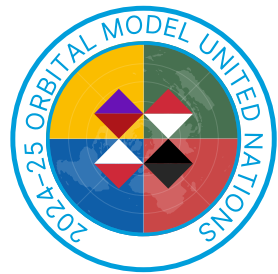


ORBITAL MUN CONFERENCE
Hosted by British International School of Ljubljana
BLLED 2025

BACKGROUND GUIDE
IMMIGRATION

Issue: Do countries have the right to deport refugees?

Prepared by: Moises Camarero Trujillo



Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the second Orbital Model United Nations! We are excited to host our partner schools in Bled, Slovenia from 2–5 February 2025.

The organising committee has worked hard over the past few months to create topics and background guides which represent some of the pressing issues the world faces as we move further into this century. These topics are nuclear energy, AI in warfare, animal cruelty, and immigration.

As the world experiences more effects of climate change, many see nuclear energy as a promising alternative to fossil fuels. Recently, we have seen various new wars spark across the world, with AI being introduced in several. Animal testing has long been a question of whether the ends justify the means, something particularly relevant after the COVID-19 pandemic. Migration is often the product of many factors, some of these being the aforementioned climate change and war. Mass migration has monumental consequences for both the country of departure and the country of destination. The worldwide political landscape seems more and more fraught with danger, and so the need for international cooperation and pragmatism is heightened.

My name is Naomi Goddard, and I am honoured to be Secretary General for this Orbital MUN. I am from London but study at the British International School of Ljubljana and am thrilled that we are the host country this year. For Year 12, my subjects are English Literature, History, French, Spanish, and Psychology.

These background guides have been prepared by the chairs of each committee in order to provide a foundation of information on each topic and to facilitate individual research. They are in no way exhaustive, with the ideas provided serving simply as examples for potential discussion.

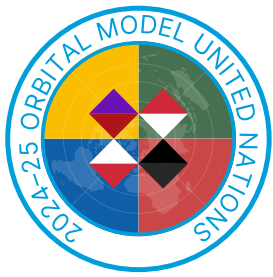
You, the delegates, are strongly encouraged to extend your research beyond the background guide. You are invited to further explore the sources cited in each guide as well as others encountered elsewhere.

Together with the Deputy Secretary General, Ema Seršen, the organising team (Isabella Magill, Anna Rozanova, Moises Camarero Trujillo, Zoja Čotar, and Lila De Launey) and Committee Chairs, we are looking forward to welcoming you to discuss these critical issues facing the world today.

Naomi Goddard

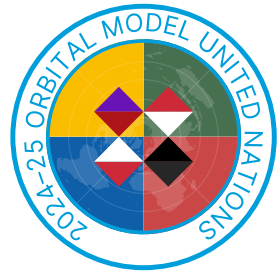
MUN Secretary General

Ljubljana, November 2024



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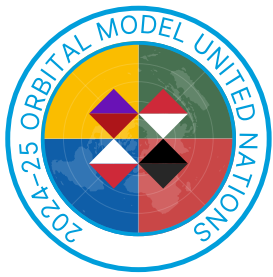
INTRODUCTION

Immigration has been a global interaction, shaping the demographics, economies, and cultures of countries around the world. As nations grapple with unprecedented movements of people, the debate over immigration policies has intensified, particularly regarding the treatment of individuals who enter a country illegally. This background guide explores a critical aspect of this discourse: the question of whether countries should possess the authority to deport illegal immigrants.

Proponents of deportation argue that it is essential for maintaining national security, protecting economic interests, and ensuring the rule of law. They contend that allowing illegal immigration undermines legal channels and burdens public resources. Conversely, opponents highlight the humanitarian implications of deportation, emphasizing the stories of individuals and families who seek refuge from violence, persecution, or dire economic conditions. They argue that deportation often leads to severe consequences, including family separation and violation of human rights.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 10 (SDG 10)

Illegal immigration has a complex impact on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 10, "Reduced Inequalities," both within countries and across borders. SDG 10 aims to reduce inequalities of income, access to services, and opportunities among and within countries, focusing on marginalized and vulnerable populations. Illegal immigration often involves people fleeing poverty, conflict, or environmental degradation, yet it brings several challenges that can hinder or contribute to inequality reduction efforts.



KEY TERMS

Asylum Seeker: An individual who seeks international protection from persecution in their home country and is awaiting a decision on their claim.

Border Control: Measures and policies implemented by a country to regulate and monitor the movement of people and goods across its borders.

Deportation: The act of deporting ergo, returning an immigrant to their home country ordered by the host country authorities.

Extradition: The legal process whereby one country formally surrenders a suspected or convicted criminal to another country.

Human Rights: The basic rights and freedoms that belong to every person, which are often referenced in discussions about the treatment of migrants and refugees.

Illegal Immigrant: A person who comes to live or work in a country that is not their own when they do not have the legal right to do this.

Illegal Immigration: The arrival of people from one country into another country without entering via legal methods. Illegal immigrants are also referred to as undocumented immigrants.

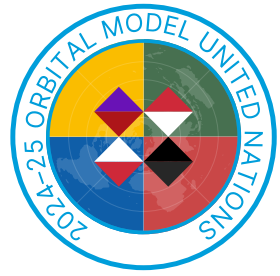
Immigration Enforcement: Actions taken by government authorities to ensure compliance with immigration laws, which may include arrest, detention, and deportation.

Irregular Migration: A broader term encompassing all forms of migration that occur outside established legal frameworks, including illegal migration.

Migration Crisis: A situation where a significant and sudden increase in the number of migrants or refugees overwhelms a country or region's ability to respond effectively.

Migration Policy: A set of laws, regulations, and practices established by a government to manage immigration and emigration.

Refugee: A person who has been forced to flee their country due to persecution, war, or violence and is unable to return home safely.



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

CAUSES OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

The reasons people migrate illegally are diverse, but several key factors contribute to this phenomenon:

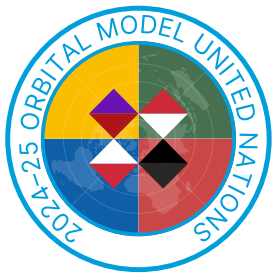
Economic Opportunities: In many cases, individuals migrate to seek better job opportunities and higher living standards that are unavailable in their home countries due to poverty, unemployment, or limited economic development.

Political Instability and Conflict: Wars, civil unrest, and authoritarian regimes often force people to flee their home countries in search of safety, even if it means crossing borders without proper documentation. This is particularly common in regions affected by long-term conflict, such as parts of the Middle East and Africa.

Persecution and Human Rights Violations: Some migrants, especially asylum seekers and refugees, flee their countries due to religious, ethnic, or political persecution. Even if they enter a country illegally, they may seek protection under international human rights laws.

Climate Change and Environmental Degradation: Environmental factors such as droughts, rising sea levels, and natural disasters are increasingly contributing to migration, as people are forced to leave regions that are becoming uninhabitable due to climate change.

Family Reunification: Migrants may also enter countries illegally to reunite with family members who have previously migrated, legally or illegally, and settled in the destination country.



CONSEQUENCES OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

Illegal immigration has significant consequences for both the host country and the migrants themselves, affecting social, economic, and political landscapes.

Economic Impacts: Many unauthorized immigrants contribute to their host country's economy by taking jobs in sectors that face labor shortages, often accepting low wages and poor working conditions. However, they may also be viewed as competing with native workers or straining public services such as healthcare, education, and welfare systems.

Social and Humanitarian Concerns: Illegal immigrants often live in precarious situations, with limited access to legal protection and essential services. They may face exploitation, discrimination, and human rights abuses. The journey itself is frequently dangerous, involving human trafficking, hazardous conditions, and legal risks.

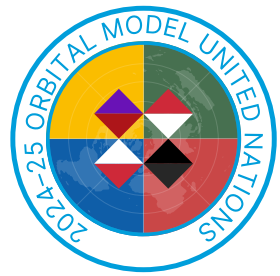
Security and Law Enforcement: Illegal immigration can strain border security and law enforcement efforts, especially in countries with high levels of undocumented migration. Some countries face challenges managing border control, preventing human trafficking, and addressing issues related to crime and safety.

GLOBAL AND REGIONAL RESPONSES

Countries have developed a range of responses to manage illegal immigration, varying from strict enforcement to more humanitarian approaches:

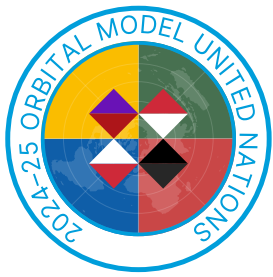
Border Control and Security: Some nations prioritize tightening border controls, using surveillance technologies, physical barriers, and patrols to prevent unauthorized crossings. Countries like the United States and the European Union have invested heavily in border security to manage illegal immigration.

Legal and Legislative Frameworks: Governments enact laws that define the status of undocumented migrants, regulate deportation procedures, and set penalties for those who facilitate illegal entry. In some cases, amnesty programs or pathways to legal status have been offered to certain groups of illegal immigrants.



International Cooperation: International organizations, such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), play crucial roles in addressing the humanitarian aspects of illegal immigration and promoting international agreements for the protection of migrants and refugees.

Human Rights and Refugee Protections: Many nations are bound by international treaties that protect the rights of asylum seekers and refugees, including the 1951 Refugee Convention. However, the distinction between refugees and economic migrants often complicates immigration policies, as countries navigate obligations to protect individuals fleeing persecution while maintaining sovereign control over their borders.



CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES AND DEBATE

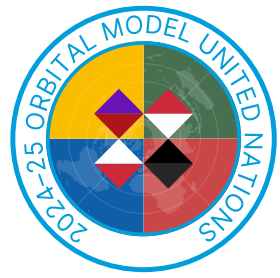
Illegal immigration remains a highly contentious issue globally, with ongoing debates surrounding its regulation, ethical implications, and impact on societies. Key areas of contention include:

The Balance Between Enforcement and Humanitarianism: Governments must balance the enforcement of immigration laws with respect for human rights and the protection of vulnerable populations. Harsh immigration policies, such as family separation, have drawn international criticism.

Economic Integration vs. Job Competition: While illegal immigrants can fill critical labor shortages, there is a persistent fear in some societies that they may depress wages or take jobs from native workers, contributing to anti-immigrant sentiments.

International Burden Sharing: With migration patterns influenced by global crises, countries vary in their willingness to accept illegal immigrants or refugees, leading to unequal burdens on border states and regions, such as southern Europe or the U.S.-Mexico border.

Illegal immigration is not just a national issue; it requires comprehensive international solutions that address both the root causes in origin countries and the management of migrant flows in destination countries. Addressing illegal immigration involves navigating the intersection of national security, economic needs, human rights, and global stability, making it one of the most pressing and polarizing issues in international affairs.



KEY RESOLUTIONS

1. Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM)

Adopted: December 2018

Purpose: The GCM is the first international agreement covering all aspects of migration. Although it is non-binding, it provides a comprehensive framework for cooperation on migration and aims to ensure that migration is safe, orderly, and regular.

Key Goals

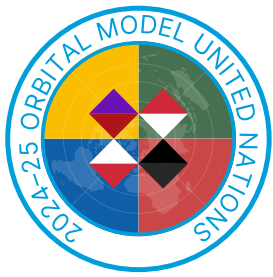
- Reducing the incidence of irregular migration and addressing its root causes.
- Facilitating legal migration and enhancing international cooperation on border management.
- Ensuring migrants' human rights and access to basic services, irrespective of their migration status.
- Combatting human trafficking and migrant smuggling.
- Supporting the reintegration of migrants who return to their home countries.

2. International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICMW)

Adopted: 1990, came into force in 2003

Purpose: This binding treaty seeks to ensure the protection of the rights of migrant workers and their families, regardless of their legal status. It highlights that all migrants deserve access to fundamental rights such as education, healthcare, and legal protection.

Significance: Though not universally ratified, it provides a solid legal framework for protecting the human rights of migrant workers and their families, including those in irregular status.



3. UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Protection for Refugees

The UNHCR plays a central role in addressing forced migration due to conflict, persecution, and violence. While refugees are distinct from economic migrants, many irregular migrants are seeking asylum.

Solutions include:

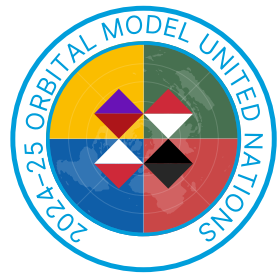
- Advocating for the non-refoulement principle, which prohibits the return of individuals to countries where they face persecution.
- Ensuring access to asylum procedures for individuals seeking protection.
- Providing assistance for refugee resettlement and integration in host countries.

4. IOM's Migration Governance Framework

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the UN's migration agency and works directly with governments to manage migration.

Focus Areas:

- Strengthening border management to prevent illegal crossings while ensuring that borders are not closed to those needing protection.
- Offering voluntary return and reintegration programs for irregular migrants who wish to return to their home countries.
- Combatting human trafficking and smuggling of migrants through improved international cooperation and legal frameworks.
- Promoting alternatives to irregular migration by developing legal pathways for labor migration.



KEY COUNTRIES

Kingdom of Spain

Located on the Iberian Peninsula in southwestern Europe, Spain has long been a crucial point of entry for migrants seeking to enter Europe. Its geographical position, with extensive coastlines on both the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean, as well as its proximity to North Africa, makes it a significant transit and destination country for migrants, particularly from Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America. Over the past two decades, Spain has faced challenges related to illegal immigration, including the influx of undocumented migrants, human trafficking, and the complexities of managing deportation processes in compliance with international and European Union (EU) regulations.

French Republic

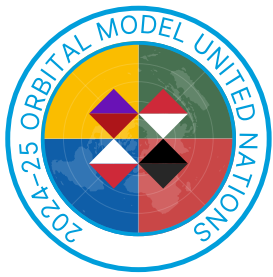
One of the most influential countries in Europe, has long been a destination for migrants from Africa, the Middle East, and beyond, due to its colonial history, geographic location, and role as a gateway to Europe. Over the past several decades, France has experienced significant irregular migration flows, prompting complex challenges in managing illegal immigration and deportation. The French government faces the task of balancing border security, human rights, and immigration enforcement within the framework of both national law and European Union (EU) regulations.

The Republic of India

The world's most populous country and one of the largest democracies, faces complex challenges related to illegal immigration and deportation. As a country with porous borders, particularly in its northeastern and eastern regions, India is both a destination and a transit point for irregular migrants, primarily from neighboring countries such as Bangladesh and Myanmar. Illegal immigration has long been a sensitive issue in India, with significant implications for national security, social cohesion, and political dynamics. India's response to illegal immigration involves balancing humanitarian concerns, regional security, and the management of its diverse population.

Syrian Arab Republic

Located in the Middle East and bordering countries like Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Israel, has been at the center of significant regional and global migration challenges, particularly due to its long-standing civil war that began in 2011. While Syria is predominantly known as a country producing refugees and displaced persons, it also faces issues related to irregular immigration, migration flows, and deportation. The complex situation within Syria, marked by conflict, instability, and human rights abuses, has had a profound impact on migration patterns, both in terms of people fleeing the country and those moving within it.



Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

A country located in the northern part of South America, has experienced one of the most significant humanitarian and migratory crises in recent history. Once one of the wealthiest nations in Latin America due to its vast oil reserves, Venezuela has faced severe political, economic, and social turmoil over the past two decades. This has led to mass emigration, with millions of Venezuelans fleeing the country in search of safety, stability, and economic opportunity. At the same time, Venezuela has become a transit and, to some extent, a destination country for illegal immigration, creating complex challenges related to border control, deportation, and the handling of irregular migration.

United Mexican States

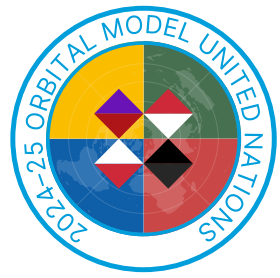
Located in North America and bordered by the United States to the north and Central America to the south, plays a pivotal role in regional and global migration dynamics. As both a source, transit, and destination country, Mexico faces complex challenges related to illegal immigration and deportation. The country's strategic geographic location has placed it at the center of one of the most significant migration corridors in the world, particularly for those moving northward to the United States. The issue of illegal immigration and deportation in Mexico is shaped by a combination of factors, including economic disparity, regional instability, and evolving government policies.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The United Kingdom (UK) has long been a significant destination for migrants due to its historical connections, strong economy, and global influence. As an island nation, the UK faces unique challenges in managing illegal immigration and deportation, balancing the need for effective border control with its obligations to international law and human rights. In recent years, illegal immigration has become a major political issue in the UK, driven by concerns about border security, the economic impact of undocumented migrants, and pressures on public services. The UK government has responded with stringent immigration laws and deportation policies, which have been a subject of debate domestically and internationally.

Republic of Poland

A country in Central Europe bordered by countries like Germany, Ukraine, Belarus, and the Czech Republic, has become a key player in the EU in managing migration and border security. While traditionally known as a country of emigration, Poland has seen significant changes in its migration patterns in recent years. As a member of the EU and Schengen Area, Poland faces challenges related to both legal and illegal immigration, including the influx of migrants from non-EU countries, particularly from its eastern neighbors, and growing pressure due to the broader migration crisis affecting Europe. This has made illegal immigration and deportation significant topics in Poland's domestic and foreign policy discussions.



Republic of Hungary

Hungary's geographic location, at the crossroads of the Balkans and Central Europe, makes it a critical transit country for migrants and refugees attempting to enter the EU from the south and east. This positioning has influenced its immigration policies and practices. As a member of the EU and the Schengen Area, Hungary is responsible for securing part of the EU's external borders. Migrants entering Hungary illegally are often attempting to reach wealthier EU countries like Germany, Austria, or Sweden. This has made Hungary a key transit country, particularly during mass migration movements.

The Russian Federation

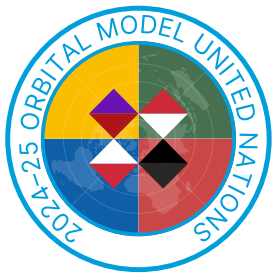
Russia, the largest country in the world by land area, plays a significant role in global migration patterns due to its geopolitical location, vast borders, and complex economy. It has a unique position in migration issues, as it serves as both a destination and transit country for migrants from neighboring post-Soviet states, Asia, and other regions. Illegal immigration has become a key challenge for Russia in recent years, particularly due to the influx of migrants from Central Asia, the Caucasus, and Eastern Europe. Russia's response to these migration challenges includes strict immigration controls and a robust deportation system, aimed at curbing illegal immigration while also addressing the country's demographic and labor market needs.

Argentine Republic

Known historically as a country shaped by migration, Argentina continues to experience significant movement across its borders, primarily from neighboring Latin American countries. In recent years, Argentina has seen a rise in unauthorized immigration, with migrants primarily seeking economic opportunities and stability amid regional crises. Argentina's immigration policies are informed by a long-standing tradition of openness to immigrants, yet recent economic challenges and regional political instability have put pressure on the country's resources and fueled a national debate on illegal immigration and deportation policies.

Republic of Indonesia

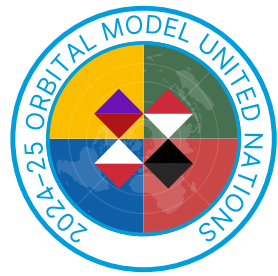
A vast archipelago with strategic geographic positioning, is both a source and a destination for migration in Southeast Asia. Due to its proximity to countries with significant economic disparities and socio-political issues, such as Myanmar and Bangladesh, Indonesia experiences high levels of irregular migration. Additionally, as an emerging economy and a member of ASEAN, Indonesia draws migrants seeking economic opportunities, while some use it as a transit country en route to Australia and other countries. Managing illegal immigration and deportation has become increasingly important as Indonesia balances economic development, regional cooperation, and adherence to international humanitarian standards.



CONCLUSION

Illegal immigration and deportation are complex and multifaceted global issues, deeply intertwined with economic, political, and humanitarian concerns. Nations face the challenge of balancing border security and the enforcement of immigration laws with their obligations to human rights and international agreements, such as the Refugee Convention. Illegal immigration can place pressure on national economies, public services, and social cohesion, prompting governments to implement stricter border control measures and deportation policies. However, these measures often raise ethical concerns, particularly regarding the treatment of undocumented migrants, asylum seekers, and vulnerable individuals.

Effective solutions to illegal immigration and deportation require international cooperation and a holistic approach that addresses the root causes of migration, such as poverty, conflict, and political instability. Governments must work together to develop fair, humane, and comprehensive policies that balance security with the protection of human rights. As countries navigate the complex realities of migration, the role of international organizations like the United Nations in fostering dialogue, sharing best practices, and promoting the equitable treatment of migrants is critical to achieving sustainable and just outcomes for all parties involved.



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