

*King's Christian Collegiate Model United Nations
-Union for the Mediterranean-*



Joshua Paul

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Letter From the Secretary Generals

Dear King'sMUN 2024 delegates,

We are truly honored, as this year's Co-Secretary Generals of King'sMUN, to welcome you to our 10th annual conference. The Secretariat has been working hard throughout this school year to deliver you an incredible, in-person conference with a variety of creative committees, experienced chairs, and an overall successful day of debate.

Model United Nations, a reenactment of the function of the United Nations, is designed for students to come together to debate, discuss, and develop creative resolutions to some of the world's most pressing issues that plague our world today. In most committees, students take on the positions of various countries, characters, or political figures to create solutions for both real and fictional issues and crises. We also offer unique committees that explore historical, future, and fictional issues.

In our personal experience with MUN we have developed many valuable skills that we will take with us throughout our lives, such as confidence in public speaking, leadership, and creative problem-solving. Furthermore, MUN promotes lifelong connections, as we are constantly meeting delegates who share similar passions to us in committee sessions. We truly believe that your participation in MUN will guide you throughout your high school journey and beyond.

At King'sMUN, we provide a variety of committees to ensure that we have something of interest for everyone. From very current pressing issues (ie. UNSC and the African Union) and issues in sports (ie. International Cricket Council and WSF) to fictional, yet real, controversies (ie. Barbieland) and issues set in the past (ie. The Manhattan Project). We strive to ensure that there is appeal for a variety of delegates. Whether you have no experience or have been to a multitude of conferences, there is a place at King'sMUN for you!

Once again, we are thrilled to welcome all delegates, new or returning, back to King'sMUN. We hope that you engage in fruitful debate and have an amazing time at King'sMUN 2024.

Sincerely,
Serena Kalsi and Georgia Apostolopoulos
Co-Secretary Generals
King'sMUN 2024

History & Purpose of the Union for The Mediterranean

The Union for the Mediterranean (UFM) is an intergovernmental organization that promotes cooperation and communication in the Euro-Mediterranean region. This organization addresses three strategic objectives: regional stability, human development, and regional economic integration. The UFM was launched in 2008 in Barcelona. Its members include 27 EU member states, as well as 16 Mediterranean countries such as Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, North Macedonia, Palestine, Syria (currently suspended), Tunisia, and Turkey. Currently, the Presidency of the UFM is jointly held by the EU and Jordan. The UFM has an operational budget, and 50% of the financial support is funded by the European Union, while the other half is contributed by the UFM member states (UFM Homepage, n.d).

Past meetings include the Seventh Regional Forum on November 24, 2022, where the Ministers discussed the importance of closing gaps and addressing imbalances between the North and South to benefit future generations. Over 20 meetings have taken place with the EU-Jordan co-presidency, discussing topics related to energy, transportation, the environment, climate action, and sustainable urban development.

The Union for the Mediterranean (UFM) encourages entrepreneurship within the countries and creates many job opportunities for the youth, mainly focusing on the aspect that the youth are crucial to shaping the region's future. The UFM hosts meetings that define work through identifying a common regional agenda. Alongside these meetings, once a year, the Minister of Foreign Affairs meets at the UFM regional forum to define strategic areas and priorities.

Overall, the Union for the Mediterranean (UFM) brings together 43 countries to strengthen cooperation and manage projects that address the topics of sustainable development and safe integration in the Euro-Mediterranean area (UFM Homepage, n.d).

Issue 1: Mitigating Migrant Deaths on the Mediterranean

The Mediterranean Sea has long been a dangerous route for migrants seeking refuge and a better life in Europe. The migration crisis in this region has increased drastically over the years due to political instability, conflict, and economic hardships in the Middle East and Northern Africa. Desperate to escape these horrid circumstances, migrants often embark on dangerous journeys across the Mediterranean no matter what, facing the risk of being exploited, human smuggled, and possibly dying on the intense path in the sea. Just this past year over 2,5000

migrants died attempting to cross the Mediterranean. Previously in 2022, only 1,680 people during the same time period. This large increase in deaths the following year has been caused by the massive influx of migration across the Mediterranean. During this same period of deaths, around 186,000 people arrived in Europe. There are 3 main routes that are taken by the migrants Western, Central and Eastern.

Migrants traveling the Western Route come mainly from Morocco and Algeria, and are heading to Spain and France. The Central Route is to countries like Tunisia, Libya and Egypt, heading to countries like Malta, Italy and Greece. The Eastern Route consists of migrants coming from Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan heading to Greece and Malta. The most dangerous of them all is the Central Route, where nearly 90% percent of the deaths in 2023 took place. Stats show that just last year, the majority of people who died trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea was due to drowning, with over 2,222 people. While the rest died from hazardous environments and weather conditions, Violence, Sickneses, and from unsafe transportation.

Many things contribute to the dangers migrants face when attempting to cross the Mediterranean. First is the behavior of human smugglers who exploit vulnerable individuals, providing them with terrible ships and unsafe conditions. These overcrowded boats create insufficient safety measures, and the lack of professional navigation equipment. This therefore makes these journeys exceptionally dangerous to anyone aboard. Additionally, various weather conditions further increase the risks. Storms, rough seas, and extreme temperatures pose significant challenges, especially for the ships that aren't designed to handle such conditions. As a result, many migrants find themselves stranded at sea, facing dehydration, hypothermia, and other life-threatening conditions. There are several reasons these challenges with migrants crossing the Mediterranean still occur. Firstly, it is because of the high amounts of migrants flooding ships and ports, causing for crowded ships and excessive amounts of migrants at borders. Migrants choose to flee from their countries for many reasons, including political instability, conflict within the nation such as war and economic disparities. Migrants also seek access to the EU to have the ability to travel all around Europe looking for better life and seeking for better job opportunities.

Next is numerous Smuggling Networks. There are many networks of human smugglers who exploit vulnerable migrants in which they send these people on rickety ships poorly designed to go across the Mediterranean. Thirdly, Search and Rescue Policies and Operations. There are many logistical challenges and laws that make it difficult to provide the exact coverage that is needed when patrolling the waters. The lack of coordination and funding can also prevent corrupt coastguards from attending to the need in the waters.

Earlier this year, around 30 people had died crossing the Mediterranean Sea on the way to Italy, due to the cruel migration policies at sea Europe has. 47 people were located on a broken

down wooden boat, while floating in dangerous weather conditions at sea. During this time the boat was within the “Libyan Search and Rescue Area” which was an establishment between Italy and the EU pushed to rescue migrants in a place of safety. The area is instead patrolled by the Libyan coastguard where people would be rescued and returned to Libya. Under the “International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue” the Libyan coastguard are the ones responsible for coordinating a rescue in that area. If the coastguard is unable to do so, the responsibility would be shifted to the closest safe destination. While they were drifting in the waters, Italian Authorities refused to rescue the migrants on the boat, and only waited for the Libyan coastguard to come and rescue them, but they failed to arrive as well. The aftermath had only 17 people surviving while the rest passed away at sea. This event was carried out due to Italy and the EU breaching their duties of responsibility under the international law with how they are supposed to operate rescue ships, and safely return the migrants back to Libya.

What Delegates are Trying to Solve

Through this conference, delegates are attempting to tackle the challenge of mitigating migrant deaths on the Mediterranean. This demands for Delegates to advocate for sustainable solutions that prioritize the protection of human lives at sea. This also encourages them to address the root causes of migration, discussing solutions to establishing formal migration routes and addressing the need for increased resources for search and rescue operations. Delegates should choose to operate similar to the UFM and combat the issues by addressing their main strategic objectives of regional stability, human development and regional economic integration. Following the discussion of these suggested solutions, the Delegates will examine the various choices and discuss a strategy to address this problem.

Issue 2: Dealing with Human Smugglers in The Mediterranean

The Mediterranean region has become a hotspot for migration, with individuals seeking refuge and better opportunities undertaking dangerous journeys across its waters. Alongside this crisis is the involvement of human smugglers who exploit vulnerable migrants, subjecting them to dangerous and often life-threatening conditions. Understanding the issues surrounding human smuggling in the Mediterranean is crucial for devising effective strategies to address this humanitarian challenge.

It has been estimated that over the past few years, 90% of migrants who travel to Europe through the Mediterranean Sea did so through the use of a criminal network. This is a growing illicit industry, as it was estimated that in the first half of 2023, smugglers made roughly 360 million Euros from migrants.

A human smuggler is an individual or a designated network engaged in facilitating the illegal movement of people across borders for financial gain. Different from human traffickers, who often employ force, human smugglers provide a service to individuals seeking to migrate. They arrange transportation, documentation, and sometimes even accommodation, with the primary goal of helping migrants reach their destination. However, the methods employed by human smugglers are often unsafe and exploitative, putting the lives of migrants at significant risk.

The issue of human smugglers has a densely tight network all across the coastlines of the Mediterranean Sea. These smugglers bring many issues that relate to the deaths of migrants attempting to cross the Mediterranean. Firstly, human smugglers primarily target and thrive on the vulnerability of migrants who are in desperate need to escape conflict, persecution, or economic hardships within their nations. The majority of these desperate people are deceived by the lies provided by the smugglers, such as false promises of traveling a safe route across the sea, as well as better living opportunities. These smugglers end up exploiting these people and their dangerous situation for financial gain.

Many human smugglers are recruited at young ages, as they are easily influenced by the idea of making money. These younger smugglers are usually sent to smuggle people across the border as they are said to receive a lighter penalty if caught. In addition, the boats used to smuggle the migrants tend to be extremely overcrowded, causing people to have limited resources like food and water, as well as space on the ship itself to stand or lay down. These vessels used by the smugglers also consist of terrible navigation systems, causing smugglers to resort to using reckless navigation practices that further increase the odds of accidents or deaths to occur during the time crossing the sea.

Criminal networks in the Mediterranean also create a huge challenge for authorities to mitigate these operations. When trying to crack these criminal networks there has been a lack of legal repercussions which is caused by the large gap in legal coordination between the countries located on the coast of the Mediterranean. These smuggling networks are extremely complex, and between the years 2002 - 2018, over 3,200 smuggling networks were found in Morocco alone. They are widely spread across the coasts and have thousands of layers operating, many made up of smaller rings.

Smugglers tend to use social media such as Facebook and WhatsApp to connect with these desperate migrants wanting to flee their countries. The usage of social media provides a more flexible and diverse market in which they gain access to communication with a large population while using inexpensive means. These smugglers also strategically place themselves near the coast as they can easily alter their routes in case of any sudden changes to policies.

The European migration system is already lacking formal routes of migration, so many resort to human smugglers as alternatives to getting across the Mediterranean Sea to enter Europe. In July 2023, five people in Libya were sentenced to life in prison after they were convicted of human smuggling. In this specific case, 11 migrants and refugees passed away on the poorly constructed and designed ship. There was great instability in Libya in 2011, due to the death of a long-time ruler Muammar Gaddafi. During this time many human smugglers have benefitted from this instability by engaging in smuggling people from Algeria, Sudan, and Egypt.

What Delegates are Trying to Solve

Throughout this conference, delegates are striving to combat the challenge of dealing with human smugglers in the Mediterranean. Further, they are demanding an urgent response from the international community to create a set of solutions for covering the complex issues within human smuggling. These issues include the exploitation of vulnerable migrants, complex criminal networks, and formal routes for migration passage. Delegates must advocate for collaborative efforts to dismantle smuggling operations, enhance legal pathways for migration, and address what drives people into the hands of smugglers. The delegates are also encouraged to spark more cooperation among other nations to develop better migration alternatives and policies.

After the discussion of this solution, delegates will attempt to create a strategy for mitigating human smuggling and striving toward a safer means of migrating for future generations in the Mediterranean.

Connections to the SDGs

Mitigating migrant deaths on the Mediterranean and addressing human smugglers connects with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1.4, which aims to “**Ensure that all men and women, in particular, the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources**”. The dangerous journey migrants take to cross the Mediterranean Sea are often caused by economic desperation, where poverty and lack of opportunities force people to seek a new life in Europe. By identifying solutions for the root causes of migration such as economic disparities, efforts can be directed towards providing equal economic rights and opportunities for men and women in vulnerable communities. Alongside this, the issue of human



smugglers all connects with the crucial idea for safeguarding the economic rights of these people. Human smugglers exploit the economic vulnerability of migrants in poverty, this demonstrates the importance of dealing with these criminal networks and addressing the issues in the economic inequalities. Approaching these issues highlights the need to have equal access to resources and the opportunity for a dignified life. Mitigating migrant deaths on the Mediterranean and addressing human smugglers connects with **(SDG) 3.6, which seeks to “Reduce the number of deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents and other causes”**

The dangerous sea crossings by migrants, facilitated by human smugglers, often result in tragic accidents and deaths. By enhancing safety measures in different ships, such as improving the seaworthiness of boats and implementing effective search and rescue operations, there is a direct impact on reducing the number of deaths at sea. Additionally, putting a stop to these human smuggling networks is crucial as these criminal operations contribute significantly to the unsafe conditions migrants face during their journey across the Mediterranean. Targeting the root causes of these life-threatening situations, such as criminal networks and unsafe practices, contributes directly to achieving Target 3.6, connecting to the commitment to reducing deaths in accidents due to transportation throughout the Mediterranean migration.

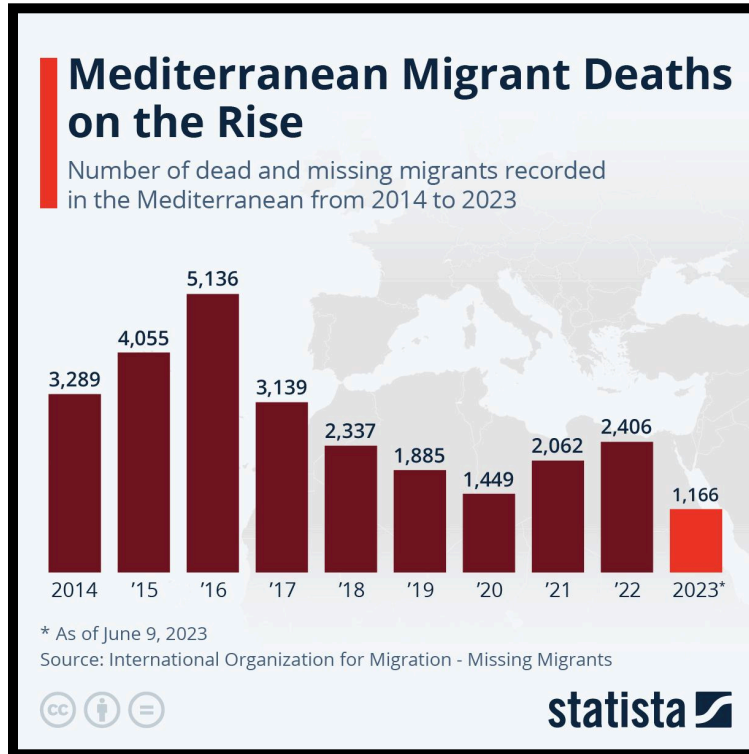


Mitigating migrant deaths on the Mediterranean and addressing human smugglers are connected to **(SDG) 16.2, which aims to “End abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against and torture of children”**. The vulnerable position of migrant children in migration across the Mediterranean makes them a direct victim to exploitation and abuse. Human smugglers often subject children to these terrible conditions during the dangerous sea journeys, exposing them to physical and emotional harm. A proper approach to mitigate migrant deaths involves not only ensuring the safety of all migrants but also placing a particular emphasis on protecting children from exploitation and violence. By tackling the human smuggling networks and addressing the root causes that drive children to migrate under dangerous circumstances, the international communities would be contributing directly to target 16.2, protecting the rights and well-being of children throughout the process of migration.

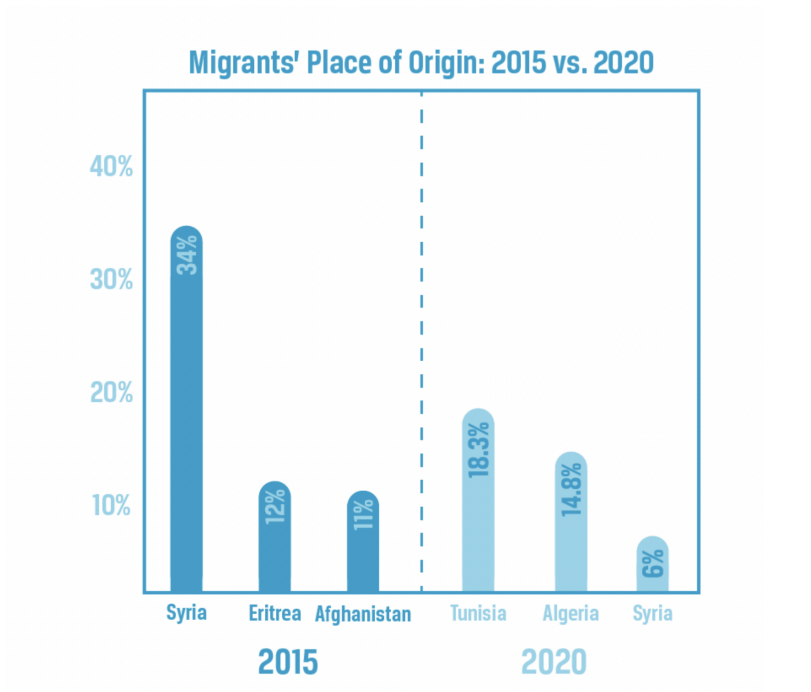


Graphs and Data

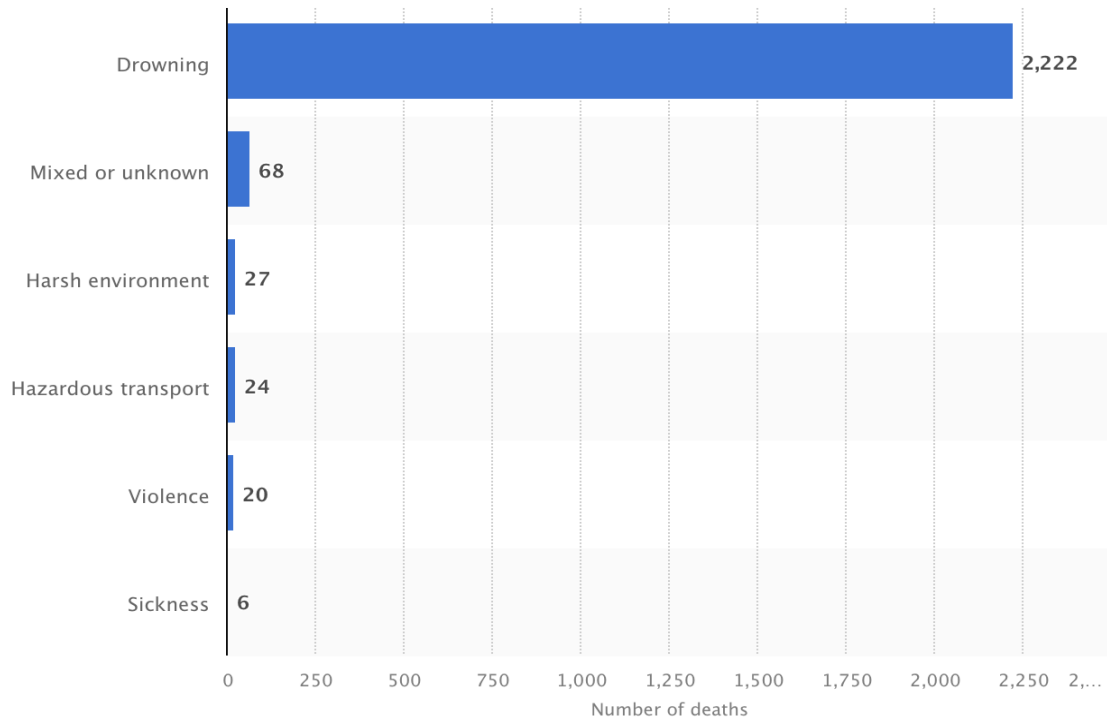
Number of Deaths of migrants Caused in the Mediterranean (2014-2023)



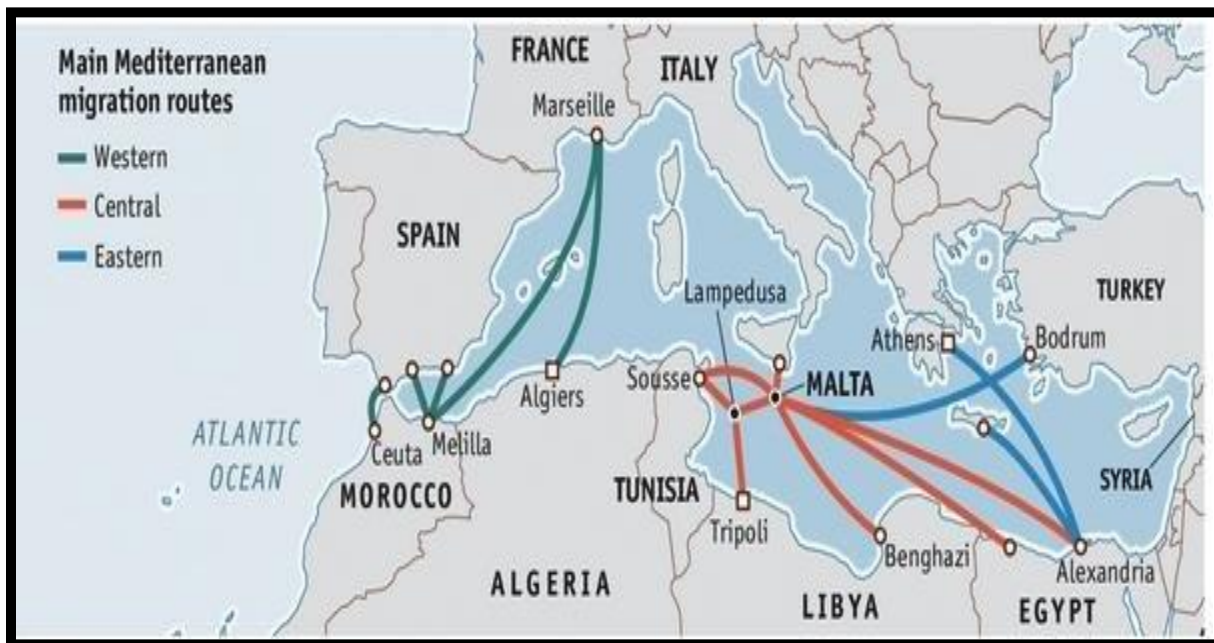
Migrant's Place of Origin: (2015 vs 2020)



Number and Reasons of Death in the Mediterranean Sea (2022)



Main Mediterranean Migration Routes



Countries that Border the Mediterranean Sea



Questions to Consider

- What are some alternatives for migration to mitigate the usage of human smugglers for migrants attempting to cross the Mediterranean?
- To what extent do EU policies have an impact on the lives of migrants crossing the mediterranean?
- What are the primary factors to drive individuals to human smuggling?
- What are the push and pull factors to influence people to take part in these dangerous journeys across the Mediterranean?
- What preventive measures can be implemented to address the root cause of human smuggling?
- What long-term solutions can be proposed to address the issues with unsafe transportation across the Mediterranean?

List of Helpful Resources for Delegates

- Union For The Mediterranean homepage: <https://ufmsecretariat.org>

- Union For The Mediterranean External Action page:
https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/union-mediterranean-ufm_en

- UN Sustainable Development Page: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

- Migrant Smuggling Across the Mediterrean
<https://ballardbrief.byu.edu/issue-briefs/migrant-smuggling-across-the-mediterranean-sea>

- UN Addressing Human Smuggling in the Mediterrean
<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/Webstories2016/migrant-smuggling-across-the-mediterranean.html>

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