



National Museum
of American Diplomacy

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION CRISIS

Human Rights and Border Security



The **National Museum of American Diplomacy (NMAD)** offers educators immersive programs that explore the goals and practice of diplomacy, teach diplomatic skills, build global competence, and illustrate how the critical work of American diplomats impacts people's everyday lives. Lesson plans emphasize 21st century skills: creativity and innovation; critical thinking and problem solving; and communication and collaboration. These skills are keys to success for the next generation of global citizens.

The **Diplomacy Simulation Program** is the museum's premier educational tool. In a collaborative learning environment, students step into the shoes of real-life diplomats. The diplomacy simulations are designed for 15-30 participants, plus a teacher/moderator. Students receive a scenario related to a global issue, which could be real-world or hypothetical, current or historic. Within each simulation, there are five to six stakeholder groups (e.g., foreign ministries, NGOs, and international organizations), each with different perspectives and priorities. Students role-play these stakeholders in small teams of three to five. Under set time constraints, the groups are challenged to negotiate a peaceful solution to the crisis in the scenario. Students use the information provided in the simulation packet to develop their group's policy positions and defend or modify their choices in real time.

The simulations have no right or wrong actions or solutions because the process, rather than the end result, is the goal. The learning experience develops organically as the students engage in the simulation. Once the simulation has been completed, students are encouraged to express how their views on diplomacy have evolved as a result of the simulation, and to contemplate how they can apply diplomatic skills to their everyday lives.

To access the complete Diplomacy Simulation Program, including training and subject matter expert videos, please visit diplomacy.state.gov



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Diplomacy Simulations are developed and presented by NMAD as an integral component of the museum's education offerings. This document and all associated materials are intended exclusively for educational use.

Background and Scenario

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Reports of war and famine, religious and ethnic persecution resulting in the flow of refugees across international borders are all too common today. Whether the desperate individuals come from Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan or Somalia, we should all be moved by their tragic stories. Today you have the opportunity to experience the challenge of protecting a persecuted minority group and preventing another crisis of refugees from occurring.

In today's exercise you will be focusing on a minority group known as the Rubits in the fictitious country of Budan. The majority population in Budan is persecuting the Rubits for their religion. Many Rubits have fled as refugees across the border into the neighboring country of Gilbia.

Gilbia and various international organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Association for Refugees and Minorities (ARM), are trying to provide shelter for the thousands of refugees, but the numbers have overwhelmed them. Your goal is to protect the Rubits, prevent the refugee emergency from escalating, and find a more permanent solution to the crisis.

You will find as you try to resolve this humanitarian and human rights crisis that different players have different objectives. You will need to find common ground to prevent a further crisis and public outcry against the worsening refugee situation in Gilbia. The United States, other nations including the influential nation of Malil, and activists across the world are critical of the developing scenario in Gilbia and are following events closely.

Are you willing to jump in and confront the situation? We believe you bring the necessary skills to the table: the ability to hear others' viewpoints; the ability to analyze your own and others' positions and goals; a spirit of cooperation; and a belief that everyone can be a part of a solution.

As representatives of one of the stakeholders engaged in the process, you will need to:

- Prioritize your diplomatic goals according to your group's policy position.
- Identify with whom you will need to negotiate and who might be your allies/opponents.

You will need to learn what the other participants believe and what they want out of the negotiation. Can you help bridge gaps between the participants? Remember, not all groups will agree with your priorities or goals. The objective is to find a solution that advances your group's goals and priorities. To do this, you will need to compromise and develop consensus to meet the other stakeholders halfway.

You will need to negotiate with other groups and look for ideas you share. Recognize where you can and cannot change your own and others' positions; identify areas of agreement; and finally agree on a strategy.

The country of Gilbia has invited a group of countries and organizations to discuss the situation within and on the borders of Gilbia and Budan. Representatives from Gilbia, Budan, the United States, Malil, the

79.5M

DISPLACED PEOPLE

worldwide at the end
of 2019.*

* Taken from UNHCR, *Figures at a glance*, <https://www.unhcr.org/figures-at-a-glance/> accessed on Jan 13, 2021.

UNHCR, and the ARM will attend. There will be a Chair to call the meeting together and to moderate. At the beginning of the first round of discussions and in the order listed in the following pages, each group will have three minutes to outline its concerns and objectives. Some ideas for your group's opening position are provided in your Stakeholder Sheet; feel free to incorporate or withhold this information as you wish.

After all groups have given an opening statement, you will be given time to reach out to other participants and to negotiate your positions informally. Your goal in this session should be to build alliances and to offer strategies to find consensus with as many other groups as possible.

When you return to the formal meeting, the Chair will recognize delegates to hear their proposals. During this time, you should look for support. Do not spend time endlessly debating; the goal is to find a workable solution to the crisis at hand. Listen to what others say and if you need to adjust your proposal, do so. The Chair will give you 15-20 minutes to come up with a resolution – or not.

The Government of Budan recently passed a law prohibiting the religion practiced by the Rubits, its minority citizens. This decision comes after the majority ethnic group in Budan, the Dannii, pressured the government into passing a series of harsh laws effectively beginning the exodus (departure) of the Rubits from Budan. Conflicts between the two communities have existed for years but simple intolerance has now turned into persecution. This persecution has caused Rubit activists and their families to leave behind their businesses and loved ones to cross into the neighboring country of Gilbia.

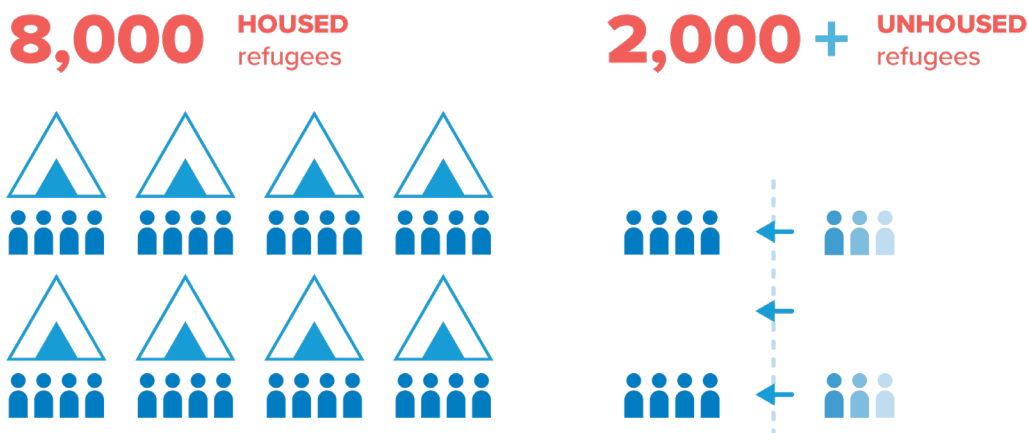
Economically, the Rubits are among the most successful groups in the country, and for the last five years their businesses have attracted numerous foreign investors. Rubit success is all the more noteworthy as Budan has placed high taxes on Rubit businesses and cut government funds for schools and development in areas with high Rubit populations.

Now, however, Rubit persecution has become even worse. A number of Rubit houses have been burned, and Rubit citizens are convinced that the government played a part. Proof, however, has yet to be established. Rubit religious leaders and successful members of the business community have been threatened by anonymous sources and several Rubit community leaders have gone missing in the past month. Last week the body of one such community leader was discovered hanging from a lamp post.

What began one month ago as a small number of Rubits crossing the border into neighboring Gilbia has since increased to more than 5,000 crossings last week. There are now approximately 10,000 refugees in Gilbian territory. In response to this migration, some within the Budanese government were (according to off-the-record statements) “happy to see [the Rubits] go.” Local media reporting in Gilbia has emphasized Budan’s majority population echoing these sentiments.

The number of Rubit refugees has now exceeded Gilbia’s ability to care for them. In response, the UNHCR has set up camps totaling 2,000 tents with a maximum capacity of four to a tent. These resources are being overrun by the influx of additional desperate refugees streaming in from Budan. There is not enough food; sanitation conditions remain terrible; and over fifty Rubit children have come down with measles in the last 48 hours. Additionally, UNHCR officials are preparing for the possibility of an outbreak of cholera within the camps.

Gilbian citizens are worried about crime and fear that refugees will begin to invade homes or that their children will catch diseases from the newcomers. Gilbia has repeatedly tried to work with Budan to find a solution to this problem. The Government of Budan has remained unresponsive.



Today's simulation involves a hypothetical scenario but deals with the real world problem of increasing populations of displaced people. You will role play a member of a delegation at an international meeting trying to negotiate a solution. The delegations are:



Foreign Ministry of Gilbia



Foreign Ministry of Budan



U.S. Department of State (DOS)



United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)



Foreign Ministry of Malil



Association for Refugees and Minorities (ARM)

Budan and Gilbia

Relations between the authoritarian Budanese government and democratic Gilbia have always been difficult; the two countries have different cultures, political histories and economies. Their extensive shared border has long been a source of tension rather than cooperation. The number of Budanese refugees in Gilbia is increasing now more than ever. Whatever their differences, both nations agree that some action must be taken immediately.

The U.S. Department of State (DOS)

The United States Department of State is the lead U.S. government agency responsible for conducting international relations according to the policies set by the President. The President appoints a Secretary of State who represents their foreign policies to other nations. The Department also advises various executive agencies and makes recommendations based on its relevant expertise. DOS advocates for freedom of religion around the world. The U.S. business community has large investments in Gilbia; trade is strong; and thousands of American jobs depend on that trade relationship.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Beyond setting up their current camp/tents for the refugees in Gilbia, the UNHCR is reluctant to do more. The UNHCR, like other United Nations agencies, is limited by its budget, and contributing member states are very concerned about costs. The UNHCR must justify every deployment and large expense, and this crisis could represent a huge expenditure of resources for many years to come. ARM has been a strong ally and partner of the UNHCR for decades, and the two groups have worked side-by-side in even the most dangerous of conditions.

Malil

The country of Malil (located 900 miles west of Budan) is approximately the same size as the United States in terms of geographic area. Malil has a strong influence in the region and economic and political power worldwide, including a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. Budan has been in Malil's orbit of influence for many years and receives substantial foreign aid from Malil.

The Association for Refugees and Minorities (ARM)

ARM works to protect the lives of refugees around the world and needs to maintain support from all sides. ARM recognizes that given the immediacy of the crisis and current location of Rubit refugees, camps appropriately were set up in Gilbia. However, ARM does not see Gilbia as a permanent home for these individuals. In past crises, Gilbia was only able to take in approximately 100 refugees for resettlement per year. In the current crisis, however, the number of Rubit refugees flooding into Gilbia could soon exceed 100,000 this year alone.



Resettlement is a long process. Once refugees have moved out of a given country, a UNHCR team determines who qualifies for resettlement. It may take months – even years – and a great deal of documentation is required to determine if a refugee is eligible. Economic migrants (individuals fleeing for better job opportunities) are disqualified.

Located at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C., the National Museum of American Diplomacy is a public-private partnership between the State Department and the Diplomacy Center Foundation. NMAD's education program connects high school and college students with the world of American diplomacy, increasing their understanding of the skills, practices, and language of diplomats. Through simulations, online resources, and the museum's annual Educator's Workshop, NMAD inspires involvement in foreign affairs and citizen diplomacy.





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