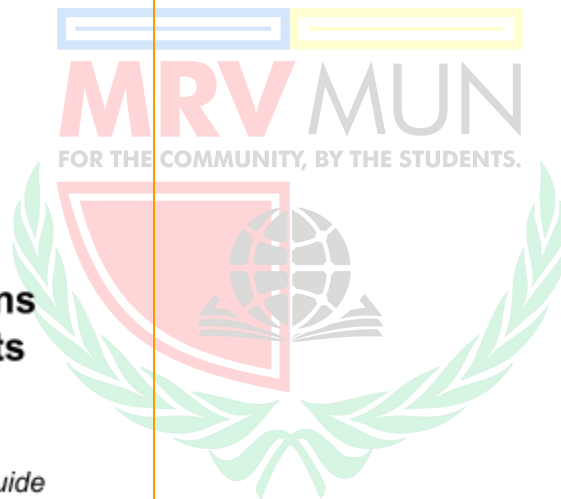




**United Nations
Human Rights
Council**

Study Guide



AGENDA

Deliberation on Safeguarding the rights of minorities in the internal conflict scenarios, with a special emphasis on the situation in Bangladesh & the United Kingdom

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dear Delegates,

We look forward to interacting with you, in The United Nations Human Rights Council. The UNHRC works to protect and maintain the basic rights of all individuals. Keeping this ambitious goal in mind, we wish you all the best, as you strive to take up this daunting challenge.

We encourage you to prepare thoroughly, venture outside the box, and garner immense knowledge of the topic. Refrain from restricting yourself to just the study guide, and find what few others would know.

Make sure to remember that you are representing a portfolio and not yourself! Be confident and present *their* stance on the agenda, even if your perspective has major differences.

Once again, we would like to wish you all the very best, and we hope that you await this fruitful experience as much as we do!

See you there,

Sanah Ramchandani,
Chairperson

Jovita Pariani,
Vice-Chair

COMMITTEE INFORMATION

The Human Rights Council is an intergovernmental body within the United Nations system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe and for addressing situations of human rights violations and making recommendations on them. It has the ability to discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year. It meets at the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG).

The Council, composed of 47 Member States, provides a multilateral forum to address human rights violations and country situations. It responds to human rights emergencies and makes recommendations on how to better implement human rights on the ground.

Their primary goal is to achieve the 30 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) Goals, which were formulated in 1948 by the UN.

INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA

Riots in Bangladesh

Protests in Bangladesh began in July 2024, when peaceful demands from university students to abolish quotas in civil service jobs - a third of these are reserved for relatives of veterans from Bangladesh's war for independence from Pakistan in 1971.

The campaigners had argued the system was discriminatory and needed to be overhauled. Although their request was largely met, the protests soon transformed into a wider anti-government movement.

As the movement expanded, clashes followed, and over 300 people were killed in the unrest.

Bangladeshi media and protesters blamed the local police for the spiralling death toll. The government, though, maintained that officers only ever opened fire out of self-defence or to protect state property.

To make matters worse, the then prime minister Sheikh Hasina repeatedly cut off internet access in parts of the country, imposed a nationwide curfew, and described those demonstrating against her as “terrorists” seeking to “destabilise the nation”, before resigning from office and fleeing the nation in August 2024, after her house in Dhaka was attacked by protestors.

Riots in United Kingdom

Between 30 July and 7 August 2024, an estimated 29 anti-immigration demonstrations and riots took place, across several British towns. Many of these were violent, with participants attacking mosques and hotels housing asylum seekers. This was after a nine year old child was stabbed by an immigrant in a rally for Taylor Swift fans.

The National Police Chiefs’ Council (NPCC) confirmed that, as of 30 August 2024, over a thousand individuals were arrested for their involvement in the conflicts.

This was the most significant disorder in the UK since the 2011 riots, in which nearly 6000 individuals were arrested.

Human Right Violations

In internal conflict scenarios, the human rights of minority groups are often disproportionately affected, with these populations facing violence, displacement, discrimination, and loss of fundamental freedoms. The breakdown of societal structures during conflicts creates an environment in which minority groups are particularly vulnerable to abuse and marginalization.

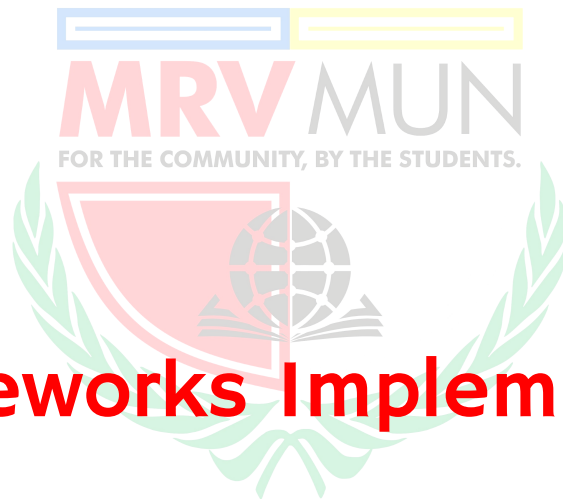
Bangladesh: The Rohingya Crisis and Indigenous Communities

In Bangladesh, the rights of ethnic and religious minorities, particularly the Rohingya Muslims, have been severely impacted by internal conflicts and political instability. The Rohingya, a Muslim minority in the majority Buddhist country of Myanmar, have faced decades of persecution, including violent military crackdowns, arbitrary detentions, and denial of basic rights. As violence escalated, hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees sought safety in Bangladesh, where they continue to live in overcrowded refugee camps with limited access to healthcare, education, and employment opportunities. Their legal status remains uncertain, further complicating their ability to access protection and justice.

United Kingdom: Minorities and Historical Conflict

For decades, the Catholic nationalist minority in Northern Ireland faced systemic discrimination in areas such as housing, employment, and political

participation. This tension between Protestant Unionists and Catholic Nationalists led to violent clashes and an ongoing human rights crisis, with minority communities subjected to abuse, intimidation, and marginalization. In addition to the sectarian violence in Northern Ireland, the United Kingdom has faced challenges with the integration of minority ethnic groups, particularly immigrants from former colonies. In the context of both historical and contemporary internal tensions, minority communities have experienced discrimination in various forms, including racial profiling, hate crimes, and unequal access to services, which have undermined their human rights.



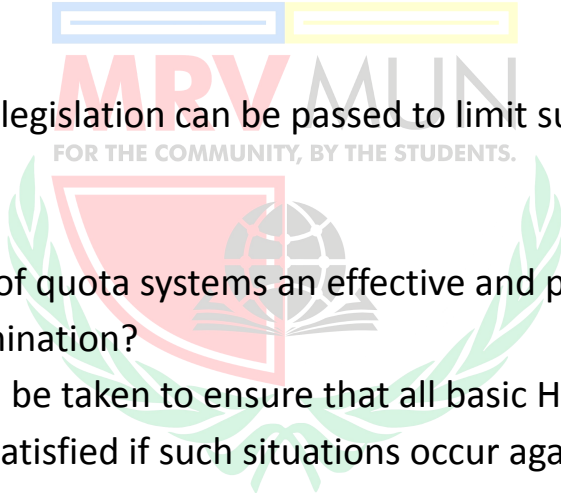
Frameworks Implemented

Unfortunately, neither countries have implemented strong policies and frameworks to prevent such occurrences in the future, with the British Prime Minister Keir Starmer merely the attacks by referring to them as “far-right thuggery” and vowed to “ramp up the law”. However, no evident action has been taken as yet.

Meanwhile in Bangladesh, the police and military added fuel to the fire, with the government giving them shoot-to-kill orders to deal with the riots. The country’s defence minister went on to defend their actions in an appalling

statement, wherein an unnamed third-party was blamed for the attacks. This supposedly justified their actions against the students.

QARMA - Questions a Resolution Must Answer

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- 1) What effective legislation can be passed to limit such occurrences in the future?
- 2) Is the removal of quota systems an effective and practical solution to prevent discrimination?
- 3) What steps can be taken to ensure that all basic Human Rights as per the UDHR are satisfied if such situations occur again?
- 4) How can the rights of minorities be protected and safeguarded in all countries?

Suggested Moderated Caucus Topics

- 1) Combatting Discrimination and Hate Crimes Against Minorities in Conflict Zones.
- 2) Post-Conflict Reconciliation: Ensuring Minority Representation in Peacebuilding Efforts
- 3) Tackling the Root Causes of Minority Marginalization in Internal Conflicts
- 4) The Role of Social Media in Advocacy for Minority Rights During Conflicts



Bibliography and Further Reading Links

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Pro Tips

1. Go beyond the study guide while researching about the agenda, and ensure that you are thorough with your portfolios' stance about the same, and various sub-topics thoroughly.
2. Ensure that all sources of information you use in your speeches are reliable, and accepted in MUNs. The executive board and/or other delegates may ask for a source, with regard to a piece of information that you provide. Some reliable sources include UN affiliated websites, BBC, The World Bank. (Don't limit yourself to just these!)
3. Read relevant resolutions, such as Resolution 242. They can be extremely informative, and would be of great help during the conference.
4. Be prepared with at least 2 GSL's, and 4 moderated caucus speeches.

