organization for Migrants is a United Nations agency that provides services and advice concerning migration to governments and migrants, including internally displaced persons, refugees, and migrant workers. Finding out how and where services and advice are provided may guide us to figure out who/what is in charge of taking care of migrants and asylum seekers.

### **IV. Key Issues including Background Information:**

#### **Vulnerability of minorities:**

Minorities including children and women as migrants or asylumseekers are more susceptible to be exposed to vulnerable situations such as noticeable lack of protection, child abuse and labour, etc. For example, according to the report from OHCHR, children in transit are unlikely to be able to access education and health care, including mental health care and timely vaccinations. Risk of being able to be in the physical, psychological and/or sexual abuse and exploitation is greater for children migrants and asylum seekers.

#### **Abusive smuggling, extortion and trafficking:**

Abusive smuggling, extortion and trafficking are other key issues that should be addressed for migrants and asylum seekers. As they are often compelled to rely on the services of “facilitators” for assistance with travel, housing, employment, they tend to be vulnerable to violence, abuse and exploitation. In 2015, severe abuse by smugglers of migrants travelling from Myanmar and Bangladesh, including violence and deprivation of food and water was reported. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimated that 11 out of 1,000 people on smugglers’ boats in the Andaman Sea died from starvation, dehydration or violence.

#### **Basic human right concerns:**

According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights article n.3 and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights article n.6, all human beings are entitled to protection of their right to life. However, migrants and asylum seekers often face danger not only in physical, psychological ways but also in cultural, social, economical ways. While determining who is/are responsible for both migrants and asylum

seekers, basic human rights concerns should be fully considered to make sure the solution is sustainable and effective.

### Lack of data/research:

The research has revealed that the lack of data and research on the situation of migrants and asylum seekers are stumbling blocks of forming strong & effective policies. Further research is particularly needed for issues related to human rights, migrant smuggling, and physical violence.

## V. Timeline of Resolutions, Treaties, and Events

Date	Description of event
January 29th, 2016	Germany had tightened asylum laws. Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel has denied asylum for people fleeing from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.
January 28th, 2015	For a whole month, 157 Tamil asylum seekers were detained below deck in a windloess room for 22 hours each day. This was ruled legal.
September 9th, 2015	The Australian government opened spaces, offering refuge for 12,000 Syrian people seeking asylum.
May 13th, 2015	Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand refuelled and pushed back out to sea a flotilla of boats containing 7,000 mostly Rohingyas and Bangladeshis. International health organisations called to action demanding governments to help further support refugees.
January 28th, 2015	For a whole month, 157 Tamil asylum seekers were detained below deck in a windloess room for 22 hours each day. This was ruled legal.

November 18th, 2014      Refugees in Indonesia refused resettlement of those in need with expedition towards women at risk and emergency cases.

## **VI. Possible Challenges & Solutions**

### **Key Issue 1: Vulnerability of minorities**

Looking at how different minorities are especially vulnerable to the situation of migrants and asylum seekers will be highly needed. As given above, finding real life cases & examples that show their vulnerability will be also helpful for taking consideration of them when writing sustainable & powerful resolutions. Furthermore, researching on how different organizations & key stakeholders respond to the issue of vulnerability of minorities. For example, the Red Cross has been not only providing them with relief supplies (cots, towels, first aid kits, etc) but also phones that can ensure their reconnection to their families.

### **Key Issue 2: Abusive smuggling, extortion and trafficking**

As smugglers are highly related to the issue of abusive smuggling, extortion and trafficking, careful evaluation of the smugglers' activity and their identification is recommended. Keeping in mind that since smugglers are playing vital roles in helping them to escape from persecution or deprivation, encouraging smugglers to help both migrants and asylum seekers should also be needed at the same time.

### **Key Issue 3: Basic human right concerns**

To ensure migrants and asylum seekers' human rights when determining who is/are in charge of them, cooperative work between relevant organizations including OHCHR, Red Cross, and International Organization for Migrants and countries should be practiced. In addition, continuous aid/support from organizations will be highly needed. Countries may also want to encourage citizens to acknowledge the issues of responsibility of migrants and asylum seekers through education, campaign, or donation.

### **Key Issue 4: Lack of data/research**

To ensure having enough data to make policies, countries may want to frequently collect different data from different organizations, especially how relevant organizations respond to the issue of the

responsibility of migrants and asylum seekers. Continuous revision and amendments of policies is recommended as well.

## VII. Recommendations for Resolution Writing including Research

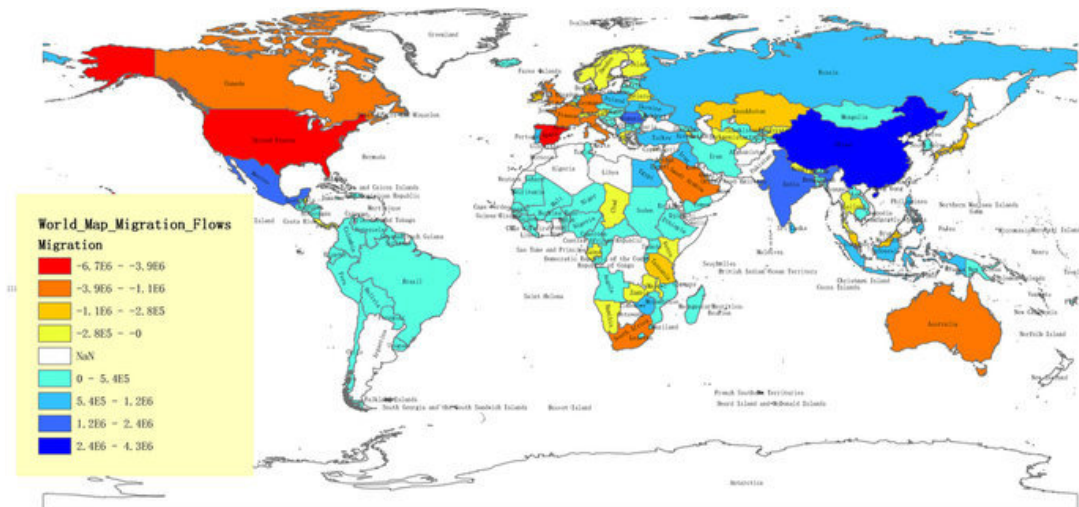
Delegates should further research into the ideologies and strates of a variety of different countries to help understand the origins, transits and essentially the destination of a specific group of people. This should help ensure a fruitful debate as perspectives can be considered in the resolution making process. Furthermore, when considering a treaty, it should be assumed and ensured that all participating parties benefit through it. Taking a closer look at the key issues and following possible solutions to make effective & sustainable resolutions is also recommended.

## VIII. Bibliography

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- United Nations. "Human Rights." *United Nations*, 2022, [www.un.org/en/global-issues/human-rights](http://www.un.org/en/global-issues/human-rights).

## IX: Additional Resources

Figure 1: Net international Migration Flow map



[https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Net-International-Migration-Flow-Map-The-colours-describe-the-net-international\\_fig4\\_307896332](https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Net-International-Migration-Flow-Map-The-colours-describe-the-net-international_fig4_307896332)

Resources to help you guide yourself:

“Who is responsible for migrants?”

<https://theconversation.com/who-is-responsible-for-migrants-108388>

“Refugees, Asylum seekers, and Migrants”

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/refugees-asylum-seekers-and-migrants/>