

Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Issues Committee (Third)
STMUN 2021



Chair: Zuzana Baláková
Co-chair: Sydney Sørensen

Introduction:

Greeting to all our dear delegates and ambassadors who will be debating in the Social, Humanitarian & Culture issues committee at Struer Model United Nations 2021. We are looking forward to meeting all of you and hearing your discussions about the committee's topics!

The following documents were made to give you information about the two topics that will be debated this year: the treatment of political prisoners, and proper aid programs for natural disasters. If you want to understand the debate and be able to participate, you will need to read this document thoroughly and make notes. Furthermore, you will be required to read about Your assigned country's position on the issues and make notes on that as well. Then you will be required to write something called a position paper as a part of your preparation for the debate (more information about the position paper will be given later on in this document).

We know that it can be overwhelming to prepare for MUN, especially if it's your first year. If you need help with your preparations don't hesitate to contact either of us on the emails: zuzanabalakova@gmail.com and sydney.sorensen@gmail.com. We will be glad to help!

Your chairs,

Sydney Sørensen and Zuzana Baláková, 2i

Committee Background and Mission Statement

The United Nations General Assembly Third Committee, otherwise known as “Social, Humanitarian & Cultural” or “SOCHUM” is one of the six main committees at the General Assembly of the United Nations. This committee focuses on issues that deal with fundamental human rights within the international community. The Committee also discusses questions relating to the advancement of women, the protection of children, indigenous issues, the treatment of refugees, the promotion of fundamental freedoms through the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, and the right to self-determination. The Committee also addresses important social development questions such as issues related to youth, family, ageing, persons with disabilities, crime prevention, criminal justice, and international drug control.

The committee was founded on the 9th of December in 1948 and the headquarters are located in New York in the United States. The current head of the committee is Christian Braun. All 193 member states participate in *SOCHUM*, and other parties are welcome to observe, however only the member states have the right to vote.

Most notably, the committee created the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. Currently, it is working closely with the Human Rights Council, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Conference on Women, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Assembly on Aging in order to tackle current humanitarian, social and cultural issues around the world.

Here is a link to the official committee website: <https://www.un.org/en/ga/third/>.

Expectations for positions papers:

To write a position paper it is needed that the delegate research what their countries opinion on this issue is.

A position paper should include if possible:

- a brief résumé of the country's history regarding the issue
- Current state of the country regarding the issue
- Any future plans from the government right now
- Any statistics found regarding the issue
- UN treaties or actions that the country supported or opposed
- For this issue, please consider the following questions:
- What is your country's opinion on this issue?

Links:

Information about the UN:

<https://media.un.org/en>

<https://www.un.org/en/>

Information about your country:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/country_profiles/default.stm

<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries>

Information about global issues:

<https://newint.org/>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world>

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/>