UN SECURITY COUNCIL

Protecting Civilians Against Armed Conflict

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE: The United Nations Security Council

The **United Nations Security Council** is one of six principal organs of the United Nations that is primarily responsible for maintaining international peace and security. While other organs of the UN, like the UN General Assembly, can only make recommendations, the Security Council has enforcement power to carry out those recommendations. This duty makes the UN Security Council the most powerful organ in the United Nations system. From imposing sanctions to approving peacekeeping missions around the world, the Security Council is best equipped to respond to crises around the world.[1]

The Security Council is made up on fifteen members: five permanent members (colloquially known as P5 members) and ten non-permanent members who serve two-year terms. The five permanent members are: The People's Republic of China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America who hold veto power over any UN Security Council resolution, which means that if any one of those five countries votes no, the resolution automatically fails. The non-permanent members for 2022 – 2023 are Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, and the United Arab Emirates.

When there is a threat to international peace, the Council can set principles to establish an agreement or dispatch a peacekeeping mission, which are made of military forces voluntarily provided by member states. In some emergencies, the Council may issue a ceasefire to prevent an escalation of a conflict. The Council can also exercise its powers by enforcing a blockade, embargoes, travel bans, and economic sanctions. Ultimately, the Security Council is primarily a crisis-management body to maintain peace, and since 1990, has dramatically increased its activity to hold countries accountable.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In recent years, conflict has had an escalating impact on innocent civilians. Known as 4th-generation warfare, direct civilian attacks have become a systemically used war tactic. Scorched earth tactics or other strategies devastate community resources in the interest of furthering the perpetrator's military stance. However, this only exacerbates the conflict, creating massive humanitarian crises for the civilians affected, including rampant malnutrition and medical problems as well as a lack of access to basic needs.

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[1] "What is the Security Council?" United Nations Security Council. https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/what-security-council.

These conflicts have an especially notable impact on vulnerable populations. Around the world, vulnerable groups like women, children, people with disabilities, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community face discrimination and violence even in peace, and this divide is grossly widened in conflict. When a community faces a lack of necessary resources, services, and support, it is the needs of these groups that will be compromised

Intrastate conflicts have seen an especially tremendous increase, including civil wars, calculated attacks, and other armed conflicts. From 1946 to 2019, 221 intrastate armed conflicts took place in more than 100 countries around the world, moving the international community further from a peace. Additionally, in the last 30 years, nearly one million civilians were killed in deliberate attacks by armed groups, while many millions more were injured or forcibly displaced. This demonstrates how devastating intrastate conflicts can be for civilians who face injury, disease, and death as collateral damage of these conflicts.

THE CURRENT STATE OF CONFLCIT

Despite global efforts to restore peace, terrorism continues to occur in countries around the world, taking a severe toll on the civilians it victimizes. While deaths from terrorism have been falling for the 5th consecutive year, terrorist groups are gaining more control of various regions, including the Taliban in Afghanistan and jihadi groups in Africa.[2] In every instance of terrorism, civilians are stripped of basic rights, freedoms, and resources. From children unable to attend school due to safety concerns to women who cannot even leave the house without facing violence and possible death, terrorism results in gross human rights violations per the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which details the rights all humans are entitled to, though few receive them.[3]

To severely weaken the communities, they are terrorizing, terrorists and attackers often target critical resources like food, water, and healthcare. Wartime tactics of interrupting supply chains and electricity impacts the capacity of health systems tremendously, preventing people from receiving life-saving medical care. One million cholera cases in Yemen have resulted from this blockage of necessary resources, like water purification tablets, and support, like medical intervention. Additionally, infant mortality rates usually increase by thirteen per cent during a typical five-year conflict, further corroborating the devastating effects of this violence on

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[2] "20 years after 9/11, jihadi terrorism rises in Africa" Brookings Institution.

https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2021/08/30/20-years-after-9-11-jihadi-terrorism-rises-in-africa/.

[3] "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" United Nations. https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights.

vulnerable youth populations. Healthy food, clean water, and safe medicines are only some of many necessities that people in conflict-affected areas lack adequate access to.[4]

THE IMPACT OF CONFLICT ON CIVILIANS

Impact on vulnerable populations:

While armed conflicts gravely impact all civilians, it disproportionately harms vulnerable populations such as women and children. During armed conflict, grave uncertainties and chaos often increase the prevalence of human trafficking and other human rights abuses. Additionally, in peacekeeping and rebuilding processes during and after armed conflict, women and children's needs are often forgotten, causing them to become left behind.

Women

Human trafficking generally increases during armed conflict, but since men are often enlisted to fight, women left behind in their communities become the main targets of human trafficking. Additionally, sometimes violence against women and girls is used as a war tactic. Human trafficking can occur in various forms, such as forced marriages, sexual violence, and kidnappings. In conflict, where chaos and large-scale poverty tends to prevail, human traffickers can thrive, in which many make false promises to women in conflict. Some families may fall for false promises about better lives abroad for their daughters, and thus get tricked into sending their daughters away. Others may be forced into marriages as a means of maintaining financial and social security.

Women also often become widowed and thus the sole providers of families post-war. With the lack of financial and other resources, they may struggle to provide for their families. Additionally, cultural factors and various childcare responsibilities may make it difficult for them to become employed, furthering the cycle of poverty. Without financial security, women become at a higher risk of being exploited and human trafficked. Young girls growing up in financially unstable families are at a much higher risk of being stripped of their basic right to education. When resources are scarce, families may choose to send their sons, but not their daughters, to school. Additionally, fears of attacks and threats against young girls in school may incentivize families from allowing their daughters to attend school.

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[4] "Women in armed conflict" United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.
https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/end-violence-against-women/2014/conflict.

Finally, a large reason for the lack of protection for women in armed conflict is the lack of representation in peacekeeping efforts. Since women are often not present at peacekeeping initiatives, female-specific issues such as reproductive health support become sidetracked and forgotten.

Children

Over 400 million children live in countries affected by violent conflict, in which many are forcibly displaced, orphaned, and unaccompanied. The lack of support for children in conflict drastically hurts their development later in life, furthering the inequality between countries in peace and countries in conflict. UNICEF listed several grave violations against children in times of war, including the killing of children, military recruitment of children, attacks on schools and hospitals, and the denial of humanitarian resources.[5]

Firstly, children often become main targets for rebel groups, with direct and indirect methods of homicide. In 2020, at least forty-seven per cent of casualties caused by explosive weapons were of children.

Secondly, children are at risk of recruitment to armed forces and rebel groups. Since rebel groups require a lot of personnel, children often become easy targets for new recruitments. Additionally, because of the chaos and lack of security for children, the children can easily become indoctrinated into the group, with the rebel groups becoming their main community. These armed forces and groups often use girls and boys for different purposes, and thus they exploit the children differently. For example, the Revolutionary United Front group in Sierra Leone raided villages, abducted children, and forced them to join the rebel forces[6]. The children abducted were used for different purposes—boys tended to be used for armed violence, whereas the girls were used as child brides.

Thirdly, attacks on schools and hospitals disproportionately affect children. Since children in conflict often do not have the opportunity to learn at home, so if they are not at school, they are unable to receive an adequate education. This stunts their development, putting them significantly behind other children in areas of peace. In Burkina Faso, armed Islamist groups like Al Qaeda and the Islamic State launched a series of attacks on schools

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[5] "Six grave violations against children in times of war" United Nations Children's Fund.

https://www.unicef.org/stories/children-under-attack-six-grave-violations-against-children-times-war.

[6] "Women & Conflict" United States Agency for International Development.

https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1865/toolkit_women_and_conflict_an_introductory_guide_for_programming.pdf.

in which they terrorized children and threatened parents to keep their children out of school. The Islamist groups cited their distaste for the French educational system as their main reason for terrorizing schools.[7] In addition to targeting schools, rebels sometimes also attack hospitals to make it more difficult for people to receive much needed medical supplies. In a recent attack on a hospital in Kunduz, Afghanistan, at least 30 people were killed, leaving hundreds of thousands of people out of essential medical supplies.

Finally, armed groups may purposefully deny humanitarian aid to children. The United Nations verified at least 14,900 incidents of the denial of humanitarian aid to children between 2005 and 2020.[8] Armed groups may do this by blocking humanitarian aid packages, or by threatening aid workers in the region. This significantly hinders aid workers' ability to help those in need, leaving children and other victims of conflict in dire conditions.

COVID-19 AND CONFLICT

The COVID-19 pandemic has destroyed healthcare systems around the world, but conflict-affected communities face especially devastating consequences. The pandemic has overwhelmed the already weak healthcare systems in these areas, exacerbating global healthcare inequalities and preventing people from receiving the basic health services and COVID-19 treatments that they need.[9] It has also enlarged the healthcare resource deficit, making these communities even more vulnerable by preventing them from accessing personal protective equipment (PPE), sanitation measures, life-saving treatment, and vaccines. While many recent deaths caused by COVID-19 or other medical problems could have been avoided, conflict barred these communities from receiving the resources and support they needed for this to occur.

Areas that had already seen increased levels of violence, internal strife, and political instability saw even more severe effects from the pandemic, with their government comparatively unable to gather and distribute aid and services to their war-torn communities. Afghanistan—which has been in a near-constant state of conflict since

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[7] "'Their War Against Education:'Armed Group Attacks on Teachers, Students, and Schools in Burkina Faso" Human Rights Watch. https://www.hrw.org/report/2020/05/26/their-war-against-education/armed-group-attacks-teachers-students-and-schools.

[8] "Six grave violations against children in times of war" United Nations Children's Fund. https://www.unicef.org/stories/children-under-attack-six-grave-violations-against-children-times-war.

[9] "Continuing Venezuela exodus and COVID-19 highlights need for global solidarity for most vulnerable" UN News. https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/06/1093902.

the 1970s—saw its already under-resourced hospitals fill up quickly and one of the highest virus transmissions in the world.[10] Countries with already-fragile governments, unable the fund state healthcare and welfare programs, are susceptible to outbreaks of not only COVID-19, but also other diseases like Ebola, yellow fever, or cholera.[11]

COVID-19 also poses a major threat to internally displaced peoples in camps and settlements, which are often overcrowded and lack adequate sanitation and health services. COVID-19 spreads rapidly in these communities, putting the people there at an increased risk of getting infected, which would be especially problematic given the paucity of treatment resources available. It has also led to a significant decrease in humanitarian aid being funneled into communities in need, further exacerbating the problem. For example, COVID-19 has made Venezuelan migrants much more dependent on humanitarian aid, pushing many to starvation, and they also endure crowded conditions that facilitate the expedited spread of the virus.

UN ACTION
Protecting Civilians

The United Nations has a mandate to protect civilian populations living in and around war-torn regions from violent actors. As the body within the United Nations that makes many of the operational and binding decisions of the organization, the Security Council has the authority to identify violent threats towards civilian populations and direct resources—whether that be in the form of logistical support, food aid, or peacekeeping forces—to address those threats.[12] Traditionally, the Security Council will make their determinations about aid allocations or threat designations based on the recommendations of the UN Department of Peace Operations (DPO) and the Department of Operational Support (DOS), based in New York. Peacekeeping missions, as deployed by the Security Council, can work to provide protection, maintain a stable environment for

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[10] "COVID-19 out of control in Afghanistan as cases up 2,400% in a month" Thomas Reuters.

https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/covid-19-out-control-afghanistan-cases-up-2400-month-2021-06-17/.

[11] "COVID-19 in Fragile Settings: Ensuring a Conflict-Sensitive Response" United Nations.

https://www.un.org/en/un-coronavirus-communications-team/covid-19-fragile-settings-ensuring-conflict-sensitive-response.

[12] "Protection of Civilians Mandate" United Nations Peacekeeping. https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/protection-of-civilians-mandate.

humanitarian aid and monitor human rights conditions in a particular region. Whether international peacekeeping or police forces should be deployed in a particular environment will be primarily up to the Security Council, with the support of UN member countries.[13]

Protecting Against Terrorism

The Security Council has paid particular attention to combating and protecting civilians against acts of terrorism. In September 2001, the United Nations Security Council formed the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), an organ within the UN tasked with monitoring and preventing acts of international terrorism.[14] The Committee is made up of representatives from all fifteen Security Council members and asks UN members to adopt certain policies designed to combat terrorism organizations. The Committee asks member states to freeze financial assets of designated terrorist organizations and their leaders, suppress "safe havens" or support for terrorism, arrest and extradite practicing or planning terroristic acts, and criminalize both committing and supporting acts of terrorism.[15]

NOTE FROM THE GCDC SECRETARIAT

The following case studies are provided to serve as direction for research. As Security Council (both MS and HS) is a crisis committee and the flagship committee of the Spring Conference, there will be an update paper issued for the Council to reflect current geopolitical shifts and the Presidency of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in April.

The Update Paper is a corollary to the background guide; the short paper will reflect current changes, any relevant Security Council meetings and deliberations, along with facts and figures provided by the Secretary-Generals Office.

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[13] "Report of the Secretary-General on the protection of civilians in armed conflict (S/2021/423) [EN/AR/RU]" United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

[14] "Resolution 1373 (2001)" United Nations Security Council. https://www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/terrorism/res_1373_english.pdf.

[15] "Our Mandate" United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee. https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/ctc/content/our-mandate-0.

CASE STUDIES

Afghanistan

On August 31, 2021, the United States officially withdrew from Afghanistan, leaving the country under the control of the Taliban, an extremist Islamist political group that has been known for previous human rights abuses and brutal terrorist behavior. This shift raised major international concern for the well-being and the safety of civilians living in Afghanistan.

Historical Context

Over the last 40 years, Afghanistan has had various major shifts in leadership, leading to long-term instability in the region that hindered its ability to grow as a nation. In 1979, the Soviet Union, which is current-day Russia, occupied Afghanistan, leading to widespread instability and discrimination. Within the next ten years, Afghanistan engaged in a civil war that prompted the rise and eventual ruling of the Taliban from 1996 to 2001. After the September 11th, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center in New York, the United States launched an invasion in Afghanistan in its search for "weapons of mass destruction." While in Afghanistan, the United States overthrew the Taliban and launched a new democratic government. While in power, Afghanistan experienced constant security threats from the Taliban, and continued political and economic instability. However, despite the continued difficulties in the country, there were also large strides made in progressing human rights, particularly in women's rights. With the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan, many fear the new oppressive regime will erase all the progress made in securing human rights.

Impact on Civilians

After the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, civilian lives, especially Afghan women, are in grave danger. A total of 3.5 million Afghans are projected to be displaced, with 500,000 displaced this year alone. The supply chain for essential goods and services such as medical equipment, food, and clean water has been severely hindered. The closure of Kabul's airport, which acted as the main method for international travel has also led essential personnel to be unable to enter the country, leading to labour shortages in essential services such as healthcare.

Impact on Women

Historically, the Taliban has been known for stripping many women's rights, including banning women from attending school, going to work, and even leaving their homes without a male escort. The current Taliban regime claims that it will allow women to continue to work and attend education, but recent Taliban controlled

areas have already imposed restrictions on women. Recently, the Taliban has banned women from appearing on television without a headscarf, severely restricting women who work in the entertainment industry.[16] Additionally, in a recent Humans Rights notice sent out by the Taliban council for Women's Rights, the Taliban declared that "A woman is not a property, but a noble and free human being; no one can give her to anyone in exchange for a peace deal or to end animosity."[17] The Taliban further noted that a woman's consent was necessary for marriage, and thus it was illegal to force a woman into marriage. Despite these positive strides in women's rights, activists and women in Afghanistan remain wary of the actual impact that these decrees will have.

UN Action

In September 2021, the UN had sought $606 million to help 11 million people within Afghanistan. Specifically, one-third of the money sought would be for its World Food Programme , since upcoming winters and the ongoing droughts will severely hamper harvests and food supplies. One-third of the donations will be used for "new and emerging needs and changes in operation costs."[18] The UN High Commissioner for Refugees also asked neighboring countries to continue hosting refugees from Afghanistan to ease a potential refugee backlog on Afghanistan's borders. UNHCR officials specifically recommended that Pakistan host 1.3 million refugees within the country and allow them access to state healthcare apparatuses.[19]

In response to the crisis, the Security Council publicly urged the Taliban to allow Afghans wishing to leave the country to peacefully do so.[20] The Security Council members also extended the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan—an international mission meant to provide political stability for the country—another two years to March 2022 to expand aid programs to the Afghan people and promote political dialogue in Kabul.[21]

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[16] "Afghanistan: Taliban unveil new rules banning women in TV dramas" British Broadcasting Corporation. https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-59368488.

[17] "Taliban declares women "free," but rights activists see little cause to celebrate" CBS News.

[18] "UN warns of 'urgent imperative' to avoid acute Afghan food insecurity" United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. https://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/un-warns-urgent-imperative-avoid-acute-afghan-food-insecurity.

[19] "UNHCR urges intensified support for displaced Afghans and refugee hosting nations" United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/briefing/2019/12/5df3508b4/unhcr-urges-intensified-support-displaced-afghans-refugee-hosting-nations.html.

[20] "UN Security Council to Taliban: Let Afghans Leave Safely" Voice of America News. https://www.voanews.com/a/south-central-asia_un-security-council-taliban-let-afghans-leave-safely/6210158.html.

[21] "Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2596 (2021), Security Council Extends United Nations Mission in Afghanistan for Six Months, as Taliban Establishes Rule across Country" United Nations. https://www.un.org/press/en/2021/sc14639.doc.htm.

Ethiopia

Currently, there is an armed conflict between the government of Ethiopia and the rebel forces in the country's northern Tigray region. Since November 2020, there have already been 10,000 reported deaths and more than one million people have been displaced. Examining the history and government structure of Ethiopia can help contextualize the current situation.[22]

Since 1994, Ethiopia has had a federal system in which different ethnic groups controlled the affairs of its regions. The Tigray's People's Liberation Front (TPLF) helped set up this system and has been highly influential in Ethiopian politics ever since as the leader of a four-party coalition that has governed Ethiopia since 1991. Under this government, Ethiopia has prospered economically and has gained great stability, but there have been serious allegations of human rights abuses and corruption within the government. The current prime minister, Abiy Ahmed, was appointed as the result of increasing discontent at the TPLF establishment. Amend removed key Tigrayan leaders who were accused of repression and corruption and established a new Prosperity Party. The TFLP refused to join this party. Tensions came to a head in September 2020, when the Tigray region held its own elections, separate from the central government. In October, the Ethiopian government stopped providing funding for the region and the Tigray government declared war.

Further complicating the crisis, Eritrea, Ethiopia's neighbor, and once former geopolitical enemy before a treaty was established by Ahmed's government in 2019, is involved in the conflict, sending military support to the Ethiopian government and occupying the northeast Tigray region.[23]

Impact on Civil Society

Due to the conflict within Tigray, the Ethiopian government has had little access to the region, cutting off many of the region's supply and trade arteries. The Ethiopian government has been accused of deliberately cutting off access to Tigrayan territory for food and medical aid organizations.[24] In December 2020, reports circulated that Ethiopian troops had even opened fire and detained UN staffers trying to bring aid into Tigray without prior

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22 "Tigray: Atlas of the humanitarian situation" ResearchGate. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/349824181_Tigray_Atlas_of_the_humanitarian_situation.

23 "Former enemies, Ethiopia and Eritrea are fighting on the same side in Tigray war" The Africa Report. https://www.theafricareport.com/130363/former-enemies-ethiopia-and-eritrea-are-fighting-on-the-same-side-in-tigray-war/.

24 "Ethiopia's Tigray crisis: What's stopping aid getting in?" British Broadcasting Corporation. https://www.bbc.com/news/57929853.

government approval.[25] Both sides of the conflict were accused of various atrocities and crimes against humanity—including attacks on civilians, torture, illegal looting, and forced displacement of civilian populations—in a 2021 UN report.[26] Both sides have generally denied the accusations but transporting food aid and much-needed resources into the region has remained a challenge for human rights workers.

UN Action

In November 2021, nearly a year after the initial conflict began, the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution calling for an end to hostilities between federal Ethiopian and Tigrayan forces.[27] Representatives of the Russian Federation, the People's Republic and China, and India consistently objected to proposals to directly intervene in the conflict, saying direct intervention would be violating Ethiopia's authority to resolve its internal affairs. UN officials have said they hope to reach more than 3 million people in Ethiopia who are currently suffering from food shortages due to the conflict, mainly through the United Nations' World Food Programme.[28]

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[25] Ethiopia's forces shoot at, detain UN staffers in Tigray" Associated Press. https://apnews.com/article/africa-ethiopia-united-nations-kenya-f945a81239325a418ee22f123058f39f.

[26] "Report of the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC)" United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/OHCHR-EHRC-Tigray-Report.pdf.

[27] "UN Security Council calls for an end to Ethiopia fighting" Al Jazeera Media Network. https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/11/5/un-security-council-calls-for-an-end-to-ethiopia-hostilities.

[28] "Tigray: Aid operations 'about to grind to a halt', warns WFP" UN News. https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/01/1109802.

Questions to consider:

- What steps can be taken to ensure that civilians are not directly targeted?

- Who are some key actors or institutions that have been working on this issue regionally and globally?

- What can your country do to mitigate the issue?

- How will you work with members to pass a resolution that has the support of all P5 members?

- All UNSC votes are conducted by roll call – will this change how your country approaches a resolution?

- When non-state actors are targeting civilians, what steps can the Security Council take to mitigate the damage?

- What countries/UN agencies can your country partner with to solve the issues?

- Are there any previous Security Council resolutions that you can build upon?

- Have other UN agencies and organs worked on this issue?

What is a Position Paper?

A position paper is a short document that outlines a country's opinion on an issue. The paper includes a short summary of what the issue or problem is, explains why the country is interestedin the issue, and communicates the country's stance on what should be done to address the issue.A position paper is written as if you were the actual representative of the country stating its position. Your personal opinions on the issue should not be included. A position paper is not a summary of your country's GDP, government, economy, languages, etc. unless directly relevantto the issue. Only one position paper is written per country, per grade school committee; if there are 2 or 3 delegates representing the same country on a committee, they should write the paper together.

Why write a Position Paper?

Writing a position paper will help you organize why an issue matters to your country and whatyour country wants done on the issue. The first thing you will likely do in committee is presentan opening speech about your country's position. You should be able to pull portions of a wellwritten position paper into an introductory speech on your country's perspective. Also, your delegation is not eligible to win best / outstanding delegation without the submission of a position paper. There are separate awards given for best position paper.

How to Write a Position Paper

1. Research the Issue. The questions you want to answer are:
    a. How does this issue affect your country?
    b. How does this issue affect your country's neighbors or allies?
    c. Is this a global problem that impacts everyone?
    d. What would your country like to see done on this issue?
    e. Are there countries or groups of people who will be particularly sensitive toaddressing this issue?
    f. Are there any conventions or resolutions on the topics that your country has signed orratified?
    g. What are UN actions on the issue? Has your country supported or opposed theseactions?
    h. Keep in Mind: What a country says, and what it actually believes should be done maybe different. Also, some countries may believe that no action should be taken on an issue. They may disagree with how others feel or may not want international involvement. It is okay if your position is that the international community should do nothing, but you will need to explain why.
        (1) Brainstorm Specific Actions. Come up with 3-4 specific things that can be done to reach the outcome your country desires. For example: "The United States believes we should send a peacekeeping mission to monitor human rights abuses in Syria and encourage talks between both sides." You will present these ideas in committee as possible solutions to the problem and attempt to pass a resolution which includes these actions.

(2) Outline Your Paper. Make an outline of what points you want to cover in your paper and the order in which you would like to address them. Remember a good paper should briefly explain the problem, explain why your country cares about the issue, and inform others what your country should like to see done. If you know other countries favor a solution that you will disagree with, make sure to include why your country disagrees.

(3) Write your Paper. Position papers should be no more than one page long and be written from the perspective of the country you are representing. Rather than being a report on the topic, a position paper should explain what your country wants to see done to address the issue. Start by giving a summary of the issue and how it impacts your country. Then explain the specific actions you would like to see taken. Close by summarizing your country's overall position. Proper grammar and spelling are a must!

Award Criteria and Eligibility

- One position paper award will be given out per committee.
- The ideal position paper will have a clearly defined and summarized topic with your country's position clearly outlined. Points are also awarded for organization, style and correct grammar.
- GCDC Staff will be fact checking position papers, so be sure to include the most up to date information and a works cited (or list of all the sources you use).
  - o Proper source citation: if an idea or quote came from another source, you must provide a footnote / citation.
- Papers will be disqualified if the conference staff has discovered that students did not write their own papers or that content has been plagiarized.
- Make sure your position paper must have the required header below! Do not create any additional title pages - points will be deducted for improper format.
- Formatting Requirements: 500 words minimum, 1,500 words maximum. Times New Roman font, 12-point size
- All position papers must be sent to gcdc@unanca.org by **April 2, 2022 at 6:00 PM EST**.

REQUIRED POSITION PAPER HEADER

Committee:	*Examples:*	United Nations Security Council
Topic:		Protecting Civilians in Armed Conflict
Country:		The United States of America
Delegate Name(s) and Grades:		Bob Smith and Jane Doe (gr. 7)
School (Teacher/Coach):		Madison High School (Mr. Jones)

The United States of America believe