



## PREVENTING SPILL-OVER IN CONFLICT



COMMITTEE: POLITICAL & DISARMAMENT

Spill-over in conflict refers simply to conflicts where the effects of war have not been contained within its borders and create problems in neighbouring, and often previously stable states. While of course the argument can be made for the spread of ideas or that one conflict can act as a spark to ignite another, this issue tries to deal with more physical effects.

### Fighters

Of course it is difficult to stop people fleeing across borders in times of war. However, it is important that armies or groups of fighters begin to encroach on the land of another sovereign state beyond the war. An example of this is the current Syrian conflict where Islamic State began to push into Iraq and similarly when Turkish forces pushed into Syrian to move Iraqi Kurds from its border. Another example is during the Civil war in the Congo, disrespect for boundaries led some neighbouring African nations to invade to push back rebels, exacerbating an already complex war. Delegates must consider how it is best to avoid such events, especially when the culprits do not always abide by international law, such as in the case of Islamic State.

### Weapons and Crime

Groups may find it profitable to use the weak borders and chaos of war to further their cause in other countries. This can lead to weapons and hardened fighters crossing borders. While their aim may not be achieved, the readiness of weapons and lack of laws can lead to increases in violent crime and other issues in neighbouring countries and abroad. Again this can lead to responses from other states to protect their own interests. This can be seen by the increasing presence of Hezbollah in Lebanon, an issue which is warily watched by Israel and could quickly add another vastly complex element to both Israel's issues and the Syrian war. Delegates should find a solution to this more shadowy consequence of spill over.

### Refugees

Of course refugees are a humanitarian issue and it is not being suggested that they should be forced to remain within the warzone. However a solution must be found to avoid large concentrations of refugees or masses assembling in countries which do not have the infrastructure to support them. Currently Lebanon has a huge portion of Syrian refugees, this number becomes even more worrying when compared to Lebanon's overall population. There is argument that this has exacerbated racial and xenophobic tensions within the country and has strained the resources of an already troubled state. This has also caused reactions in better-placed European countries, leading to increased intervention from European states, as well as increasing xenophobia and bigotry.

### To consider

- What laws should the MUN put in place to avoid the movement of fighters and arms across borders?
- How should the issues relating to refugees in conflicts be handled?
- How would reactions from states neighbouring conflict zones be best avoided?