



# IAS Model United Nations

## Study Guide



UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL  
TENTH ANNIVERSARY • 2006-2016

**Chair:** *Jan Kuwaśniak*

**Deputy Chair:** *Anna Teytel*

## *Dear Delegates,*

We would like to welcome you as official IASMUN 2017 delegates and thank you for choosing the Human Rights Council. The topic of this years debates are the infringements of human rights in the Arabic States of Middle East and North Africa. You as delegates from or outside IAS will take the important job of an UN official representing a given nation- it's an opportunity to learn more about, not only about the topic itself, but also about the nation you represent.

In this committee guide we want to help you by giving some advice and insight into the topic and subtopics. We think it's important to focus on numerous aspects of this issue while taking into account both the current situation in these countries, as well as their history and ideals. The said region has a different system of cultural values than the one of the "Western world" and hence it's important to take into account the cultural diversity we are faced with in here.

In this committee session, it's your job, as delegates, to find a solution that will be satisfactory to at least the majority of the

nations present. It may not be the real United Nations, however, the main goal of this MUN is to learn, come to a consensus and ultimately have fun! We do sincerely hope that this session of IASMUN will be valuable experience for all of you that you will remember for a long time. So be prepared delegates, we will be waiting for you in February.

Sincerely yours,

*Jan Kiwaśniak*

**Chair of HRC**

*Anna Teytel*

**Deputy Chair of HRC**

# **HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION, IN EXAMPLE OF ARABIC STATES**

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# 1. HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The Human Rights Council (HRC) is an intergovernmental body within the United Nations system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the world. It is responsible for addressing situations of human rights violations and make recommendations on them. It has the ability to discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year.

The Council was created by the United Nations General Assembly on 15 March 2006 by resolution 60/251. This resolution was made to:

Address principle of equal rights and self-determination of individuals.

Achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character.

Promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.

It works to make sure that:

- All people know about their rights.
- All people can use their rights.

Rights are things that should happen for everyone. For example, everyone has the right to:

- to live
- be treated fairly
- go to school
- have a say in the way his or her country is run

What does the Human Rights Council do?

The Human Rights Council does different things:

- It makes sure that all people understand their rights.
- It makes sure that all people have the same rights.
- It checks if all people can use their rights.
- It checks what governments do to protect the rights of people in their countries.
- It checks if governments do what they agreed on at the United Nations.
- It helps people whose rights were taken away.

To do all the work, the Human Rights Council gets help from groups of experts. They are called ‘Advisory Committees’.

Sometimes, the Human Rights Council also works with other experts who know a lot about 1 right or 1 country. When this happens, we call it ‘Special Procedures’.



## 2. INTRODUCTION TO CONFLICT

The end of Cold War marked an end to the bipolar power structure in the world, with the emergence of new world powers, both worldwide and regional, came the issue of maintaining peace and security between nations and societies. The United Nations Charter for human rights established a basic framework of Human Rights, however, these rights are based on the necessities of the individual which is a typical “Western” approach and doesn’t really include the more collective societies of the Far East and the non-secular culture of the Middle East.

In the eyes of many individuals, the Arabic states, mainly in Middle East and North Africa, violate many basic human rights. According to some, the treatment of women and non-muslims in these nations is downright shameful, but others believe it’s an issue of a different cultural approach. It’s your job, as delegates of Human Rights Council to determine the right choice of action.

### 3. CURRENT SITUATION

The current situation of individuals and whole societies is in a huge crisis in the Middle East and North Africa. Following the uprisings against the regimes during the so called “Arab Spring”, many nations have faced civil unrest and even civil war like in Libya and Syria. The conflict and overall instability of this region has caused hundreds of thousands of people to be displaced from their homes, causing an immigration crisis for neighboring states and the European Union. Excluding the obvious sanitation problems created by the immigration crisis, the civilian populace faced numerous attacks from all sides of the conflict that included chemical warfare and airstrikes, as well as collateral casualties from land operations. It’s crucial that the Human Rights council takes into account the military and immigration aspects of this human rights crisis as these are currently the most pending aspects of it.

However, the committee must also consider the value of human rights in the long run. One of this pending aspects is the treatment of women in Arabic states which by many is considered terrible. The so called “policy of invisibility” is imposed in many Arabic States, especially the ones with orthodox religious institutions with large presence within the public sphere such as Saudi Arabia or Iran. However, is this treatment of women a sign of respect or a clear

violation of human rights and gender equality? There are supporters on both sides of the barricade and both of them have quite reasonable arguments. However, the issue of women is just a part of the overall, long run treatment of individuals.

The other significant part is the treatment of non-muslims in the said states. Apostasy from Islam or atheism can be severely punishable in many Arabic States. Many Arabic States have capital punishment for these “crimes” and it definitely is a controversial issue taking into account the secular attitude of the West. However, is it the job of the Western countries to interfere and pressure/impose their system of values on other nations? Is the Declaration of Human Rights universal to all states in the world, no matter their cultural beliefs?

This is the main issue of these debates, the main contemporary issue. According to me, this topic can be phrased into one simple question. “Where should we draw the line of political and social pluralism?” You, as delegates, need to decide the extent to which international law can interfere in one’s culture, and in what ways to answer this question and ultimately solve this issue.

## 4. COMMITTEE GLOSSARY

### **Committee Glossary (C) and General Mun Glossary (G)**

**(C)- Used only in committees**

**(G)- Used in committees and the General Assembly**

**Abstain (G)**- Voting neither yes or no in any voting. Can only be used by a delegate who is “present”, not “present and voting”.

**Adjourn (G)**- A motion raised to end the debates permanently.

**Agenda (C)**- The structure and organization of the debates in the committee. Established after the roll call.

**Caucus (G)**- A break from the formal debate. There are two types of caucuses- moderated and unmoderated.

**Moderated Caucus**- A debate between delegates supervised by the chairs and with a limited speaking time.

**Unmoderated Caucus**- A debate between delegates without interference from the chairs. The delegates can walk around the committee and talk informally.

**Chairs (C)**- Members of the secretariat whose job is to moderate the debates, control time and enforce the rules of procedure.

**Delegate (G)**- You. Representative of a country and its policies and values.



**Floor (G)**- Metaphorical area, delegates are able to speak on a resolution or a clause. Also occurs when finishing speaking about a resolution, clause, amendment etc.

**Formal Debates (G)**- The formal version of the debates in which delegates make speeches. Moderated by chairs and has a time limit and a speakers list.

**Motion (G)**- Request by a delegate for the whole committee to do something. It can be everything, as long as the whole committee is affected by it.

**Point of Inquiry (G)**- A question asked by the delegate concerning the agenda or the rules of procedure. Can be raised anytime.

**Point of Order (G)**- A statement made by the delegate if they feel that the rules of procedure of the agenda has been violated. Can be raised anytime.

**Point Of Information (G)**- A question asked by a delegate to another delegate after their speech. Can be raised if the delegate is open to points of information.

**Position Paper (C)** - Summary of a country's policy on the topic. Made before the start of the debates.

**Quorum (G)**- The minimum number of the delegates needed to start the debate.

**Right Of Reply (G)**- Right used by the delegate when the delegate is triggered by the previous delegate's response. Can be used anytime.

**Roll Call (G)**- The first action at the start of the debates. The country's names are read out loud and the delegates need to state if they are "present" or "present and voting". A delegate who is "present and voting" cannot abstain.

**Rules Of Procedure (G)**- Rules of the MUN. Imposed by the Secretariat.

**Speakers List (G)**- The list, in order, of the delegates wishing to speak. Opened every time a formal debate or a moderated caucus starts.

## 5. ACTIONS TAKEN CONCERNING THE TOPIC

Almost 6 years after the primary exhibits of the Arab Spring, human rights infringement in the Arab world appear to be more common than any other time in recent memory. The Arab Spring issued from a significantly human slant to obtain characteristic and basic rights for every person. There was no sorted out authority, basically an inborn acknowledgment of each individual's entitlement to freedom and poise. All of a sudden, everybody was an individual from common society. Beforehand underestimated gatherings were currently fused into the vastly general gathering of 'the general population', all cognizant and requesting of their rights. Generally, Arab pioneers have had a tendency to suitable an against settler talk to abstain from guaranteeing their nationals were secured by International Human Rights laws.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was passed by the UN in 1948, with support from about all the Arab nations who were individuals at the time, and additionally most (then) underdeveloped nations. By and by, well known feedback of the UDHR – that it constituted a 'common comprehension of the Judeo-Christian tradition'– encouraged into the reception in 1990 of the Cairo Declaration of Human Rights in Islam (CDHRI). General human

rights are just acknowledged in so far as they don't encroach on Sharia, which has a gigantic bearing on state capacities to secure ladies and non-Muslim minorities. Flexibility of religion is a long way from ensured, with Article 10 perceiving the authenticity of Apostasy laws, while Article 22 limits the right to speak freely to what does not negate Islamic law.

The states in the Middle East that experienced administration change after the Arab Spring were not resistant to this either. Quickly, the comprehensiveness of the human rights message upheld amid the transformations got to be clouded. After the decision of Islamist gatherings in Tunisia and in Egypt, ladies' rights, for instance, at the end of the day took a rearward sitting arrangement. In March 2013, Morsi by and large rejected a draft UN affirmation requiring a conclusion to GBV (Gender Based Violence), asserting that 'the record incorporates articles that repudiate built up standards of Islam, undermine Islamic morals and demolish the family.' It is however significant that from that point forward, Tunisia has authoritatively pulled back all reservations on the Convention to Eliminate Discriminate Against Women , making it the main Arab nation to do as such.

Today, the general dependable guideline is that state pioneers assert they have been compelled to confine freedoms because of extraordinary fear dangers, a case that has likewise been evoked broadly in the West. Battling dread has turned into a perfect façade

for some Arab governments. They, to some degree, rely on upon ISIS's proceeded with presence as a bolster for clutching power and keeping up their false legitimacy. A mainstream joke downplays what is in actuality a managed surge on press flexibilities in the nation: 'in Egypt there is the right to speak freely, yet no opportunity after discourse'. Be that as it may, the truths represent themselves, and Sisi's Egypt has detained a bigger number of writers than some other nation on the planet, after China.

In 2016, "security" is the Arab administrations' apothegm for efficient persecution. These administrations will keep on successfully legitimize their activities to the universal administrative body, working on a 'pick and blend' premise with respect to worldwide intercession, by surrounding their activities in those very terms.



## 6. COUNTRY POLICIES

There are two things you want to research about your country: the basics and the relevant. First, develop a holistic impression of your country by collecting general information. Then, determine what specific actions your country has taken on the topic, particularly policies and positions.

Basic information about your country may not be crucial to what you do in committee. knowing basic information will also save you from embarrassment if someone asks you a question like “Where is your country?” and “How large is your population?” You may also want to look at Trade Partners, look at exports and imports. This may seem random, but trade partner generally equals ally, meaning these are the delegates you should meet during the first unmoderated caucus.

After researching background information on your country, look up current events. You’re not looking for anything in particular; you just want to know what’s going on in the country you’re supposed to be representing. When you’re done with basic information, then it’s time to move onto the real meat of your research, the information about your country that is most relevant to your topic.

Your goal is find primary sources that lay out your country's policy, programs, and past actions related to the issue. Primary sources, like speeches or government websites, are particularly important because no one can rightfully accuse you of going off policy if you are directly quoting your government. If a lack of information exists on your country, though, then you may need to rely on secondary sources, such as magazines and think tanks.

Start with your government's website and look for speeches from your head of state (President or Prime Minister) relating to the topic. If that doesn't work, look for speeches by other government officials, or parts of the government website devoted to your topic. Your Ministry of Foreign Affairs website might be more helpful than the general government website.

And be mindful of dates; quoting your government directly won't do you any good if the information is outdated. What is important to your country? Broadly speaking, it is usually security and economy. How will international action on the topic impact those interests? Answering these questions will help you figure out your policy; governments pursue their interests.







# 7. RESOLUTION ON TOPIC

## How to write a resolution?

The first one needs to know before they write a resolution is “what is a resolution?” A resolution is a document that contains all the issues that the committee wants to solve and the proposed solutions to that issue. The resolution has sponsors (main submitters and contributors) and signatories (countries in favour of the resolution). The ultimate purpose of a committee session is to pass a resolution. All the speeches, debates, negotiations, and teamwork is supposed to lead up to a resolution which contains all the proposed solutions to the issue depending on the country's policy. The resolution(s) that the majority of the committee agrees upon will be passed during the general assembly and the main submitters will be informally commended for building unity on good ideas.

## Questions to Answer in a Resolution:

The resolution is definitely the most important document in the whole MUN session. To make sure your resolution is successful, make sure to obviously address the issue and answer some crucial questions and issues that will make your resolution both detailed and precise.

Examples:

Does your resolution address all issues of the topic both in the short and long run?

What are the previous resolutions on this topic?

Is there any international, governmental or non-governmental policy that may help you?

Does the resolution represent your country's policy?

What is the time period in which the resolution should be implemented?

Are the solutions proposed realistic and cost-effective?

Does the resolution violate any domestic or international laws?

Can the resolution get support amongst different nations?

Does the resolution utilize international organizations, governments, NGOs and private citizens?

However, the last and most important question the resolution should answer is:

Can it be amended and still be effective?

This is the most important question, because in order to pass the resolution, the main submitters need to whip up support even from the opposing team. To do that, the sponsors need to learn the most important trait in politics and diplomacy- the ability to compromise. The resolution needs to be elastic enough to fit in this compromise and still transfer it's meaning and be effective.

## 8. Bibliography and Further Reading

*Delegates,*

Below are some sources you can use for your research however, look for your own sources as well. We are there to support each and everyone one of you, nevertheless, be prepared. Friendship or no friendship during the debate we are your chairs and in the end you either work solo or with allies. Keep in mind that this experience is for all of you so enjoy yourself. Please don't take any comments to heart. What happens in the committee stays in the committee. Good luck, be prepared, and most of all, enjoy. Being delegates in the past, we can personally guarantee that none of you will forget this experience, so why not make the memories worth remembering?

Best Wishes,

*Jan Kwasniak and Anna Teytel*

***(Human Rights Chair and Vice-Chair)***

[http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?  
NewsID=16482&LangID=E](http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16482&LangID=E)

<https://www.hrw.org/middle-east/n-africa/united-arab-emirates>

<http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/viewsubcategory.asp?id=857>

[Huntington Samuel Clash Of Civilizations](#)