



KEP I R M U N ' 2 6

LEGAL

Agenda Item: *Refugee Rights*

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Letter From the Head of Academy

Dear Delegates,

It is a great honor for me to welcome you all to the LEGAL Committee of KEPİRMUN'26. We are delighted to have you participate in this conference, as we come together in order to address one of the most important and pressing matters that the globe is facing: Refugee Rights.

Today, millions of individuals are forcibly dislocated from their countries due to conflicts varying from war to persecution and instability. This committee offers you the opportunity to understand the legal responsibilities of states and the international mechanisms designed to safeguard refugee populations.

Your role as delegates will be to explore this topic and propose realistic solutions that protect human dignity and represent your country's ideologies. I encourage you to engage in this conference constructively and actively, respect different perspectives and collaborate in creating innovative, lasting solutions for the challenges you will face.

I look forward to hearing about your unique ideas and achievements. Please do not hesitate to contact me or our team in case you have any questions or require assistance.

I wish you a great MUN experience and I am certain we all will gain unforgettable memories during this event.

With Sincere Thanks,

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Head of Academy

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Letter From the Under Secretary General of LEGAL

Distinguished Delegates,

Most esteemed participants of KEPİRMUN26,

As the Under Secretary-General of KEPİRMUN26, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to this year's conference. Our team has spent months preparing an engaging and academically enriching environment where delegates can develop their diplomatic skills and exchange ideas on some of the most pressing global challenges.

One of the key aspects of this conference is the LEGAL committee, which focuses on humanitarian issues related to refugees, asylum seekers, and displaced populations. Through this committee, delegates will have the opportunity to explore complex international problems and work collaboratively to propose practical and innovative solutions.

This study guide has been prepared to assist you in understanding the agenda and to serve as a starting point for your research. I strongly encourage you to read it carefully and further expand your knowledge by examining different perspectives while representing your assigned country. Effective diplomacy requires preparation, critical thinking, and respectful debate.

I hope that KEPİRMUN26 will provide you with valuable experiences, meaningful discussions, and unforgettable memories. I look forward to witnessing the insightful contributions you will bring to our committees.

Best regards,

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Under-Secretary-General

3. Introduction To The Committee

Introduction

In recent decades, forced displacement has risen dramatically due to conflict, persecution, political instability, and environmental crises. Millions of people have fled their countries seeking safety, placing pressure on national systems and host communities. International refugee protection is mainly governed by the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, which establish core rights and the principle of non-refoulement.

However, the implementation of these legal obligations remains inconsistent. Many states face challenges in processing asylum claims and ensuring access to basic rights, while restrictive policies and limited resources continue to hinder effective and humane refugee protection.

4. Background of the Agenda Item: Refugee Rights

a) Definition and Legal Status of Refugees

The legal definition of a refugee is established under the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. A refugee is a person who has a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion and is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin. Legal status determines access to protection mechanisms, asylum procedures, and fundamental rights within host states.

States retain sovereignty over migration control; however, once an individual qualifies as a refugee, specific international obligations are triggered. Determining status fairly and efficiently is therefore central to ensuring protection and preventing unlawful returns.

i) Refugee Rights under International Human Rights Law

Refugees are entitled not only to protections under refugee law but also to the full range of rights guaranteed by international human rights law. These include the right to life, freedom from torture, access to education, healthcare, work, and due process. The principle of non-refoulement is reinforced through broader human rights treaties.

The United Nations Human Rights Council monitors state compliance with these obligations and addresses violations such as arbitrary detention, discrimination, and denial of basic services. Ensuring equal protection before the law remains a fundamental concern.

ii) Evaluation of Pathways to Permanent Residency and Citizenship Among Refugees

While refugee status provides protection, it is often temporary. Long-term legal uncertainty may limit integration and stability. Pathways to permanent residency and eventual naturalization vary widely among states and are frequently influenced by domestic political considerations.

Evaluating fair and accessible legal pathways is essential for sustainable integration. Clear residency procedures, language and employment access, and non-discriminatory citizenship laws contribute to durable solutions and social cohesion.

b) Protection of Vulnerable Groups

Certain refugee populations face heightened risks, including women, children, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ+ individuals, and stateless persons. These groups may experience compounded discrimination and limited access to protection mechanisms.

International law requires special safeguards to ensure that vulnerability does not translate into exclusion. A rights-based approach must incorporate gender-sensitive and child-sensitive policies within asylum and protection systems.

France: France believes that the protection of vulnerable groups is a fundamental element of refugee policy. As a signatory to the 1951 United Nations Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, France reaffirms its commitment to international protection standards.

France prioritizes women, children, and victims of trafficking by promoting gender- and child-sensitive asylum procedures. It maintains that all migration policies must be implemented in full respect of human rights and the rule of law.

Germany: Germany believes that the protection of vulnerable groups is a fundamental component of international refugee policy. As a signatory to the 1951 United Nations Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, Germany reaffirms its commitment to upholding international protection standards.

Germany prioritizes women, children, victims of human trafficking, and other individuals with specific vulnerabilities by ensuring special procedural safeguards and access to essential services within its asylum system. It further supports strengthened European cooperation and responsibility-sharing mechanisms to ensure effective and humane refugee protection, in full respect of human rights and the rule of law.

Türkiye: Türkiye hosts the largest refugee population globally, primarily individuals fleeing conflicts in neighbouring countries such as Syria, Iran, and Iraq. Those granted temporary or international protection have access to essential public services, including healthcare, education, and—under specific regulations—work permits and social assistance. Children may enroll in public schools, and registered individuals benefit from the national healthcare system.

As a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, Türkiye maintains the geographical limitation, granting full refugee status only to individuals arriving from Europe. For those fleeing conflicts outside Europe, alternative protection statuses are applied, and third-country resettlement is considered a primary durable solution.

Türkiye's modern asylum framework is based on the 2013 Law on Foreigners and International Protection, which established the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) as the main authority responsible for migration and asylum procedures. The Temporary Protection Regulation further defines the legal status, rights, and obligations of individuals under temporary protection.

USA: The United States has historically considered itself a nation of immigrants and has developed a refugee protection policy based on a commitment to humanitarian obligations, national security concerns, and economic capacity. The United States is a party to the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees and is committed to providing protection to refugees fleeing persecution, wars, and political oppression around the world in accordance with international law.

The U.S. refugee policy is based on a set of core principles: providing humanitarian protection to refugees through asylum and resettlement; providing rigorous security checks; and establishing a refugee admissions ceiling set by the President annually. The United States also supports integration efforts through federal and civil society resettlement programs.

While there are differences between presidential administrations on policy details, the United States has historically considered refugee protection to be a humanitarian issue as well as a matter of national sovereignty and security.

i) Refugees in Armed Conflict and Emergency Situations

Refugees in conflict zones or emergency settings face threats such as violence, forced recruitment, family separation, and lack of humanitarian access. International humanitarian law and human rights law intersect in such contexts.

States and international actors must ensure civilian protection, safe humanitarian corridors, and access to basic services. Failure to protect refugees during armed conflict may constitute serious violations of international law.

ii) Matter of Anti-Trafficking Laws in Refugee Contexts

Refugees are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking, forced labor, and exploitation due to irregular migration routes and economic hardship. Weak documentation systems and border insecurity increase these risks.

Effective anti-trafficking legislation must be integrated into refugee protection systems. Victim identification mechanisms, cross-border cooperation, and survivor-centered legal remedies are essential to prevent exploitation and ensure justice.

c) Refugee Integration and Long-Term Solutions

Beyond immediate protection, sustainable solutions are necessary to prevent protracted displacement. Integration involves access to employment, education, housing, healthcare, and social participation.

Policies promoting inclusion reduce dependency and foster economic contribution. Long-term strategies must balance national capacities with international burden-sharing.

i) Responsibilities of Host States

Host states are primarily responsible for ensuring that refugees within their territory are treated in accordance with international law. This includes fair asylum procedures, protection from discrimination, and access to essential services.

At the same time, many host countries face financial and infrastructural limitations. International solidarity and equitable responsibility-sharing are therefore critical components of effective protection.

ii) Evaluation of Durable Solutions Regarding the Related Issues under UNHCR Policy

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) identifies three primary durable solutions: voluntary repatriation, local integration, and resettlement to third countries. Each solution must prioritize safety, dignity, and informed consent.

Evaluating the effectiveness of these pathways requires assessing political feasibility, security conditions, and long-term sustainability. Durable solutions must address root causes of displacement as well as integration challenges.

d) Refugee Access and Insurance of Justice

Access to justice is fundamental to the protection of refugee rights. Without legal representation, fair hearings, and transparent procedures, refugees risk wrongful deportation or prolonged uncertainty.

Ensuring judicial independence, legal aid availability, and non-discriminatory administrative systems strengthens rule of law in asylum contexts.

i) Discussion of Alternatives to Detention under International Standards for Refugees

Immigration detention remains widely used despite international standards discouraging arbitrary detention of asylum seekers. Prolonged detention may violate human rights norms.

Alternatives such as community-based supervision, reporting requirements, and case-management programs have proven more humane and cost-effective while maintaining migration control objectives.

ii) Evaluation of Fairness and Transparency in Asylum and Healthcare Systems Regarding Refugees

Delays in asylum procedures and limited healthcare access undermine refugee protection. Fairness requires impartial decision-making, clear criteria, and accessible appeals mechanisms.

Healthcare systems must ensure non-discriminatory access, particularly for vulnerable groups. Transparent administrative processes build trust and uphold human dignity.

e) International Cooperation and Accountability Among States Regarding Refugee Situations

Refugee protection is a shared international responsibility. Disproportionate burdens often fall on neighbouring states, creating inequality in global responses.

Strengthening multilateral cooperation, financial assistance, and coordinated resettlement frameworks is essential to ensuring equitable responsibility-sharing.

i) Role and Effectiveness of Regional Refugee Frameworks

Regional agreements and protection mechanisms complement global refugee law. They often address context-specific displacement patterns and facilitate cooperation among neighboring states.

Evaluating their effectiveness involves assessing implementation, funding, and political commitment within regional bodies.

ii) Proposals of New International Treaties and Preservation of Valid Laws

While some advocate for new international treaties to address emerging displacement causes such as climate change, others emphasize strengthening implementation of existing legal instruments.

Delegates must consider whether reform, expansion, or improved enforcement mechanisms are necessary to ensure comprehensive and future-oriented refugee protection.

5) Notable NGO's

Many prominent international actors engaged in the field of refugee rights at the global level play a significant role in advancing the protection of refugees, upholding their fundamental freedoms, and fostering fair responsibility-sharing among States. These entities contribute to the development of legal and policy frameworks while also promoting awareness through initiatives, field operations, reporting activities, and advocacy efforts.

1. International Rescue Committee (IRC)

Provides emergency aid, legal assistance, and resettlement support

Works in conflict zones and refugee camps

Strong focus on protection of women and children

Why relevant for Legal: They advocate for policy reform and refugee protection frameworks.

2. Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

Specializes in legal aid for displaced persons

Helps refugees obtain documentation (ID, land rights, etc.)

Active in over 30 countries

Why relevant: They directly deal with housing, land, and property rights (HLP) — a key legal issue.

3. Refugees International

Policy-focused NGO

Conducts field research and reports on refugee crises

Pushes governments for legal accountability

Why relevant: Very strong for delegates researching state responsibility & compliance.

4. Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)

Provides education, legal assistance, and psychosocial support

Works in detention centers and refugee camps

Why relevant: Covers refugee detention and access to legal representation.



6) Topics Resolution Should Address

- 1.** To what extent are States complying with their obligations under international refugee and human rights law, particularly regarding the principle of non-refoulement and the prohibition of collective expulsion?
- 2.** How can gaps in the implementation of international legal instruments relating to refugee protection be addressed to prevent unlawful pushbacks and arbitrary returns?
- 3.** Are national asylum systems consistent with due process standards, including the right to legal assistance, interpretation, and an effective remedy before a competent authority?
- 4.** How do detention practices applied to asylum seekers align with international standards on necessity, proportionality, and the prohibition of arbitrary detention?
- 5.** In what ways do domestic laws and policies restrict refugees' access to fundamental rights such as healthcare, education, employment, and freedom of movement, and how can these restrictions be legally challenged?
- 6.** How can international responsibility-sharing mechanisms be strengthened to ensure equitable burden-sharing among States in accordance with principles of international cooperation and solidarity?
- 7.** What legal frameworks are necessary to ensure the protection of vulnerable groups among refugees — including women, children, and persons with disabilities — in line with international protection standards?
- 8.** How do statelessness and lack of civil documentation undermine refugees' legal identity, and what measures can States adopt to ensure birth registration and access to nationality?
- 9.** What legal and institutional barriers hinder durable solutions such as voluntary repatriation, local integration, and resettlement, and how can these barriers be addressed through legislative reform?
- 10.** How can monitoring, reporting, and accountability mechanisms at the international and regional levels be reinforced to ensure effective compliance with refugee protection obligations?

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