

3rd SOCHUM

*Advanced
General
Assembly*



TOPICS: Female Rights in Afghanistan,
Addressing the Humanitarian Crisis Caused by
the Situation in Somalia

CHAIRS: Skylar Grampp, Malini Aggarwal

LAIMUN XXVIII

December 3-4

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LAIMUN XXVIII

December 3-4

Letter from the Secretaries-General

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of our entire staff, it is our pleasure to welcome you to Session XXVIII of the Los Angeles Invitational Model United Nations (LAIMUN) conference. LAIMUN XXVIII will take place on Saturday, December 3 and Sunday, December 4 of 2022 at the Mira Costa High School (MCHS) campus.

Our staff, composed of over 100 MCHS students, has been working tirelessly to make your debate experience the best it can be. You will find your dais members to be knowledgeable about the issues being debated and MUN procedure. We pride ourselves in hosting a conference that is educational and engaging, and we hope you take advantage of that as you prepare and debate.

At LAIMUN, we value thorough research and preparation. We ask that delegates write position papers following [these directions](#). The deadline to submit position papers to be considered for Committee and Research Awards is Friday, November 25 at 11:59 PM PT. The deadline to submit to be considered for Committee Awards is Thursday, December 1 at 11:59 PM PT.

We also encourage all delegates to read the [LAIMUN Rules of Procedure](#) for conference-specific information and as a reminder of points and motions that can be made during committee.

Feel free to reach out to our staff with any questions or concerns you may have. Delegates can find their chairs' contact information next to their committee profile and the Secretariat's email addresses on the staff page. Any member of the LAIMUN staff will be happy to assist you.

We look forward to seeing you in December!

Sincerely,

Allyssa Lessinger and Brady Stephens
Secretaries-General, LAIMUN XXVIII
secretarygeneral@mchsmun.org



Introduction to the USG

Hi Delegates! My name is Tucker and I'm the Under-Secretary General of General Assembly committees. This is my fourth year in the Mira Costa Model UN program and I am ecstatic to welcome you all to LAIMUN XXVIII.

I'm so excited to see various diplomatic strategies in committee regarding the pressing issues we encounter on a global scale. Our chairs will hold the delegates to high standards of research, diplomacy, speeches, and solutions.

At LAIMUN, we have a strict no pre-written resolutions policy—resolutions can only be worked on at your chair's discretion. Please verify that your work is authentic to ensure all delegates experience a fair and accurate simulation of a United Nations conference.

The Mira Costa Model UN program has provided me with incredible opportunities and lasting memories; I hope that LAIMUN XXVIII will be a memorable experience for you as well! Mira Costa MUN provides a profound opportunity for delegates to gain knowledge, confidence, speaking skills, and most importantly, a new understanding of international relations and current events. All LAIMUN XXVIII staff have worked hard to provide the best experience for everyone in attendance and we wish you the best of luck throughout your preparation!

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to GA@mchsmun.org or other members of the Secretariat. I can't wait to see you in December!

Regards,

Allyssa Lessinger and Brady Stephens
Secretaries-General

Tucker Gauss
Under-Secretary General

Introduction to the Dias

Hello Delegates! My name is Skylar Grampp and I will be one of your co-chairs for SOCHUM at LAIMUNXXVIII this year! I am excited to be working with you throughout the debate. I am currently a Senior at Mira Costa and have been in Model United Nations since I was a freshman. Last year, in LAIMUNXXVII, I chaired for the Novice 1st Disarmament and International Security.

This summer I was selected to represent the district at Boys State, one of only three at Mira Costa. There I was elected senator, competed in the legal advocacy competition, and worked on the campaign committee. I also interned at the committee of Human Rights in North Korea (HRNK) where I drafted daily press reports and created a social media campaign to broaden our audience and raise awareness for the issues we fight for.

After school I enjoy competitive swimming. I swim for Beach Cities as well as Mira Costa varsity. On the weekends you can find me surfing in the morning in El-Porto. I enjoy spending my free time at the beach with friends or family. Last June I concluded my term as commissioner on the Manhattan Beach Parks and Recreation Commission which meets monthly and oversees various Manhattan Beach parks and facilities. I hope this topic is interesting and sparks further research for you all. If you have any questions or concerns, please email us at disec.nov.laimun.xxviii@gmail.com and we'll get back to you with our best advice as soon as we can! I am ecstatic to be a part of this complex debate and am excited to hear your solutions on this interesting topic!

Best,

Skylar Grampp

Hi Delegates! My name is Malini Aggarwal and I will be your co-chair along with Skylar for 3rd SOCHUM Advanced! I am currently a junior at Costa and have been a part of the MUN program since freshman year. I have attended several local conferences over the last 3 years and attended NHSMUN last year. At LAIMUN last year I was a legal for ECOSOC novice.

Outside of MUN, I competitively swim and dance. I also love to go to the beach and hang out with my friends in my free time. At school, I am a part of the Mock Trial Club and tutor frequently. Aside from this, a fun fact about me is that I love to travel and have visited 30 countries throughout my life. One of my favorite things to do is to listen to music, I like almost all genres, so please reach out with any recommendations!

In 3rd SOCHUM, I would like to see a variety of solutions on different subtopics as we tried to choose topics that can have political, economic, and social solutions. I hope that this range will allow you to create entertaining and detailed solutions. Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions, comments, or concerns. We are so excited and are looking forward to meeting you soon!

Best regards,

Malini Aggarwal

Committee Description

The committee 3rd SOCHUM, or the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural committee, was established in 1947 and its participants encompassed the entirety of the United Nation's General Assembly. The committee deals with issues falling under any or multiple of those three categories as one of the 6 General Assembly committees. The main focus and reason for this committee is to examine and question human rights issues and has commonly debated the rights of women and how to enhance their place in society, the rights of children, and the treatment of refugees. In summary, 3rd SOCHUM focuses broadly on the welfare and protection of violated groups in order to alleviate the frequency of human rights breaches on an international scale¹.

One of the main and most important aspects of the SOCHUM committee is that not only does the committee debate upon social and humanitarian issues, but they also directly address and adapt to human rights questions that work in conjunction with the United Nations Human Rights Council, or the UNHRC. In working alongside the Human Rights Council, SOCHUM has notably pursued social development issues amongst the international community in order to provide sustainable humanitarian support where it is needed.

It is important to note that SOCHUM resolutions are not binding, legally enforced, therefore having no concrete power to force change on countries. Changes often come as a result of SOCHUM resolutions either suggesting countries to change, or helping mount international pressure on countries that refuse to respect the policies debated on and agreed upon by the

¹ <https://www.odu.edu/al/centers/modelun/conference/committees/third-sochum>

United Nations. Even still, what is passed is not law, so compromises should be made for countries to be willing to adopt any passed resolutions.

Topic A: Female Rights in Afghanistan

I. Background

Afghanistan has been in constant turmoil for the last 20 years with several domestic and international wars. This continuous chaos has led to unequal treatment of women, especially with terrorist groups gaining power. The Taliban is the most well known terrorist group in Afghanistan, and they are a Pashtun, Islamic fundamentalist group² that seized power in 2021.

The Taliban have rapidly escalated the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan due to their beliefs and principles regarding women's rights. They have banned women from education that is secondary or higher, and have emphasized that they should learn more about religion instead of history. Additionally, they dictate what women are allowed to wear, what jobs they can have, and what cell phones they can have³. This level of oppression has caused rising anger around the world. Moreover, women's rights in Afghanistan were protected by the Women's Affairs Ministry and the police force, but the Taliban overthrew and dismantled both of these organizations to ensure that they had absolute power. This has resulted in women that are not healthcare workers or teachers to be forced out of jobs. This has not only caused financial troubles for families, but also has reinforced patriarchal gender roles.

In addition, women are constantly being abused with a lack of law enforcement to protect them. Women are discouraged from speaking up about any injustices they have experienced

² "What Is the Taliban?" *Council on Foreign Relations*, Council on Foreign Relations, www.cfr.org/background/taliban-afghanistan.

³ "What Is the Taliban?" *Council on Foreign Relations*, Council on Foreign Relations, www.cfr.org/background/taliban-afghanistan.

because they risk reprisals such as losing their children and their relationships with their loved ones.⁴ This also contributes to the stigmatization of female independence and advocacy, meaning that the small percentage of women that do speak out are seen as weak and dishonorable. Police often refuse to arrest a suspect because they realize that the men will lose their honor and reputation. This is also because of the high level of corruption in Afghanistan whereby husbands can bribe government officials to keep their names clear. Women and girls who report these crimes are also subject to invasive, discredited examinations that are often used as evidence in court to reverse the roles and punish them with long prison sentences. This has caused an immense amount of injustice to female victims of domestic violence, which has run rampant in Afghanistan.

Furthermore, the social injustice against women has also been impacted by the government in Afghanistan, not just the Taliban. The president, Ashraf Ghani, established the High Council for National Reconciliation which monitors and advises him. There are 46 appointed members, and only 9 are women⁵, limiting the number of advocates fighting for women's rights. Most of the members are power brokers and former warlords who actively seek to restrict women's rights. The lack of women's representation in government offices has led to an increased marginalization of women. This is a result of needing civilians that attended high levels of schooling to work in politics. However, women have been banned from going to school, making it difficult for them to be qualified enough to work in the government. The female

⁴ "Afghanistan: Justice System Failing Women." *Human Rights Watch*, 16 Aug. 2021, www.hrw.org/news/2021/08/05/afghanistan-justice-system-failing-women.

⁵ Allen, John R., and Vanda Felbab-Brown. "The Fate of Women's Rights in Afghanistan." *Brookings*, Brookings, 4 Mar. 2021, www.brookings.edu/essay/the-fate-of-womens-rights-in-afghanistan/.

literacy rate in Afghanistan is just over 53%, which is very low compared to the 82.7% global rate for women. Additionally, the women that have gained powerful positions are usually not representations of the whole population of Afghanistan. The women that live in rural areas with less education tend to place a larger emphasis on overall peace even if that means that they lose some rights.

The constant war in Afghanistan has caused an immense toll on the rural population that is trying to survive and provide food for their families. As the economy starts to decline, living conditions do too. In order to save money and have more cost efficient products, women's wages in Afghanistan have been reduced to 16% less than that of men⁶, and that was before the Taliban took over. This has made the lives of women and families with single mothers even more difficult. Some women are the sole providers for their households, and when they are not given equal pay for the same work as men, they cannot feed their children.

In 1964, the Afghani Constitution allowed for gender equality, especially regarding domestic violence. 80% of women in Afghanistan experience domestic violence.⁷ This can be a result of forced marriages. According to the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, between 60 and 80% of all marriages in Afghanistan are forced and approximately 57% of girls are married before age 16⁸. Families are given dowries and money if they sell their

⁶ Foundation, Thomson Reuters. "Afghanistan's Gender Gap by Numbers." *News.trust.org*, news.trust.org/item/20210816183731-9ircb/.

⁷ Allen, John R., and Vanda Felbab-Brown. "The Fate of Women's Rights in Afghanistan." *Brookings*, Brookings, 4 Mar. 2021, www.brookings.edu/essay/the-fate-of-womens-rights-in-afghanistan/.

⁸ "Global Database on Violence against Women." *Forced and Early Marriages Estimates by the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission*, evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/asia/afghanistan/2007/forced-and-early-marriages-estimates-by-the-afghanistan-independent-human-rights-commission.

female children off into marriage at young ages. In Afghanistan, many people have resorted to this simply because they were desperate for money. When women are not educated in Afghanistan, the traditional belief is that they should bear children and marry young. This is exactly what is happening, and with the COVID-19 pandemic this issue became larger than ever.

The global pandemic plunged the world into an economic disaster. Families began to lose the businesses that made up their entire livelihoods. Without this, the desperation for food and money became so great that the amount of forced marriage increased. In a forced marriage, the dynamic is far different than that of a traditional marriage. The men are usually much older than the girls and abuse their power. This marriage dynamic also prevents women from going to school because they have to take care of a household and their husband instead of getting an education. Additionally, COVID-19 has caused more domestic abuse as people are angry about the condition of the world. Some of this anger has been taken out on young wives, and with the Taliban in control, they have no protection.

Overall, the condition of women in Afghanistan has been worsening in the last few months with the Taliban taking control. This topic is incredibly important because it shows how quickly all the gender progress made in the last 20 years can simply disappear. Many countries have made efforts to help women's rights domestically, but to interfere with a terrorist group is an even more difficult task. Over 665,000 women in Afghanistan have fled, in hopes for more rights due to excessive abuse and gender based violence.

II. UN Involvement

The United Nations has taken serious action to resolve the crisis in Afghanistan, however, it has not been the most successful. The UN Security Council established resolution 2210 in 2015 which reinforced and promoted gender equity socially, in Afghan society.⁹ Gender equality did not stretch to economic and political facets with this resolution. In 2002, the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) aimed to support free and fair elections after Resolution 1401. However, since then, the Taliban has taken over and enforced their own laws, reversing any previous progress made.

The UN has also taken extensive action to create peace in Afghanistan, which in turn, would improve the living conditions for women. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) implemented the Resolute Support Mission (RSM) in 2015 to help Afghanistan fight against terrorist organizations like the Taliban. In 2021, NATO withdrew their troops, leading to the RSM being terminated. Currently, no countries have troops and support placed in Afghanistan, but there are many Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) that are working on humanitarian aspects of the war, such as protecting women from violence.

Some examples of significant NGOs include the World Food Program, the Red Cross, and the Afghan Women's Educational Center (AWEC). The World Food Program fights hunger around the world, feeding over 138 million people a year in 80 countries, one of which is Afghanistan. The Red Cross works in the humanitarian aspect of Afghanistan with health care and relief for female refugees and victims of domestic violence¹⁰. The Afghan Women's Educational Center

⁹ "Reports on Women's Rights." *UNAMA*, 24 Mar. 2021, unama.unmissions.org/women-s-rights-reports#:~:text=UNAMA's work on women, peace,public life and Afghan society.

¹⁰"Afghanistan." *International Committee of the Red Cross*, 31 Mar. 2022, www.icrc.org/en/where-we-work/asia-pacific/afghanistan.

works to empower women and improves gender equality. They also founded community centers in rural areas—where the women lack significant educational resources—to promote awareness on women’s injustices and health.

Organizations such as UNICEF have been working to raise awareness on many women’s rights issues, such as early forced marriages. They have created a cash assistance program where they aim to assist the most vulnerable families in Afghanistan. This program was able to assist over 100,000 families in Afghanistan as well as 300,000 children for malnutrition. In addition, they work with religious leaders to abolish the “Nikah” marriage contract for young women. The UN Women organization also reports on and raises awareness for what is going on in Afghanistan. They signed a letter of intent, strengthening their partnership to protect female rights in Afghanistan, which included giving governments the ability to use their power for good. The Executive Director of UN Women, Pramila Patten, has recognized that the Taliban has reinforced patriarchal gender roles and restricted the rights of women. She has worked with the UNHCR to hold the Taliban accountable for failing to respect and protect women.

Although the UN and other organizations have been working to protect women’s rights in Afghanistan, they have focused more on forming plans and less on the implementation of them. Most of their efforts have been appreciated by Afghan women; however, they have been unsuccessful in recent years. The Taliban’s growing power has made it even more difficult for the UN to achieve societal progress.

III. Topics to Consider

A. The Impacts of COVID-19

The global COVID-19 pandemic has worsened the rights of women in Afghanistan.

Women that were abused before the pandemic were able to seek healthcare and refuge in small clinics made by organizations like the Red Cross. With the spread of COVID, these organizations had to retreat due to large outbreaks of disease. Then, when women were abused and needed medical assistance, they were not able to find safety. This led to them going to local law enforcement like the police for help. However, the police force in Afghanistan is an incredibly corrupt organization that tends to believe whichever person gives them more money. Women are rarely believed, and when the economic crisis from COVID hit, they were forced out of jobs. This led to female dependency on their husbands for money, making it even more difficult for them to leave these dangerous situations.

B. Prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation

Afghanistan practices female genital mutilation, which involves the removal and injury of female organs for cultural and non-medical reasons. This is extremely harmful to women as it can cause fatal complications during childbirth as well as higher risks for newborn deaths¹¹. This procedure is typically carried out between birth and age 15. It is an utter violation of female rights; however, 200 million women today have undergone the process of FGM. One reason that FGM occurs is because men in traditional families are more likely to marry women that have undergone FGM. This is incredibly important for the family of the woman because their daughter can be worth more money if she is put under this procedure. This incentive along with support from various religious leaders is the reason that FGM is still in existence today. It is very painful

¹¹“Female Genital Mutilation.” *World Health Organization*, World Health Organization, www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/female-genital-mutilation

for the women that have to endure this, and since it is illegal in many countries, it is done in an unsafe and unprofessional way. This causes infection that has led to the death of even more women.

C. Education of Women in Afghanistan

Women's rights are not protected in Afghanistan due to the control of the Taliban. However, there is also less protest and fighting for rights in Afghanistan because the female advocates are being suppressed. The Taliban has banned girls from being educated, making them depend on objective press that is provided from the government and information from their husbands. The men in Afghanistan also have a major pushback against improving rights for women because it would result in a decline in social status. The education of women in Afghanistan was legal until recently when the Taliban took power. The Taliban prohibited female education because they are aware that the more educated they are, the more able they will be to fight for equality. With more education, women will become more aware of different tools to exercise in order to reject the traditional Taliban values. Conditions will never change if the women do not receive education and voices soon. Luckily, there are many activists, such as Malala Yousafzai, who have spent their lives fighting for female education. She experienced the Taliban taking away her education and she is working to make sure no other girls have to feel this way.

IV. Case Study: Freedom of Press

Recently, women have been banned from appearing on television in Afghanistan. Female journalists under the control of the Taliban have been forced into a society based on extreme

Sharia law. Women, even those that do not follow the Islamic religion, are prohibited from appearing on televisions or in images without some form of headscarf or hijab. This has caused outrage due to a religion and its customs being forced onto people.

Along with this, the Taliban has taken over all press, television, and social media networks in Afghanistan. The simple freedoms coming from the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights have all been obliterated in Afghanistan. For instance, foreign and non-Afghan films have been banned because the Taliban feels that it promotes foreign cultural values, which is a threat to their power.¹² A journalist organization, Hujjatullah Mujaddedi, reported that broadcasting agencies are being shut down and restricted because they cannot report on issues that the Taliban does not agree with. For instance, 40% of media outlets in Afghanistan have closed in the past 5 months with an estimated 6,400¹³ journalists losing their jobs. However, the Taliban has stated that their restrictions are temporary to ensure women have “safe” workplaces. This difference in beliefs between the Taliban and Afghan women has created a dangerous and restricting environment.

Freedom in terms of press and religion is an incredibly important right that the Taliban has taken away from the citizens of Afghanistan, especially for women. Female journalists have been threatened to the point that many have fled. One who is currently still remaining in

¹²“Afghanistan: Taliban Unveil New Rules Banning Women in TV Dramas.” *BBC News*, BBC, 21 Nov. 2021, www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-59368488.

¹³ (www.dw.com), Deutsche Welle. “Afghanistan: How Press Freedom Has Crumbled since the Taliban Takeover: DW: 07.01.2022.” *DW.COM*, [www.dw.com/en/afghanistan-how-press-freedom-has-crumbled-since-the-taliban-takeover/a-60358683#:~:text=According to a report published,are now out of work](http://www.dw.com/en/afghanistan-how-press-freedom-has-crumbled-since-the-taliban-takeover/a-60358683#:~:text=According%20to%20a%20report%20published,are%20now%20out%20of%20work).

Afghanistan is Meena Habib¹⁴. She has been a reporter for 8 years and focuses on issues regarding women's rights to raise awareness and support. She was beaten for writing an article on a women's protest that occurred in Afghanistan, demonstrating the lack of press freedom in the country. All of the progress concerning women's rights has been destroyed in the last few months since the Taliban has taken power. The Taliban has reinforced antiquated, stereotypical gender roles, making women feel inferior to men. This has led to large groups of women fleeing the country, seeking refuge in nations without Sharia law.

Moreover, women lack freedom of press in countries all over the world, especially in Afghanistan. One group working to combat this is the Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press (WIFP) works to connect women with the public without censorship laws. In Afghanistan, almost all female journalists have been forced to stop working because the Taliban shut down most of the privately-owned media companies. In 2020, over 1,700 women were working for the media¹⁵ in Afghanistan, but now, only 39 remain¹⁶. This small amount all work from home because they have been banned from work and education, essentially stripping them of all freedoms to even leave their homes. When women do leave their homes, they are required to cover their entire bodies except their eyes. This covering is traditionally called a burqa, and the Taliban requires every woman, even those that are not Muslim, to wear this.

¹⁴ (www.dw.com), Deutsche Welle. "Afghanistan: How Press Freedom Has Crumbled since the Taliban Takeover: DW: 07.01.2022." *DW.COM*, www.dw.com/en/afghanistan-how-press-freedom-has-crumbled-since-the-taliban-takeover/a-60358683#:~:text=According to a report published, are now out of work.

¹⁵"Fewer than 100 of Kabul's 700 Women Journalists Still Working." *RSF*, rsf.org/en/fewer-100-kabuls-700-women-journalists-still-working.

¹⁶ Kumar, Ruchi. "I Will Resist': Afghan Female Journalists Defy Taliban Pressure." *Media News | Al Jazeera*, Al Jazeera, 25 May 2022, www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/5/24/afghan-female-journalists-defiant-as-taliban-restrictions-grow.

The Taliban has taken advantage of the religion of Islam by becoming fundamentalists and extremists with all of their views. They have forced all of their religious views on Afghanistan in hopes that they become the only religion. This strong religious intolerance has also led to violence against non Muslim women. These women have been violently captured and tortured by the Taliban until they convert to Islam. For instance, the family of Kuldeep Singh, who have not disclosed their names to the public for safety reasons, was forced to flee Afghanistan. They sought refuge at a Sikh place of worship until, eventually, their lives were in too much danger.

V. Guiding Questions

1. How can the Taliban's power be restricted in Afghanistan? Consider the political as well as cultural influence.
2. What programs and policies do your country have to protect women's rights?
3. How can you economically compensate for women who were forced out of their jobs?
4. How has foreign intervention benefitted or worsened the treatment of women in Afghanistan?
5. How can your country assist Afghan citizens in gaining more freedom of speech and press without being censored and punished by the Taliban?
6. How can your country abolish procedures such as female genital mutilation?

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Topic B: Crisis Caused by the Situation in Somalia

I. Background

Somalia has been in continuous civil war for over thirty years. Power has shifted from dictator to terrorist group to insurgents over and over again. The country still remains in a tense power struggle with nearly the entire country living in complete anarchy. International action has yet to be proven effective despite aggressive measures. The African Union remains to hold a military presence in the area but Al-Shabaab has yet to be conquered.¹⁷ The result of this constant conflict is millions displaced, an unstable living environment, and the complete decimation of fundamental infrastructure affecting food, water, education, transportation, and more. There is also a large issue of clan warfare in the country which further divides the area and only leads to violence and destruction. The situation in Somalia has gotten so bad there has been a return of sea pirates. These pirates pose a threat not just to Somalia but the international community as they have frequently disrupted international trade.

The main area of conflict in the region is the ongoing civil war with a death toll of almost 2 million.¹⁸ The dispute stems all the way back to the end of the Second World War. After the Allies defeated the Axis Powers they sought to reward their African partners. New borders were established in the Horn of Africa, favoring allies such as Ethiopia. This meant a significant portion of Somali land was ceded to Ethiopia. Italian Somaliland and British Somaliland were

¹⁷ “Africa | Somali 'Jihad' on Foreign Troops.” *BBC News*, BBC, 25 Mar. 2005, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/4382311.stm>.

¹⁸ “Crisis in Somalia: Aid Workers Hampered as Needs Rise.” *International Rescue Committee (IRC)*, 4 Jan. 2022, <https://www.rescue.org/article/crisis-somalia-aid-workers-hampered-needs-rise#:~:text=Hunger%20remains%20a%20top%20concern,the%20end%20of%20the%20year>.

conjoined to create a new independent Somali Republic (French Somaliland later became Djibouti). These artificial barriers did not take into account the ethnic makeup or clan-controlled territories, excluding many Somalis from Somalia. In the capital city of Mogadishu, politicians in the newly created government intended to reclaim land lost in the new arbitrary redrawn country borders and create “Greater Somalia.” Violent skirmishes broke out between Somalia and Ethiopia and gave way to a new war theater during the Cold War.

As a result of Somalia’s devastating loss in the skirmish over the Ogaden Plateau, a military coup was launched against the president. Instability arose when in 1969 President Abdirashid Shermarke¹⁹ was assassinated by his own bodyguards and Major General Mohamed Siad Barre seized power. This coup completely revolutionized the power dynamic and the way the country was run. Barre nullified the constitution and disbanded parliament, ending democracy in the country and establishing a dictatorship with the goal of Islamic social reform as well as economic reform. He aimed to establish a communist system in Somalia; some of his large-scale economic reforms include cooperative farms and factories as well as public social programs. The revolution received attention from other communist countries at the time such as the Soviet Union and Egypt. These countries extended financial and military aid both to support a communist country and to combat Ethiopia. Ethiopia was a United States ally, and the Soviet Union supporting a neighboring and rival country was seen as an offensive measure. Egypt’s aid came out of an ambition to destabilize Ethiopia to gain access to its vast resources such as access

¹⁹ Chothia, Farouk. “Could Somali Famine Deal a Fatal Blow to Al-Shabab?” *BBC News*, BBC, 9 Aug. 2011, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14373264>.

to the Nile River. This rapid rise of tensions is what set Somalia up to be as war-ridden as it is today.

Tensions peaked in 1974²⁰ when Ethiopia faced a major drought and an Ethiopian Coup overthrew the government. Barre took advantage of the situation and armed Somali separatists in Ethiopia to try and achieve Greater Ethiopia. Barre then launched a full military operation, as at the time Somalia had the largest and most powerful military in the region. 90% of Ogaden²¹ was captured and Greater Somalia was almost a reality. Factionized Ethiopia finally agreed on a leader who negotiated with the Soviets and furthered their Marxist intentions. The Soviets then redirected aid to Ethiopia. The United States reacted to this redirection and did the inverse by sending Ethiopian aid to Somalia. United States-backed Somalia (which had received aid estimated at \$100 million²²) proved unable to defeat the Soviet-backed Ethiopia (which had accepted aid estimated at \$7 billion) and was pummeled back to their borders with a third of their army dead.

This military campaign is the start of the humanitarian crisis in the country. The Ogaden War is responsible for the collapse of Somalia's economy and the start of their still ongoing refugee crisis. The drought had spread to Somalia and the country now faced famine, which again is still an ongoing issue for the country. Anti-Barre sentiment exploded across the country.

²⁰ Harper, Mary. "Somalia Conflict: Al-Shabab 'Collects More Revenue than Government'." *BBC News*, BBC, 26 Oct. 2020, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-54690561>.

²¹ *Somalia: UN Envoy Says Inauguration of New Parliament ... - AllAfrica.com*. <https://allafrica.com/stories/201208220474.html>.

²² Jama, A. "The 4.5 Formula." *Medium*, Medium, 7 Mar. 2018, <https://ajamarabi.medium.com/the-4-5-formula-6f0820646cc5>.

Barre reacted by tightening his totalitarian grip over the country to protect himself from the fate of his predecessor.

Clan power reemerged and started to gain popularity in their local regions. These clans started to vie for power and wanted to overthrow Barre. Barre responded with military action against rising clans. In Barre's campaign against rebellious clans, he would massacre cities indiscriminately. This only emboldened more clans to take up arms against him until 1991²³ when Barre fled the capital and left his country in crisis.

Clans and warlords fought to fill the power vacuum as the rest of the country still struggled with famine, displacement, and economic ruin. All public institutions including the national army and police force collapsed. Without a formal government, anarchy ensued as the country fell into total war. Practically everyone who had the means to leave the country did. Educated and skilled workers disappeared in Somalia, adding to the 30,000 asylum seekers²⁴ in neighboring countries. This left the country without human capital or any necessary resources to rebuild the country or any governing institution. The power vacuum invited radical Jihadists to join in on the fight for power with rival clans and warlords. With no government, many international criminals and terrorists found refuge in Somalia.

Hope finally started to develop in 2012 with much international intervention and attempts to recreate a government. A provisional constitution was created in August of 2012. A parliament was re-established and voted on a new president: Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, a

²³ *Somalia: UN Envoy Says Inauguration of New Parliament ... - AllAfrica.com.*
<https://allafrica.com/stories/201208220474.html>.

²⁴ "UNSDG | UN in Action - Somalia." *United Nations*, United Nations,
<https://unsdg.un.org/un-in-action/somalia#:~:text=The%20UN%20has%20been%20engaged,conflict%20on%20the%20Somali%20people>.

moderate. Despite the creation of a government, there was still no centralized control over Somalia. Most of the country continued to languish in complete anarchy with a weak government unable to exercise control. Corruption in the new government ran rampant, and remains an ongoing problem. Mohamud has faced backlash both internationally and domestically about the extension of his term and the canceling of elections, although he faults terrorists and insurgence for the cancelation and claims there could not be a safe and secure election with these groups still at large. Outrage in parliament grew as Mohamud continued to ignore the new constitution and delivered dictatorial decrees without parliamentary approval. This culminated in a failed impeachment attempt in 2015. Later, in 2017, the country had a successful and peaceful transfer of power following the election that replaced Hassan Sheikh Mohamud with Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed. The election, though progressive, was nowhere near perfect. It is estimated over \$20 million²⁵ was spent on bribes, voters were intimidated, and corruption was rampant. On May 15, 2022, a new election was held and the presidency was handed back to Hassan Sheikh Mohamud from Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed.

The country has made much progress but only the first steps have been completed to allow for recovery. A national, stable, democratic government is fundamental to starting any humanitarian efforts. Now that a government is in place it is vital to start acting on the issues of the economy, infrastructure, drought, famine, displacement, and battling remaining insurgents and terrorist organizations.

²⁵ “Who Are Somalia's Al-Shabab?” *BBC News*, BBC, 22 Dec. 2017, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-15336689>.

II. United Nations Involvement

The United Nations (UN) has been heavily involved in Somalia since the 1960s. The UN has been continually battling poverty and food insecurity in the area as well as supporting the development and execution of peace and security operations for the country. In January of 2014, the UN officially became an interim national government for Somalia. Every responsibility of a national government was relegated to a UN organization such as the UN Country Team or the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM). The Somalian government is slowly being rebuilt with the help of the UN but a stable democracy has yet to be established due to the constant wars and droughts, threatening stability.

Far more action is required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals set by the UN. The UN plans to attain these goals by following the UN Strategic Framework's blueprint for Somalia. The UN has also drafted the Somalia National Development Plan (NDP8)²⁶ to promote development in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals for Somalia. Some of the most urgent goals include ending hunger and poverty.

The Federal Government's endorsement of the National Roadmap on Inclusive Politics assisted in Somalia's peacebuilding and state-building agenda. The Federal Government and the Federal Member States laid forth a vision for security in Somalia in the Transition Plan adopted in March 2018, which aimed to unify national and international efforts to assume responsibility for security. The UN encouraged entities at various levels of government to become better organized, structured, and more delivery oriented in order to improve state bureaucracies'

²⁶ "World Report 2021: Rights Trends in Somalia." *Human Rights Watch*, 13 Jan. 2021, <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/country-chapters/somalia>.

capacities to operate as effective and efficient government institutions. The UN also sponsored the creation of a government-led Recovery and Resilience Framework (RRF) to guarantee that resources are utilized to meet immediate humanitarian needs while development-oriented measures pursue longer-term solutions. Strengthening health governance and health system readiness and response to epidemics, noncommunicable diseases, malnutrition, and maternity and child health, as well as capacity building, were all supported by the UN. With the advancement of the healthcare industry, the UN aided in the establishment of policies and mechanisms to address sector-wide inequities in education while also contributing to the building of high-quality, safe learning environments for all. While providing emergency and long-term water supplies, the UN also assisted in the development of policies to enhance access to safe water supplies. Private and public Somali stakeholders received technical assistance to create a climate conducive to expanding productive sector efforts, increasing access to sustainable energy solutions, and providing jobs and economic opportunities for everybody. Increased productivity and profitability in agriculture, livestock, and fisheries were also promoted by the UN. For example, the UN provided \$22 million to Somalia for the purpose of agriculture and aid in food production.

III. Topics to Consider

A. Al-Shabaab

Since the fall of Siad Barre's government in 1991, the civil war in Somalia has wrecked the economy, infrastructure, and public institutions, and has killed many. A changing climate has

destroyed agriculture and livestock, with 69% of the population²⁷ now living under the poverty line (which constitutes an income under \$1.90 a day). These worsening conditions provoked resentment among the Somali population for the current government and in 2004 Al-Shabaab was formed as a radical wing of what was Somalia's Union of Islamic Courts that controlled Mogadishu. They promised stability in the face of constant insecurity and starvation, but it was made clear in 2011 that they only wanted Sharia rule when they denied Western food aid. In 2006, the Somali government was in a civil war against the Islamic Courts Union which controlled most of southern Somalia. In 2011, US-backed Ethiopian forces invaded and took back Mogadishu along with 22,000 African Union troops. They removed Al-Shabaab's presence in Kismayo, a vital source of funding for Al-Shabaab as the terrorist organization would take a cut of the city's charcoal trade. Al-Shabaab continued to fight these Ethiopian forces and now controls a significant portion of land in Somalia. Most Somalis are Sufis but Al-Shabab promotes the Wahhabi version of Islam. The areas they control have strict Sharia rules, facilitating cruel punishments such as stoning women and amputating thieves' arms. Al-Shabaab has strong connections to militant groups such as Al-Qaeda and Boko-Haram, and thus the United States issued a \$6 million reward for information regarding Al-Shabaab's leader Ahmad Umar.

In 2010, Al-Shabaab bombed a Ugandan restaurant killing 74 people. In 2013, they led a shooting at a shopping mall in Nairobi—killing at least 67 shoppers. In 2014, the United States, Somalia, and African Union member states formed a joint military operation. They conducted air-strikes and boots-on-the-ground attacks to reclaim Al-Shabaab-held land. Additionally,

²⁷ Felbab-Brown, Vanda. "Developments in Somalia." *Brookings*, Brookings, 9 Mar. 2022, <https://www.brookings.edu/testimonies/developments-in-somalia/>.

Al-Shabaab massacred 148 Christian students at a Kenyan university in 2015. They also attacked a Kenyan military base in Somalia, killing 180 soldiers. In October 2017, Somalia accused Al-Shabaab of a truck bombing that killed over 500 people in Mogadishu. In 2017, U.S. President Trump authorized a plan to intensify operations against Al-Shabaab. This allowed for more than 500 American troops and 30 airstrikes in Somalia, which is more than four times the average when compared to the past seven years. Al-Shabaab remains to be active and frequently carries out deadly terrorist attacks in Somalia. Additionally, Al-Shabaab has a policy to deny operations from NGOs and humanitarian aid groups, making it incredibly difficult to aid people during this humanitarian crisis.

B. Humanitarian Crisis

Violence remains frequent among al-Shabab and authorities and worldwide forces. This conflict, paired with the effects of harsh weather, has uprooted 2.9 million Somalis from their homes, making Somalia one of the 5 worst internal displacement crises in the world. Drought situations are predicted to get worse throughout the following 12 months and the UN reports that the amount of Somalis in need has grown from 5.9 million to 7.7 million.

Parliamentary and presidential election delays resulted in armed confrontations, with 207,000 Somalis displaced in April 2021 alone. Civilians have borne the brunt of this violence as extended family militias, safety forces and Al-Shabaab have all been accused of human rights violations, according to Human Rights Watch. As Somalia's elections continue, further disputes and armed confrontations—exacerbating displacement and civilian suffering. with a purpose to cause greater violence in opposition to civilians and displacement. Additionally, while the

African Union's peacekeeping mission has performed a valuable function for 14 years, discussions regarding extending its mandate past 2021 were not on time amid reviews that the Somali authorities oppose African Union proposals to usher in greater overseas troops. This decision further contributes to the political instability in Somalia.

Moreover, a predicted 3.5 million Somalis are currently experiencing a disaster of acute food insecurity of confidence by the cease of 2021, and as a minimum, 3.4 million Somalis are projected to be tormented by drought. Somalia experienced its third consecutive below-average rainfall season in 2020, contributing to subpar crop production, worsening grazing situations for livestock, and elevating the price of staple foods. Desert locusts remain a severe threat to vegetation and pastureland and will cause meal shortages. Given those situations, meals, lack of confidence and malnutrition are probable to boom in 2022, placing the lives of tens of thousands at risk.

C. Human Rights

Living in complete anarchy for decades has done horrors for human rights in Somalia. Somalia has record rates of sexual violence, domestic violence, child abuse, and threats to freedom of speech and expression. Because the national government still fails to properly govern the entire country, it is currently impossible to capture and prosecute violators of human rights. Different acting governments in different places of the country have been unable to protect human rights in their territory. Additionally, it takes away the integrity from the government altogether, causing there to be no legal standards and no uniform enforcement policies for human rights. Clan disputes and terrorist organizations are also guilty of a multitude of war crimes and

have all gone unpunished. As of now, not even the right to life is guaranteed in the country.

Terrorist attacks are common and indiscriminate; anyone can lose their life at any minute. It is vital for a unified governmental body to have the proper power to enforce human rights across the nation.

IV. Case Study

A. The 4.5 Clan System

The 4.5 Clan System is the segregation of the Somali populace into 5 clans alongside extended family lines, wherein 4 of the 5 clans are the “essential clans” because the 5th institution consists of all different clans and peoples now no longer blanketed through the primary 4 clans. The seats in parliament are divided along these lines, the cabinet must follow this structure, and all other matters relating to the state must always have this ratio as the starting point. This coalition institution is worth 1/2 of every of the alternative 4 clans in matters regarding political representation.

The 4.5 method derives, like most current problems, from January 1991 following the ousting of the ruling dictator Mohamed Siad Barre. Resentment of the army authorities during the early 80s was widespread. The hatred entrenched itself as soon as the regime executed the usage of organized violence in opposition to clans whose contributions have been a part of the rebellious movements which included almost every clan.

When the authorities fell, the successful clans within the capital launched a revenge propaganda campaign directed at the Darod extended family of the president. This caused a Darod exodus from Mogadishu, and eventually, different clans as well. Since Mogadishu became

the capital, the seat of the presidency, and the center for all national authority, most of the bloodiest battles have occurred there. What all of those clans did not foresee is that the nation might collapse and there might be not anything left to exercise hegemony through. By the time this is completed, there will be no nation left to rule.

The four Major Clan agencies are the Darood, Dir, Hawiye, and Digil-Mirifle (also referred to as Rahanweyn). The Dir institution additionally consists of the Isaaq extended family, which is the dominant presence in Somaliland in the north. The 0.5 Clan or Others Clan includes, but isn't confined to Madhibaan, Yaxar, Tumaal, Ogeyslabe, and Yibir, and different ethnically non-Somali people, inclusive of Eeyle, Jareerweyne (Somali Bantus), Reer Xamar, Reer Baraawe, and different Banaadiri clans.

The half percentage allocation for the “minor clans” is reflective of the overall remedy meted out to contributors of those clans in all factors of life. For example, many contributors of the so-known as essential clans refuse to intermarry with the 0.5 agencies, to the extent that contributors are disowned through households in the event that they do cross ahead.

The 4.5 system, which ostensibly intended to offer stability to Somalia, has been counterproductive and unfavorable to the improvement of the country. Because political power withinside the country is split primarily based on extended family affiliation, extended family allegiance has proved more crucial than loyalty to the nation.

Somalia cannot be revived until the citizens themselves are allowed to determine how they need to be governed. The extended family consultant must permit Somalis to freely state their political beliefs instead of continually claiming to speak for them. The 4.5 system's

damaging effects on the country are comparable to India's caste system. Somalis are more loyal to their clan than the country. They do not see themselves as citizens of Somalia but as members of their clan. This means they will vote not on what's best for the country but instead, they will vote for what's best for their clan. This results in major governmental positions being given out not to the most qualified or skilled candidates but to the most senior and influential clan members. Loyalty to one's clan extends so far that it has created a polarized country in constant competition with other clans instead in cooperation for the country. For a stable democratic government to be established in Somalia, the 4.5 Clan system must be addressed.

V. Guiding Questions

1. What governmental reform is essential to political stability in Somalia?
2. What social changes are necessary and feasible to improve the condition and stability of Somalia without infringing on Somali religion?
3. How can the ongoing civil war be resolved?
4. What can be done about the terrorist organizations operating out of Somalia?
5. How can food insecurity be combatted considering the harsh and volatile weather conditions?

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