Forum: General Assembly 3rd Committee

Issue: Strategies to prevent radicalisation

Student Officer: Leonard Brenk

Position: Chair

Introduction

Nobody is born as an extremist, it rather is a process of radicalisation as a result of persuasion and individual unhappiness commonly caused by social exclusion. Even though one might think radicalisation is a pressing issue of recent development, it has actually prevailed throughout human history. During the time of the crusades, what is today referred to as religious extremism was almost considered to be the standard views of the time. Fortunately, as society has evolved such radical views have become far more scarce.

However, it must be pointed out, that people who adopt radical views and extreme opinions pose a significant threat to the world security. According to a Report of the Global Terrorism Index from 2015 29,376 deaths have been recorded resulting of terror attacks[1]. Even though this is a 10% decrease since 2014 due to military operations, the global impact expanded and the number of affected countries increased. While terror attacks and radicalisation were mostly happening in the Middle Eastern or African Countries back then, also European Countries are highly affected today by radicalisation and extreme violent acts.

Due to recent terror attacks and their almost every-day presence on the news, people don't differ between radicalisation and religion anymore. Thus, religious people are being excluded or suppressed, although they might not have any extreme and violent ideas or intentions. Based on that, it has to be emphasized, that there are several other types of radicalisation, such as (but not limited to) political, social, sexual, (ethno-)nationalist or single-issue extremism. After the terror attacks of the 9th September 2001, the ground for a new era of radicalisation was set. Especially religious radicalisation found it's breeding ground and increased tremendously, which is why the report will be focusing on that kind.

The fact that mostly young members of society are being radicalized, shows that the use of social media and the internet seems to be highly relevant in today's radicalisation process. Due to their ability to carry out terror attacks in their home country, they pose an exceptionally large threat to the world as the make international terror more accessible to extremist groups. Additional to that impacts or globalization and increased transnational flows of people, goods and ideas now link terrorist ideologies and their proponents more rapidly and effectively. So-called transnational fighters are believed to pose an incredibly high threat to international security.

Even though there is no universally recognized definition, radicalisation could be defined as a dynamic, multi- faced and multi staged process based on individual vulnerabilities and an encouraging and possibly suppressing environment. Consequently, most of the cases regarding radicalisation are context-specific, which is why the aim must be, to identify the systematic process of radicalisation and strategies to keep those people susceptible safe from extreme ideas.

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[1] http://economicsandpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Global-Terrorism-Index-2015.pdf

Definition of Key Terms

Religious Radicalisation

Radicalisation could be defined as a dynamic and multi- faced process based on individual vulnerabilities and an encouraging and possibly suppressing environment. It is commonly agreed upon the fact that religious radicalisation is a multi-staged process which is the reason for an individual to adopt radical ideologies and positions. Wikipedia defines radicalisation as "a process by which an individual, or group comes to adopt increasingly extreme political, social, or religious ideals and aspirations that reject or undermine the status quo or contemporary ideas and expressions of the nations." Most of the cases regarding radicalisation are however context-specific, which is why the aim must be, to identify the systematic process of radicalisation and strategies to keep those people susceptible safe from extreme ideas.

Jihad

Officially, the term Jihad means to "strive in the path of God" as it says in the Quran. It's the process of striving or struggling with aims written in the holy text and improving one's way of living in order to achieve full religious perfection. Jihad is classified into the inner Jihad, means religious struggle against oneself and the outer Jihad which includes religious struggle against others, which is further separated into the Jihad of the tongue/pen by debate and the Jihad of the sword. During the past few years the term Jihad is commonly associated with the "Holy War", frequently used by terror organisations like ISIL, describing the efforts made to convert or suppress other believes using military, violent actions.

Foreign Fighters

Since the term "foreign fighter" has not been officially defined by the UN, nor by any other international organisation, it is difficult to determine what constitutes a foreign fighter. Basically, a foreign fighter is a person who voluntarily leaves their country or origin in order to act on behalf of an armed insurgency, most likely a terror organisation. In most of the cases radicalized people join armed conflict in other countries due to personal links to the conflict either by ideology, religion or kinship.

Indoctrination

The process of teaching a person or group to accept a set of beliefs uncritically.[1]

Proselytize

Convert or attempt to convert (someone) from one religion, belief, or opinion to another.[2]

Social exclusion

Exclusion from the prevailing social system and its rights and privileges, typically as a result of poverty or the fact of belonging to a minority social group.[3]

Integration

Bring (people of groups with particular characteristics or needs) into equal participation in or membership of a social group or institution.[4]

Faith school

A school intended for students of a particular religious faith.[5]

De-Radicalisation

In a process of de-radicalisation, an individual shall lose the violent attitude and justify the extreme ideals verbally and without violent actions.

Counter-Radicalisation

Counter-radicalisation is a little bit broader and wider compared to de-radicalisation, since it describes the process of convincing an individual to fight against radicalisation, especially if this person has already been involved in the process. However, this requires a lot of self-control and certainty.

Terrorism

The unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims.[6]

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1. "Indoctrinate | Definition of Indoctrinate in English by Oxford Dictionaries." *Oxford Dictionaries | English*, Oxford Dictionaries, en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/indoctrinate.
2. "Proselytize | Definition of Proselytize in English by Oxford Dictionaries." *Oxford Dictionaries | English*, Oxford Dictionaries, en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/proselytize.
3. "Social Exclusion | Definition of Social Exclusion in English by Oxford Dictionaries." *Oxford Dictionaries | English*, Oxford Dictionaries, en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/social_exclusion.
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5. "Faith School | Definition of Faith School in English by Oxford Dictionaries." *Oxford Dictionaries | English*, Oxford Dictionaries, en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/faith_school.
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Background Information

What is the issue?

With over seven billion people living on this planet, it can only be guessed how many differing opinions and standpoint there are. Approximately 4,200 religions are estimated worldwide, the largest of which are Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Chinese Folk religion and Buddhism with the highest number of adherents. Each religion bears different believes and levels of fastidiousness in following principles. Those principles and specifications for the every-day live vary according to the holy text of a religion and so do concepts of religious radicalisation. It depends on how far the holy texts can possibly be interpreted and executed. If people accept radical or violent ideals, interpreted from such holy texts, as the one and only holy truth in regard to morals and historical facts, those people can pose an incredibly high threat to the security. The execution of those believes is nowadays most likely happening violently and will due to strict obedience toward the radicalized ideal and goal not stop until the contemporary political, social and economic rules have been undermined, which is why this issue is of such high emergence. Moreover, intolerance to other religions and opposing views bears a high potential of physical action, as the existence of other religions ruins the sanctity of the "own" land and the promotion of spreading the religion written in the holy text. Religious radicalisation often includes proselytization, which is in most of the cases based on personal disagreement of individuals regarding certain issues, which is being picked up by extremist groups and used to convince or convert somebody. However, as a result of their dogmatic compliance with the value of their holy bible, fundamentalist in principle pose a less violent threat to society as they will not perform unreasonable acts of violence that contradict their

bible. Thus, such proselytization should in practice be nonviolent. However, a fundamentalist doctrine is often claimed to be followed by religious extremist groups using this as their excuses to commit acts of terror.

Religiously motivated terror as a means of proselytization and radicalisation has existed and affected religions in the near and distant past. As an example from the American historical during the civil rights era, the Ku Klux Klan (KKK), claiming to represent protestant Christianity, is responsible for bombings in the 1950s and 1960s and the deaths of thousands of African Americans. Although religious radicalisation and terror are existent in all religions, current attacks are most notably performed by Islamic extremist groups like the so-called "Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIL)". As the Global terrorism index shows, were 74% of terror-caused deaths in 2015 accounted for by four jihadist groups, which are ISIL, Boko Haram, the Taliban and Al-Qa'ida, all of which are Islamic extremist groups.

What are the causes of the issues?

Radicalization clearly means different things to different people, nowadays it is mainly separated in violent and non-violent forms, both of which are outcomes of radicalisation processes. As radicalisation is mostly associated with religion, there are several other factors which can be decisive for an individual to adopt radical ideas. Deep unhappiness or dissatisfaction with life has consistently created a desire for radical change causing people to adopt radical social, political, or religious positions. Social isolation has been identified to be a common cause leading to such emotions that religious extremist groups then manipulate to radicalize supporters. In order to develop strategies to counter radicalisation, one needs to understand how social dynamics exert their forces on the civil society and what issues might attract people to adopt radicalisation and extremism as a solution and why.

Social exclusion

As a main reason for people to be susceptible for radicalisation is the exclusion from life in society. There are three stages which should be considered while countering radicalisation. The "micro" stage, based on the individual feeling about something, the "meso" stage, regarding the social surrounding and group dynamics and the "macro" stage, which includes a broader societal and political environment. Social exclusion can be applied on all of these stages. Possible

reasons for social exclusion could be social factors (including Ethnicity, nationality, gender, race, class, religion or other types of discrimination, as well as alienation of former criminals or terrorist members), economic factors (unemployment or poverty), political factors (such as the denial of political rights and freedoms, particularly in regard to religions, or war and armed conflicts), or finally personal factors (including trauma, family issues, education level, or religious beliefs).

Foreign fighter recruitment

Especially during the last decade, the recruitment of fighters from different countries then where the terror group is mainly located, is more and more used to commit terror attacks. A possible reason why people leave their country of origin and fight on behalf of an ideology abroad is the existence of religious fictionalization in the country of origin which is religiously divers and thereby

contains a high conflict potential. This could also include the lack of integration of religious minorities, which lead to social dissatisfaction. The access to news/propaganda published by anti-western populist news bureaus has also tempted to radical actions.

The role of religious extremist groups

Next to internal causes, prompting people to be drawn to extremist views, terror groups also play a key role in attracting such an interest and indoctrination of its potential supporters. Group dynamics in those religious extremist groups show a high affection on potential converts. Higher agreement and conformity with shared interests, shifting the average opinion toward extreme ideals. Experts call it a sociological trap, in which joining a certain group seems to be the only way out. The need for belonging and the coherence within the group is accepted to achieve social satisfaction. Newly discovered technologies which serve as a global platform for communicating and online propaganda have become a new way of recruiting or radicalizing. Seen that the density of electric devices within the population increases every day, the number of possible supporters for certain terror groups does too.

In many cases poverty is the reason for being susceptible for radicalisation, when costs exceed the general income. Tuition costs, for example, cannot be paid by many people, which is why faith schools offer a gladly excepted alternative since they are free of charge or very cheap. The curriculum is still taught in accordance with national guidelines, however with a supplement teaching with theology. Some of those faith schools are proven to have educated and trained several Al-Qa'ida and Taliban leaders.

Affected members of the Society

Many can be victims to social exclusion, with the exception of many groups whose nature is predisposed toward joining religious-based conflicts. Minority groups – especially those based on religion – are endangered due to the fact that they are probably less accepted in society than others. The current Youth is also considered to be highly sensitive to radicalisation due to their isolation. Their wish for acceptance and sense of belonging, the insecurity about their identities and beliefs are making them easy targets for radicalizers. Additional to that, young people use social media every day and are thereby easily accessible. Moreover, a high level of youth unemployment contributes to their appeal to radical change. Another societal group which is more affected than others are males, who are naturally drawn toward these conflicts due to the increased appeal of war and adventure.

The root causes of terrorism

After determining why people are radicalised, one should focus on what mainly causes terror itself. This explanation can be classified into the following causes[2]:

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[2]Root Causes of Terrorism." *Root Causes of Terrorism*, books.google.de/books?hl=de"

- Structural causes:
  - demographic imbalance
  - globalization
  - modernization
  - transnational societies
  - increased individualism
  - class structure
- Facilitating causes:
  - Mobility
  - Technology
  - Transportation
  - Publicity
  - Weapon technology
  - Failed states
- Motivational causes (Personal, individual difficulties)
- Triggering causes (Political calamity)

What are the negative effects of the issue?

First of all, it has to be stated, that the UN explains that terror is negative and danger to the global civil society. Religious radicalisation is the source of many negative effects of terrorism, like war and conflict which lead to international insecurity or the collapse of international relations.

Social impact

What cannot be denied is that due to terror attacks many people die or suffer severe injuries which leads to fear and insecurity in the society. Furthermore, radicalisation causes the changed interpretation of a religion overall. Due to (recent) terror attacks and their almost every-day presence on the news, people don't differ between radicalisation and religion anymore. Thus, religious people are being excluded or suppressed, although they might not have any extreme and violent ideas or intentions. Extremist and fanatic views become the face of that religion and their attacks inevitably associated with that religious people. Seeing that fundamentalism entails an ultimate worship to a religion, it can not be dissociated from the religion itself, meaning that acts of terror carried out in the name of a fundamentalism very dangerously risk the conception of a religious people as a whole. For example many Muslim and non-Muslim communities have been suffering social and economical exclusion and discrimination as their religion or culture have seemingly become inextricably associated with terrorism – especially after 9/11 – which is clearly a consequence of the appearance of acts of terrorism perpetrated by those who claim to act in the name of Islam.

While discrimination and the hatred of crimes, the division of societies results in nationalism and foreign scepticism. Consequently, from society excluded people are subjected to

radicalisation and more likely to fall for it and such growing radicalisation possibility compels government to enforce harsher security measures and stricter police forces.

Economic impact

Short term/direct effects on the economy are obviously medical costs caused by attacks, physical renovation when buildings or important objects have been destroyed and the replacement of lost resources. Additionally the countries market uncertainty leads to a stalling economic process as people are less willing to spend their money. Long term/ indirect effects are the reduced amount of tourism and international trade and the allocation of more money onto defence and military costs. Furthermore, financial flows are less controllable and the economy possibly corrupt.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force

The Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) was established in 2005 by the Secretary General of the United Nations consisting of 38 entities with the aim to assist individual Member States and the UN against terror. The primary goals of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy are:

- Addressing conditions conductive to the spread of terrorism
- Preventing and combating terrorism
- Building States' capacity to prevent and work against terrorism and to strengthen the role of the United Nations system in this regard
- Ensuring that Human Rights are being respected and the rule of law is accepted as the fundamental basis for countering terrorism.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is highly engaged in fighting terrorism and its roots. The "International Conference on Internet and the radicalisation of Youth: Preventing, Acting and Living Together" was hosted by it in 2016, as the follow up of the in 2015 held conference on the subject "Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalisation". As the focus of those conferences are young people and their use of technology it can be pointed out that the UNESCO mainly works on countering radicalisation of young people through social media and hosts and organized some of the few initiatives worldwide. Its aim is to promote global citizenship, education, media and information literacy, skills of intercultural dialogue and initiatives to stimulate civil engagement.

International Labour Organization

As a UN organisation the International Labour Organisation (ILO) deals with any kind of labour issues, like the development of the international labour standards or the reduction of unemployment. It

was implemented in 1919 as an agency of the League of Nations, following World War I. At the moment 187 member states are part of the organisation. As a very important measure the global initiative on decent jobs for Youth was launched at the UN headquarters on February 1, 2016 by the director-general of the ILO.

Timeline of Events

Since there have not been direct events happening in regard to this topic, the following events are reasons for or results of radicalization:

Date	Description of event
September 9th, 2001	The World Trade Centres in New York City are attacked by Al-Qa'ida terrorists under the leadership of Osama Bin-Laden. This historic event is tremendously important for the development of radicalisation, since it was the beginning of the direct war against the western ideals.
July 22nd , 2011	77 people were killed when Anders Breivik attacked a camp organized by the Workers' Youth League in Norway. Breivik was a radicalized right-wing extremist who was being sentenced to 21 years of preventive detention in prison.
January 7th , 2015	Two brothers forced their way into the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebbdo and shot 12 people. They acted on behalf of the terror organization Al-Qa'ida and disagreed with the way their religion was represented in the paper, what makes this attack a religiously motivated, radicalized, violent act.
January 7th , 2017	During the G20 summit there were violent demonstrations in a major extend. 170 injured police forces and 60 officially arrested protestors were accounted. The violent acts were committed by left-winged protestants, apparently belonging to a group called "Shutdown G20", to express their dissatisfaction due to political apathy or international relations. This kind of extremism can definitely be considered a kind of radicalization as well.

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, 24 December 2015 **(A/70/674)**
- The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, 20 September 2006 **(A/RES/60/288)**
- Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, 14 March 1995 **(A/CONF.166/9)**
- Promoting Social Integration, 22 July 2010 **(E/2010/12)**
- Promoting Youth Employment, 26 July 2006 **(E/2006/15)**

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

Unfortunately, there have not been any real measures implemented to solve the issue of radicalisation. It has rather been researched on what causes people to be more susceptible to it instead of actual measures. However, based on the information and knowledge that have been gained until today, measures have to be developed against terrorism including counter- and de-radicalisation.

Possible Solutions

Due to the lack of concise definitions it is not only crucial for every acting state or organisation to know what exactly is perceived as radicalisation, but also for member states to avoid any misconception of who the resolution is intended for.

As social exclusion of less included society members is one common reason for radicalization the focus of integrating especially young, male members of a religious minority group should be high. However, in addition to that education in general is tremendously essential. It has to be more accessible especially for less fortunate society members. Thereby governments will have the opportunity to detect radical tendencies amongst students due to a controlled environment they are being taught in, which will also guarantee better learning opportunities for students in regard to religious education not based on radical theology.

Another topic which needs to be worked on is, as listed above, the publicity of terror groups on social media and the internet. Everything that is accessible and might lead to the adoption of radical, violent standpoints and interest should be thoroughly addressed by the solution.

As a way to prevent whole religious peoples from being discriminated or excluded due to terrorists claiming to act in the name of the religion, non-violent members of the particular religion should raise their appearance in the news or web in order to clearly separate their beliefs and traditions from those of terror organizations. This can also include non-violent researchers or priests, even turncoats of certain terror groups can help to counter-radicalise potential converters.

These are just some aspects that need to be kept in mind when researching religious radicalization. It is up to the delegates to venture outside the research and solutions provided in this report and to find solutions that align with their country. Furthermore, this report shall only provide an additional dimension in thinking about how best to address such a complex and multi faced issue and range of difficulties that radicalization and religious terrorism contain.

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Forum:	General Assembly 3rd Committee
Issue:	Expanding access to education for children in isolated rural areas
Student Officer:	Erik Stapel
Position:	Deputy Chair

Introduction

Although access to education has been consistently improving around the world over the past century, the lack of proper education in rural areas continues to be a problem for the people that live in isolated areas. Both the nature of their lives and their geographical situation are key barriers to education that must be overcome if we want to expand access to education for these children.
The importance of access to education for all children cannot be stressed enough. In order for a developing country to progress further, it needs enough bright young minds who are properly educated to challenge the situation they are in and develop solutions to the problems they face. As urbanization becomes an increasingly common trend, those who are still in rural areas must be allowed access to education so their doors can be opened to different careers and paths out of poverty, for those in impoverished rural areas.

Currently, access to education is generally better in urban areas than rural areas in both developed and developing countries. This is due to the geographical advantages of servicing highly centralized populations, and the ease of building education infrastructure that services such a centralized population. Improving access to education for people in rural areas is a formidable task but has implications of a better educated and developed world.

Definition of Key Terms

Rural areas

A geographical area in the countryside; outside of the city or town.

Agricultural development

Improving the abilities of farmers by providing them with new knowledge and technology to improve the lives of those living in rural areas.

Curriculum

The academic content taught in an education system.

School funding

The money specifically by a government or raised otherwise by parent teacher organizations to finance the running and development of schools.

Education NGO

A non-governmental organization dedicated to the improvement and development of access to and quality of education.

Background Information

There are multiple examples of countries which have had issues with providing primary education in rural areas and addressed the problems which they faced. For example, the United States, along with its rapid western expansion in the 19th century, often employed the use of one-room schoolhouses for large amounts of children. However, through dedicated focus on improving and developing teachers and their education, the United States was able to make the access to education for a farming family in rural areas as good as in most cities.

Funding

Realistically, many countries have had less success with their respective education improvements due to multiple problems, such as slower economic development and lack of dedication to education in government. The economic costs of providing a quality education for all are not easily met in many countries. Many governments choose to focus the funds they have on other problems, and therefore rural education does not receive as much funding as it should. The United Nations has, however, made improving the access to equal education for all an important focus. For example, they have released various development goals focused on the advancement of literacy around the world. Regardless, there certainly could be more attention to the issue, as we are not close to equal access to education by any means.

Location

There also exists problems with motivating people in rural areas to obtain a higher-level education. Mainly, many people in certain rural areas do not have the financial means to pay for a higher-level education, although these needs have been addressed by certain governments which subsidize higher-level education for those who choose to attend. The other main problem, which also affects the ability of families to send children to primary education to a certain extent, is that many people would rather keep their children working on a farm rather than sending them to school, as the short-term benefits are better understood than the long-term benefits of obtaining an education. Therefore, agricultural development is key so people in rural areas are not as reliable on their children to help them with agricultural work. The economic factors of rural areas are much different than in urban areas, and as a result the priorities for education are much different.

Gender

There are also different problems associated with gender and how it affects the equal access to education. Cultural values and/or under-education in certain countries hold that women do not need to obtain school, and therefore many women have a much more difficult task of achieving an education in rural areas.

Therefore, the main issues that must be addressed are gender, location, and funding.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

UNESCO

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization works within the international community to ensure the access to quality education and other aspects of the environment of the child. Specifically, they have sponsored numerous research projects to gather data on situations in

different rural environments. They also host conferences where specific issues like gender inequality can be discussed and acted upon.

UNICEF

The United Nation Children's Fund is focused on providing assistance to children and mothers in developing countries. Clearly, their dedication to children is integral to this issue. UNICEF has made education one of their primary focuses in recent years as the world encounters globalization. However, as many schools improve as the ones that still receive no attention. That is why the UNICEF is interested in education, because it has implications for the improvement of their work in the future.

UNDP

The United Nations Development Program is the development network of the UN. With regards to education, they are focused on the development of actual education infrastructure. Because of this, their attention to things like building schoolhouses must be noted, especially in developing countries. They are one of the main sources for funding of projects that have no other source of income, like improving education in rural areas and other rural infrastructures. They also tie in to agricultural development.

FAO ERP

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization Education for Rural People initiative is specifically focused on the education and training of rural people. This foundation is smaller than the previously mentioned but could also be useful in terms of finding existing programs focused on the issue.

India

India is one of the most dynamic and diverse member states when it comes to this issue. Although India's urban centers are sprawling and dense, the majority of India still lives in rural settings rather than urban settings. However, most of its attention goes to rural education for universities where they can reach the most students efficiently. Rural villages often get left behind, and government schools are notoriously worse than private schools. Not every village has a school, and not every school has enough teachers. The national complicated system of languages with mixes of Hindi, English and local languages also results in many incongruities in the nationwide curriculum with a lot of oversight to important subjects in local areas. Therefore, a country to focus on is certainly India and others in South Asia (and Southeast Asia too).

Nigeria

Being the most populated country in Sub-Saharan Africa, a region especially affected by this issue, Nigeria has much progress to make in this sector of development. Over two thirds of people are in rural regions. Problems like dilapidated schools, lack of enough desks or chair, overpopulation, insufficient academic staff, and corruption are all endemic in the Nigerian schooling system, all over the country. Although many other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa suffer from these same issues, attention to Nigeria as an example can make decisions for courses of actions in other similar countries easier.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event

December 10th, 1948	UDHR Signed
2000	Millennium development goals signed
2016	Sustainable development goals signed

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- Universal declaration of Human Rights
- United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all (A/RES/56/116 or A/RES/65/183)

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

- UN millennium goals were eight goals that all UN member states agreed to try to achieve before 2015. These included to achieve universal primary education and to promote gender equality and empower women. Clearly, these goals have not been fully obtained worldwide, but they are indicative of the progress we have collectively been trying to make in the world.

- With regards to member states, the 21st century has ushered in a new era of technology. Many schools and curriculums now rely on computers and other devices to improve their classrooms. Schools have sought to install computers in school and implement online access to help. Since this is harder to obtain in rural areas, many different governments and NGOs have been focused on improving internet access in rural areas. This is often a (relatively) cheap and efficient way to improve schooling.

- Globalization has led to the collective improvement of schooling worldwide as people in each region can communicate more effectively. As an example, countries like Myanmar and Nigeria long relied on dated (decades old) curriculum from their days as British colonies, but now many of these former colonies are now finally reforming their curriculum to accept new information and knowledge

Possible Solutions

Way to connect schools with the community by developing agricultural practices within rural communities should be explored by delegates. Furthermore, the training and education of the adults in rural areas is also crucial. If they are aware of the benefits of education, they will be more likely to send their children to school.

Agricultural development is a very efficient solution because it will directly lead to better access for children in rural areas. If the techniques and technologies farmers use improve, they will have less need for their children to work.

Funding through loans and grants from other organizations is an option. However, simply requesting for UN funding is an unsustainable solution. Governments could be encouraged to redistribute funds or obtain new funds from things like taxes.

Creating women-focused bodies focused on their access to education in rural areas or the expansion of current NGOs is a helpful solution, or perhaps creating different training programs for educational professionals to explain the importance of ensuring an education is easily obtainable for both genders.

Another solution could be the movement of qualified educational professionals like teachers from urban to rural environments where they can teach others about what makes a successful educational system.

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Forum:	General Assembly 3rd Committee
Issue:	The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age
Student Officer:	Taylor Morse
Position:	Deputy Chair

Introduction

In the era of information and mass surveillance, it has become second nature to rely on computers, phones and databases to source intelligence and to download, torrent, stream, and post about personal, governmental, and general material to websites and servers. Every time a person signs up for social media accounts or logs on and "likes", "shares", or "retweets", the data is saved in a large storage cloud, where it can either be sold to companies for the creation of advertisements catered to the website's viewership, or it can be preserved for passwords. Devices of all kinds have become a seemingly irreversible facet of our lives, and the concept of privacy has also become intertwined. In the media, persons of all backgrounds are scrutinised for the activities they have done in the past, calling into the question of privacy of the individual on several accounts.

Definition of Key Terms

Anonymous User

An anonymous user is a person whose identity to the general public on the internet is unknown, allowing them to communicate and act freely behind a screen. Anonymity and the abuses of the practice on certain websites and hidden networks have led to abuses of privacy and rights of private individuals due to targeting.

Cookie

A small text file created by a website that is stored in the user's computer either temporarily for that session only or permanently on the hard disk. They are a way to track your preferences throughout surfing the web. Cookies commonly are given as examples of ways that websites remember a person and can be hard to mitigate if one wishes to be 'forgotten' on the internet.

Digital Age

The 'digital age' or 'information age' is defined as the era of technological development starting in the 1970's, heralded by the introduction of the personal computer. It signalled the rise of the ability to transfer information freely and quickly, and is relevant to the topic at hand due to the era in which the internet and social media has progressed in the last 30 years.

IP Address

An IP Address or "identity protocol" address, identifies one through their computer on a local network. IP addresses are the way to identify users and their actions in the cyber sphere, which can lead to infringing on rights to privacy by corporations and national intervention.

Mass Surveillance

The subjection of a population or significant number of people to indiscriminate monitoring by an organisation or group. This has become more prevalent by large nations and organisations that wish to curb large scale acts of terror, but also trespass on the rights of private citizens.

Privacy

The subjection of a population or significant number of people to indiscriminate monitoring by an organisation or group. Privacy is a main facet of this topic on the basis of digital privacy, or private enterprise on the internet.

Background Information

Back before the age of mass surveillance, communications between private citizens were mainly "analogue" or a variable signals continuous in both time and amplitude, carried by use of modulation. This was the old way of communicating, and was heavily relied upon for nearly a century and a half, starting with the telegraph. In the 1990's, Sir Tim Berners-Lee created the "world wide web", a royalty-free platform for communication between any person at any time. Beginning with what we know about the The age of the internet has blown open the dissemination of knowledge, and has encouraged many people to engage with it and use the widespread capabilities to harness business enterprises and personal gain. In the progress of technological advancement, devices to access the internet to promote leisure and entertainment have become the way that communications and other

Legality of Government Surveillance

Many governments have been accused of mass surveillance on not only their citizens but on other foreign nationals as well. The legal issues presented in the actions of using mass surveillance to harness intelligence and counter-intelligence are ones of the private individual, as upheld in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. From a legal standpoint, the rights of the individual prevent large mass surveillance that may intervene into their lives inappropriately.

United States and Its Role

The United States, have used government organisations such as the National Security Agency (NSA) to draw in about 250 million internet communication streams from foreign nationals annually, a staggering number for one government to have sourced this much information of its own unknown personal use. The argument that has been made on its behalf that there is no precedent for "international legal obligations concerning the privacy of foreign nationals outside its territory". The United States has currently one of the largest counterintelligence servers with the intent to use it to gain and store knowledge. It has become a source of much contention, domestically and internationally. Many citizens find that it infringes on their privacy, to the point that it has led counter-movements to escape the government scrutiny, such as "Tor", the onion routing service. It has become the known existing force within the global community for hidden mass surveillance that has been revealed to its citizens by an ex-government employee, Edward Snowden. The NSA and their existing mission is now public knowledge, yet any censorship practices have yet to be disclosed or understood.

China and Its Role

China has played a large role in the ideals of censorship since it became a communist country in 1949. Before the age of the internet, China used censorship to control information flow through public media such as radio, television, and newspaper journalism. The government used the pillars of limited media to mitigate any outside democratic and westernised influences that might disrupt the mind-set of the public. However, since the rise of the digital age of personal computers and phones, the government has been accused of "actively limiting and editing the information that flows into the country." Search engines have the most difficulty in that, as users that wish to use their services inside China are also being watched through the same sites. Specifically, the Chinese government has issues with users that criticise the Chinese government in public forums or in general media/mass demonstrations. This has led search engines to have to conform to the regulations of the government and maintain their integrity of service, and that means that the huge firewalls that have been implemented and variety in usage for Chinese citizens, isolate them from the majority of news, music, art, and general information and culture of the outside world.

Concepts proposed by the rise of the internet

When the "world wide web" was created in April of 1993, there were key components that were demonstrated by its conception, some of which document the ideals of its creator, Sir Tim Berners-Lee, as written exactly on the Web Foundation's website:

1. Decentralisation: No permission is needed from a central authority to post anything on the web, there is no central controlling node, and no single point of failure. This implies freedom from **indiscriminate censorship** and **surveillance**.

2. Non-discrimination: If one pays to connect to the internet with a certain quality of service, and another pays to connect with that or a greater quality of service, then both parties can communicate at the same level. This principle of equity is also known as **Net Neutrality.**

3. Grass-roots design: Instead of code being written and controlled by a small group of experts, it was developed in full view of everyone, **encouraging maximum participation and experimentation**.

4. Universality: For anyone to be able to publish anything on the web, **all the computers involved have to speak the same languages** to each other, no matter what different hardware people are using; where they live; or what cultural and political beliefs they have. In this way, the web breaks down silos while still allowing diversity to flourish.

These are just a few of the basic mantras that the creation of the internet and an online community wishes to promote globally. It is important to keep these ideas in mind when dealing with the privacy of global citizens within specific nations, as many nations have left these ideas out of the framework of their information mechanism.

The Negative Side of a Digital Realm

Although it is easy to see the positive effects of the internet and all the information it brings to our fingertips, there are present issues with the concept of "all-access". One of the most prevailing points of contention, is the "Dark Web", a side of the internet with more sinister characteristics.

With the formation of a digital landscape with no borders, a more reserved place for illegal activity such as human trafficking, the purchasing of illicit substances, the spread of child pornography, disturbing content that can encompass "snuff" pornography to unclassified surgeries and self-made horror films, and the largest portion currently dedicated to weapons sales dominate this side of the internet. In order to mitigate its growth, there would need to be more regulation and knowledge about the external browser/anonymity network "Tor", the free software that allows one to access the Dark Web.

Tor, or also known as, "The Onion Routing" software, was developed by the United States Naval Laboratory to circumvent and garner counter intelligence discretely, and has been the main gateway toward the Dark Web overall.

Additionally, an all-access policy for the internet would likely decrease the value of the information that is sought after in the realm of digital enterprise. If a corporation or educational entity has a login procedure to access information on their site, then the logical conclusion is that the information withheld to them is sustained only for viewers that have direct affiliation with that company. The information held within those servers is for the eyes of the employees, students, staff, and relevant persons to access, strictly in accordance with privacy and legal obligation to keep other's privacy hidden.

Other potential privacy risks include malware, spyware, phishing, pharming, allowing unused or little used accounts to remain active, and web bugs. These risks have developed from evolving code and hackers that have tried their hand at identity theft and other methods of corruption online. Many citizens all around the world are affected by these malicious internet action, and this must be addressed in some form for the protection of private persons all across the globe.

The Future of Internet Privacy

The internet overall has been the most ground breaking invention within human capacity since the dawn of man, and there are still more areas of it that we must learn. In the future, it is more likely that the capacity of internet privacy will deal with more firewall implementation and underground practices to escape what the average user will perceive as scrutiny towards the use of one's internet. Government intervention in the daily internet use of an individual will surely be heightened and matched by that of the growth of technology as a whole, in ways such as tagging computer sales, creating maps of distribution for certain technological devices, and possible cooperation between global companies such as Apple and Samsung to unlock and use iPhones and Galaxy phones for law enforcement evidence, eliminating the "case-by-case" basis that has been established by the privacy by-laws of the companies.

Like any successful world-changing invention, the internet is still developing every day. The bountiful gifts that it bestows upon every user has been unprecedented, but the next complete step is to safely and regulate what can be done within the loose confines of the digital realm, through reducing anonymous hate crimes to preventing the sale of human beings and the "digital black market."

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

Human Rights Watch

Human Rights Watch is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) that conducts research and advocacy on human rights. They have taken a personal endeavour to generate discussion on human rights abuses within the internet.

European Data Protection Supervisor

The European Data Protection Supervisor is the European Union's independent data protection authority. They ensure that European institutions adhere to respect the right to privacy and data protection, by monitoring the application of data protection in EU bodies.

Internet Society

The Internet Society is an American non-profit organisation founded in 1992 to provide leadership in Internet-related standards, education, access, and policy. They have released a policy brief on privacy, and their mission is to protect the rights of internet users, educate academic and scientific communities, promote scientific and educational applications of the internet, and provide a forum for new exploration of the Internet.

Privacy International

Privacy International is a registered UK charity founded in 1990 and was the first organisation to campaign at an international level on privacy. They lead investigations on government surveillance and "litigate to ensure that surveillance is consistent with the rule of law". They have led several investigations into countries such as Thailand, Syria, and Egypt to litigate on the privacy of citizens and abuses of the internet.

Austria*, Brazil*, Germany*, Liechtenstein*, Mexico*, Norway* and Switzerland*

Co-sponsors for the keynote presentation delivered by the High Commissioner of the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights on "the right to privacy in the digital age."

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

The relevant resolutions and treaties are below to highlight the development of the topic. Seeing as the digital age in question happens to be the age we are living in at present, there are few UN documents that successfully highlight and plan each aspect of the concepts mentioned:

- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 16 December 1966 (A/res/21/2200)
- The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age, 18 December 2013 (A/Res/68/167)
- Summary of the Human Rights Council panel discussion on the right to privacy in the digital age, 19 December 2014 (A/HRC/28/39)
- The Promotion, Protection, and Enjoyment of Human Rights on the Internet, 18 July 2016 (A/HRC/32/13)

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

The UN has held prior summits to address the issue and has attempted to formulate a resolution on similar issues that briefly mention the topic as a side issue, mainly encompassing topics such as the legality of mass surveillance and intervention of foreign nationals through government systems domestically. The report of the High Commissioner of Human Rights, as requested by the initial resolution on the topic, has surmised of a report of digital privacy and the future effects of the internet on our daily life. However, the overall objective purpose of the topic at hand, on the behalf of the UN, is to

eliminate what is perceived as intervening in human rights and potentially perpetuating abuses by diminishing one's right to privacy. There has also been a UN press conference on censorship in 2006 to better acquaint the public with the UN stance of "amicable" censorship that does not limit or hinder one's personal endeavours to learn and educate oneself.

In March 2012, the Data Protection Regulation was proposed by the European Court of Justice as a set of regulations in the European Union, that protects users from online tracking and unauthorised personal data usage. It exists to further define personal data and increasing punishments for those who violate users' online privacy. This legislation was created to also outline clear articles to address the topic at hand, and to directly punish any internet violators through Articles 77 and 79. It also aims to hold companies accountable for any such illegal activity. This is held strictly in accordance with European laws, however, and has not been made as global as UN efforts.

Possible Solutions

Viable solutions for ensuring the ability for the right to privacy on the internet is to have a third party regulation, in the form of either a UN body or a non-profit organisation to monitor and maintain that there is not a continuation of abuses for private citizens of all nations. This could be through the form of a multi-lateral body of countries with representatives acting through the UN, so to respect the individuality of the countries in question.

Learning more about where one's digital footprint is left behind and where it can be stored is a large point that must be conveyed to the average internet user. "Cookies" are a popular way to track and analyse internet absorption and usage of a user, and many people are unaware of the large impact that their data can have on sales, marketing, and business development globally. Education on this front through the use of radio, television, and ironically, internet advertisements, would be of great use to better harness the concept of privacy for internet users, and allow them to regain control and understand the greater picture of what encompasses their internet use.

Memorialising social media accounts for people post-mortem is a popular way to decrease activity on a social media page for the grieving families and more privacy-conscious users. Groups like Facebook have paved the way for this type of privacy, out of respect for families that have sustained great loss. This is a more congenial and safe solution, along with creating "legacy contacts" or people that are permitted access to the account after death. This could be done through administering a clause in Terms and Conditions for corporations and social media enterprises to prevent them from monitoring the usage of these accounts or for allowing other public users to comment or gain access.

Despite the little we know about the Dark Web, it would be a great start in the right direction to start to classify it and limit the use of it by understanding how it operates. This could be through supporting groups that eliminate or attempt to fight the illicit practices that are promoted by the Dark Web, and deploying a multilateral group of nations with high internet usage to combat the Dark Web through their servers. Taking a note from the United States, the destruction of the "Silk Road", a large "Bitcoin" based underground website that dealt with drugs and arms sales, was a huge step forward in understanding the world of underground hacking, selling, and redistribution for all nations.

Being vigilant in the pursuit of stopping malware and spyware is the next battle in protecting the internet. This can be done by implementing by employing peer-to-peer encryption which gives users the

control to delete data from an information depository. Preparing unprepared home users for the possible threats to their lives, banking accounts, and social media is important for the future of the internet. Educating persons about how to identify virus ridden websites and bugged or false web addresses will also help mitigate the potential to lose data or be prone to identify theft. Bugged electronic devices, weak passwords, and poor choice of streaming services can pose threats to internet users, and the quicker that the general public can become knowledgeable about these sites and malware, the more protected they can become.

Promoting net neutrality through corporations and businesses is one key aspect of privacy, by way of preventing data discrimination and also allowing for equity across all servers, bandwidth, and streaming devices. This can be implemented by incentivising equality across streaming services through tax breaks or government subsidising. By encouraging net neutrality through the advocating of governmental services, it will allow for individuals to enjoy and use the internet at the same level of that of someone else without the threat of "bandwidth throttling" and provider discrimination based on the services used, the background of the user, and the ideas the user feels represent him/her.

Another strong idea to protect citizens from digital infringement is the encouragement of legislation of outlawing certain practices such as revenge porn and the gathering of digital intelligence of citizens without any illegal charges or suspect of illegal activity. This is referencing the idea of a "digital bill of rights" or extending the Human Rights Act of 2000 in the United Kingdom to encompass the digital realm in addition to the literal realm that it already covers.

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Appendices

I.   **The human right to access the internet**
     https://www.article19.org/data/files/Internet_Statement_Adopted.pdf

II. **The right to privacy in the digital age**
     http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/68/167

III. **Internet freedom in a Surveillance Society**
     www.jstor.org/stable/10.5406/j.ctt130jtjf.12.

Forum: General Assembly 3rd Committee

Issue: Measures to assist Syrian refugees

Student Officer: Neil Kapur

Position: Deputy Chair

Introduction

Currently, one of the largest global issues is the Syrian refugee crisis. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), as of November 2017, there are around 5.3 million registered Syrian refugees. Multiple refugees are facing numerous challenges such as the lack of food, water, shelter, a secure income, and education.

The primary cause of the Syrian refugee crisis is the Syrian Civil War. The conflict itself started around March of 2011. Around this time, multiple protests began to arise against the Assad regime within Syria and a large percentage of the population called for the removal of Bashar al-Assad. Multiple citizens were angry about the lack of democracy and the declining economy, among other issues. These protests also arose as a result of the Arab Spring, an anti-government movement taking place in many parts of North Africa and the Middle East. Protests began to intensify after a group of fifteen teenagers were arrested and tortured (one was killed) for using graffiti to write anti-government/revolutionary slogans on a wall. As time passed, the tension in the area increased. The violence continued to escalate, and multiple citizens joined forces, thus causing the Syrian Civil War. In 2012, the conflict started to affect both the city of Damascus and Aleppo. As a result, multiple people fled the country and started to seek asylum in other nations.

There were already thousands of Syrian refugees fleeing to nearby countries by May of 2011. These refugees were heading to nearby countries including Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq. Some even headed as far as Egypt and Europe. By the end of 2012, there were more than five hundred thousand Syrian refugees, most of them seeking asylum in the countries mentioned above.

From then until today, there has been a continuous flow of Syrian refugees. A majority of refugees are still fleeing to nearby countries such as the ones mentioned above. However, many are heading to countries in Europe and many are also requesting asylum from other countries in different continents including nations such as the United States and Canada.

In their host countries and in refugee camps, many refugees are facing a plethora of problems. For example, many do not have access to basic necessities including water, food, shelter, clothes, and healthcare. In addition, refugees are facing other problems such as limited education, poverty, limited job opportunities, and exploitation in the informal market.

The many issues that refugees are facing can be solved. Unfortunately, the international community is not doing enough. There are multiple countries with infrastructure that can support a large number of refugees, however, the number of refugees that they are accepting is very limited. Besides

this, many organizations that provide humanitarian aid have limited funding which is limiting their ability to assist these refugees. In addition, the Syrian Civil War is still ongoing which in turn means that there are still a large number of refugees fleeing the country each day. The unfortunate truth is that if the international community cannot agree on a sustainable solution, the current issue at hand will get worse.

Definition of Key Terms

Refugee

A refugee is defined as an individual who is forced to flee their country due to a certain factor such as political or religious persecution, war, violence, or a natural disaster. These factors generally make life unsustainable which is why an individual may be forced to leave their country. According to the UNHCR, in 2014, there were 14.4 million refugees.

Internally displaced person

An internally displaced person is an individual who just like a refugee, is also forced to leave their home due to war, persecution, violence, natural disasters, etc. However, unlike refugees, the individual remains in their home country and seeks shelter in places such as schools, camps, etc. According to the UNHCR, there are around 6.3 million internally displaced individuals within Syria.

Asylum seeker

An asylum seeker is an individual who is seeking protection in another nation but has not been admitted into a country as a refugee. All refugees were once considered asylum seekers but once they are admitted, then they are considered refugees. The words "asylum seeker" and "refugee" tend to be used interchangeably, however, the 1951 Refugee Convention outlines the difference between the two.

Stateless person

A stateless person is simply an individual who does not possess citizenship of any country or a nationality. Statelessness is a large issue within the context of the Syrian refugee crisis. Multiple children are being born in countries where citizenship is not granted automatically upon birth and as a result, there are multiple individuals that are not a citizen of any country. The UNHCR estimates that there could be as many as twelve million stateless persons.

Refugee camp

A refugee camp is a temporary shelter for refugees. According to the UNHCR, there are currently more than 2.6 million refugees living in these camps.

Background Information

In order to assist Syrian refugees, it is important to identify the various challenges that they are facing and find solutions to these challenges. Syrian refugees are currently facing a variety of challenges ranging from the lack of basic necessities to the lack of education to the inability to find a secure income.

Issues while in transit

Before refugees even enter their host country, they face a variety of issues while in transit. A big issue/cause is the fact that many European nations are actually trying to prevent refugees from entering their country. Once refugees reach European soil, they are able to apply for legal status, however, before that, countries within the European Union have no obligation to provide them with asylum. If European nations granted asylum or visas to refugees before they even entered the country, then they could simply fly to a country within Europe which is safer and could actually be cheaper than being smuggled in by boat. However, the fact is that many European nations either don't want more refugees or are accepting refugees but at the same time, taking a long time to process applications and waiting is not an option for many refugees.

As a result, in order to reach Europe, many refugees end up travelling by foot and/or by boat through the Mediterranean Sea so that they can be granted asylum once they reach Europe. The problem with this is that many try to reach Europe through illegal and unsafe means such as by hiding in trucks or travelling through boats illegaly which are crowded and unsafe. As a result, many refugees have been injured and some have even died by drowning.

This issue could be solved if more refugees were granted asylum at a faster rate so that they could travel using safer means of transportation since they would have some form of legal status. Until then, many refugees will continuously use unsafe means of transportation and risk their lives to arrive in Europe.

Issues in host countries and refugee camps

Lack of basic necessities

One major issue being faced by Syrian refugees living both in refugee camps and in host countries is the lack of basic necessities such as food, potable water, clothing, shelter, and healthcare. Unfortunately, for many refugees, it has been pretty difficult to find a job in the formal sector, so as a result, they have not been able to afford these basic necessities. As a result, many have relied either on humanitarian aid from organizations such as the World Food Programme or from refugee camps. In addition, there are many staying at refugee camps waiting to be relocated. However, due to the lack of funding and resources, many programs and refugee camps have not been able to provide these resources. For example, in 2014, the Guardian and PBS reported that there were over 1.7 million refugees that were receiving little to no food in nations such as Jordan and Lebanon since the World Food Programme suspended vouchers due to the lack of proper funding. Refugees that heavily relied on this program could no longer afford food. Besides this, there have been many reports of refugee camps facing shortages and not

being able to provide these basic resources to refugees. By not having access to these essential resources, the health of many refugees has declined, and many have suffered.

Lack of education

A second major issue being faced by many Syrian refugees is the lack of a proper education. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), multiple refugees, especially those staying in Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, and Lebanon, have access to limited education opportunities. Education is important, especially to Syrians, and it is necessary for many job opportunities. However, in some areas, Syrian youth do not have access to an education (due to limited spaces) while in others, even when they do have access to an education, a large quantity are not attending school. This is mainly because many children are trying to get jobs to support their family. Besides this, in some cases, young girls are being forced to get married at a young age. In addition, bullying in schools and the language barrier also make it difficult to obtain an education. A final aspect that contributes to the lack of education is funding. Many schools in the countries mentioned above many not receive the necessary funding needed which means there could be a lack of school supplies and skilled teachers. This results in less spaces for Syrian youth and also the quality of the education decreases. The United Nations and non-governmental organizations have been providing basic reading and writing classes, however, this is still not enough. The unfortunate truth is that if the Syrian youth do not get an education, then it will be harder for them to have a sustainable future. It is crucial that Syrian children have access to an education.

Poverty and limited job opportunities

A third major issue faced by many Syrian refugees is the lack of job opportunities and poverty. Many refugees are unable to find jobs and obtain work permits in their host country, which results in many of those refugees living in poverty. This situation is not just isolated to a few countries. Even in More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs) such as the United States and Canada, refugees are having trouble finding jobs. There are a few reasons why this occurs. One would be the language barrier. There are many refugees that may not be able to speak the first language of that country and as a result, it is harder to obtain a job. Another reason would be that their credentials may not be recognized or necessary documents, such as a college diploma, may have been left behind in Syria when they were forced to flee the country. However, there are countries such as Jordan which are making it easier for Syrian refugees to obtain a work permit. This is a step in the right direction. So, in order for refugees to have the ability to restart their lives in a new country, it is important that they have the ability to obtain jobs. Unfortunately, that is challenge for multiple refugees.

Exploitation in the informal economy

A fourth major issue faced by many Syrian refugees is that they are being exploited in the informal economy. Unable to obtain work permits, many Syrian refugees have been employed informally. This is an issue as since the refugee is not employed formally, the employee can take

advantage of the refugee and demand long hours for little pay. In other words, the employer has the ability to violate the worker's rights and also not conform to the minimum wage set in the country. This is a rising issue and the main way that it can be solved is by making the process of obtaining work permits more accessible and easier. Jordan, for example, has made it easier for Syrian refugees to obtain work permits.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

Syria

Syria is the nation that caused the issue at hand. It is the source of the refugees. As a result of the Syrian Civil War, multiple citizens have fled the nation and have been seeking asylum in surrounding nations and multiple other countries around the world. As the war continues, more people are being forced to flee the country and there are still a large number of individuals internally displaced within the nation. The country has also been blocking humanitarian aid from entering the country which could assist the millions of internally displaced persons.

Germany

In general, Germany has had an "open door" policy when it comes to accepting Syrian refugees. The country has already accepted over one million Syrian refugees in the past few years. However, rising alt-right movements and opposition will make that number decrease. Merkel has already stated that the country will limit the annual number of refugees that will be accepted to 200,000. Besides this, the rising anti-immigration sentiment could negatively impact the refugees already living within Germany.

France

France has stated in November of 2015 that they will accept a total of thirty thousand refugees over the following two years. The country itself has had a bad reputation when talking about the treatment of refugees. There has been reports of violence and harassment against refugees (even by the police) and the Calais refugee camp was even referred to as a "jungle" by many. Recent terrorist attacks have decreased the population's support for refugees.

United States

As of November 2017, the position of the current U.S. government is anti-refugee. Over the past year, president Donald Trump has put into effect travel bans which have temporarily suspended the country's refugee program. At the moment, the first two travel bans have expired (as of December 2017, the third one that was originally blocked has been allowed to be put into effect by the Supreme Court) so refugees are now allowed to apply to enter the U.S. but with what the president described as "extreme vetting". In other words, it will take longer for refugees to be accepted into the country and fewer refugees will be able to enter each year. According to the Migration Policy Institute, a total of 18,000 refugees have been resettled in the United States. Finally, the Trump administration did announce that from October 1st, 2017 until the end of the fiscal year (September 30th, 2018), a maximum of 45,000 refugees will be accepted into the U.S.

Lebanon

Currently, there are more than one million registered Syrian refugees who are staying in Lebanon. This means that Lebanon has one of the largest populations of Syrian refugees. In fact, in some towns, there is a larger number of Syrian refugees than Lebanese. However, recently, multiple Syrians have reported feeling insecure and threatened within Lebanon. In the beginning, Lebanon welcomed a large number of Syrian refugees. As time passed, more entered the country putting a strain on resources and causing tensions to rise. Besides this, refugee camps are not allowed in Lebanon and even when Syrian refugees rent land and build a shelter, they are evicted from their land and forced to rebuild elsewhere. There also has been rising violence against Syrians. It is also worth noting that Lebanon does not have the proper infrastructure to support such a dramatic increase in population. However, it is also important to note the country has helped Syrian refugees in multiple ways and is part of the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP).

Greece

Thousands of Syrian refugees have been arriving in Greece in each year. Many have arrived by crossing through Turkey and then taking a boat through the Mediterranean Sea to reach Greece. Multiple refugees are trying to pass through Greece to reach richer and more developed European nations such as Germany. The issue with this is that Greece does not have the proper infrastructure or funding to handle such a large number of refugees and as a result, there has been shortages of food, water, shelter, and other forms of aid. Besides this, Greece is not only receiving refugees from Syria but also from other countries such as Afghanistan and Iraq. What Greece needs is more aid and for more refugees to be accepted into other nations.

Jordan

When it comes to Syrian refugees, Jordan has been more welcoming towards them. In fact, there are currently over six hundred thousand registered refugees staying in Jordan (government estimates put that number above one million). The government has also done many things to help refugees such as making it easier to obtain a work permit. In addition, the country is part of the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP). However, Jordan has been increasingly deporting Syrian refugees back to their home country citing security reasons. The UNHCR estimates that an estimated four hundred refugees are sent back each month. Besides this, in the recent past, the country has also closed their borders to Syrian refugees stating that there are security threats.

Turkey

According to the World Bank, Turkey host more Syrian refugees than any other nation in the world. Currently, there are over three million Syrian refugees being hosted in the country. Unlike the majority of host countries (which rely on aid from humanitarian agencies), Turkey's government actually invests in helping refugees. For example, the government is making it easier for Syrian refugees to obtain work permits and ensuring that Syrian refugees receive the same wages as regular Turkish citizens (they also do this to ensure the wages of regular Turkish citizens do not fall). This also means

that they are eligible for private healthcare insurance. The government has also provided social services and education for refugees. Besides this, the country is part of the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP). Even though Turkey has accepted a large number of refugees and has been doing multiple things to provide assistance, many refugees are still facing various challenges. For example, there are many refugees living in poverty and also many that are being exploited by working in the informal economy. There are also other problems such as the lack of access to education outside of camps. In terms of the public opinion, multiple citizens do not like the idea of refugees staying permanently within Turkey and only around 27.5% (according to a study by Hacettepe University) support granting them citizenship. Also, during the beginning of the crisis, the country had an "open door policy". However, now due to rising security concerns and other factors, there has been increased border controls with some even being turned away. Overall, Turkey has done a lot to assist refugees, however, there are still multiple challenges being faced by Syrian refugees in the country.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has been one of the leading organizations when it comes to providing aid. The UNHCR has been doing a lot to assist Syrian refugees. For example, the organization has provided funding for basic necessities such as food, water, shelter, clothing, etc. They also provide healthcare, advocacy, and protection. The organization has also led the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) which is a plan coordinated by a group of nations in the area to help assist refugees. One weakness of the organization is the lack of proper funding. There have been multiple cases where the organization was limited in its ability to provide aid since they did not have the sufficient amount of money. So, the UNHCR is assisting refugees in multiple ways such as by providing aid and advocating for their rights.

Sunrise USA

Sunrise USA is an American nongovernmental organization that was founded in 2011 and currently has the objective of providing aid to Syrian refugees. They provide many forms of humanitarian aid by providing basic necessities such as food, healthcare, clothes, and education. The organization relies on donations and just like other organizations which provide humanitarian aid, their future is at risk due to the lack of proper funds.

Islamic Relief USA

Islamic Relief USA is a nongovernmental organization that provides aid not just to Syrian refugees but also to refugees and individuals in need that live in other nations in the area. The organization has provided humanitarian aid to refugees and also internally displaced persons within Syria.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
March 2011	A large number of protests erupt throughout Syria as a result of the arrest of a group of teenagers using graffiti to write anti-government slogans on a wall. The protests are also fueled by the lack of democracy within the country.
April 2011	Refugees already are fleeing the country as a result of escalating tensions and violence. There are already around 2,000 refugees heading to Turkey.
May 2011	The first refugee camps are now open in Turkey.
March 2012	As a result of the growing number of Syrian refugees, the United High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR) assigns a Regional Refugee coordinator to the region.
July 2012	In order to handle the large number of Syrian refugees fleeing to Jordan, the Za'atri refugee camp opens.
December 2012	The number of Syrian refugees has now reached 500,000. Also, in this month, the Regional Response Plan is launched. The plan is led by the United Nations with the assistance of Turkey, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq.
March 2013	According to the United Nations, there are now over one million Syrian refugees that have fled the country.
September 2013	The number of Syrian refugees now reaches two million.
March 30th, 2017	According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the number of Syrian refugees is now over five million.

Relevant UN Treaties

- Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, 28 July 1951,

- Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, 4 October 1967

- Resolution 2332, 21 December 2016 **(S/RES/2332)**

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and NGOs

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other nongovernmental organizations have been working to provide humanitarian aid to Syrian refugees. When they have had the proper funding, they have been able to provide basic necessities such as food, water, shelter, clothes, etc. They have also been able to provide basic education and advocacy for refugees. Unfortunately, when organizations such as the UNHCR have run out of funding (which has occurred multiple times), the aid they provided was temporarily halted or limited. The World Food Programme, for example, stopped providing vouchers for refugees which made obtaining food extremely difficult for many.

Resettlement of refugees and refugee camps

Another previous solution to the issue at hand is the resettlement of refugees in host countries or temporarily in refugee camps. In some ways this solution has been beneficial to certain extent but also detrimental. There have been poor conditions in multiple camps and many refugees are having trouble adapting to their host country. As mentioned above, many are struggling to obtain a work permit and find a job in the formal work sector and there are also many children that are not going to school so that they can help provide money for their families. Besides this, some governments have not invested enough in helping refugees and ensuring that they obtain basic necessities. On the flip side, the resettlement of refugees also has been beneficial when the correct conditions are in place. Canada, for example, has created programs to help integrate refugees into society. Also, even though many can't find a job, there is still a large amount of Syrian refugees who have been able to adapt and find jobs within their host country. They have been able to restart and build a better life for themselves and their family.

Regional Refugee and Resilience Program (3RP)

The Regional Refugee and Resilience Program (3RP) is a strategic plan led by the UNHCR and developed in partnership with Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq, Egypt, and Jordan. The initiative also works with many nongovernmental organizations. The goal of it is to provide a humanitarian response to the current refugee crisis. The nations that are part of the plan have taken certain measures to help refugees. For example, Egypt is improving access to public education and healthcare for refugees.

Possible Solutions

There are a few ways to solve the current issue at hand. One possible solution would be a more unified global response. There are many countries that have the proper infrastructure to handle a large number of refugees. However, many refugees are in fact going to countries such as Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq, etc. which don't have the proper infrastructure to handle such a large number of refugees. By accepting more refugees, the More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs) could help refugees that are currently staying in nations with little opportunity and also help nations that have a very large refugee population which cannot be supported.

Another possible solution would be providing funds, especially to organizations and countries which provide humanitarian aid to refugees. The reason many refugees don't have access to basic

necessities and education is because of financial issues. If the international community could provide funds to those organizations and countries that need it, they could then be used to finance programs which directly assist refugees.

A third possible solution would be to help with implementation of refugees. A large issue for many is obtaining a job in the formal sector due to factors such as the language barrier. Host countries could offer services to help refugees learn the first language of the country and also help with finding a job or obtaining an education. This could decrease the number of refugees working in the informal sector.

A final possible solution would be to promote a more "pro-refugee" attitude. The reason many refugees are having trouble integrating into society is because in some countries, many citizens disrespect refugees and have an "anti-refugee" sentiment. If a population of a country realizes that the majority of refugees are harmless and are in need of assistance, they might have a more accepting attitude towards them.

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