

Committee: UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)

Agenda Item: Promotion and protection of human rights in the situation of human trafficking.

Country: Germany

The Federal Republic of Germany is an European country situated in Central Europe and bordered by Switzerland, Denmark, Poland, Czech Republic, Netherlands, Austria, Belgium, France, Luxembourg. The Federal Republic of Germany is the second most populated country in Europe. The nation's capital and the most populous city is Berlin and it's main financial centre is Frankfurt. The Federal Republic of Germany is structured as a federal state and parliamentary democracy. The nation's official currency is Euro(€) which is used by 19 other European countries. Germany has been described as a great power with a strong economy. It has the largest economy in Europe, the world's fourth largest economy by nominal GDP and the fifth largest by PPP. As a global power in industrial, scientific and technological sectors, The Federal Republic of Germany is a developed country which offers social security, an universal healthcare system and tuition free university education. Germany is a member of the United Nations, the European Union, NATO, the Council of Europe, the G7, the G20 and the OECD.

Every year millions of people are forced to leave their homes to find safety. At the end of 2021, 89,3 million people were forcibly displaced as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations or events seriously disturbing public order. A refugee crisis can refer to difficulties and dangerous situations in the reception of large groups of forcibly displaced persons. These could be either internally displaced, refugees, asylum seekers or any other huge groups of migrants. An asylum seeker is a person looking for protection because they fear persecution, or they have experienced violence or human rights violations. A refugee is a person who asked for protection and was given refugee status. They may have been resettled in another country or be waiting for resettlement. Not every asylum seeker becomes a refugee, but every refugee starts out as an asylum seeker. A migrant is a person who leaves or flees their home to go to new places – usually abroad – to seek opportunities or safer and better prospects. Migration can be voluntary or involuntary, but most of the time a combination of choices and constraints is involved.

- In the middle of 2021, Germany reported almost 1.24 million refugees and 233.000 asylum seekers, making it the biggest host country for refugees in Europe. Half of the refugees are from Syria.
- Germany also hosts 27.000 stateless people. The country has been the second biggest bilateral donor. Under then Federal Chancellor Merkel's leadership, Germany welcomed more than 1.2 million refugees and asylum seekers in 2015 and 2016 – at the height of the conflict in Syria and amid deadly violence in other places.
- When Germany has started vaccinating against COVID-19 the Federal Minister of Health Jens Spahn presented the priorities of the German vaccination campaign on 18 December 2020. Population groups at particular risk will be prioritised in the immunisation campaign. They are divided into three priority categories: "highest",

“high” and “heightened”. Asylum-seekers and refugees living in initial reception centers and communal collective accommodation facilities belong to the second group (“high priority”) and will be prioritised accordingly in Germany’s vaccination campaign. All asylum-seekers and refugees not living in such a centre will be granted access to vaccination according to the general criteria. Accordingly, if they fall among one of the priority groups they can be vaccinated as part of that group. Otherwise, they can be vaccinated as part of the remainder of the population after vaccination of the third priority group has been finished.

- The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) is the main public authority deciding on all asylum applications in Germany. It offers a wide range of information on its English website.
- Germany on Monday pledged to take in thousands of refugees from Italy amid the worsening humanitarian crisis in rescue ships on the Mediterranean Sea.