



PACE MUN 2025  
CONFLICTS TO CONSENSUS

# BACKGROUND GUIDE

COMMITTEE: United Nations Office On  
Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

AGENDA: “Addressing the link between restrictive  
immigration policies and the rise of human  
trafficking networks in conflict zones”.



## **LETTER FROM THE CHAIRS**

*Esteemed delegates,*

*It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you all to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) at PACE MUN 2025. I am truly honored to serve as your Chair for this committee, and I cannot wait to witness the passion, intellect, and diplomacy that each of you will bring to the table. In the spirit of the UNODC, we will be tackling issues that demand both compassion and critical thinking. This is not merely an academic simulation; it is an exercise in leadership, humanity, and justice. I encourage you to embrace every moment, to research deeply, negotiate wisely, and most importantly, to enjoy the journey of learning and connecting with minds that share your drive for global betterment. I wish you all the very best for the sessions ahead, and I am confident that together, we will make this committee an unforgettable experience of collaboration, debate, and growth.*

*Warm regards,  
Syeda Zobia,  
Chair UNDOC*

*Distinguished Delegates,*

*It is an honour to welcome you all to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) at this year's Model United Nations Conference. As your Co-Chair, I am truly excited to embark on this journey of discussion, diplomacy, and discovery with each one of you. The UNODC stands at the crossroads of justice and humanity confronting some of the world's most persistent challenges, from organized crime and narcotics to corruption and human trafficking. Within this committee, we will not only debate solutions but also question perspectives, understand motivations, and reimagine what collective security truly means. I encourage you to think with clarity, argue with purpose, and listen with intent. A successful delegate is not defined by the loudest voice, but by the strength of ideas and the ability to bridge divides through diplomacy. Let every motion, clause, and resolution reflect both your nation's interests and your individual sense of integrity. I look forward to witnessing the passion, strategy, and brilliance each of you will bring to the table.*

*Warm regards,  
Avika Rastogi,  
Co-Chair UNDOC*





## **INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE**

*The **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** is one of the most impactful UN bodies, dedicated to promoting global security, justice, and human rights. It plays a crucial role in addressing some of the world's most pressing transnational challenges including **drug trafficking, organized crime, terrorism, corruption, and human trafficking.***

*UNODC works with governments and international organizations to **strengthen law enforcement, protect vulnerable populations, and ensure fair legal systems.** Its power lies in its ability to **set global standards, provide technical assistance, and encourage international cooperation** against crimes that cross borders and endanger lives.*

*In Model UN, the UNODC committee empowers delegates to act as policymakers and defenders of justice balancing **humanitarian values with global security needs.** Every debate, resolution, and negotiation here echoes the real-world challenges of building a safer and fairer world. Beyond enforcement, UNODC's mission is deeply rooted in **humanitarianism.** It aims to support victims, protect the vulnerable, and uphold justice for those who cannot speak for themselves. It bridges the gap between law and compassion, recognizing that true justice can only be achieved through fairness, rehabilitation, and equality.*

*In the context of **Model United Nations**, UNODC offers delegates a platform to explore the balance between **security and humanity, law and morality, and sovereignty and global responsibility.** It challenges participants to think beyond national interests to act as problem-solvers, negotiators, and advocates of change.*



## **A DELVE INTO THE AGENDA:**

### **AGENDA SUMMARY AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:**

*This agenda explores how **tight or restrictive immigration laws** such as border closures, visa limits, or asylum restrictions have **unintentionally fueled human trafficking networks**, particularly in **conflict-affected regions**.*

*When legal migration routes are closed, displaced and vulnerable populations often turn to illegal or unsafe means to cross borders, falling prey to traffickers who exploit their desperation. The committee aims to examine **how international law, humanitarian protection, and national security policies intersect**, and how nations can balance border control with the protection of human rights. Human trafficking is not new, it has existed for centuries, often thriving during times of war and instability. However, the **modern link between restrictive migration laws and trafficking** began to draw attention in the **late 20th and early 21st century**, when globalization increased migration but border controls tightened.*

- In the **1990s and early 2000s**, conflicts in the Balkans, Afghanistan, and parts of Africa created mass displacement. Refugees seeking safety faced limited legal routes, which traffickers exploited.*
- The **Syrian Civil War (2011–present)** and the **European Refugee Crisis (2015)** exposed the severe consequences of restrictive immigration—where thousands risked their lives through traffickers and smugglers.*
- International efforts, such as the **UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons (2000)**, attempted to combat this issue, but enforcement and cooperation remain uneven.*





## SUBTOPICS OF COMMITTEE'S AGENDA:

- ***Impact of Restrictive Immigration Policies***
  - *How strict visa rules, refugee quotas, and border surveillance limit safe migration.*
  - *The moral and legal consequences of deterrence-based migration control.*
- ***Human Trafficking in Conflict Zones***
  - *How wars, instability, and poverty make people vulnerable to traffickers.*
  - *The use of trafficking networks for forced labour, sexual exploitation, and armed recruitment.*
- ***International Legal Frameworks and Humanitarian Protection***
  - *Examining the UN Palermo Protocol, Refugee Convention (1951), and Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948).*
  - *Gaps in international cooperation and enforcement.*
- ***Balancing Border Security with Human Rights***
  - *How governments can secure borders while ensuring safe, legal migration pathways.*
  - *Role of humanitarian corridors, resettlement programs, and international aid.*
- ***Strengthening Global Cooperation and Victim Support***
  - *Enhancing information-sharing between nations.*
  - *Rehabilitation, protection, and reintegration of trafficking survivors.*



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## **PAST ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE**

### **1. The Palermo Protocol (2000)**

- **Full Name: Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children**
- **Adopted by: UN General Assembly as part of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC).**
- **Significance:**
  - **It is the primary international legal instrument to combat human trafficking.**
  - **Defines trafficking in persons and establishes obligations for states to criminalize trafficking, protect victims, and promote international cooperation.**
  - **UNODC acts as the guardian of this protocol, ensuring its implementation worldwide.**

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### **2. United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) (2000)**

- **Adopted in Palermo, Italy, this convention forms the legal backbone for addressing organized crime, including human trafficking and migrant smuggling.**
- **Encourages states to enhance border security, exchange information, and strengthen judicial cooperation.**
- **The UNODC monitors compliance and assists countries with capacity-building and law enforcement training.**

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### **3. Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air (2000)**

- **Adopted alongside the Palermo Protocols, it addresses illegal smuggling routes often exploited in conflict zones.**
- **Aims to protect migrants from exploitation and promote lawful migration alternatives.**
- **Closely linked to the issue of restrictive immigration policies, as it targets the same networks that evolve into trafficking rings.**





#### ***4. Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (2010)***

- ***Adopted by: UN General Assembly (Resolution 64/293).***
  - ***Objective: To strengthen coordination between governments, UN agencies, and civil society to prevent trafficking, prosecute offenders, and protect victims.***
  - ***Led to the creation of the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, managed by UNODC, which provides direct assistance to survivors.***
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#### ***5. Sustainable Development Goals (2015)***

- ***Goal 8.7: Calls for immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking, and ensure the prohibition of child labour.***
  - ***Goal 10.7: Promotes safe, orderly, and regular migration, highlighting the need for fair immigration systems.***
  - ***UNODC collaborates with IOM, UNHCR, and other agencies to achieve these targets, linking human trafficking prevention with migration governance.***
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#### ***6. The Blue Heart Campaign (2008–Present)***

- ***A UNODC awareness initiative symbolizing solidarity with victims of human trafficking.***
- ***Encourages governments, organizations, and individuals to raise awareness, educate communities, and prevent trafficking through advocacy and outreach.***



## **THINGS TO RESEARCH ABOUT**

### **GUIDING QUESTIONS-**

1. *How have restrictive immigration policies in your country or region affected migration patterns and the vulnerability of refugees to human trafficking?*
2. *What role do ongoing or past conflicts (within or near your country) play in increasing the risk of trafficking and illegal migration?*
3. *To what extent can border security and human rights coexist in national policy frameworks? How can states strike this balance effectively?*
4. *Has your country ratified or implemented key international instruments such as the **Palermo Protocol**, **UNTOC**, or **Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons**? If so, how effectively are these being enforced?*
5. *What domestic laws, anti-trafficking units, or victim protection programs exist in your country, and how do they align with international standards?*
6. *How can international cooperation be strengthened between conflict-affected states, transit countries, and destination countries to disrupt trafficking networks?*
7. *What innovative or humanitarian solutions can be proposed to provide safe, legal, and accessible migration routes that reduce people's dependence on traffickers?*





## **QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION SHOULD ADDRESS**

*How **can member states create safe and legal migration pathways** to reduce the reliance on human traffickers, especially for refugees from conflict zones?*

*What **mechanisms can be introduced to ensure stronger international cooperation and intelligence-sharing** between nations to dismantle transnational trafficking networks?*

*How **can countries be encouraged to balance national border security with humanitarian obligations** under international law and refugee conventions?*

*What **measures can be taken to protect and rehabilitate victims of trafficking**, including medical aid, legal assistance, and reintegration into society?*

*Should **the UNODC establish new monitoring or reporting frameworks** to track how immigration policies affect trafficking trends in conflict-affected regions?*

*How **can the global community support developing or conflict-torn countries** in building stronger law enforcement, judicial systems, and anti-trafficking units?*

*What **role can technology, data collection, and public awareness campaigns play** in preventing trafficking and informing migrants about safe legal routes?*

*Can **existing conventions like the Palermo Protocol be strengthened or updated** to address modern trafficking tactics and stricter immigration regimes?*

*How **can partnerships with NGOs, civil society, and humanitarian organizations** be integrated into global anti-trafficking efforts to ensure on-ground impact?*

*What **funding mechanisms or UN initiatives** (such as trust funds or aid programs) can be expanded to support victims and vulnerable communities affected by both conflict and migration barriers?*



## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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(Do ensure to visit these sites for a better research)







# GOOD LUCK DELEGATE!

See you at the Conference!

