**Historical Model UN Simulation**

*In the first 5 years under communist rule in South Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos, nearly 1.3 million people decided to abandon their homes and flee their native countries. An outflow of refugees on a scale the world had not witnessed since World War II, an exodus of Biblical proportions. What will the world do about it?*

UNHCR, the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, was created in 1950. It is a global organisation dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people.

*“We strive to ensure that everyone has the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another State, with the option to eventually return home, integrate or resettle.*

*During times of displacement, we provide critical emergency assistance in the form of clean water, sanitation and* [*healthcare*](http://www.unhcr.org/health-and-nutrition.html)*, as well as* [*shelter*](http://www.unhcr.org/shelter.html)*, blankets, household goods and sometimes food. We also arrange transport and assistance packages for people who* [*return home*](http://www.unhcr.org/solutions.html)*, and* [*income-generating projects*](http://www.unhcr.org/livelihoods.html) *for those who* [*resettle*](http://www.unhcr.org/solutions.html)*.”*

[http://www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org/)

Priorities to be discussed:

To what extent do countries have the responsibility (humanitarian and/or legal) to take in and/or aid refugees from the IndoChina refugee crisis during the 1970-80s?

* According to the UN, what responsibility do countries have to help people who are displaced by conflict?
* What problems do displaced people face—in the refugee camps, while they are on the move to seek safety, in the new country, etc.?
* What challenges does a receiving country face when it accepts a large number of refugees (e.g., cultural, economic, etc.)?