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**The United Nations  
Human Rights Council**

**Research Guide**



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**Global Classrooms:**  
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**Agenda 1 :****0. Committee Introduction**

The UNHRC, the United Nations Human Rights Council is a committee deals with human rights problem all around the world. The council is made up of 47 the UN (United Nations) member states which are elected by the UN General Assembly. The UNHRC was created on 15 March 2006 by resolution 60/251. The council had its first session from 19 to 30 June 2006 and one year later, it adopted its “Institution-building package” to guide its work and set up its procedures and mechanisms. It is not limited to just human rights but to any other problems even if it is merely related to human rights. Also, the jobs held in this committee could be divided into 4 parts, first is mainstreaming human rights. Second is having partnerships with other committees which can help human rights problem. Thirdly, this committee is doing standard-setting and monitoring. Lastly, about implementation on the ground which can realistically help those people whose human rights are now discriminated by other people.

The UNHRC is currently dealing with the problem of Israeli-Palestinian conflict and rights in Burma, Guinea, North Korea, Côte d'Ivoire, Kyrgyzstan, Syria, Libya, Iran, and Sri Lanka. Also, it is dealing with lots of human rights problem connected with many other different parts. The UNHRC also mainstreams human rights. They encourage respect for human rights for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion as it is on the United Nations Charter, basic goals of the UNHRC.

It also deals with the important task of mainstreaming human rights into the United Nations system, and work with Government, society, national human rights institutions and other United Nations entities and international organizations like the International Labour Organization, the Office of High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children’s Fund, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Criminal Court, specialized criminal tribunals for Yugoslavia and for Rwanda built by the Security Council, and the World Bank to promote and protect human rights.

**1. Background**

To begin with, ‘sexual orientation’ is not something people can simply change or decide on as a matter of which gender you are in favor of. In our society, there are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and asexual people however, this society has implicitly treated bisexual as the only normal sexual orientation. There are some people who attempt to change their gender identity through surgery and then to be the ‘transgender’. However, since most of the people follow their sex assigned at birth, the society treats them as different people from us. Even if people in this liberalistic society, should have the right of self-determination to choose their own personal gender identity such as male, female, both or none for granted, those sexual minorities are still being discriminated by the society.

The more serious problem here is that those sexual minorities are in the danger of both the physical and psychological violence. Being exposed by the threat, some minorities have focused on building their own safe society or attaining their equal rights in society. In order to assuage the problematic situation the sexual minorities have suffered from, some of International Organizations started to conduct their researches to improve such confusing social condition. For instance, the UNHRC (United Nations Human Rights Council) has processed the publication project to monitor the



current state of the sexual minorities all over the world. In accordance with the UNHRC's official documents, it has consistently emphasized "that all nation-states have a common duty to protect the human rights of the LGBTs' based on the principles of the international human rights laws." On account of these actions, the issue of the LGBT's human rights could emerge on the surface.

Notwithstanding, this discrimination issues are not fully solved due to the government's indifference toward the seriousness of the issue. According to the one research by the working groups subject to the UNHRC, it turns out that only 30% of the whole countries have still neglected 'the hate crime legislation', which means that most of those nation-states do not have any legal framework to protect the minorities. They have not tried to devise some legal tools to discourage the crimes based on the hatred toward the LGBTs or not legitimized the bills to protect LGBT's human rights. And this is why this issue remains unsolved and is rather getting exacerbated over time to time despite the ongoing efforts by the international organizations and movements.

## 2. Major Issues

In current society, LGBTs are facing the tremendous amount of difficulties and inequalities while they are growing up due to the heterosexuality-preferred social trend, which means that the heterosexuality is the only socially accepted norm, whereas homosexuality and bisexuality are, regarded as the abnormal orientations. At this point, this research guide would like to address several factors that have brought about the undesirable social problems.

First of all, Deeply-embedded homophobic attitude which is often combined with the lack of adequate legal framework against the discriminations based on different sexual orientation, gender identity of the LGBTs, let those people to get exposed to the rampant violence and discrimination. In some countries, the homophobic trend has dominated the social flow, which makes people think that homosexuality is not socially desirable and heterosexuality is rather the desirable one. What makes this situation worsen is that there is no legal tool to protect their freedom to choose their own gender identity. In order to devise such mechanism to protect the LGBTs, some petition for establishing the legal framework to the government would be needed. However, due to the extremely abhorrent atmosphere toward the sexual minorities, a great deal of sexual minorities is still segregated. In most EU countries, in fact, same-sex couples are not treated equally with opposite-sex couples. They are still discriminated and are bearing unfair disadvantages in access to social welfare schemes such as the matter of health care coverage services and pensions.

On the other hand, the socially unfair treatment toward the LGBTs can even increase the job instability and the high turnover rate, which would stagnate the entire economic condition in the long run. First of all, in accordance with 'Income Inflation: The Myth of Affluence Among Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Americans', economist Lee Badgett stated that LGBTs are actually earning less than heterosexual people. In addition, according to the World Economic Forum (WEF), up to 40% of the entire homeless people of major cities of the United States of America have been confirmed as LGBTs and queers. These two statistics do not try to generalize that the LGBTs are losing their jobs just because of their different gender identity but prove that the social segregation and homophobic attitude clearly have produced the majority reasons that motivate the LGBTs to have "given up" their jobs, instead. In the real case, according to the World Bank's pilot study in 2015, discriminations against LGBT people in India could be costing the country's economy up to \$32 billion a year in lost economic output. It is no longer just their individual concerns but the matter of a country's destitute economy as a whole.



Discrimination and exclusion has produced another huge impact on teenagers who are the sexual minorities. According to a research from the Family Acceptance Project (FAP), more than half of the families rejected when children “came out” their own gender identity and continued to change their children’s gender identity without insufficient care and communication. This causes family conflict between parents and their LGBT children, which not only leads them to be forced out of the home but also to dropping out of the school and ending up in juvenile detention. It would be more serious when they become young adults. Since they are rejected by the society including their own family, compared to other peers, they are approximately 8 times more likely to kill his or her self, more than 3 times as likely to use illegal drugs, more than 3 times as likely to be at high risk for HIVs and sexually transmitted disease (STDs) and nearly 6 times more likely to be on the high level of self-depression.

Major issues that this paper aims at, is the protection of social violence and discrimination against LGBTs. According to the US National Gay Task Force (NGTF), about 10% of the whole population in the world is LGBT (2015), which means that about 10% of the population is in danger to suffer from discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation. Since lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgender should be treated as other people are dealt with, it is desperately in need to reason out proper solutions to protect their rights. In this sense, searching for more pragmatic alternatives than before is in need.

### 3. Previous Actions

The Secretary-General of the United Nations once noted that “All human beings have the equal rights to be treated with dignity and respect.” Thus, such dignity and respect should be protected to people through the rule of law. In addition, OHCHR (United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner) also approved that one of the purposes of the United Nations is to achieve cooperation in solving international problems of humanitarian character, promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedom of all without distinction as to sexuality and race. And the following previous actions are the instances that show these organizations’ common ideology.

#### 1) High-level event on LGBT inclusion and SDGs at UN headquarter

The event by OHCHR, collaboration with LGBT core group at UN, was held on 29 September 2015.

“There are 17 Sustainable Development Goals all based on a single, guiding principle: to leave no one behind.” – Secretary General of the United Nations

Under the speech by the UN secretary general, this meeting emphasized the link between protecting the rights of the LGBT people and achieving the sustainable development goals. Moreover, the UN agencies, including the Office of Human Rights, have adopted the UN statement ending the unprecedented approval of LGBTs, its violence and discrimination against people of intersex. This event has attracted national attention in resolving the problems related to LGBTs, seeing it as a common problem that must be solved.



## 2) UNESCO “Out in the Open”

With believing that people need the right perception and information about LGBT, UNESCO had launched “Out in the Open”, a survey report which is about the attitude of violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity in educator sector. The main purpose of this report is to advocate inserting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) material into public school’s curriculum by means of UN General Assembly.

Through this paper, UN member state had scheduled to adopt the resolution on bullying based on sexual orientation and gender identity, particularly between child and teenager.

## 3) “Olympic Agenda 2020” – Tokyo’s Olympic LGBT non-discrimination law

United Nations have come up with the resolution for the purpose of ending violence and discrimination against LGBT people. In this connection, as the part of ‘Olympic Agenda 2020’, IOC (International Olympic Committee) confirmed that all the future Olympic host country contracts have to include a requirement which specifically bans discrimination and violence on the basis of sexual orientation. Tokyo, the host city of the 2020 Olympic, went even further. The Tokyo Metropolitan Governmental passed the bill that prohibits discrimination against LGBT that includes gender identity protection. This has been in part of a rebuke to Russia for the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics, which is that Russian government’s passage of the discriminatory “gay propaganda”. This law demonstrated the Olympic spirit but also withdrawn discriminatory laws and policies and get closer to their actions to establish protection policies.

## 4. Possible Actions & Solutions

Possible actions for this agenda should reflect the major issues mentioned above. In order to reason out the appropriate solutions for handling the principal issues, this committee basically needs to consider the following points. First one is to take each nation-state’s political situation (its national laws, development priorities, the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people) in to the consideration as a prerequisite. The next one is to respect for the external sovereignty, which indicates the safeguard of the nation-states’ own international independence. Lastly, the solutions have to fully conform to the universally recognized international human rights. Based on these points, this paper would like to adumbrate some direction for reasoning out the proper solutions.

### 1) Strengthening the range of legal framework

The legal framework should explicitly include indiscriminate provisions of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics which are in need as a protective measure by enshrining protection in the basic law of a country. Constitutional protection, a strong non-discrimination legal framework that prohibits discrimination in all spheres of life can provide protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation. The point is that this legal framework should be applicable in both the public and private sectors.

Also, such legal frameworks have to include effective measures to investigate alleged discriminatory actions, redress for victims and effective accountability measures for alleged perpetrators.





## 2) Improving social awareness

Educating the public and officials is essential to increase the exact understanding of sexual orientation and gender identity. Among various possible plans for doing it, social campaigns can be one of the effective ways to improve social attitude against LGBT people. As negative stereotypes against LGBTs are the fundamental problems, which leads to the discrimination, raising awareness of the rights of LGBTs through schools, youth and expanded education about sexual orientation can be of the great help to end this problem without a doubt.

## 3) Policy for ensuring the sexually equal workplace

All businesses have to guarantee basic human rights by establishing inclusive policies, equivalent benefits, wage policies and so on. Also, health coverage ought to be ensured for those same-sex couples to equalize the entire social welfare system. For more in an effective way, the committee needs to discuss the possible ways of providing incentives to the corporations all around the world for building a sexually equal workplace.

# 5. Definition of Key Terms

## 1) Sexual Orientation

Sexual orientation is about whom he/she is attracted to when he/she wants to have relationships with. It includes Lesbian, a homosexual woman, Gay, a homosexual man, straight, a person who is heterosexual rather than homosexual, bisexual, the person who is sexually attracted by both men and women and asexual, who has no sexual feelings or desires. In society, mostly, straight is considered as normal and lesbian, gay and bisexual are considered to be abnormal. It is unknown why someone might be LGBT but some researches show that it is likely to be caused by biological factors which start before birth. So it is the natural part which is not a matter of individual will.

## 2) Autonomy

Autonomy is an ability of rational individuals who understand deeply about certain content and make decisions about that without any forces. The word autonomy means that one administers the law by themselves and acts under such law independently. The concept of autonomy can be understood as non-interference and emphasizes the independent decision-making process.

## 3) Minorities

Minorities or minority groups have consisted of people who are relatively weaker than other groups and have less number of members. Normally minority groups are made when they share different thoughts, such as religious thoughts and cultural thoughts. This difference even causes conflict between one big group.

## 4) Gender Identity

Gender identity is different from sexual orientation. Sexual orientation is about whom he/she is attracted to but gender identity is defined as a personal conception of oneself as male, female, both or neither. One's gender identity can be different from their sex assigned at birth. Gender can be socially modified through one's dressing, using the names-gender expression, and also be physically modified through medical interventions. Transgender, in this regard, are terms whose gender identity is different from cultural expectation based on sex they were assigned at birth.



## 5) Human rights

Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status. The basic provisions of human rights are specified in International Human Rights Law. Human rights include the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education and so on.

## 6) Discrimination

Discrimination is an unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people or things, especially on the ground of race, age, or sex. Among these, this agenda focus on discrimination based on gender.

## 6. Affiliated Document & Organizations

### 1) United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR)

OHCHR is the main organization leading the entity UN human rights. The General Assembly entrusted both the High Commissioner and Office with a mandate to promote and protect the human rights of all people around the world.

High Commissioner's report to the Human Rights Council on discrimination and violence against individuals based on their sexual orientation and gender identity (May 2015) A/HRC/29/23

### 2) Human Rights Campaign (HRC)

The Human Rights Campaign is the largest national LGBT advocacy organization in America. It was founded in 1980 and now about 600,000 members are in the HRC who committed to make their vision of equality a reality. They provide campaign support to fair-minded and educate the public of topics affecting LGBT Americans, including the relationship with family, workplace and health issues.

### 3) General Assembly (GA)

According to Article 13 of the UN Charter, the General Assembly has the power to initiate studies and make recommendations on human rights issues. Under this provision, the general assembly has passed the universal declaration of human rights in 1948.

### 4) The Core International Human Rights Treaties

'The Core International Human Rights Treaties' is the document published by OHCHR (United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner) which is based on the comprehensive compilation that OHCHR published in February 2003: Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments – Universal Instruments. It contains the universal declaration of human rights and described human rights are the area such as racial, women and so on.

## 7. Critical Questions to Consider

- 1) Why are the LGBT all around the world became the subject of social discrimination and who are mainly responsible for causing problems and what is the basic prejudice they have?
- 2) What solution can be taken, as the UN, in order to provide the assistance in this violence



and discrimination LGBT are facing in society like workplace and school?

- 3) As a member state of UNHRC, what would be the effective way to deal with human rights issues arise from in different ideas and how to deal with the problems that might appear in changing people's perceptions?

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The real cost of LGBT discrimination

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## Agenda 2 Research Guide

### 0. Committee Introduction

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The UNHRC is currently dealing with the problem of Israeli-Palestinian conflict and rights in Burma, Guinea, North Korea, Côte d'Ivoire, Kyrgyzstan, Syria, Libya, Iran, and Sri Lanka. Also, it is dealing with lots of human rights problem connected with many other different parts. The UNHRC also mainstreams human rights. They encourage respect for human rights for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion as it is on the United Nations Charter, basic goals of the UNHRC.

It also deals with the important task of mainstreaming human rights into the United Nations system, and work with Government, society, national human rights institutions and other United Nations entities and international organizations like the International Labour Organization, the Office of High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children’s Fund, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Criminal Court, specialized criminal tribunals for Yugoslavia and for Rwanda built by the Security Council, and the World Bank to promote and protect human rights.

### 1. Background

Self-determination theory and autonomy began to draw attention from the global society since people started to concern on the social minorities. Minorities all over the world have surrendered to majorities for long centuries and could not even get such attention towards their rights. In order to assuage this problematic situation, the current society started to emphasize the basic human rights for all human beings, and thus the UNHRC(United Nations Human Rights Council) and its subject working groups began to consider this topic as their main subject to discuss over, shifting the global trend toward the social minorities. Before to take a close look at this global flow, which will be discussed on the ‘Major Issues’, this paper would like to suggest the theoretical background regarding the issue of self-determination and autonomy.

#### 1) Concept of Self-determination and autonomy

Self-determination and autonomy share similar concepts, but they are slightly different. The article by Ackerman depicts self-determination as “the ability or process of making one’s own choices and



controlling one's own life, in terms of personal and psychological perspectives" (Ackerman, 2018). The right of Self-determination is literally one's right to make one's decision without much interference. In political views, self-determination of the citizen can be understood as their rights to make their own choices upon their own thoughts without the interference from the government and they can even argue against the government.

Autonomy also has a similar concept to this. In the political situations, autonomy usually comprehended as "the ability of the state to wield its power independently of the public or international actors" (O'Neil, 2015). This shows how self-determination and autonomy are related. Both concepts emphasize independence and party's ability to invoke as themselves. But the point is that the concept of self-determination comes first and then autonomy follows it, which means that the safeguard of autonomy operates only when the rights of self-determination are guaranteed. This is mainly because autonomy is a right to implement his or her own political actions independently, which needs the process of decision making. Unless this decision making process to determine what actions to take is not democratized by the government, it would be impossible for people to think of the ways to exercise their own political actions. Therefore, the freedom of self-determination should be ensured in order to guarantee the right of autonomy.

At this point, some might do not understand why both self-determination and especially autonomy are explained in political perspectives, while the committee and the agenda itself focus on the relations with human rights. However the clear connection here is that the power or the authority of the state can also impact greatly on its citizens and their human rights condition. For instance, in many developing countries with low state power, citizens are suffering from various difficulties and their basic human rights are usually violated, which is exemplified in the case of Uganda, South Sudan and so on. Therefore the concept of the rights of self-determination and autonomy should be also dealt upon the political perspectives.

## 2) Three types of autonomy

Before moving on to the discussion upon finding ways to protect the right of self-determination and autonomy, it is necessary to understand the basic concepts of keywords. To add more about these main concepts of self-determination and autonomy, this paper would like to introduce three types of autonomy, which are personal autonomy, functional or cultural autonomy, and territorial autonomy (Weller et, al. 2005).

First of all, personal autonomy focuses on the individual's action. This is related to cultural or religious aspects that shared by a group, but it guarantees individuals to make their own choices. Personal autonomy recognizes that the general human rights laws admit one's freedom of expression or even religion. However, this acknowledges that such collective religious thoughts and cultures might have been dominated by a leading culture and enforced by public authorities. In such situations, personal autonomy allows individuals to step out of this dominant power and guarantees their freedom to seek for other cultures or religions.

The second type is the concept of functional or cultural autonomy. This is also considered as non-territorial autonomy. *Cultural autonomy "positively recognizes the distinct identity of minorities and seeks to foster the preservation and further development of that collective identity"* (Weller et, al. 2005). This concept follows personal autonomy, and it also can be said that it is a personal autonomy limited to cultural affairs. Cultural autonomy tends to include education, language, and culture.

The last type of autonomy is territorial autonomy. Weller describes that the breadth and scope of



territorial autonomy arrangements are highly diverged. They suggested several elements that would need to be present in order to define territorial autonomy. *These are demographic distinctiveness, legal entrenchment, legal supremacy, statute-making powers, significant competencies, limited external relations powers, institution, and integrative mechanisms.* These three types of autonomy form autonomy and self-determination go along with these types of autonomy. The concepts of each autonomy might be confusing, but the one the chair wants delegates to be more aware of being personal autonomy. The chair would like to suggest for this committee to put more attention to the personal autonomy of minorities and find measures to protect such personal autonomy and the right of self-determination.

## 2. Major Issues

Both self-determination and autonomy are important in the fields of politics and international relations. Especially, autonomy is a key concept that determines whether the state is a weak state or a strong state. The existence and the level of autonomy determine how the state or even people are dependent on others and this point is also related to the self-determination. The amount of dependence defines one's power to execute and decide things. The more dependent, one has less power to decide by own. And reversely, the less dependent, one has more power of autonomy. With this idea, self-determination can be made upon one's enough amount of autonomy. Therefore, minorities who are so dependent on the majorities can't decide on their own and their rights of self-determination have greatly violated.

According to Marc Weller, who announced his arguments through the working paper under the United Nations Human Rights Council, the most important concept to consider is minorities' rights. Minorities are individuals or groups of people who are relatively weaker than others and have less power as themselves. Minorities who are lack of right to self-determination are vulnerable to majorities' decisions, which means that they are dependent on majorities. As mentioned above, this concept is related to autonomy. It is hard for them to make their own decision or act like themselves. For instance, minorities who are lack of right to self-determination have less power to participate in public life. Weller mentioned in his statement: *"It is the requirement of ensuring full and effective participation that underpins any claim to an entitlement to autonomy for minorities. While it is true that there is an ever-increasing acknowledgment of the collective dimension of minority rights, this right can also be expressed as an individual entitlement of members of minorities"* (Weller, 2005).

Currently, women, LGBTs (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender), elders, and disabled people can be considered as minorities in the global society. Their rights to make their own decisions are largely violated by majorities due to the structural problem. Women's rights have been considered as a right that should be respected, but still, in some countries, it is restricted for women to participate in many areas such as politics. LGBTs, elders, and disabled people are now experiencing discrimination and their rights to participate in public are also violated. In societies where their rights are not respected, all they can do is just to hide from the public and follow the majority's decisions.

The more serious problem would indicate that many minorities in developing countries are even unaware of the fact that their rights are being violated. In some ethnic groups of some developing countries, such problems have not been accepted as a serious issue but just their traditional culture. In order to solve this problem and to find ways to protect minorities' rights of self-determination and autonomy, it is necessary to put special attention to developing countries and help those minorities to be aware of the issue.



Furthermore, in more political perspective, this committee should also consider that autonomy of the state. If a state has low autonomy, the state tends to be more dependent on other nations. The more dependent, the state has less power to make decisions on their own and maintain the state without help from other nations. This aspect will make it much harder for citizens to live as a patriot of one certain country and also be confused about whether their rights are being protected by the state. If the state keep loses its power, it will move closer to the failed state. Consequently, this lack of power and autonomy of minority countries also causes a lack of respect towards its citizens and their right of self-determination and autonomy.

To summarize, the major issues of this paper would like to highlight on about minorities' rights. Autonomy and the rights of self-determination in both political and personal perspectives are the key points that should be considered. In order to find ways to protect minorities' autonomy and right of self-determination, it is necessary to recognize that those people in developing countries are suffering from such difficulties in protecting their rights. They tend to be dependent on others and even their countries are mostly dependent on other countries since they are lack of state power to execute things on their own. People's lack of knowledge about this issue is also a serious problem. Not only developing countries and its citizens but a number of minorities in other nations' rights should also be protected. This paper hopes that further conference can focus on finding ways to protect these minorities' basic rights of self-determination and their personal autonomy.

### 3. Previous Actions

The principle of self-determination is embodied in Article I of the Charter of the United Nations. The issues of autonomy, self-governance, and self-determination have been considered as the subject that should be debated by the Working Groups under the UNHRC (United Nations Human Rights Council) since its establishment. This discussion was continued by Asbjorn Eide, who served as Chairman of the Working Group for the first several years of its existence, in his own report possible ways and means of facilitating the peaceful and constructive solution of problems involving minorities.

The issues with regard to the rights of self-determination and autonomy were considered as significant problems that should be dealt upon the global perspectives for a long decade. However, the issues were not discussed as serious as it is. According to Weller,

*"During the first five years of its work, this issue was not considered intensively. However, at its sixth session, the issue of autonomy, and its relationship to the concept of self-determination, was raised when considering the commentary on the Declaration of the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities put forward by the Chairman of the Working Group" (Weller et.al. 2005).*

Even if the issues were considered as serious problems internationally, the intensive discussion upon the topic started quite recently. Furthermore, the right of self-determination and autonomy are specified in international laws, but still many minorities' rights are being violated. The overall amount of research and approach towards this issue are relatively small than other major issues that the UN HRC has suggested. More studies are required to this topic in order to protect minorities' rights of self-determination and autonomy.





#### 4. Possible Actions & Solutions

Possible solutions for this agenda item should be found upon the major issues. Since the consideration of this agenda should not be narrowed only to personal issues and individuals' rights, but the political standpoint is still important since the states' autonomy impacts on its citizens' rights. This chair highly recommends delegates to be aware that it is dangerous to touch the state's sovereignty itself. It is not allowed for this committee to modify certain laws while resolution can urge nations to set new regulations towards this issue. In this case, this research guide would like to suggest the overall direction of the possible solutions. These are not the only solutions for this agenda item and thus this guide looks forward to more specific and adequate solutions for this issue at the further conference.

The first direction for the possible solutions is with regard to educational methods. As mentioned upon the major issues section, plenty of minorities in the global society are unaware of the significance of this issue and they even do not treat this issue as a serious matter that should be debated. For those people with lack of knowledge to this issue, such educational methods can be used effectively.

Next directions this guide would like to suggest is about a legal entitlement to autonomy as Weller et, al emphasized the idea with respect to the legal entitlement to autonomy, stating that

*"in some instances, autonomy may be the only effective way of implementing the requirement of universal minority rights, including those enunciated in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities" (Weller et, al. 2005).*

High autonomy ensures independent and it can bring the power of self-determination. Thus, if the autonomy can be guaranteed upon certain laws and regulations, self-determination can also follow on. For these reasons, it is necessary to put attention to autonomy and its power since it determines the degree of the dependence of individuals and their right of self-determination.

#### 5. Definition of Key Terms

##### 1) Self-determination

The rights of self-determination mean a right of individuals that ensures them to decide by their own without national forces and other interruption. This right of self-determination guarantees individuals to make decisions about their own life and body. Individuals can choose to smoke, to drink, to wear what they want, and what they consider themselves as.

##### 2) Autonomy

Autonomy is an ability of rational individuals who understand deeply about certain content and make decisions about that without any forces. The word autonomy means that one administers the law to themselves and act under such law independently. The concept of autonomy can be understood as non-interference and emphasizes the independent decision-making process.

##### 3) Minorities

Minorities or minority groups have consisted of people who are relatively weaker than other groups and have less number of members. Normally minority groups are made when they share different thoughts, such as religious thoughts and cultural thoughts. This difference even causes conflict between one big group.





#### 4) Personal autonomy

Personal autonomy is a temper of independent individuals. This individual is called performer. Performers have responsibilities of what they are doing and they emphasize their ability and rights to make their own decisions. This guarantees individuals to make their own decisions without interference from nations and other forces.

#### 5) Dependent state

State which is dependent on others does not own full political independence or sovereignty as a country. The dependent state does not have much territorial autonomy and historically, most colonies were considered as the dependent state.

#### 6) Legal entitlement

Entitlement is the same meaning with being allowed. Legal entitlement refers to that something is legally allowed, and guaranteed by the law.

### 6. Affiliated Document & Organizations

Main concepts this research guide focus on is based on a working paper from the HRC (Human Rights Council) and its working groups. Mark Weller and other members of the working group described the basic concepts of self-determination theory and the autonomy. They also suggest the concept of three types of autonomy-personal, functional or cultural, and territorial autonomy. This distinction between the three types of autonomy is significantly important in this research guide. Delegates should be aware of the differences between these and try to focus on personal autonomy more than others for this particular agenda item.

In order to understand the right concept of autonomy in political perspective, O'Neil's book helps since it contains this information. His book basically explains the international politics and comparative politics. The concept of autonomy and also self-determination is one of the key concepts in analyzing political issues. Therefore, by reading this book, it will help readers to understand the term autonomy and self-determination. Besides, it includes many case studies. Those case studies, especially one that explains the failure of the state is really helpful to recognize how autonomy is important in maintain state and keep the state power.

UNPO (Unrepresented Nations & Peoples Organization) is one of the major organizations focusing on the rights of self-determination and autonomy. UNPO's members are consists of indigenous people, minorities and recognized states and they are gathered together to promote their right to self-determination. Since UNPO mainly focuses on protecting the right to self-determination, their related news articles, activities, and reports are helpful for doing research about this particular agenda item.



## 7. Critical Questions to Consider

- 1) Does countries' dependency on other nations have an impact on their citizens' autonomy? Can it be a solution to protect citizens' right of self-determination and autonomy if there are ways to reduce countries' dependency?
- 2) How to protect minorities like women, elders, and LGBTs' rights of self-determination and autonomy in both developed countries and developing countries simultaneously?
- 3) In what ways society can become more aware of this issue?
- 4) Will the majorities disagree with the resolutions? If the resolution is going to focus on minorities, won't there be a conflict between the majorities and minorities? How to solve or prevent this conflict?
- 5) Should the discussion of self-determination and autonomy be focused more on individual rights than collective entitlements?

To conclude, this agenda item is going to focus on minorities' right of self-determination and autonomy. Since the concept of self-determination and autonomy is universal, it is necessary to understand what this committee should focus on. The important thing to consider is the personal autonomy of the minorities. Please be aware that the debate should be narrowed into the personal autonomy and minorities' right of self-determination, regarding the suggested questions above. Chairs are looking forward to having the debate with great quality upon this agenda item to bring adequate solutions to find measures to protect the right of self-determination and personal autonomy of minorities.

## 8. Bibliography

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