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29th Annual

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE

Sponsored by the David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies
Friday, October 26, 2018 – Provo, Utah

Dear Delegates,

I am so pleased to welcome you to the 29th annual Brigham Young University Model United Nations Conference (BYUMUN). My name is Elizabeth Griffiths and I will be your director for the Human Rights Council (HRC) this year, I look forward to working with all of you. Currently, I'm senior at BYU in sociology and anthropology. I spent the summer in Belfast, Northern Ireland studying conflict resolution. The bulk of my research was focused on the social justice movements taking place there with the backdrop of political and religious conflict. After graduation, I plan on perusing graduate studies in conflict resolution in Washington D.C. with an emphasize on cultural anthropology.

This year, the Human Rights Council will deliberate on the following topics:

  I.   A Framework to Allow for the Freedom of Expression and the Freedom of Religion on a Global Scale
  II.   Advancing the Involvement of Women in Peacebuilding Efforts

The foundation of the Human Rights Council (HRC) is based upon the rights outlined in the milestone document, the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. The HRC was created to ensure these rights are available to all peoples regardless of gender, race, ability, or sexual orientation and free from oppression and violence.

This Background Guide will serve as an outline and a starting point for you to develop these topics. This guide should not replace your individual research efforts, but instead, act as a springboard for your innovative solutions. The resolutions created at the UN affect the entire world and I hope you can treat this conference as an opportunity to prepare yourself to also influence the international world, some day. Be sure to prepare in such a way as to be able to clearly express your ideas and your country's positions. The more confident and knowledgeable you are in discussing your topics the more effective you can be as a delegate. Delegates, I wish you the best of luck as you study and prepare, please contact me with any questions or concerns!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Griffiths
Director, Human Rights Council
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BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY
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<center>**Committee History**</center>

"Human rights will be a powerful force for the transformation of reality when they are not simply understood as externally defined norms of behavior but are lived as the spontaneous manifestation of internalized values."
-Daisaku Ikeda, SGI President

Formation of the Council

Following World War II, the international body of the United Nations was created as a response to the atrocities that were witnessed. Soon thereafter in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, was adopted by the UN General Assembly, codifying the specific rights of individuals globally.[1] This document would lead to the eventual establishment of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

In 1946 the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) was created, which established the international legal framework for dealing with fundamental human rights and freedom issues, as outlined in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights.* The UNCHR also acted as a forum for countries, NGOs, and individuals to voice their concerns.[2] However, the UNCHR was replaced by the Human Rights Council (HRC) following complaints that the organization accepted states into the committee who possessed poor human rights records, such as Eritrea and Yemen.[3] Therefore, in 2006, the United Nations General Assembly founded the Human Rights Council (HRC) by adopting resolution (A/RES/60/251).[4] The Council was established to investigate international human rights abuses such as: prohibitions on free speech, religion, women's rights, and the rights of minorities.[5] In several regards, the HRC itself embodies the core mission of the United Nations Charter, that of promoting and maintaining global peace.[6] In pursuit of this goal, the Council's primary objectives are to educate others on their rights and to assure they have access to said rights.[7]

UNHRC Structure

The UNHRC, which is based in Geneva, Switzerland, has 47 member states elected for staggered three-year terms on a regional group basis.[8] These regional groups are 13 African, 13 Asian, 6 eastern European, 8 Latin American and the Caribbean, and 7 western European and other groups.[9] The 47 seats are elected by the general assembly and no member can occupy the seat for more than two consecutive terms. With a 2/3 majority vote, the General assembly has the power to suspend the rights and privileges of any council member that has repeatedly committed gross and systematic violations of human rights during membership.[10] The UNHRC works in co-ordination with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), which oversees human rights activities throughout the UN System.[11] The UNHRC holds sessions three times a year in March, June, and September. At the request of a 1/3-majority vote, the council may hold a special session to address violations and emergencies.[12]

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[1] United Nations Website: History of the Document, accessed on June 27, 2018. http://www.un.org/en/sections/universal-declaration/history-document/index.html

[2] **"**UN Commission on human rights" OHCHR, accessed on June 28, 2018. http://www.OHCHR.org

[3] "Yemen Report," Human Rights Watch, accessed June 27, 2018. https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2018/country-chapters/yemen

[4] United Nations, A/RES/60/251

[5] **"**About Council" OHCHR, accessed June 28, 2018. ps://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/ HRC/Pages/AboutCouncil.aspx

[6] Ibid.

[7] Ibid.

[8] An overview of the United Nations Human Rights system; Hogan Lovells International LLP; Advocates for International Development ; 2012 http://naturaljustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Intro-UNHR-System-EN.pdf

[9] Ibid.

[10]Ibid.

[11] Ibid.

[12] United Nations Website: History of the Document, UN, accessed June 28, 2018 http://www.un.org/en/sections/universal-declaration/history-document/index.html

Functions of the Human Rights Council

In 2007 the HRC adopted the Institution-building package, which details procedures, mechanisms, and structures that form the basis of its work. One part of this was the establishment of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process. The UPR provides a forum for member states to gather, comment and make suggestions on how to improve the human rights situations in the state under review. Every 4.5 years the UN reviews the human right's record of each member state (there are currently 193 members). Forty-two states are reviewed each year. The UPR working group meetings provide each member the opportunity to comment on the reviewee state's human rights successes and/or failures. After each state offers their recommendations on ways to improve the human rights situation within the reviewee state, the state then either accepts or rejects the proposed recommendations.[13] Both the accepted and rejected recommendations are posted and recorded to the United Nations website, enabling the UN to keep track of the human rights progress of a particular state.

The HRC is also in charge of orchestrating fact-finding missions and investigations into where and what types of human rights abuses are occurring internationally. There are currently seven operational fact-finding missions in place, including but not limited to: the Group of Eminent Experts on the situation of human rights in Yemen and Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan.[14]

Another component of the HRC is the Advisory Committee which releases reports and studies on various issues such as corruption, local government operations, as well as post-disaster and post-conflict situations.[15] The Committee is composed of eighteen professional experts from varying fields and meets twice a year in February and August. The Committee is also responsible for formulating draft declarations based on these findings used to influence the global community.

Lastly, the Complaint Procedure is the conduit through which individuals, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and various other groups voice their concerns and their complaints to the HRC. The Complaint Procedure was established in June 2007 and the complaints must be written in one of the six UN official languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. The Working Group on Communications and the Working Group on Situations are the two primary groups that analyze and assess the reliability of the complaints brought to the HRC.[16] After the complaints are assessed the UN determines whether further action will be taken on the complaints.

Conclusion

The Human Rights Council is a more recently created arm of the United Nations and has been heavily involved in the global community since its creation. The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* offers a legal framework for the fundamental human rights addressed by the HRC. The Council is responsible for locating human rights violations and finding solutions to address these, on a global level. The Council's solutions to these violations come in the form of recommendations for, promotion and strengthening of established human rights, and protection of individuals around the world. The Council is also has the ability to discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year.

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[13] United Nations Website, Universal Periodic Review Process, accessed June 27, 2018. http://www.un.org
[14] United Nations Human Rights Council Booklet, file:///C:/Users/SAJ/Desktop/HRC_booklet_En.pdf 17
[15] Ibid.
[16] United Nations Human Rights Council Booklet, accessed on June 28, 2018. file:///C:/Users/SAJ/Desktop/HRC_booklet_En.pdf 15

Annotated Bibliography

"About Council"- OHCHR, accessed on June 28, 2018.
https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/About Council.aspx.

This is a article on the Human rights Council found on the OHCHR webpage that gives a brief description about the HRC.

"An overview of the United Nations Human Rights system;" Hogan Lovells International LLP; Advocates for International Development; 2012.

An overview of the UN Human Rights system within the UN and the aspects of the politics of Human Rights.

"UN Commission on human rights," OHCHR, accessed on June 28, 2018. http://www.OHCHR.org.

This page on the OHCHR webpages gives information on the framework and the   structure of the UN commission on human rights.

United Nations General Assembly, A/RES/60/251,
https://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/A.RES.60.251_En.pdf.

The Resolution adopted by the General assembly that established the Human Rights Council.

United Nations Human Rights Council Booklet, file:///C:/Users/SAJ/Desktop/HRC_ booklet_ En.pdf_17.

This is a booklet that can be found on the HRC webpage that gives quick bullet points on facts about the HRC.

United Nations Website: History of the Document, http://www.un.org/en/sections/universal-declaration/history-document/index.html.

This article on the UN webpage is the history of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which is a foundational piece central to human rights issues at the UN.

United Nations Website, Universal Periodic Review Process, accessed June 27, 2018. http://www.un.org.

This article is on the Universal Periodic Review Process that is part of the HRC. The UN webpage has information on the many structures within the United Nations system.

"Yemen Report," Human Rights Watch, accessed June 27, 2018. https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2018/country-chapters/yemen.

The Human Rights watch is a webpage that reports on acts of human rights violations globally. This article is on the specific violations as part of the Yemen conflict.

I. Constructing a Framework to Allow for the Freedom of Speech and the Freedom of Religion on a Global Scale

"I perceived clearly that I was participating in a truly significant historic event in which a consensus had been reached as to the supreme value of the human person, a value that did not originate in the decision of a worldly power, but rather in the fact of existing"
-Hernán Santa Cruz, member of the drafting sub-Committee of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Introduction

Following the atrocities committed against humanity in the Second World War, the UN General Assembly adopted *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.[17] This document was a compiled effort on behalf of over 50 member states and was designed to compliment the UN charter and guarantee the rights of individuals everywhere.[18] Articles 18 and 19 of this document outline two rights of individuals as both freedom of expression through "any media and regardless of frontiers" and freedom of religion.[19] Since the formation of the Declaration, the Human Rights Council (HRC) and the General Assembly (GA) have further defined the details of these articles through several resolutions. The recent rise in the use of social media, news and written material on the international front has opened the door to new forms of discrimination both for religious beliefs and individual opinion. The Human Rights Watch (HRW) recently highlighted the Saudi Arabian government for their official hate speech usage to target religious minorities.[20] Religious discrimination has also been apparent in the recent attacks on the Rohingya in Myanmar, where in just over one year nearly 700,000 people have fled to the neighboring province of Bangladesh and are living in makeshift camps.[21] The right to freedom of expression has also been under attack with the death of 2,500 journalists since 1990.[22]

Freedom of Religion

The General Assembly resolution 36/55, calls for "elimination of a all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief."[23] This is further defined in the document as "any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence whether it involves the use of print, audiovisual and electronic media or any other means."[24] The document invokes the responsibility for member states "to ensure that their constitutional and legislative systems provide adequate and effective guarantees of freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief to all without distinction"[25] and "to design and implement policies whereby education systems promote principles of tolerance and respect for others and cultural diversity and the freedom of religion."[26]

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[17] UN History of the Document, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, http://www.un.org/en/sections/universal-declaration/history-document/index.html
[18] Ibid.
[19] UN General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, 10 December 1948
[20] Human Rights Watch, *Saudi Arabia: Official Hate Speech Targets Minorities,* 2017 https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/09/26/saudi-arabia-official-hate-speech-targets-minorities
[21] BBC News: UNHRC report *Myanmar Rohingya: What you need to know about the crisis,* 2018, https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-41566561
[22] BBC News: World Press Freedom Day: Are journalists increasingly under attack?
[23] UN Human Rights Council, *Resolutions and Decisions on the Mandate*, https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/FreedomReligion/Pages/Resolutions.aspx
[24] UNHRC, *Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief*, http://ap.ohchr.org/Documents/E/HRC/resolutions/A_HRC_RES_6_37.pdf
[25] Ibid.
[26] Ibid.

In 2000 the HRC appointed a Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, which was endorsed by GA resolution 55/97.[27] Through the HRC resolution 6/37 the Special Rapporteur is mandated to promote measures to protect religious freedom, to identify existing and emerging obstacles to religious freedom, to continue efforts to examine governmental actions that discriminate against religion, and to be sensitive to gender specific issues[28]. In recent years the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion organized a workshop on *Religion and Religious Freedom in International Diplomacy*. This workshop was designed to help member states to understand the use of religion in policies in humanitarian aid, international diplomacy, and communication.[29]

Freedom of Expression

The Human Rights Council and the General Assembly have referred to freedom of expression as one of the essential foundations of a democratic society and an essential element for development (Council resolution 21/12).[30] The freedom of Expression guarantees the right to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers and through any media, including in the form of art.[31] The UN has extended this to include the internet as well as journalism through Council resolutions 20/8, 26/13 and 32/13. Article 19 places a few restrictions on the freedom of expression for respect of the rights or reputations of others; and for the protection of national security or of public order, or of public health or morals.[32]

Two Closely Interrelated Rights: Freedom of Religion and Freedom of Expression

Typically the question is asked, 'how is it possible to reconcile freedom of religion and freedom of expression,' but such wording displays a perception that the two rights stand in opposition to each other.[33] This can often ignore the similar structure of the two articles, both of which are based on the unconditional protection of the *forum internum*- a person's internal thoughts and beliefs. Subsequently, according to the Special Rapporteur in 2006, these two articles do not stand in opposition to each other, but are actually quite close in construction.[34] Even so, this does not preclude concrete conflicts, as controversial issues often surface from the juncture of these two rights.[35] In addressing these issues there is the matter of focus within the policies and laws constructed. Some governments narrowly focus on individualistic and private dimensions of these rights while paying inadequate attention to community-related, institutional and infrastructural aspects of the rights.[36] There are also cases of governments promoting one particular religion or belief as part of its national heritage.[37] In cases where the right of religious freedom and freedom of expression are viewed as unbalanced conflict often ensues.

The Current Special Rapporteur, Mr. Bielefeldt, recently reported on the intersection of these two articles pointing out their particular controversy. His report suggest these controversies arouse as a result of problematic restrictions such as unclear anti-hate laws, criminalization of ill-defined superiority claims and blasphemy

[27] OHCHR, *Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief*,
https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/FreedomReligion/Pages/FreedomReligionIndex.aspx
[28] Ibid.
[29] UNHRC, *Religion and Religious Freedom in International Diplomacy workshop summery brief,*
https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Religion/WorkshopReligion.pdf
[30] General Assembly (A/GA/71/373) *Promotion and Protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression*, 2016
[31] Ibid.
[32] Ibid.
[33] Human Rights Council Resolution (A/HRC/31/18) *Two closely interrelated rights: freedom of religion or belief and freedom of opinion and expression.* 2017
[34] Ibid.
[35] Ibid.
[36] General Assembly, *Elimination of All Forms of Religious Intolerance*, https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Religion/A-71-269_en.pdf
[37] Ibid.

laws.[38] Mr. Bielefeldt's report called upon all States to share their best practices when implementing these two articles in accordance with HRC Resolution 16/18 to fight intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of persons based on religion or belief, as well as discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against them.[39] Last year the HRC focused on the main issues within these articles resulting in the formation of two resolutions. The first one focused on presenting an agenda for operationalizing these rights across the United Nations system[40], the second focused on the gap between national practices and international commitments in combating intolerant acts.[41]

In May 2018, the President of Uzbekistan adopted a roadmap for government actions based on the recommendations made by the UNHRC.[42] It includes 38 measures to improve the effectiveness of mechanisms and procedures that implement international standards of human rights within legislation and practice. This roadmap also includes cooperation with international organisations and interactions with state bodies related to human rights issues.[43] While the adoption of this roadmap in Uzbekistan can be celebrated, how can it set an example for other member states? What mechanism or policies can be constructed to sustain these rights in international commitments? Should states reevaluate anti-hate laws and blasphemy laws to better address human rights issues? What framework could balance both the institutional and private aspects of these rights?

Questions to Consider

1. Focusing on the interrelation of article 18 and 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, how can the United Nations encourage member states to follow recommendations of the Human Rights Council?
2. Can the United Nations define when the freedom of expression threatens freedom of religion? Or the freedom of religion threatens the freedom of expression?
3. In what ways can the United Nations encourage a collaboration of ideas in policies and mechanisms that address these issues?
4. What solutions could address problematic restrictions such as unclear anti-hate laws, criminalization of ill-defined superiority claims and blasphemy laws?
5. How can the United Nations encourage governments to form frameworks that focus on individualistic and private dimensions of these rights while accounting for community-related, institutional and infrastructural aspects of the rights?

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[38] UNHRC Special Rapporteur Report, Heiner Bielefeldt, *Freedoms of religion and of expression: "Twin rights" in fighting incitement to hatred,* GENEVA, 9 March 2016.
[39] Ibid.
[40] HRC (A/HRC/34/50), *Identification of persistent challenges and emerging trends and presenting an agenda for operationalizing the right to freedom of religion or belief within and across the United Nations system and beyond*, 2017.
[41] HRC (A/72/365), *The increase in religious intolerance worldwide and the gap between international commitments to combat intolerant acts and national practices, 2017.*
[42] OHCR, *UN expert welcomes Uzbekistan roadmap to ensure freedom of religion or belief, June 2018,* https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23179&LangID=E
[43] Ibid.

Annotated Bibliography:

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https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-41566561 **Accessed June 2018.**

   This is a report printed through BBC News on the current stats and reports of the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar.

Auer, Soraya, BBC News: *World Press Freedom Day: Are journalists increasingly under attack?* **2018.**

   This story was access through the BBC webpage in June of 2018. This is another report on the attacks made on Journalists since 1990 and their subsequent stats.

General Assembly (A/GA/71/373) *Promotion and Protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression*, **2016.**

   This Resolution was focused on the issues surrounding the right to freedom of opinion and expression as mandated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights document. It can easily be accessed through the OHCHR webpage under resolutions.

General Assembly, (A/RES/36/55) *Elimination of All Forms of Religious Intolerance*, **1981.**

This Resolution created through the General Assembly was a milestone document for the freedom of Religion. It is still leaned on today in current policy and resolution writing.

Human Rights Council Resolution (A/HRC/31/18) *Two closely interrelated rights: freedom of religion or belief and freedom of opinion and expression.* **2017**

   This Resolution created through the Human Rights Council focuses on the intersection of the freedom of Religion and the freedom of expression with their subsequent conflicts and similarities. This is a key document to understanding this issue.

Human Rights Watch, *Saudi Arabia: Official Hate Speech Targets Minorities,* **2017.**
https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/09/26/saudi-arabia-official-hate-speech-targets-minorities. **Accessed June 2018.**

   This is an article put out by the Huan Rights Watch an arm of the Human Rights Council to oversee violations of Human Rights. This article focuses on the issues surrounding the current state of Saudi Arabia and their targeting of minorities in hate speech.

HRC (A/HRC/34/50), *Identification of persistent challenges and emerging trends and presenting an agenda for operationalizing the right to freedom of religion or belief within and across the United Nations system and beyond*, **2017.**

   This Resolution came out of the Human Rights Council last year. This is an important document in examining the operationalizing within the United Nations systems that support the right to freedom of religion.

HRC (A/72/365), *The increase in religious intolerance worldwide and the gap between international commitments to combat intolerant acts and national practices,* **2017.**

This Resolution created through the HRC focuses two of the issues presented by the Special Rapporteur on religious freedom.

OHCHR, *Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief***, 2017. https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/FreedomReligion/Pages/FreedomReligionIndex.as px. Accessed June 2018.**

This Report is found on the OHCHR webpage and is focused on the remarks made by the Special Rapporteur on the freedom of religion or belief in 2017. This is the most recent report of this kind made the United Nations.

OHCR, *UN expert welcomes Uzbekistan roadmap to ensure freedom of religion or belief.* **June 2018. https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23179&LangID=E. Accessed June 2018.**

Another recent report found on the OHCR webpage, this webpage has all the latest news and events related to the Human Rights Council.

UNHRC, *Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief***, http://ap.ohchr.org/Documents/E/HRC/resolutions/A_HRC_RES_6_37.pdf. Accessed 2018.**

This Human Rights Council Resolution focuses on the mechanisms to eliminate discrimination infringing on religious freedoms.

UN General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights***, 1948.**

The document that created a map for the United Nations on human rights for the global community. This document led to the formation of subsequent arms of the United Nations that deal specifically with human rights issues such as the Human Rights Council.

UN History of the Document, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights***, http://www.un.org/ en/sections/universal-declaration/history-document/index.html. Accessed June 2018.**

This is a webpage with information on the structure and history of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

UN Human Rights Council, *Resolutions and Decisions on the Mandate***, https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/FreedomReligion/Pages/Resolutions.aspx. Accessed June 2018.**

This is an article found on the UNHRC's main webpage for information on the mandate for the freedom of Religion.

UNHRC, *Religion and Religious Freedom in International Diplomacy workshop summery brief,* **https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Religion/WorkshopReligion.pdf. Accessed June 2018.**

This is a report on the International Diplomacy Workshop put created by the HRC to focus on religious freedom issues around the world. This report includes the mandates of these workshops as well as the intended results.

UNHRC Special Rapporteur Report, Heiner Bielefeldt, *Freedoms of religion and of expression: "Twin rights" in fighting incitement to hatred,* **GENEVA, 9 March 2016.**

The Special Rapporteur reports on the intersection of the freedom of religion and of expression in fighting incitement to hatred. This is another key document in understanding this issue.

II. Encouraging the Involvement of Women in Peace Building Efforts

"Our hopes for a more just, safe, and peaceful world can only be achieved when there is universal respect for the inherent dignity and equal rights of all members of the human family."
–Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Women Executive Director

Introduction

The United Nations (UN) Charter adopted in 1945 is the fundamental document of the United Nations and is the foundation of the UN human rights values. The Charter prioritizes protecting the, "equal rights of men and women," charging all Member States to promote gender equality.[44] Unfortunately, women's crucial role in promoting peace and security and the particular risks they face in conflict situations are often overlooked.[45] In 2014, less than one percent of aid to fragile states significantly targeted gender disparities. Only two percent of aid to fragile states in 2012 and 2013 targeted gender equality as a principal objective, and only USD 130 million out of almost USD 32 billion of total aid went to women's equality organizations and institutions.[46]

From a human rights perspective, women's participation in peacebuilding activities is a question of justice. Women should be able to participate in decisions that affect the stability and security of their lives.[47] Promoting and preserving justice is a key part of the United Nations Human Rights Council's mandates.[48] The Security Council adopted resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in 2000.[49] This document called for the inclusion of women in decision-making and peace processes as well as an increase in gender perspectives in training and reporting systems of general governance.[50] The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the principal human rights official in the UN (OHCHR), reports annually to the UN on global progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women.[51] Several resolutions that urge Member States to inclued women in the peace building process have been passed, securing the human rights of women globally.[52] This section will discuss the specific social aspects of the peace building process that are found within the United Nations and it will incorporate values of the Human Rights Council for women and peace building found in the UN.

Peacebuilding Processes

Peacebuilding, broadly defined, covers many activities that involve multiple sectors with the aims of preventing violent conflicts through democratic institution-building, prejudice reduction, power-sharing arrangements, reduction of social and economic inequalities, security and education reform, and human rights advocacy.[53] The focus of this committee will be on two types of peace building: social peace processes and state-building and political peace processes.

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[44] *"*Women's Human Rights and gender equality*,"* OHCR, accessed June 28, 2018. http://www.OHCR.org
[45] Ibid.
[46] "Report of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security," UN Security Council (2016), accessed June 27, 2018. https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/women-peace-and-security/
[47] Rosa, Victoria Martín De La, and Luis Miguel Lázaro. "How Women Are Imagined through Conceptual Metaphors in United Nations Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security." *Journal of Gender Studies*, 2017, pp. 1–14., doi:10.1080/09589236.2017.1331844.
[48] "Women's Human rights and gender equality" OHCR, accessed June 27, 2018. http://www.OHCR.org
[49] Security Council Resolution S/RES/1325 (2000)
[50] Ibid.
[51] "Gender integration," OHCR, accessed June 28, 2018. http://www.OHCR.org
[52] *UN World Summit Outcome* (2005) article 116, p.27
[53] G.Burgess & H. Burgess (Eds.), *Peacebuilding:* Beyond intractability, conflict information consortium (pp. 1–2). Boulder, CO : University of Colorado "Operationalizing Peacebuilding," (2007)

One of the major critiques of peacebuilidng is its lack of addressing a conflict's underlying problems, allowing for structural instability that can eventually lead to outbreaks of repeated violence.[54] Peacebulding initiatives can address this problem as they change the patterns of interaction between relevant parties and focus on the underlying issues.[55] One of the current methods of addressing this issue is UNHRC support of grassroots initiatives. Some of the current initiatives that demonstrate this are: INUSTAH, a Haiti mission radio station with it's weekly program dedicated to gender issues; MONUSCO a Congo women's civil society involved in protection mechanisms at the grassroots level; and MINUSCA a Central African Republic group focused on identifying the protection needs of female ex-combatants to encourage the development of skills to generate income.[56] The second approach to peacebuilding is the political reconstruction of states and the implementation of interventions from the top down in post-conflict communities. Political peace process and state building are the primary methods used in UN peacebuilding efforts.[57] While top-down governmental efforts are vital to reconstruction, they are not complete without also coordinating with social peace processes.[58]

Women in Post-Conflict Communities and Human Rights Violations

During the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina between 1992 and 1995, women, as civilians, endured particular and atrocious human rights violations.[59] They were killed, tortured, and raped. As a result, women faced unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, and posttraumatic disorders accompanied by stigmatization.[60] Women suffer particular hardships related to gender-based violence because in many cases, raping and abusing women and girls is used as a weapon of war to demoralize men.[61] In post-conflict societies, this violence continues to remain an issue in many cases due to the general break down of the rule of law and the continued "normalization" of gender-based violence as an additional element of pre-existing discrimination.[62] Data from 40 countries shows a positive correlation between the proportion of female police and reporting rates of sexual assault, exhibiting the importance of the involvement of women in addressing this violence.[63] Another human rights issue in post-conflict societies is the existence of domineering patriarchal orders. One in four households of all Syrian refugee families in Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan are headed by women.[64] In Mali, more than 50 per cent of displaced families are headed by women.[65] Yet, in many of these situations women are unable to hold jobs or own property due to patriarchal laws and traditions.

While discussing this topic, it is important to remember that women have contradictory interests and priorities depending on country, region, culture, and social circumstances.[66] Women's involvement in the peace building process attempts to secure the needs of women in their local communities. When women are included in peace processes there is a 20 percent increase in the probability of an agreement lasting at least 2 years, and a 35

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[54] Ibid.

[55] Maiese, *Current Implications* : Beyond intractability, conflict information consortium (pp. 1-2). Boulder, CO : University of Colorado "Operationalizing Peacebuilding," (2003)

[56] "United Nations Peacekeeping Empowering Women," UN Peacekeeping, accessed on June 25, 2018. http://Peacekeeping.un.org

[57] Brewer, John D. "Sociology and Peacebuilding" Roger MacGinty (ed.), Routledge Handbook of Peacebuilding London, Taylor and Francis Books, 2013, pp 159-170

[58] Ibid.

[59] *Gender and armed conflict overview report.* Brighton, Volume I: Overview, BRIDGE Report 3, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, 2003

[60] Ibid.

[61] El Jack, Amani, *Gender and armed conflict: Overview report*. Brighton: Institute of Development Studies, 2003.

[62] "Women's human rights and gender-related concerns in situations of conflict and instability," OHCR, accessed on June 27, 2018. http;//www.Ohcr.org

[63] UN Women (2012). Progress of the Worlds Women: In Pursuit of Justice. Accessed June 27, 2018. http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2011/7/progress-of-the-world-s-women-in-pursuit-of-justice

[64] UNHCR (2014). Woman Alone: The fight for survival by Syria's refugee women, p. 8. Accessed June 27, 2018. http://www.unhcr.org/ar/53bb8d006.pdf

[65] Norwegian Refugee Council (2014). Global Overview 2014: People internally displaced by conflict and violence, p. 30.

[66] Rosa, Victoria Martín de la; Miguel Lázaro, Luis. (2017) How women are imagined through conceptual metaphors in United Nations Security Council Resolutions on women, peace and security. *Journal of Gender Studies* 0:0, pages 1-14.

percent increase in the probability of an agreement lasting at least 15 years.[67] Yet, as of 2010, only 16% of peace agreements address women's rights and needs specifically.[68] Research shows a correlation between women's involvement in peacebuilding and greater stability, yet the percentage of women's involvement remains low.

Barriers to Inclusion

The Human Rights Council mandate outlines the advancement of gender equality through all areas, including organizational mechanisms, support, field operations and technical cooperation, and research and human rights mainstreaming.[69] This call for the advancement of gender equality is met with many obstacles, often unique to the state. Patriarchal norms and attitudes found in certain cultures around the globe can lead to exacerbated inequality following conflict.[70] Addressing this barrier can complicate issues of cultural appropriation. This is also true of violence against women, which can often transform from conflict- related abuse to domestic violence during the post-conflict process.[71] Another large barrier to women's inclusion is inequalities in education, income and household responsibilities, all of which are further complicated by the sudden loss of men in society following conflict.[72] In addressing these barriers there is the issue of using the organizations found in the State or the organizations imposed from outside entities. Major changes need to be made in order to help facilitate the structural and social abilities of the Global community to encourage the involvement of women in peacebuilding efforts.

Questions
1. What approaches to the inclusion of women in peacebuilding could encourage self-motivation and inter-community enterprises of the State?
2. How can norms and stigmas that hamper gender equality in peacebuilding be addressed with respect to cultural appropriation?
3. What kind of peacebuilding framework would allow for both social peace building and state peace building processes?
4. How can barriers to gender equality in peacebuilding be addressed appropriately on a global level?

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[67] Stone, Laurel (2015). Study of 156 peace agreements, controlling for other variables, *Quantitative Analysis of Women's participation in Peace Processes* in Reimagining Peacemaking: Women's Roles in Peace Processes, Annex II

[68] Erzurum, Kemal, and Eren, Berna. "Women in peacebuilding: A criticism of gendered solutions in postconflict situations." "Gender, War & Peacebuilding," a.n.d., p. 4, para.2. *Journal of Applied Security Research* 9, no. 2 (2014)

[69] "Gender integration," OHCRH, accessed on June 29, 2018. http://www.OHCRH.org

[70] Kemal Erzurum & Berna Eren, "Women in Peacebuilding: A Criticism of Gendered Solutions in Postconflict Situations" Pages 236-256 14 Apr 2014.

[71] Ibid.

[72] Ibid.

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A handbook written by an expert on peacebuilding about the social aspects of peacebuilding. Dr. Brewer has advised the UN on several occasions on the subject of peacebuilding.

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G.Burgess & H. Burgess (Eds.), *Peacebuilding:* Beyond intractability, conflict information consortium (pp. 1–2). Boulder, CO: University of Colorado "Operationalizing Peacebuilding," (2007).

Article examining the findings of interviews to bring insights to growing problems. The focus of the article is on organizational peacebuilding and the structures created.

***Gender and armed conflict overview report.* Brighton, UK : BRIDGE, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex**

A report on the violence specific towards women in conflict and the psychological reasons behind these violence acts. This repost goes through multiple dimensions of conflict and how they interact with gender.

"Gender integration," OHCHR, accessed June 28, 2018. http://www.OHCR.org

OHCR.org is the official webpage for the United Nations Human Rights office of the High Commissioner. On this webpage there are sections devoted to the issues within gender equality. Integrations is specific to the inclusion of women in structural and peacebuilding efforts.

Kemal Erzurum & Berna Eren, "Women in Peacebuilding: A Criticism of Gendered Solutions in Post-conflict Situations," pg. 236-256, 14 Apr 2014.

This article is focused on the barriers to the inclusion of women in the peacebuilding process.

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A UN article on the aspects of peacekeeping that empowers the inclusion of women.

UN Women (2012). Progress of the Worlds Women: In Pursuit of Justice, p. 59.

This piece examines how the legal system can play a role in women accessing their rights, through cases particular to women. The question of this piece is why the justice system is still not delivering justice for all women.

ttt*UN World Summit Outcome* (2005), A/RES/60/1, article 116, p.27.

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From the OHCR webpage, this article focuses on the intersection of human rights and gender equality as defined by the Human Rights Council within the UN.

"Women's human rights and gender-related concerns in situations of conflict and instability," OHCR, accessed on June 27, 2018. http;//www.OHCR.org

This UN article on the OHCR webpage focuses on the gender related violence as well as hardships exacerbated and caused by conflict.