

Committee: SOCHUM

Country: Ukraine

Agenda items:

Agenda Item A: Protecting the rights and freedoms of refugees in wars.

Agenda Item B: Tacking refugee trafficking



A fully independent Ukraine emerged only late in the 20th century, after long periods of successive domination by Poland, Soviet Union (U.S.S.R). Ukraine thereafter became part of the Soviet Union as the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic (S.S.R.) With the dissolution of the U.S.S.R. in December 1991, Ukraine gained full independence. The country changed its official name to Ukraine, and it helped to found the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), an association of countries that were formerly republics of the Soviet Union. Ukraine is bordered by Poland, Russia, Belarus, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Moldova.

Refugees and asylum-seekers in Ukraine come from over 60 different countries, including some of the biggest refugee-producing countries such as Afghanistan, Syria, and Somalia, as well as the Russian Federation. The population includes single mothers and vulnerable women, unaccompanied minors, persons with disabilities and others who have gone through a traumatic experience. Ukraine offers two forms of protection to those who have fled their own country and are seeking asylum in Ukraine: refugee status and complementary protection.

Although Ukraine has asylum legislation and institutions in place, weaknesses remain in the procedure, and material reception conditions do not provide an adequate standard of living. Asylum-seekers do not have access to free urgent medical care. The state does not provide them with social assistance or language courses. Refugees and asylum-seekers complain of discrimination in access to health services, education, and employment. The situation has become even more complicated with the COVID-19 outbreak as well.

Ukraine offers two forms of protection to those who have fled their own country and are seeking asylum in Ukraine: refugee status and complementary protection. The refugee policy of Ukraine is lacking and it should at least provide proper healthcare, education, shelter and necessary resources.