



KING'S ACADEMY MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2026

The General Assembly

PRESIDENT RESEARCH PACKET

PRESIDENT: Tareq Oweis

**Coordinated Global Efforts to Manage the Aftermath
of the Syrian Refugee Crisis**



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President's Letter:

Dear Delegates of The General Assembly,

It is my utmost pleasure to welcome you to KAMUN'26 under this year's theme of **Scale The Summit**. In the General Assembly, we will experience the exchange of diverse, yet important, perspectives while tackling global issues that affect our daily lives and the lives of others.

I am Tareq Oweis, an eleventh-grader at King's Academy, and I am this year's president of The General Assembly. The General Assembly stands out amongst the rest of the committees due to its constant relevance and the significance of the topics that arise. We will confront issues that transcend borders, and initial global cooperation. It is vital, in this committee, to understand that the output must be beneficial, not only to one single nation, but to the entire global community.

No matter if this is your first experience or your twentieth, I hold myself accountable for letting each and everyone of you gain something from this conference. Whether it is a newfound love for debate, a deeper understanding of global issues, or simply the courage to speak in front of others, I hope KAMUN'26 stays with you long after the sessions' end.

This year, we will focus on two main topics:

“Coordinated Global Efforts to Manage the Aftermath of the Syrian Refugee Crisis” where we will examine the responsibilities of global initiatives to resolve the on-going humanitarian refugee crises in Syria.

“Enhancing Maritime Security to Protect Shipping Routes from Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea ” where the main focus will be addressing the root cause of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea and exploring ways to safeguard shipments and goods transported by sea.

Before your preparation for this upcoming conference, I want you to keep one thing in mind. "If the only way to get what I want is for pigs to fly, then I'll send them to the moon." Remember, determination always wins in the end.

Best regards,

Tareq Oweis

President of The General Assembly

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Introduction:

Syria, a nation that was once a symbol of heritage, is now crumbling in front of our eyes. Due to a combination of internal and external factors, the nation has seen unprecedented mass displacements. This has not only proven to be a problem for Syria, but also for the host countries that are accepting these refugees. For example: Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan have taken in millions of refugees and it's putting a huge strain on their socio economic and political systems.

Since 2011 there has been a civil war in the region and it's been a major contributor to this crisis. There have been constant battles and attacks between the Assad regime, rebel groups and extremists making the region more and more dangerous to live in. Civilians are being targeted in the conflicts and are forced to flee because of the unsafe environment.

This civil war has also brought many economic shortages in Syria. This is showing in higher rates of poverty, malnutrition and unemployment. On top of all this minority groups like Christians, Kurds and others are being targeted, persecuted, and displaced.

While some progress has been made towards stabilizing Syria, the situation remains unstable. Although president Bashar Al-Assad was removed from office in December of 2024, the violence is still ongoing in most areas. The humanitarian situation has improved slightly, however, the circumstances remain dire, with widespread food shortages still affecting over 14.5 million people in Syria, including 9.1 million in acute crisis. Most, if not all, are in agreement that Syria is one of the world's worst and most unsustainable refugee crises.

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Definition of Key Terms:

Refugee:

Someone who is forced to leave their country due to war, persecution, violence or other forms of physical or mental harm and seek protection in another country.

Protection Gap:

A situation where displaced people lack legal, social and humanitarian safeguards to protect them from neglect or abuse.

Resettlement Quotas:

National or regional “caps” on the number of refugees a country agrees to accept each year.

Forced Demographic Engineering:

The deliberate displacement of certain populations by governments or groups to change the ethnic, religious or political composition of a territory.

Host State:

A sovereign country that provides asylum and temporary or permanent settlement to displaced people and assumes responsibility for their protection, integration and access to services.

Regional Spillover Effect:

The unintended political, social and economic consequences of countries accepting refugees and mass displacements on neighboring host states.

Hybrid Governance:

The coexistence of formal state authority and informal or non-state actors (militias, tribal networks, international NGOs) in managing refugee situations.

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Major Parties Involved:

Syrian Government (Assad Regime):

One of the main governing forces in Syria was that of the Syrian government. Led by the President Bashar Al-Assad, the regime was accused of many human rights violations, and political oppression. This regime has been the main underlying cause of Syria's citizens' displacement.

Despite Bashar Al-Assad losing power in December 2024, the legacy that he has left behind has created an environment where reconciliation is extremely difficult.

Syrian Opposition Groups:

The party of people that “opposed” or were against the rule of the Al-Assad family. These groups are often armed and could range from moderate groups to more radical ones.

Extremist Organizations:

Groups that have controlled territory, committed mass violence, and forced millions to flee due to persecution and destruction.

Neighboring Host States:

Neighboring host states have played a huge role in the acceptance of these refugees. However, this has caused numerous setbacks for these countries such as economic and political instability.

- Turkey hosts the largest refugee population in the world, with over 3.6 Syrian refugees.
- Lebanon hosts around 1 million Syrian refugees.
- Jordan hosts hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees. Many of the major camps like Za’atari became semi-permanent cities in the region.

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Timeline:

Dates before that of 2011 (in Syria) are not entirely relevant to the topic at hand.

2011:

This year marks the beginning of the Syrian civil war. Many of the peaceful protests that were occurring at the time had escalated and turned into armed conflicts. This is around the time when refugees started leaving Syria due to concerns for their safety and the country's stability.

2012:

Neighboring countries became a primary place for refugees to find refuge due to its geographic proximity and, in some cases, more open borders. Refugees often settled in host communities rather than in camps.

2014:

The UN declared the Syrian refugee crisis to be a global humanitarian crisis. Turkey became the biggest host state at the time with more than 1 million refugees finding refuge there. Many Syrian refugees were also able to find their way to Europe via Mediterranean routes.

2017-2018:

A deal arises between Europe and Turkey to attempt to limit irregular migration to Europe. Humanitarian funding remains inadequate to serve the needs of refugees.

2020:

Refugees were disproportionately affected by the lockdowns, healthcare shortages, and economic downfalls due to Covid-19.

2021-2023:

Refugee children face interrupted education and several host countries struggle with long-term inclusion of the Syrian refugees (International donor fatigue).

2024:

Bashar Al-Assad is removed from office, leaving Syria with the aftermath of the regime. Limited returns to Syria occur, but most refugees stay in host countries.

2025-Present Day:

7 million refugees remain internationally displaced and host countries still face the strains of accepting these refugees. There are now international calls to try and settle and solve the situation in any way possible.

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Implications:

The crisis in Syrian refugees has had widespread implications not only for Syria but also for neighboring countries of the region, the international region, and the world at large. One of the most evident implications has perhaps been on receiving nations. Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq have absorbed millions of refugees.. The sudden demographic transformation has pushed host countries to balance between political and economic security and humanitarian considerations, causing some tensions within refugee and host populations.

Regional politics have been re-introduced at a new level due to the crisis, influencing policies, and alliances. Host nations for mass amounts of refugees have sometimes faced domestic resistance to perceived security threats, answering with restrictive policies or calls for repatriation. Meanwhile, the presence of displaced peoples has also influenced international relations. Agreements such as the EU-Turkey deal demonstrate the concept of sharing the burden, even though the arrangements have also been criticized for maintaining border control at the cost of refugees' health.

The crisis has also come as a humanitarian problem. Refugees face displacement for a prolonged period of time, limited access to healthcare, food insecurity, and disrupted education. Children raised under such conditions are particularly vulnerable. These refugee situations put immense pressure on international organizations that are set back by funding shortages and donor fatigue.

Security concerns are also a primary problem. Large-scale displacement within Syria may lead to instability and allow extremists to target vulnerable groups, recruit fighters, or operate nationally. The host nations, therefore, need to address the humanitarian as well as the security challenges simultaneously and balance the requirement for protection against the maintenance of law.

The crisis has extended regionally and internationally. It has raised awareness of the necessity for a united response at the international level. However, it has also revealed fault lines in the protection of refugees. Inadequate response to the crisis threatens to elongate instability, and create regional tensions.

The Syrian refugee crisis challenges host nations' economies and political systems, challenges humanitarian organizations, disrupts education and social structures, introduces security risks, and necessitates international coordination. The crisis underscores the importance of integrated, long-term, and collaborative approaches to displacement.

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Proposed Solutions:

1. **Urges** the United Nations, in cooperation with the European Union, the United States, Canada, and wealthy Gulf States such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, to coordinate responsibility-sharing for the long-term management of the Syrian refugee crisis alongside primary host countries including Jordan, Turkey, and Lebanon;
 - a. Establishing a UN-supervised Global Refugee Fund supported by contributions from the European Union, the United States, Japan, and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members,
 - i. Contributions shall be proportional to each contributing state's GDP,
 - ii. Funds shall be allocated to infrastructure development in host states (Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon), focusing on housing, healthcare, and education;
 - b. Calls for the creation of an international employment and skills recognition program,
 - i. Refugees with professional backgrounds (medicine, engineering, teaching) shall have their qualifications recognized by host states,
 - ii. Language and vocational training programs shall be supported by the European Union and administered in coordination with host countries;
 - c. Supports the implementation of a voluntary and safe repatriation framework coordinated by UNHCR with the cooperation of the Syrian Arab Republic and guarantor states such as Russia and Iran,
 - i. Returning refugees shall be provided with reintegration assistance — including housing reconstruction and job placement — funded by international donors,
 - ii. Any attempts at forced or premature repatriation by host countries shall be condemned as violations of international law and referred to the International Court of Justice.

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“Food for Thought”:

- Lebanon, the least developed nation, has over a million refugees — why has it been forced to shoulder such an out-of-proportion share of the crisis compared with wealthier states?
- If there were relocation quotas from the EU in 2015, why did so many European countries resist or outright refuse resettlement efforts?
- What has motivated some countries (like Canada and Germany) to adopt quite open policies of accepting refugees, while others have shifted to close their borders and dictate who comes in?
- Why has repatriation of Syrian refugees been so limited, considering public claims that parts of Syria are growing "safe" for return?
- How has the Syrian refugee crisis reformed the European political environment, notably with the emergence of far-right and anti-immigration parties?
- Why were UNHCR and World Food Programme international appeals for funding consistently behind, even during a crisis that was one of the largest in history?

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