**Country:** Spain

**Committee:** UNHRC

**Agenda Topic:** Refugee Crisis: forcibly displaced and stateless people.

The refugee crisis is an ever growing problem for the global community. The reasons for refugees and stateless people seeking protection in foreign countries varies from people escaping war and armed conflicts to people fleeing due to political or social repression. Spain has worked together with UNHRC to try to accomodate the many thousands of refugees and stateless people who cross our borders. In 2018, Spain received more migrants than any other European country by sea: 58,569; in other words 51% of the total.

The Government of Spain facilitated access to reception centres run by the Government and non-Government organisations and to detention centres in the mainland. Our centres undertook studies of the people arriving to allow Spain to make the necessary provisions to best serve their needs. We proudly advocate for the rights of refugees and asylum-seekers while promoting political, social and financial support for them. The Spanish Commission for Refugees (CEAR) plays an active role in aiding people who have been forcibly displaced as a result of conflicts, violence and violations of human rights.

Spain believes that inclusion programmes are an integral part of the process for refugees and stateless people. These initiatives should offer opportunities to learn the native language of the country and provide access to education and employment. Spain has passed new laws which raise the standard of protection for those applying for stateless status and equate it to Spain’s law on asylum which offers a temporary stay permit and the right to work for those awaiting the outcome of their asylum claim.

Spain is committed to the mandate set down by UNHRC to support their international obligations in building and maintaining fair and effective asylum systems in accordance with international law. We believe that all member states should implement structures that ensure that refugees and stateless people are protected. We must work together to find long-term solutions which are both workable and sustainable.