

HUMAN RIGHT COMMITTEE

Chairs: Manuel L, Gabor B

Issue 1: The issue of the protection of refugees

The world is witnessing the highest levels of displacement on record. An unprecedented 65.6 million people around the world have been forced from home by conflict and persecution at the end of 2016. Among them are nearly 22.5 million refugees, over half of whom are under the age of 18. There are also 10 million stateless people, who have been denied a nationality and access to basic rights such as education, healthcare, employment and freedom of movement.

Providing protection to people fleeing in search of refuge is one of humanity's most long standing traditions – a shared value embedded in many religious and cultural traditions, and now part of international law. It is a value that has stood the test of time and was most recently articulated by all 193 United Nations member states in the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants, adopted in September 2016. In certain countries and regions, access to asylum is restricted, with borders closing, detention on the increase and legal and procedural impediments blocking access to protection. Confronted by seemingly intractable conflicts, by heightened security concerns, and in difficult economic times, some governments have responded by closing their doors, pursuing arrangements that 'outsource' refugee protection elsewhere and allowing the rhetoric of xenophobia and nationalism to go unchecked. Yet, at the same time there have also been many positive examples of moral courage and leadership, of governments stepping up and keeping their borders open as thousands flee, and countless acts of solidarity from individuals and communities all over the world.

This issue is especially relevant to many European Nations, which have been suffering from the Syrian refugee crisis since the start of Syria's civil war and have taken differing views on how to handle the issue. Governments of Hungary and Italy are especially resilient to accept refugees and have closed borders. Other governments such as Germany have a policy of accepting refugee. It is definitely an issue that has divided European politics, shaken up the

political landscape and promoted the rise of populism and far-right in many EU states. (Poland, Hungary, Italy, etc) Many southern European countries are also affected by the Mediterranean refugee crisis of refugees coming from Northern African and sub-Saharan African nations, fleeing their war-torn, poverty-struck nations and seeking the relative prosperity and security of European countries.

To add on, another important refugee crisis to take into account when discussing the issue is the Rohingya refugee crisis. Since the government of Myanmar began expelling the Rohingya people from Myanmar, leaving them stateless, many have fled to open-border, Muslim neighbor, Bangladesh. Bangladesh accepts these refugees, but in a country plagued with natural disasters, overpopulation and poverty, the situation is critical.

Another relevant refugee crisis is the Venezuelan humanitarian crisis and the Yemen humanitarian crisis, which has been struck in a man-made famine and a civil war since 2015.

Issue 2: The issue of Mali

Insecurity in Mali worsened as Islamist armed groups allied to Al-Qaeda dramatically increased their attacks on government forces and United Nations peacekeepers. The peace process envisioned to end the 2012-2013 political-military crisis stalled in 2017. Government forces conducted counterterrorism operations that resulted in arbitrary arrests, summary executions, torture, and ill-treatment.

In the north, armed groups made scant progress on disarmament and the government made inadequate progress on the restoration of state authority. This deepened a rule of law and security vacuum, facilitating rampant banditry and displacement. In central Mali, Islamist armed group presence and intimidation of the population steadily increased through the year, resulting in numerous serious abuses including summary executions of local officials and alleged government informants. Intercommunal violence in central and northern Mali left scores dead,

displaced thousands, and was exploited by ethnically aligned and abusive vigilante groups to garner recruits.

Banditry and attacks undermined the delivery of basic health care, education, and humanitarian assistance. Some effort was made toward ensuring justice for victims of abuses committed during the 2012-2013 armed conflict, but the judiciary was reluctant to investigate ongoing abuse by the armed forces. Rule of law institutions remained weak, and corruption endemic, further impeding Malians' access to basic health care and education. This is a major issue that UN must solve to protect the human rights of Malians.

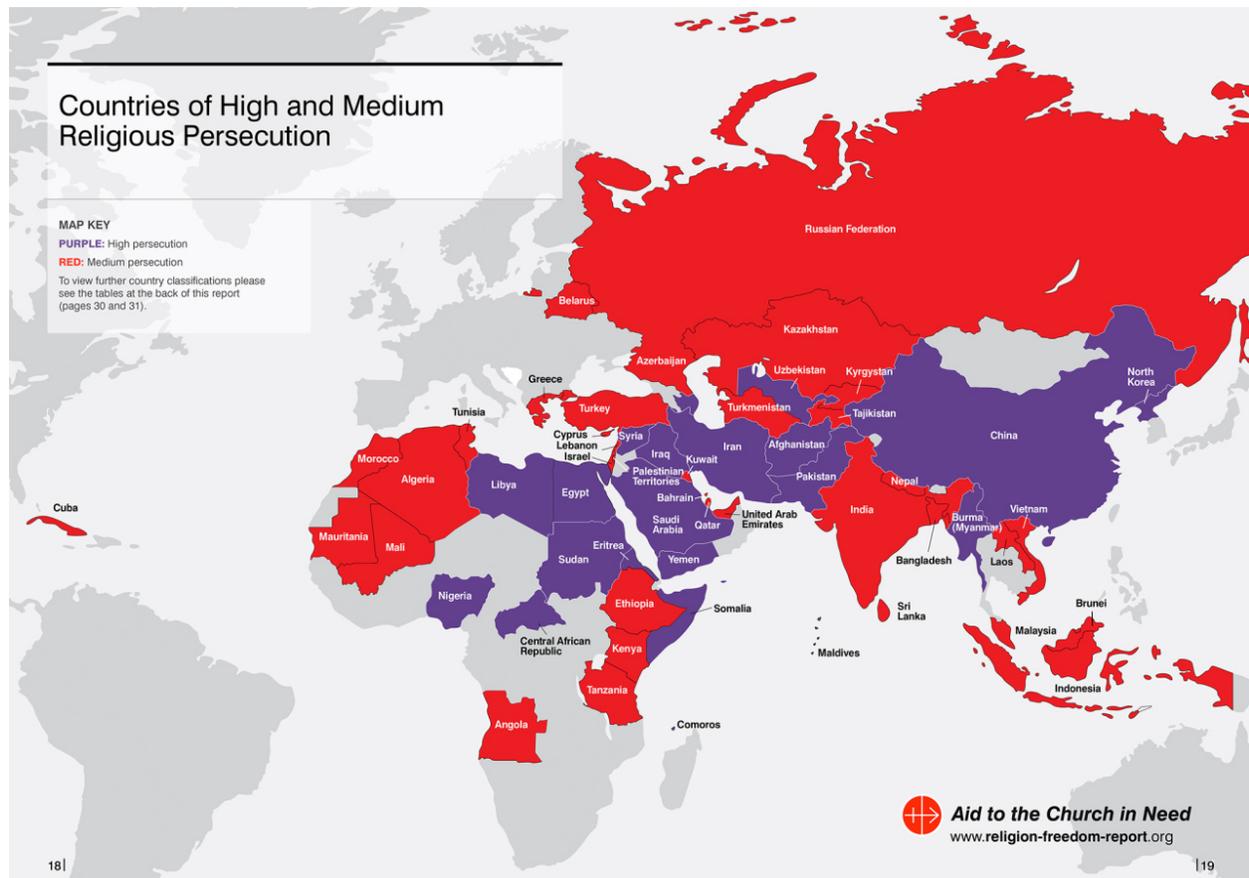
Issue 3: The issue of ensuring the protection of ethnic and religious minorities

Today, issues related to the rights of persons belonging to minorities may be found in nearly every human rights instrument and forum. The United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations recognize that minority rights are essential to protect those who wish to preserve and develop values and practices which they share with other members of their community. They also recognize that members of minorities make significant contributions to the richness and diversity of society and that States which take appropriate measures to recognize and promote minority rights are more likely to remain tolerant and stable.

In much of the political science and law literature, the term 'minority rights' is used to refer to legal provisions that have two key features: first, they are intended to recognize or accommodate the distinctive needs of non-dominant ethnic or racial groups; and second, they do so by adopting minority-specific measures, above and beyond the non-discriminatory enforcement of universal individual rights that apply regardless of group membership.

States shall protect the existence and the national or ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic identity of minorities within their respective territories and shall encourage conditions for the promotion of that identity. This is the first article of the "Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities" which was

adopted by General Assembly on December 18 1992. Below we see a map with the degree of religious persecution around the world.



Plus this, groups such as Muslims in China, Kurds in Turkey and Iraq, Jewish People in Muslim Countries continue to be oppressed. Also, the Trump Administration in the United States has taken a controversial position on minorities, with the Immigration Ban on certain Muslim nations and the border wall with neighboring Mexico. The issue is relevant to pretty much every country in the world with minorities.