UNHRC

Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, Rising Xenophobia — and — Radicalism Globally

Dear Delegates,

It is with great excitement that we welcome you to Yeni Yol Model United Nations 2023! Our names are Rana Beril Gülcü and Yağmur Onarlı, and we are humbled by the opportunity to serve as your Secretaries-General for the 2nd Session of YYMUN.

The Secretariat team has been working diligently to ensure that all delegates will be given the opportunity to develop broader perspectives, voice their opinions on current global issues, and cooperate with others to produce effective resolutions. We expect that the topics covered in the committees will appeal to all the delegates' levels or more challenging in Intermediate and Advanced committees so that they may provide challenge, helpful guidance to your needs and assistance to improve your visions. After an eventful weekend full of diplomacy, debate, and delight, we wish you to leave our conference with the potential to become future leaders of our society.

This document will provide you with the Study Guide for your committee, which will enable you to comprehend the issue to be debated more easily. The entire Secretariat and Staff have committed countless hours to ensure that the substance and presentation of this document are of the highest quality, and that you are be supported with the most useful tools to succeed at the conference. Each Chair has worked over the past few months to provide you with the foundation necessary to continue your own exploration of the topic areas. We look forward to working with you to continue YYMUN's substantive excellence.

Apart from this document, you will also be able to access a number of additional documents that will aid in your preparations for the conference. We will provide you with the **Code of Conduct** that reviews some rules, principles and expectations, as well as our updated **Rules of Procedure**, which you can find on our website.

If you have any questions about this document, the other Guides, or your committee in general, please do not hesitate to contact us or your Under-Secretaries-General. We are truly excited to meet you all and are eager to address any concerns you may have before, during, or after the conference. I hope you enjoy reading the following Study Guide, and I cannot wait to see your solutions in YYMUN'23!

Yours in diplomacy,

Secretaries of General
Rana Beril Gülcü I Yağmur Onarlı

United Nations Human Rights Council

Agenda Item: Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, Rising Xenophobia, and Radicalism Globally

Committee Directors: Belinay Çalış, Kayra Çelikoğlu, Emre Aydoğan

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INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

General Look of the Committee

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is an intergovernmental body made up of 47 member states that are elected by the United Nations General Assembly for three-year terms. The council is tasked with promoting and protecting human rights around the world.

The UNHRC is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, and meets several times a year to address human rights violations and other issues of concern. The council has a wide-ranging mandate and is responsible for monitoring and addressing human rights violations in all parts of the world.

One of the key functions of the UNHRC is to establish commissions of inquiry to investigate specific human rights abuses. These commissions are made up of independent experts who are tasked with investigating and reporting on human rights violations and making recommendations for action.

The UNHRC also has the power to establish special rapporteurs to monitor and report on specific human rights issues. These rapporteurs are independent experts who are appointed by the council to investigate and report on specific human rights issues, such as the rights of women and children, the rights of minorities, and the rights of refugees and migrants.

In addition to its investigative and monitoring functions, the UNHRC also has the power to make recommendations to member states on addressing human rights violations. These recommendations can take the form of resolutions or decisions, which are adopted by the council and transmitted to member states for action.

The UNHRC is often criticized for its perceived bias against certain countries or regions and for its inability to address human rights violations in some member states. However, the council is also widely recognized for its important role in promoting and protecting human rights around the world, and for its efforts to address a wide range of human rights issues.

What has UNHRC Done

UNHRC has done in relation to preventing and countering violent extremism, rising xenophobia, and radicalism globally:

1. The UNHRC has called on member states to take effective measures to prevent and counter violent extremism, while also respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms. In a 2016 resolution, the council emphasized the need for a comprehensive and multidimensional approach to preventing violent extremism, which includes addressing the root causes of extremism and promoting inclusion and social cohesion.

2. The UNHRC has condemned acts of xenophobia and racism and called on member states to take measures to prevent and combat these phenomena. In a 2019 resolution, the council expressed concern about the rise of xenophobia, racism, and intolerance around the world, and called for increased efforts to promote tolerance and respect for diversity.

3. The UNHRC has appointed special rapporteurs to monitor and report on specific issues related to violent extremism, xenophobia, and radicalism. For example, the council has a special rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, and a special rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance.

4. The UNHRC has established commissions of inquiry to investigate human rights violations related to violent extremism, xenophobia, and radicalism. For example, the council has established commissions to investigate human rights abuses in Syria, Yemen, and other conflict-affected countries.

5. The UNHRC has worked with civil society organizations and other stakeholders to promote human rights and prevent violent extremism, xenophobia, and radicalism. For example, the council has held consultations with civil society groups to gather information on human rights violations and promote dialogue and cooperation on these issues.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Violent Extremism

Violent extremism is a term used to describe the use of violence, including terrorism, to advance a particular ideological or political agenda. It involves individuals or groups who are willing to use violent means to achieve their goals, often in the context of challenging existing political or social systems.

Violent extremist groups may be motivated by a range of factors, including religious or political beliefs, economic grievances, or social inequalities. They may see violence as a means to achieve their goals, whether those goals involve overthrowing a government, establishing a new political order, or prompting a particular ideology.

One of the key characteristics of violent extremism is the use of violence against civilians or non-combatants. This can take many forms, including bombings, shootings, and other types of attacks on public spaces or infrastructure. In addition to causing harm and loss of lids, such attacks are often intended to spread fear and undermine social cohesion.

Violent extremism is a global phenomenon that affects countries and communities around the world. Governments and international organizations have developed a range of strategies to counter violent extremism, including law enforcement and military responses, community engagement and outreach programs, and efforts to address the underlying grievances and social factors that can fuel extremism.

It is important to note that while violent extremism is a serious threat, it is not representative of any particular religion, culture, or community. The vast majority of people around the world reject violence and seek to live in peace and harmony with one another.

Rising Xenophobia

Xenophobia is an irrational fear or hatred of foreigners, strangers, or people who are perceived to be different from oneself. It is a form of prejudice that can manifest in various ways, including discrimination, hostility, and violence towards individuals or groups who are perceived as "outsiders" or "foreigners."

Xenophobia can be directed toward people of different races, ethnicities, nationalities, religions, or cultures. It can arise from various factors, such as economic insecurity, political tensions, and social or cultural differences. Xenophobia often leads to negative stereotypes and assumptions about the target group and can result in discriminatory policies or actions that limit their opportunities and access to resources.

Xenophobia can have serious consequences for individuals and societies, including perpetuating inequality, fueling conflicts, and undermining social cohesion. It can also lead to hate crimes and violence towards members of targeted groups. Efforts to combat xenophobia require education, awareness-raising, and policies that promote diversity, inclusivity, and mutual respect.

It is important to recognize that xenophobia is often based on unfounded assumptions and prejudices, rather than on actual experiences or evidence. It is not representative of any particular religion, culture, or community, and it is important to reject xenophobia and embrace diversity and tolerance.

Difference between xenophobia and racism

Xenophobia and racism are related concepts, but they refer to different forms of discrimination.

Xenophobia is an irrational fear or hatred of foreigners or people who are perceived to be different from oneself. It is a form of prejudice that is directed toward people of different races, ethnicities, nationalities, religions, or cultures. Xenophobia is based on a perception of difference, rather than on biological or genetic traits.

Racism, on the other hand, is a belief in the inherent superiority of one race over another. It is a form of discrimination that is based on biological or genetic traits, such as skin color or facial features. Racism can be directed towards people of different ethnicities, nationalities, or cultures, but it is based on a belief in the superiority of one race over others.

While xenophobia and racism are distinct forms of discrimination, they often intersect and reinforce each other. Xenophobia can be a form of racism, as it is often based on negative stereotypes and assumptions about people from different racial or ethnic groups. Similarly, racism can fuel xenophobia, as it can lead to a perception of foreigners as threats to the dominant culture or society.

Both xenophobia and racism are harmful and unjust forms of discrimination, and efforts to combat them require education, awareness-raising, and policies that promote diversity, inclusivity, and mutual respect.

Radicalism

Radicalism is a political or social ideology that seeks to effect change through fundamental or extreme means, often involving a break from the established order or mainstream beliefs. Radicalism can take many forms, from peaceful protest to violent revolution, and can be motivated by a wide range of grievances, including economic inequality, social injustice, and political oppression.

At its core, radicalism is a rejection of the status quo and a belief that significant change is necessary to address systemic problems or injustices. Radicals often advocate for dramatic and transformative change that challenges established institutions and power structures, and they may use a variety of tactics to achieve their goals.
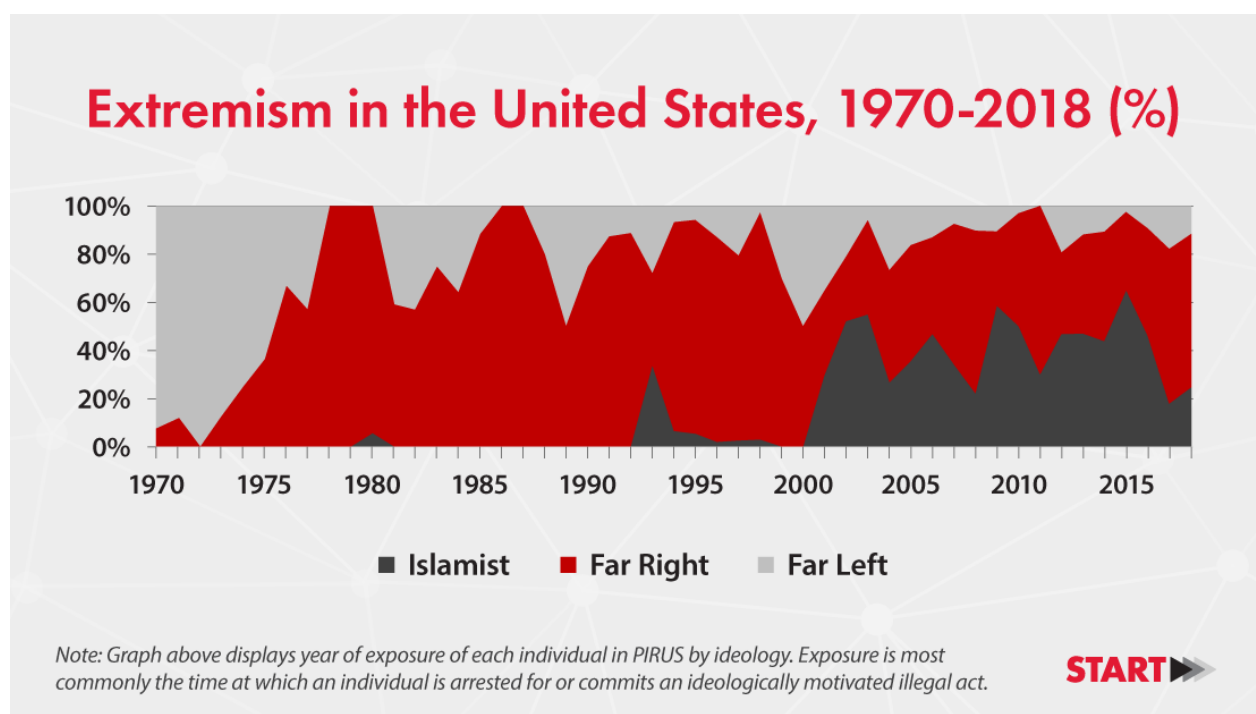
Some forms of radicalism are nonviolent and focus on advocacy, activism, and civil disobedience to bring about change. For example, civil rights activists in the United States in the 1960s employed nonviolent tactics, such as sit-ins and peaceful protests, to challenge racial segregation and discrimination. Similarly, environmental activists today often use nonviolent protests, such as tree-sitting or blockades, to call attention to issues such as climate change.

However, some forms of radicalism can be violent and seek to overthrow or replace existing institutions or governments. Radical groups such as terrorist organizations and insurgent groups may use violence to achieve their goals, often targeting civilians, government officials, or other symbols of authority.

This kind of radicalism is often associated with extremism, and it can be difficult to distinguish between radicalism and extremism in cases where the use of violence is involved.

Overall, radicalism can be a complex and multifaceted phenomenon, and it can manifest in many different ways depending on the specific issues and circumstances involved. While some forms of radicalism may be peaceful and driven by a desire for positive change, others can be destructive and harmful, and it is important to distinguish between them to understand their motivations and potential consequences.

Extremism in the United States, 1970-2018 (%)

■ Islamist   ■ Far Right   ■ Far Left

Note: Graph above displays year of exposure of each individual in PIRUS by ideology. Exposure is most commonly the time at which an individual is arrested for or commits an ideologically motivated illegal act.

START ▶▶

CASE STUDY

A-)Real-Life Violent Extremism Examples

1. 9/11 Attacks - On September 11, 2001, a group of terrorists affiliated with extremist group Al-Qaeda hijacked four planes and carried out suicide attacks against the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington D.C., killing nearly 3,000 people.

2. ISIS - The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) is an extremist group that emerged in Iraq and Syria in 2014 and has carried out numerous acts of violence, including bombings, beheadings, and executions. The group has claimed responsibility for attacks in many countries, including France, Belgium, and Turkey.

3. Christchurch Mosque Shootings - In March 2019, a white supremacist gunman attacked two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, killing 51 people and injuring many more. The gunman was motivated by a hatred of Muslims and immigrants.

4. Oklahoma City Bombing - In 1995, a domestic terrorist named Timothy McVeigh detonated a truck bomb outside a federal building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 people and injuring hundreds more. McVeigh was motivated by a hatred of the US government and perceived infringement on individual rights.

5. Boko Haram - Boko Haram is a terrorist organization based in Nigeria, which has carried out numerous attacks, including suicide bombings, kidnappings, and massacres. The group is known for its extreme violence and has killed tens of thousands of people, primarily in Nigeria but also in neighboring countries.

-Islamic State of Iraq and Syria   (ISIS), which emerged in 2014 as a militant group that sought to establish a caliphate, or Islamic state, in the Middle East. ISIS has been responsible for numerous acts of violence, including suicide bombings, beheadings, and other forms of brutality, targeting both civilians and military personnel.

ISIS has been particularly known for its use of social media and propaganda to spread its message and recruit new members, often targeting young people and those who feel marginalized or disenfranchised. The group has also targeted and persecuted religious and ethnic minorities, including Christians, Yazidis, and Shia Muslims.

While ISIS has lost significant territory and influence in recent years due to military operations and other factors, it remains a threat to global security and stability. Other examples of violent extremist groups include Al-Qaeda, Boko Haram, and white supremacist groups in the United States and Europe.

-Another real-life example of violent extremism is the 2019 Christchurch mosque shootings, which occurred in New Zealand. The perpetrator, a self-proclaimed white supremacist, opened fire on two mosques during Friday prayers, killing 51 people and injuring dozens more.

The attacker, who had published a manifesto filled with anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim rhetoric, was motivated by a desire to spread his extremist beliefs and incite violence against Muslims. The attack was widely condemned as an act of terrorism and sparked discussions around the world about the rise of far-right extremism and the need to combat hate speech and xenophobia.

The Christchurch mosque shootings are a stark reminder of the devastating consequences of violent extremism and the urgent need for governments and communities to work together to prevent such attacks and promote tolerance and respect for diversity.

6. The violation of adolescent girls' right to education in Tanzania Thousands of girls worldwide are forced to drop out of school because of pregnancy, early marriage, domestic labor and gender discriminatory practices.

In countries like Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda, and Zambia, pregnant girls are reportedly expelled from school on the grounds of premarital sexual relations. Their expulsion from school, on supposedly moral grounds, is a violation of their right to an education that grossly discriminates and stigmatizes and condemns them to a cycle of poverty. Forcing pregnant girls out of school furthermore violates the principle of "the best interest of the child" as stipulated by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989).

Tanzania has made progress towards achieving gender parity in primary education but the law and practice still discriminate against girls. The Tanzanian Law of Marriage Act [1971] allows a girl as young as 14 to be married, thereby causing marriages to be one of the main reasons for female drop-out and exclusion from education. Furthermore, a 2002 regulation from the Tanzanian government (GN295 of 2002 Cap. 66.) demonstrates the implicit acceptance by authorities of the expulsion of pregnant girls.

Although there have been attempts to revise the law, the practice is still widespread and numbers speak for themselves: "According to the Ministry of Education and Culture statistics, 2,227 girls were forced out of school due to pregnancies in 2003". The UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) has clearly expressed its concern over the matter and has recommended strengthening the implementation of re-entry policies after childbirth in Tanzania.

Furthermore, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child explicitly recognizes the right of pregnant girls to an education. In response to such very clear normative legal standards, countries such as Kenya, Zambia, Botswana, Guinea, and Malawi now permit the re-entry of girls into formal education after childbirth.

B-)Real-Life Xenophobia Examples

1. The Rohingya Crisis - The Rohingya people, a Muslim minority in Myanmar, have faced persecution and violence from the Buddhist-majority government and military. The government has stripped them of citizenship, limited their access to education and healthcare, and forced them to flee their homes.

The situation has been characterized as an example of ethnic cleansing and genocide.

2. Brexit - The Brexit referendum in the UK, which resulted in the UK's decision to leave the European Union, was marked by anti-immigrant rhetoric and xenophobic sentiment. Some supporters of Brexit saw the EU and immigrants as threats to British sovereignty and culture, leading to a rise in hate crimes against immigrants and people of color.

3. Anti-Asian Hate - The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a rise in anti-Asian hate crimes and discrimination around the world. Some people have blamed Asian

communities for the spread of the virus, leading to incidents of verbal and physical attacks against individuals of Asian descent.

4. Anti-Immigrant Policies - In many countries, including the US and some European countries, there has been a rise in anti-immigrant policies, including stricter border controls and deportations. These policies have been criticized for targeting vulnerable populations and perpetuating xenophobia.

5. Islamophobia - Muslims around the world have faced discrimination and prejudice in the wake of terrorist attacks carried out by extremist groups claiming to act in the name of Islam. Islamophobia has led to incidents of hate crimes, discriminatory policies, and negative stereotypes about Muslims and their culture.

6. Education in Durban- The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by consensus at the 2001 World Conference against Racism in Durban, South Africa, made key recommendations in the sphere of education:

the need to guarantee access and inclusion of all children and adults to quality education, eliminating intra-school and outside-school factors that hinder access, attendance and success in learning experiences;

 full, precise and objective teaching and communication of the history, culture, and contributions of all the different populations; the guarantee of opportunities for indigenous populations to learn in their mother tongue and Human Rights education.

Seven years later, these recommendations remain largely unattended. Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance are still endemic to the education system in many contexts, leading to severe inequalities in access and retention of schooling, and to the perseverance of intra-school processes that directly violate the principles of human rights and dignity

C-)Real-Life Radicalism Examples

1. The French Revolution - The French Revolution of 1789 was a radical movement that overthrew the monarchy and established a new government based on the principles of liberty, equality, and fraternity.

The revolution was marked by violence, including the Reign of Terror, which saw thousands of people executed for their perceived opposition to the revolution.

2. The Russian Revolution - The Russian Revolution of 1917 was another radical movement that overthrew the Tsarist government and established a socialist state. The revolution was led by the Bolsheviks, a radical political party led by Vladimir Lenin, and resulted in a civil war that lasted several years.

3. The Black Panthers - The Black Panther Party was a radical political organization in the United States in the 1960s and 1970s that advocated for the rights of African Americans.
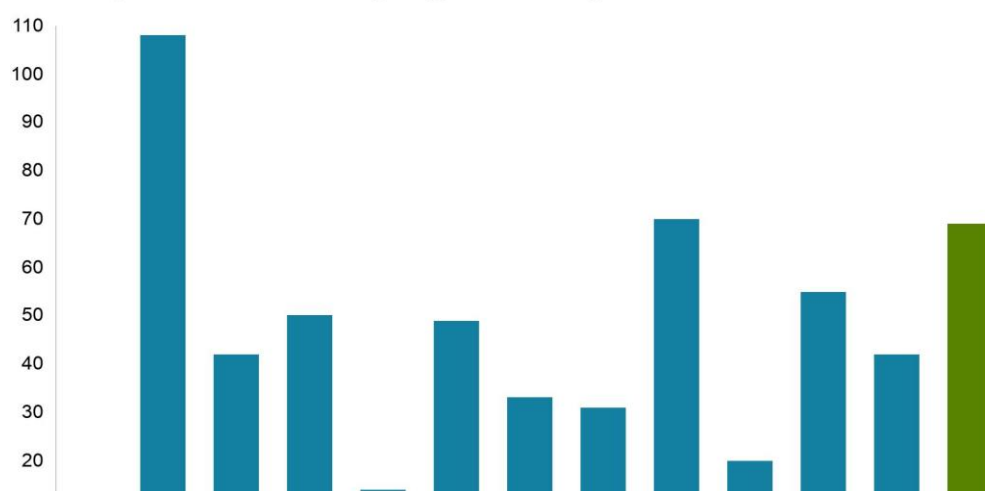The Panthers were known for their militant stance and their use of violence and intimidation, including armed patrols of black neighborhoods and clashes with police.

4. Al-Qaeda - Al-Qaeda is a radical Islamic terrorist organization that was responsible for the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. The group has also been linked to numerous other attacks and acts of violence around the world.

5. ISIS - The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) is another radical Islamic extremist group that has carried out numerous acts of violence and terrorism in recent years. The group has been responsible for bombings, beheadings, and other atrocities, and has claimed responsibility for attacks in many countries around the world.

6. Antifa - Antifa is a loosely organized group of left-wing activists who are known for their militant tactics and their opposition to fascism and white supremacy. The group has been involved in protests and clashes with far-right groups in the United States and Europe and has been accused of using violence to achieve its goals.

Threats, attacks and killings against foreigners in South Africa

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

1. Promote social cohesion and inclusion: This involves creating an environment where all individuals and groups are respected and feel a sense of belonging. Examples include investing in education, promoting interfaith and intercultural dialogue, and encouraging community-led initiatives.

2. Address grievances and inequalities: Many extremist groups and individuals use grievances and perceived injustices to recruit followers. Addressing these grievances and inequalities can help prevent individuals from being drawn into extremist ideologies. Examples include promoting good governance, addressing economic disparities, and providing access to justice.

3. Engage with civil society and religious leaders: Civil society and religious leaders can play a critical role in preventing and countering violent extremism. Examples include providing support to at-risk individuals, promoting interfaith dialogue, and advocating for tolerance and inclusion.

4. Promote youth empowerment and education: Youth are often targeted by extremist groups and can be vulnerable to radicalization. Empowering youth through education, skills training, and employment opportunities can help prevent them from being drawn into extremist ideologies.

5. Support victims and survivors of extremism: Providing support to victims and survivors of extremist violence is critical for preventing future radicalization. This can involve providing medical and psychological support, addressing the needs of displaced persons, and promoting reconciliation and social healing.

Overall, preventing and countering violent extremism, rising xenophobia, and radicalism requires a comprehensive approach that involves a range of stakeholders and strategies. By working together, we can build more resilient and inclusive societies that are less susceptible to extremist ideologies.

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