YMUN China 2025
Topic Guide

UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

Dean Centa

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Letter from the Dais

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees** at Yale Model United Nations China 2025!!! In this committee, we will be exploring pressing issues surrounding economic migration and asylum seekers, working together to pass relevant resolutions on these two topics: 1) Asylum Rejection and its Global Implication, and 2) Protecting Rights for Economic Migrants. Through robust and respectful debate, we will examine closely the many challenges that refugees face, striving to build respectful and diplomatic relationships between member states and delegates. Please be as creative as possible to best represent the current policies of your member state!

My name is Dean Centa, and I am a senior at Yale from Greenville, South Carolina, majoring in Global Affairs and East Asian Studies. My research focuses on migration policy, particularly in Japan, where I have examined economic and asylum-based immigration trends. I have been involved in numerous Yale International Relations Association (YIRA) conferences during my time at Yale, and I am excited to bring my experience to YMUN China this year as a freshly graduated Yalie. In my free time, I enjoy exploring new destinations, playing basketball with friends, and deep-diving into history. I look forward to meeting you all. I can be reached at dean.centa@yale.edu, however I will not have access to this email after the conference.

By the end of this conference, we hope you will leave with a better understanding of the importance of protecting human rights for migrants and asylum seekers, and the impact that these things have on the entire world. Our hope is that this topic guide will serve as a useful guide in jumpstarting your preparation for the committee and spur the spirited debate during the committee. Finally, and most importantly, YMUN China values collaboration between all delegates, so please be respectful of one another both in and out of committee sessions, and strive to be an agent of unification, not an agent of divisiveness.

Looking forward to a great committee!

Best,
Dean Centa

Committee History

[Image Source](#)

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was established in 1950 in the aftermath of World War II to protect displaced individuals who lost homes in the war. Additionally, the decolonization of Africa and Asia from Western powers caused millions to be displaced, requiring an international organization to help facilitate the mass movement of these people.

Its mandate is defined by the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol, which are the key legal documents that form the basis of UNHCR's work. These two legal documents define the term **'refugee'** and outline their rights and the international standards of treatment for their protection.

Since this time, UNHCR has drastically expanded its operation to address many different types of displacement-triggering events, such as environmental disasters or economic instability in a region.

The UNHCR has been involved with multiple international crises throughout its existence, some of which include the resettlement of Southeast Asian refugees in the 1980s in the aftermath of many conflicts in the region. The Balkan Wars and Rwandan genocide in the 90s, in addition to the Syrian Refugee Crisis of the 2010s, are also crucial to understanding how the UNHCR operates. Over the decades, they've also supported housing, counseling, and education, among other things all over the world, ensuring that refugees and asylum-seekers have access to basic human rights.

Structure and Role of UNHCR:

The UNHCR operates as part of the General Assembly of the United Nations, which works closely with lots of different international bodies, such as the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the International Organization of Migration (IOM). They have played a crucial role in coordinating humanitarian aid and legal assistance to displaced populations. Additionally, UNHCR partners with national governments, NGOs, and even sports teams (FC Barcelona, for example) to develop sustainable solutions and funding to help aid resettlement efforts. One of UNHCR's most significant contributions to global refugee protection has been its enforcement of the principle of **non-refoulement**, which prohibits the forced return of asylum-seekers to countries where they may face some kind of political or other persecution. We will be looking at this in-depth in Topic 1.

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TOPIC
ONE

Asylum Rejection and its Global Implication

Introduction

The growing number of asylum seekers facing rejection has become a crucial issue in global migration policy, with the increasing amount of conflicts causing more and more individuals to become asylum seekers. Many of these individuals fleeing their homes are getting denied asylum in certain areas due to restrictive immigration policies amidst growing nativism around the world. This topic will explore the obligations UNHCR has for these rejected asylum seekers under the 1951 Refugee Convention, in addition to looking more into non-refoulement and exploring alternative options for rejected asylum seekers.

Glossary

Asylum Seeker: An asylum-seeker is someone who is seeking international protection.

Internally Displaced Persons: Individuals or groups who have been compelled to leave their homes due to the factors mentioned above but have not crossed international borders in search of refuge.

Refugee: a person who, because of fear of persecution arising from their race, creed, or political philosophy, is living outside their former home country and is unable or unwilling to avail themself of that country's protection

Non-Refoulement: a principle of international law providing a refugee or asylum seeker with the right to freedom from expulsion from a territory in which he or she seeks refuge or from forcible return to a

country or territory where he or she faces threats to life or freedom because of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion

Nativism: the political policy of promoting or protecting the interests of native-born or indigenous people over those of immigrants, including the support of anti-immigration and immigration-restriction measures.

Refugee Status Determination: the legal or administrative process by which governments or UNHCR determine whether a person seeking international protection is considered a refugee under international, regional or national law.

Legal Limbo: a term invented by a legal anthropologist Heath Cabot, which identifies "precarious position between undocumented, paperless illegality, and "refugee" status" of an individual".

Topic History

Asylum rejection has become an increasingly common challenge in global migration governance. While international law guarantees protection for refugees, many governments have implemented strict asylum policies to control migration flows. Countries like the United States and United Kingdom have tightened their asylum procedures, while Australia has outsourced its asylum processing to third countries to deter irregular arrivals.

A key legal framework governing asylum is the **1951 Refugee Convention**, which sets international standards for refugee protection. However, as global displacement increases due to conflict, economic instability, and environmental factors, many states have raised rejection rates, citing security risks and economic burdens.

In recent years, rising nativism has also contributed to stricter asylum policies, as governments face domestic political pressure to curb migration. In East Asia, Japan and South Korea have some of the lowest refugee acceptance rates globally, with approval rates often below 1%. Japan, despite being one of the world's largest economies, only grants asylum to a handful of applicants each year, while South Korea enforces similarly rigid policies.

This trend has led to widespread cases of "**legal limbo**", where individuals are stranded in a country without access to legal work, healthcare, or other essential rights. Many rejected asylum seekers cannot be deported due to diplomatic, humanitarian, or logistical barriers, leaving them trapped in precarious conditions. As the organ responsible for refugee protection, UNHCR must examine the root causes of this legal limbo and explore viable solutions to provide safeguards for those affected.

Current Situation

While asylum acceptance and refugee admittance were quite high for a certain point in the early 2000s, rates have steadily decreased in the past ten years, with a backlash against immigration causing governments to place higher barriers to asylum. As mentioned in the topic history, the 1951 Refugee Convention, in addition to the 1967 Protocol established legal obligations for the 146 nations that agreed to the protocol, so that refugees could be safeguarded, but this has not stopped countries from citing national security concerns and blaming high crime rates on refugees in order to reject more asylum seekers. With more and more people being stuck in "legal limbo", they are unable to secure any sort of official protection, in addition to being prevented from working, which means they cannot provide for themselves without any sort of support, and without the ability to return home to their home country in fear of prosecution. In many cases, rejected asylum seekers face deportation to unsafe environments (back to their home country), prolonged detention (such as United States President Donald Trump sending refugees and asylum seekers to Guantanamo Bay), and inevitably start working on an undocumented status, where they remain vulnerable to worker exploitation and human rights violations.

Asylum Rejection Implications and Policies

The implications of asylum rejection extend beyond just the individual. It can affect international relations, regional stability, and overall global migration patterns. Countries that have received large numbers of asylum seekers, such as Türkiye and Lebanon due to the Syrian Civil War, or Bangladesh due to the Myanmar Civil War, have struggled to accommodate refugees amid decreasing international support and funding. This has caused lots of tensions within these developing countries, causing instability within the domestic governments. As wealthier, developed countries tighten their asylum procedures, it causes more and more of a strain on countries that are not able to control their migration flows, creating displacement crises in the border regions. These countries who can't control their migration flows are usually developing countries that can't attend to these migrants in a timely manner.

Asylum rejection is another problem that has afflicted many countries, leading to unorthodox ways of migration happening. Individuals who are denied legal pathways to a certain country often resort to being smuggled through human smuggling networks, often through extremely dangerous conditions. This creates a large risk for both migrants and the host nation. Many asylum seekers who are denied protection in the country they wish to stay in are then forced to pay smugglers to cross borders illegally, where they travel through dangerous terrain, busy sea routes, or are concealed through hazardous conditions. These journeys can result in loss of life. For example, the 2023 Messenia migrant boat disaster off the coast of Pylos, Greece saw the death of 400-750 Middle Eastern refugees trying to seek refuge in Greece, but due to dangerous conditions, perished. Additionally, traffickers can become

involved, and these migrants can potentially get sold off and human trafficked. Governments face the challenge of preventing these dangerous migration methods, while also ensuring that their respective processes are fair and transparent.

Policies regarding asylum rejection vary widely by country, with many of the policies being affected by domestic policy. For example, the United States has implemented policies like Title 42, which the First Trump Administration used as justification to block land entry for many migrants. Additionally, the Remain in Mexico policy which was also established by the First Trump administration, has been called out by many groups such as the Human Rights Watch, as a policy that has prevented many asylum seekers from entering the United States, breaking international law in the process. These policies were reversed under the Biden administration but the new Trump administration is thinking heavily about new policies.

Europe

In Europe, the Dublin Regulation has placed a huge burden on Southern European countries like Italy and Greece, countries that were at the forefront of many refugee crises as mentioned. The Dublin Regulation is an EU law that determines which member state is responsible for processing an asylum seeker's application. So, for Italy and Greece, they are having to deal with mass influxes of Middle Eastern refugees, often coming over in dangerous conditions, leading to events like the Missenia boat crash. The regulation has been criticized for creating huge backlogs and humanitarian crises, where Italy and Greece are having to shoulder much of the burden for the entire EU.

The current Italian Prime Minister, Giorgia Meloni, ran on a campaign against illegal immigration, and was extremely successful with that strategy. This again, has caused further issues for asylum-seekers, as the EU has become increasingly adverse to illegal immigration. Conversely, Denmark, a developed country in Northern Europe with great economic indicators, has been often touted as a country that has handled its refugee and asylum policy well, having almost no backlog. However, through their strict asylum policy that sends asylum seekers to third countries for processing, rather than allowing them to remain in Danish territory.

Denmark, along with the United Kingdom, proposed a plan in the early 2020s to send asylum seekers to Rwanda while their applications were processed. The policy was introduced under UK Prime Ministers Boris Johnson, Liz Truss, and Rishi Sunak, targeting individuals the UK classified as illegal immigrants or asylum seekers. If granted asylum, these individuals would remain in Rwanda, with the UK government funding their relocation, accommodation costs, and contributing to Rwandan development initiatives.

 The plan faced widespread criticism, with human rights organizations condemning the UK and Danish governments for outsourcing refugee responsibilities and violating international asylum laws. The controversy surrounding the policy played a role in the 2024 UK General Election, where Prime Minister Rishi Sunak stated that deportation flights would not take place, while opponent Keir Starmer pledged to end the program entirely. With Starmer's victory, the plan was officially scrapped, highlighting how asylum policies remain a highly debated and politically charged issue across Europe.

East Asia

Moving to East Asia, countries like Japan have some of the lowest refugee acceptance rates in the world. For example, Japan, despite being the third- or fourth-largest economy globally, accepted only 202 refugees in 2022 out of more than 10,000 applicants, leaving many in legal limbo and raising serious human rights concerns. A tragic case that highlights the consequences of Japan's strict asylum policies is Wishma Sandamali, a Sri Lankan woman who died in immigration detention in 2021 in Nagoya after being denied proper medical care while awaiting deportation. Her death sparked national and international outrage, exposing the harsh conditions faced by asylum seekers and detainees in Japan's immigration system.

Another group heavily affected by Japan's restrictive policies is the Kurdish asylum-seeking community, particularly in Saitama Prefecture, where many Kurdish migrants have settled. Despite the ongoing persecution of Kurds in Turkey, Japan has almost never granted refugee status to Kurdish asylum seekers (who are Turkish citizens) due to international relations, leaving them in a state of uncertainty for years. Many Kurds in Japan have faced multiple rejections, detention, and threats of deportation, despite strong community ties and years of residence. The worldwide trend of nativism has hit Japan

as well, where Kurds are receiving extreme hate on X (formerly Twitter). The treatment of Kurds in Japan, in addition to the death of Sandamali, highlights broader issues within the country's asylum system, where even those with clear risks of persecution struggle to secure protection. Critics argue that Japan's strict asylum policies, combined with the poor treatment of detainees and vulnerable communities, reflect a failure to uphold international human rights obligations.

Through these many case studies, it is revealed that one major challenge is the way international relations shape refugee acceptance rates. The Kurds not being able to be accepted due to Japan-Turkish relations is just one case of how this manifests itself. This means that, if Japan were to grant asylum to the Kurds, they would be indicating that the Turkish government is doing something wrong to the Kurds that are forcing them to seek asylum in Japan. Governments can choose to respect their diplomatic ties instead of humanitarian obligations, rejecting asylum seekers to maintain political stability. Because of these complicated issues, many countries do not want to deal with these issues, instead letting developing countries deal with the problem.

To combat these issues, the international community must establish clear, standardized, and fair asylum criteria that are less susceptible to political influence. The UNHCR must look at finding ways to make more transparent, evidence-based processes, ensuring that asylum cases are not affected by external diplomatic factors. Additionally, expanding legal migration pathways is crucial to quell high rejection rates for asylum seekers. Governments should consider alternative protection statuses, such as humanitarian visas, temporary protected status, and other sponsorship programs, which would allow asylum seekers to live legally in a host country. For countries with large refugee populations, they are in need of international cooperation. Thus, solutions must be comprehensive and multifaceted, addressing not only the resettlement of refugees but also the long term solutions to raising asylum acceptance rates.

Questions to Consider

1. How can countries balance national security concerns with the humanitarian obligations of asylum?
2. How can countries balance the rise of nationalism with asylum and refugee seekers?
3. What alternatives exist for asylum seekers who are in "legal limbo"?
4. Should international bodies like UNHCR establish stricter guidelines on countries for their decision to grant asylum?
5. What role can regional bodies (such as NATO, ASEAN, etc.) play in managing asylum cases?
6. How can states improve the process for asylum applications so that rejections are limited?
7. How can developed countries be held accountable to not shoulder the load of asylum on developing, border countries?

Additional Resources

https://www.unhcr.org/us/sites/en-us/files/legacy-pdf/4847b7832.pdf

1967 Protocol (and 1951 Refugee Convention)

https://www.politico.eu/article/denmark-migration-eu-parliament-election-mette-frederiksen/

https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/03/japan-must-reform-its-refugee-and-immigration-system-to-avoid-further-tragedies/

https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/resources/commentaries/qa-the-uks-policy-to-send-asylum-seekers-to-rwanda/

https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-64829310

https://time.com/6259098/italy-migrant-boat-crash-meloni-government/

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TOPIC
TWO

Mitigating War Induced Crises

Introduction

Economic migrants have been a driving force in global labor markets for centuries. Many migrants go abroad in hopes for better opportunities, but often face exploitation and discrimination, in addition to harsh working conditions. In this topic, we will discuss the intersection between economic migration and human rights, focusing on how international labor laws should protect low-skilled workers and temporary visa programs.

Glossary

Economic Migrant – An individual who moves to another country primarily for better job opportunities and financial stability rather than fleeing persecution or violence.

Guest Worker Programs – Temporary work programs that allow foreign laborers to fill job shortages in specific industries but often restrict their ability to change employers or settle permanently.

Kafala System – A sponsorship-based employment system used in Gulf States that ties migrant workers' legal status to their employer, often leading to exploitation and restricted mobility.

Forced Labor – Work that is performed involuntarily under threats, coercion, or deception, often involving wage withholding, document confiscation, or physical abuse.

ILO (International Labour Organization) – A United Nations agency that sets global labor standards, promotes workers' rights, and combats forced labor and workplace exploitation.

TITP (Technical Intern Training Program) – A Japanese labor program originally designed to transfer skills to foreign workers but widely criticized for enabling exploitative labor conditions.

Undocumented Workers – Individuals employed without legal authorization who often face wage theft, unsafe conditions, and limited access to labor protections.

Topic History

Economic migration has played a huge role in shaping labor markets for the past few decades and even centuries, as individuals have moved across borders and continents in order to secure better wages, job security, and living conditions for themselves and their families. It is a story so crucial to many nations since the Industrial Revolution all the way to modern globalization. During the 19th and 20th century, millions of laborers migrated from Europe to the Americas, which fueled industrialization abroad. Colonial powers also facilitated labor migration under exploitative conditions through slavery, moving people across borders.

In the post-WW2 era, reconstruction efforts of Germany saw its guest workers program, called Gastarbeiter, be introduced, which introduced workers from Turkey and Southern Europe to the country, leaving remnants of lots of Turkish people in Germany even today. The Bracero program in the US brought Mexican workers to the country for agricultural labor shortages. Similarly, labor migration to the Gulf States expanded significantly in the 1970s and 1980s following the oil boom, leading to millions of South Asian and African workers moving to countries like Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Qatar under the Kafala system, which continues to be widely criticized for labor exploitation today.

Economic migration has fueled growth both in sending and receiving countries, but it also has created multiple human rights challenges, including low wages, lack of job security, and inadequate legal protections. Many organizations, including the UNHCR, have attempted to regulate economic migration through standardized labor conditions, but have failed to enforce much of their protections effectively. The rise of nativism as mentioned in Topic 1, in addition to restrictive labor policies, have only made challenges for economic migrants higher, leaving millions to be vulnerable to exploitation and bad working conditions.

Current Situation

Economic migration has been a key point of labor markets worldwide. It is what brings people to move away from home in hopes of better opportunities for themselves and their families. It is this hope for a better life that drives millions and millions towards a certain nation. However, despite their economic contributions, they are often seen as disposable labor, there to work in the shadows while those in the country benefit from them. Although in search of economic prosperity, these migrants frequently experience exploitative policies that prevent them from achieving long-term security. Host governments often enforce strict immigration and labor policies, making it difficult for migrant workers to obtain stable employment or legal protections. Economic instability further exacerbates their situation, as fluctuations in labor markets often lead to job losses that disproportionately affect foreign and guest workers, as they are working temporary jobs that are contingent on the economy being strong. Because many migrant workers lack access to legal representation, it makes it much more difficult for them to challenge unfair working conditions.

Xenophobia, anti-immigrant sentiment, and nativism in many countries create many barriers for immigrants all over the world, similar to the topic on protecting asylum seekers. Misinformation about migrants often fuels negative stereotypes, leading to discrimination, with many saying that these migrants are stealing the home country's people's jobs. All of these sentiments create an environment that is not well suited for the migrant workers leaving their homes for a better life.

It also prevents migrant workers from accessing essential services like healthcare, which can be considered a universal right in many countries. Debates over whether or not migrant workers should receive healthcare is an extremely contentious point in the United States, where healthcare is determined by the employer. International labor laws established by the UNHCR and other organs exist to safeguard economic migrants, however, enforcement remains weak in many regions, as governments often prioritize economic growth over worker rights. Workers then become a lynchpin in the economic system without the necessary compensation. This failure to regulate working conditions properly has led to a cycle of labor exploitation, where migrant workers are underpaid, overworked, and denied basic protections. Restrictive labor migration policies further trap migrant workers in precarious situations, as many face wage theft (where companies don't pay the employee whatsoever), employer exploitation, and even forced labor.

Without reforms, the global reliance on migrant workers will continue to fuel social marginalization and economic inequality, leaving millions trapped in cycles of vulnerability all over the world. Three modern case studies will be presented to showcase this in action.

Case Study: The Gulf States

The increasing demand for labor across various industries has made many countries more reliant on migrant workers to fill roles that may not be desirable for many. One example of this exploitation in action is in the Gulf States through the Kafala System. This system, used in countries in the Gulf region such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Kuwait, effectively place migrant workers under the control of their employers, giving them little to no autonomy over their own employment. Under this system, workers primarily from South Asia, are required to obtain their employer's permission to change jobs, leave the country, or even renew their visa.

This then creates an environment that is ripe for exploitation and abuse. For example, some companies would confiscate the passports of their workers, allowing for rampant abuse as the workers were not able to leave the job. This was made quite clear to the world in Qatar, when laborers working on the 2022 FIFA World Cup's infrastructure projects reported grueling conditions, unpaid wages, and unsafe working environments. This led to numerous worker deaths and brought the spotlight onto Qatar.

Despite international criticism and calls for reform, many Gulf countries have been slow to dismantle the Kafala system due to its economic benefits for employers and political resistance from influential business groups, who have helped to build the Gulf States into what they are today: small countries with massive metropolitan cities. Although some countries have introduced labor reforms, enforcement remains weak, and many workers still suffer under exploitative conditions with little access to justice or legal protection.

Case Study: Japan, South Korea, and Legal Factors

In Japan, there is a similar story unfolding. The Technical Intern Training Program (TITP) was originally intended to train foreign workers and transfer skills, but in practice, it has become a system rife with exploitation. Many Vietnamese, Filipino, and Indonesian workers under TITP have reported cases of unpaid wages, long working hours, and severe mistreatment, with limited legal recourse. Because of their status as a technical trainee, if they do feel mistreated at their job and complain, they are at risk of getting their visa revoked. With mounting criticism surrounding the TITP program, Japan ended up scrapping the visa system altogether for a new program called the "Ikusei Shuro" program in March 2024, which has still not had much true progress in fixing the exploitative problems the TITP program had. Currently, the program is on hold as the Japanese government works to find a solution.

South Korea's Employment Permit System (EPS), introduced in 2004 to regulate foreign labor, has been similarly criticized for failing to protect migrant workers from abuse. The program allows companies in industries such as agriculture, fisheries, and manufacturing to hire workers from countries in Southeast and South Asia. However, common in much of the economic migrant programs, workers experience poor living conditions and wage delays, forcing workers to stay in the job until they get paid. One of the main issues with South Korea's system is the restriction on changing employers, meaning that workers who face exploitation risk deportation at every step and must provide a benefit to the company if they would like to stay in Korea. Also, according to Amnesty International, migrant workers often operate heavy machinery or work with dangerous chemicals with little or no training or protective equipment, leaving them exposed to health risks.

Migrant laborers in both Japan and South Korea often have few legal avenues to challenge their treatment, and many are forced to accept exploitative conditions out of fear of deportation. The combination of long work hours, poor working conditions, and weak labor protections has led to a growing number of reported suicides and psychological distress among migrant workers, particularly in sectors like construction and factory labor. Additionally, workers have started to escape their jobs and live either in the country as an undocumented person, or continue to migrate into other countries through extremely dangerous means.

Case Study: United States

In the United States, economic migrants play a huge role in industries such as agriculture, construction, and domestic work, providing critical labor that supports the country's economy. They are what keeps the United States economy so dynamic. However, despite their contributions, many face hurdles due to restrictive visa policies and lack of labor protections. Migrant workers under H-2A and H-2B visa programs, which are designed for temporary agricultural and non-agricultural labor, often endure poor housing conditions, wage violations, and limited job mobility. Reports have shown that some employers fail to pay workers in full, underreport hours, or deduct expenses unfairly, reducing wages to unsustainable levels. The fear of retaliation or deportation further discourages many from reporting labor violations, effectively trapping them in cycles of exploitation. Under the new Trump administration, economic migrants are feeling even more unsure about their positions, and have resorted to overstaying their visas with employers being less keen to renew visas due to high costs. This creates another issue: undocumented workers.

For undocumented migrants, the situation is often even more dire. Undocumented migrants make up a huge percentage of workers in many sectors in the United States. For example, in the agricultural sector in 2014, 37% of all workers were undocumented, which comes out to about 240,000. Other sectors that these workers are present in are things like meatpacking, construction, and domestic labor, which can be extremely dangerous, leaving them vulnerable in unsafe conditions.. Without legal status, they are often unable to seek medical care, causing unnecessary injury and death. Some employers take advantage of this legal limbo, coercing undocumented workers into accepting lower wages and working longer hours without overtime compensation. This systematic exploitation calls for the urgent need for stronger labor protections, immigration reform, and better oversight of worker treatment in industries that rely heavily on migrant labor.

These trends in the Gulf, East Asia, and the United States are not exceptions to a world free of economic exploitation of migrants. Instead, they represent a larger, global issue that requires immediate and systemic intervention. To address the issues outlined in this topic, international organizations, including the UNHCR and the International Labour Organization (ILO), must consider legal protections and employer accountability when it comes to worker protection. Governments should also consider what kind of alternative legal migration pathways there are, and coordinate between countries to build a framework that can allow for companies to sponsor migrant workers in a more humane way.
For example, there may be grounds established so that migrant workers can receive a fair wage with social benefits. This would then allow for migrant workers to have a chance at a long-term stay in the country, where the country that is receiving benefits from these workers could have a way to incentivize workers, improving economic productivity.

Ultimately, ensuring the fair treatment of economic migrants requires coordination between countries, balancing economic demand for migrants with labor rights protections. To restore dignity to economic migrants, governments must work together to create sustainable, ethical migration policies that protect the dignity and welfare of migrant workers worldwide.

Questions to Consider

1. How can governments balance economic demand for migrant labor with stronger legal protections to prevent worker exploitation?
2. What reforms should be implemented in temporary labor migration programs to ensure fair wages and safe working conditions?
3. Should migrant workers have pathways to permanent residency or citizenship, or should host countries focus on temporary labor solutions?
4. How can international organizations like the ILO and UNHCR better enforce labor protections and hold governments accountable for migrant worker abuses?
5. What role does xenophobia and anti-immigrant sentiment play in shaping national labor policies, and how can governments counteract these biases?
6. How do systems like the Kafala system, TITP, and South Korea's EPS restrict worker rights, and what global standards should replace them?
7. What policies can be adopted to ensure undocumented workers have access to basic labor protections without fear of deportation?

Additional Resources

https://thediplomat.com/2024/08/japans-incremental-change-in-a-de-facto-immigration-policy/
https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/what-kafala-system
https://www.striking-women.org/module/migration/history-migration
https://www.weforum.org/stories/2024/01/migration-model-sustainable-development/
https://www.unhcr.org/us/what-we-do/protect-human-rights/asylum-and-migration
https://gsp.cgdev.org/legalpathway/employment-permit-system-eps/
https://gsp.cgdev.org/legalpathway/technical-intern-training-program-titp/

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