



Resolutions

*Adopted on 4 October 2014
by the 37th General Assembly
of the International Federation of Liberal Youth
convened in Kyiv, Ukraine.*

Securing Support for the Fight against IS

Resolution adopted by IFLRY's 37th General Assembly in Kyiv, Ukraine, on 4 October 2014.

Affirming that

- the jihadist group 'Islamic State' (IS) is responsible for grave human rights abuses within the territories that it controls, including religious persecution of minorities, kidnapping, torture, executions, rape and (sexual) slavery of women;

Deeply concerned about

- the affluence and militancy of the 'Islamic State' and its disruptive effect on fragile Middle Eastern states, including the fragile democratic system of Iraq;

Noting that

- Every action of IS shows they are planning on conquering more territory with the same brutal tactics, which means the lives of thousands of people will be in danger;
- The prolonged presence is not only a danger for the inhabitants of Iraq, but threatens the entire region in the long term, as an effect of spill over;
- Without foreign support, It would be difficult to defeat IS;

IFLRY recommends

- The UN, EU and Arab League to work closely together to help the Iraqi refugees;
- The creation of a secure/green zone for refugees in Iraq by the peace keeping mission of the United Nations;
- The weapons delivery to the Peshmerga in coordination with the government of Iraq and a strategic plan to avoid the proliferation of weapons after the defeat of IS.

More global responsibility among governments in the burden-sharing of funding the UNHCR

Resolution adopted by IFLRY's 37th General Assembly in Kyiv, Ukraine, on 4 October 2014.

Noting that

- the number of forcibly displaced people (including refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs)) worldwide is 51.2 million, a record high since the last world war;
- the number of refugees worldwide is growing: 16.7 million at the end of 2013 – of which 11.7 million under the mandate of UNHCR – amounting to a ~1.2 million increase since the end of 2012;
- last year, 50% of refugees were under 18 years old - more than in 2012 (46%);

Considering that

- UNHCR funding is not calculated by a pre-determined formula negotiated among states;
- but based almost exclusively on voluntary contributions, generally on ad hoc basis;
- the voluntary nature of UNHCR funding combined with the unpredictability of refugee movements places enormous strains on the organization;
- UNHCR budget consists of 98 % donations and the rest from the UN budget. the size of donations from different governments varies largely and is not comparable with the nations economical capacities;
- since the UNHCR's budget is almost entirely based on voluntary contributions, the global economic situation can have a significant effect;
- a large number of donations are earmarked for specific countries or NGOs which makes the distribution of the funds for where it is needed difficult, as the needs may change rapidly;

Taking into account that

- the biggest humanitarian emergency of our era is ongoing. One notable case is the Syria crisis;

- which has caused 6.5 million people to be internally displaced and 3 million to flee as refugees to neighbouring countries, pressing their capacity to its limits;
- Lebanon, with a population of 4.8 million, is currently hosting 1.2 million Syrian refugees;
- UNHCR is struggling to take care of the health aspects (especially cancer) of refugees because of lack of funding, even in cases where the chance of successful recovery is good;
- The lack of funding hindering adequate care is also psychologically very difficult for the medical staff;
- refugees in prolonged conflicts may stay in refugee camps for years, where their access to education, employment, specialized health care are slim, and risk of radicalization increases;
- developing countries host more than 86 % of the world's refugees (70 % 10 years ago);
- most humanitarian response plans are gravely underfunded;

IFLRY calls for

- global solidarity in the burden-sharing of funding the UNHCR;
- governments to re-consider their capacity to fund the UNHCR and co-operate to secure the funding;
- donations to the UNHCR not to be strongly earmarked to further more equal distribution of the funds.

Condemning Russian violations of Ukrainian territorial integrity as a danger to the nuclear non-proliferation regime

Resolution adopted by IFLRY's 37th General Assembly in Kyiv, Ukraine, on 4 October 2014.

Recalling that

- the break-up of the Soviet Union left Ukraine with almost 4,000 nuclear weapons on its territory;
- it subsequently gave up the world's third largest nuclear weapons stockpile and acceded to the Non-Proliferation Treaty;
- Ukraine received security assurances from the Russian Federation, the United States and the United Kingdom in exchange in the Memorandum on Security Assurances in Connection with Ukraine's Accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 5 December 1994, imposing upon these powers an obligation to respect the political independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its existing borders of 1994, and not to threaten it or use force by any means;

Affirming that

- the incorporation of Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, internationally recognized as part of Ukraine, into Russia, as well as more recent actions in Eastern Ukraine, constitute a flagrant violation of these assurances;

Deeply concerned about

- the deleterious effect that violation of the terms of an agreement to give up nuclear weapons may have on the credibility of the non-proliferation regime, now and in the future;

IFLRY calls on

- the government of the Russian Federation to respect the political independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its 1994 borders.

Future Perspectives for Crimea

Resolution adopted by IFLRY's 37th General Assembly in Kyiv, Ukraine, on 4 October 2014.

Condemning

- the occupation of the Ukrainian peninsula of Crimea by the Russian Federation;

Not acknowledging

- the referendum held on the 17th of March 2014 in Crimea;

IFLRY

- calls upon Ukrainian, Russian and Crimean governments with the UN mediation to create special international status of the Crimean region for a period of 5 years. This period will be under close monitoring of by the United Nations Security Council. This status shall therefore be guaranteed by a UN peacebuilding mission;
- urges the Ukrainian, Russian and Crimean government to create an OSCE-monitored referendum to be held at the end of the aforementioned period of five years, during which the people of Crimea will decide upon the Crimean future.

Religion and State

Resolution adopted by IFLRY's 37th General Assembly in Kyiv, Ukraine, on 4 October 2014.

Noting that

- many countries in the world have a strong bond between religion and state. State can both be in control of religion and the religious practices, thus interfering with individual religious freedom;
- a religious state will also sometimes define their legal system based on religious laws, which can deny people their universal human rights;

Considering that

- the mindset of the people and their traditions often come in conflict with distinguishing their religious beliefs from the civil rights. An example of this is to distinguish between a religious sin and a civil crime;
- homogeneous communities and societies often suffer from xenophobia. This is usually due to lack of information, understanding and acceptance of the differences between cultures, religions and beliefs;
- in many countries, religious institutions are owned, controlled or heavily regulated by the state. This restricts the religious freedom;
- some states favour certain religious or spiritual groups over others, which can lead to discrimination of other groups economically, socially or legally;

IFLRY believes

- religious practices are private matters, and everyone should have the freedom to choose their own religion and practices;
- The state should not interfere with the individual practices of religion, as long as it does not come in conflict with individual and fundamental rights and liberties;
- the state should not have any regulations regarding establishment of religious communities;

- the state should not have the responsibility of funding religious groups and communities, as they should be responsible for their own agenda. If such expenditures do exist, they should be distributed fairly and just;
- religious communities should have the freedom to open their religious place of worship. public education should be politically and religiously neutral. If mandatory religious courses exist, they should not be favouring any particular political or religious view;
- countries should establish secular legal systems in order to distinguish between crime and sins that are not crimes;
- states should recognize the secular civil legal system as the defining legal system within the country. Private matters that do not come in conflict with the law can be solved in order with religious tradition;

IFLRY calls upon

- the international community to deal with these challenges within the controversial topic of religion and state. In order to achieve the goal of ensuring human rights, religious freedom of faith and practices; civil rights and equality before the law should be especially targeted.