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Abstract

Human Rights Council (HRC)

"Human Rights for Asylum Seeking Persons"

Introduction

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is an inter-governmental body within the UN system made up of 47 States responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe. The Council was created by the UN General Assembly on 15 March 2006 with the main purpose of addressing situations of human rights violations and make recommendations on them.

One year after holding its first meeting, on 18 June 2007, the Council adopted its “Institution-building package” providing elements to guide it in its future work. Among the elements is the new Universal Periodic Review mechanism which will assess the human rights situations in all 192 UN Member States. Other features include a new Advisory Committee which serves as the Council’s “think tank” providing it with expertise and advice on thematic human rights issues and the revised Complaints Procedure mechanism which allows individuals and organizations to bring complaints about human rights violations to the attention of the Council. The Human Rights Council also continues to work closely with the UN Special Procedures established by the former Commission on Human Rights and assumed by the Council.

Issue

The UNHRC will debate on the topic of “Human Rights for Asylum Seeking Persons” with the aim of finding practical and durable solutions for the international community to deal with this crucial issue. The Council will examine the situation of asylum seekers from an equality and human rights perspective. Refugees and asylum seekers are a diverse group, with one thing in common: they are subject to forced migration, and are fleeing from persecution in their countries of origin. They have a range of intersectional identities and can experience discrimination on the grounds of any of the seven equality areas, or because of socio-economic factors. Asylum seekers experience a range of distinct problems and inequalities due to their immigration status and the issue of integration in any accommodating state remains a huge problem. Moreover, in the past two decades, the issue of migration has become one of the most crucial public concerns worldwide. Thus, the UNHRC will seek to discuss the important problems at hand in order to come forth with a resolution that will help the international community to cope with this fundamental issue.