

# **Human Rights Council -**

## **Chairing Style**

Welcome delegates! My name is Taylor Elliott and it is a pleasure to be your Chair this year at the Saint Bonaventure University High School Model United Nations Conference of 2019. I have two years' worth of chairing experience from past high school conferences. I encourage all delegates to participate in the chairing process. I encourage all delegates to participate in the chairing process.

and Turkey are currently deporting hundreds of refugees per month, re-inserting these asylum seekers within the war-torn borders of Syria.

### **Questions to Consider:**

What is your country's relationship with Syria?

Has your country been affected, directly or indirectly, by the Syrian crisis?

Does your country host Syrian refugees? How many?

Why is the international community seemingly incapable of halting human suffering and human rights violations in the Syrian civil war?

Do international organizations have any role to play in halting the crisis? If so, which ones? How?

What was the role of the Security Council in this crisis? Did it play any major role? Why or why not?

Are there any existing committees or commissions focused on investigating war crimes in Syria?

Does the sovereignty of the Syrian government supersede the call for a regime change?

### **Resources/Sources:**

[Human Rights Watch: Syria](#)

[Syria: Thousands of Displaced Confined to Camps](#)

[U.S. Mission to International Organizations in Geneva: The grave and deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic](#)

[Human Rights Council adopts six resolutions, including on Syria, extends mandates on Belarus and on Eritrea](#)

['It's against the law': Syrian refugees deported from Turkey back to war](#)

[Why Jordan is Deporting Syrian Refugees](#)

[Quick facts: What you need to know about the Syria crisis](#)

### **The Rohingya Crisis in Myanmar:**

The country of Myanmar sits between India, Bangladesh, Laos, China, and Thailand. It has a population of 55 million people. But this small country has been a hot-button issue since the Rohingya crisis escalated beginning in 2015. The Rohingya are Muslims who live in the Rakhine state within Myanmar. The government insists that they are illegal immigrants even though the Rohingya people argue that they have rightfully been in the Rakhine state for hundreds of years following their ancestors. The government refuses to grant them citizenship rights and wants to deport them to Bangladesh, where the Myanmar government claims they belong.

Since the end of British colonization, Myanmar's military has controlled the country ruling it as a dictatorship for approximately forty-eight years (1963-2011). For decades, the military's brutal regime was known for arresting outspoken supporters of military, murdering protesters, and taking part in a multitude of institutionalized discrimination policies against minorities. Even though Myanmar (formerly Burma) has transitioned to a new and more open political regime led by a former Nobel Peace Prize winner, oppression of this minority has gotten only worse. The government has failed to adopt policies that are compatible with international human rights standards and norms and failed to protect its minorities and has repeatedly turned a blind eye to what the military is doing. The government itself sometimes even denies that such a crisis exists!

The crisis escalated in 2015 when multiple attacks were staged against police stations and barracks within the Rakhine state made by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA). In response, nearly 2 million Rohingya were forced to flee their homes, half of whom became refugees seeking asylum in countries surrounding Myanmar such as Bangladesh.

The elected government l



### **Questions to Consider:**

Is intolerance an issue within your country?  
What populations are most affected in your country?  
What populations are most affected around the world?  
What countries should be the focus in this discussion?  
What are some past crises or conflicts that are relevant to our discussion?  
What role does the media play in this issue?  
How do countries protect their minorities from such discrimination and stereotyping?  
What specific human rights have to do with this issue?  
How can the Council promote tolerance?

### **Resources/Sources**

[Human Rights Council concludes thirty-fourth regular session after adopting 41 resolutions and a Presidential Statement](#)

[Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2017](#)

[Women's UN Report Network: COMBATING INTOLERANCE, NEGATIVE STEREOTYPING & STIGMATIZATION OF, & DISCRIMINATION, INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE & VIOLENCE AGAINST, PERSONS BASED ON RELIGION OR BELIEF](#)

[China's hidden camps: What's happened to the vanished Uighurs of Xinjiang?](#)

[China is creating concentration camps in Xinjiang. Here's how we hold it accountable](#)

<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/G1803761.pdf>

<http://assets.bahai.org/2/news/yaran-special-report/un-statements/bic-statement-2012-06-13.pdf>

Advanced Unedited Edition: Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2017