

Committee: Council of Marvel

Issue: The issue of providing asylum to Skrull refugees

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Position: Deputy President

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Greetings delegates, my name is Konstantinos Nanos and I will be serving as a Deputy President for this year's ATSMUN in the Council of Marvel. I am 17 years old and I am a student of the Model High School of Chalkida. It is an honor to be serving as a chair for this conference, taking into account that this was the first official MUN I ever participated in. As such, it is quite poetic that my first experience as a chair will be the conference that sparked my interest for these conferences, and I am hopeful that you will be inspired in the same way.

This study guide required a lot of time when it came to collecting the essential information as well as rewriting it accordingly, and I cannot help but feel truly excited about the debates that shall spark during the conference. I advise that the study guide does not become your sole advisor, but the starting point of your own research. In order to understand the topic better, try to find further details that were not included in the study guide, as well as the specific stance of your character.

You should not forget that there are also many relevant articles from academic journals and newspapers under the bibliography section, at the end of the study guide. Additionally, there are certain pieces of information which could be more easily comprehensible if you were to watch the films related to them.

Feel free to have a look at some of them if you feel that is essential to your research. For any potential questions or help you might need, feel free to contact me via my email (kostantinosnanos@gmail.com). I will be more than happy to help.

I anticipate meeting you in November and wish you good luck with your preparation!

Best regards,

Konstantinos

INTRODUCTION

As of 2025, according to former Skrull counsellor Talos, there is an estimate of one million Skrulls trapped on Earth away from their native planet, Skrullos, which was destroyed during a war with the Kree.



Figure 1 Source: <https://www.wired.com/story/captain-marvel-skrulls/>

The thousands of Skrull survivors used deception and their shapeshifting abilities to seek refuge on various planets by blending in with their populations. The Kree Empire began a propaganda campaign that depicted the Skrulls as evil invaders who infiltrate planets with the intention to conquer them in order to hunt down any Skrull refugees they could find. One faction of the Skrulls led by Talos found temporary refuge aboard a Kree cruiser hidden in Earth's orbit, being sheltered by Mar-Vell, who researched a way to build a Light-Speed Engine, hoping to provide transport to the faction away from the Kree's war. However, Mar-Vell was assassinated before she could complete her work, resulting in the refugees residing in her spaceship for six years.

The Skrulls are what can be defined according to the United Nations (UN) as

refugees. The Skrulls arrived on Earth during the 1990s when they came into contact with Captain Marvel and Nicholas Fury. Under the command of Talos, the first of many to come, Skrulls allied themselves with Nick Fury, supporting him in his cause to stabilize human society and protect Earth. However, even under Nick Fury's and the S.H.I.E.L.D., the Skrulls in their weakened state were deceived and never received their end of the bargain with S.H.I.E.L.D.

In most recent times, during the "Secret Invasion" event the Skrulls formed a revolution under the command of Gravik, during Nick Fury's absence and attempted to seize political power by adopting the identities of high-ranking officials, however as it was later shown the Skrulls did not wish to harm any humans and wanted to ensure the best feasible scenario for both Skrulls and humans to co-exist. Gravik used the Skrull refugee camp as leverage in order to start World War III, in an attempt to acquire "the Harvest", whilst possibly risking the lives of all inhabitants in the camp for the sake of achieving his goals.

Even after Gravik's defeat by Gi'ah, daughter of Talos, the Skrulls still lack asylum and are being hunted down after President Ritson's most recent decree.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Refugee

A refugee is someone who "owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it".

Asylum seeker

An asylum seeker is a person who has left their country and is seeking protection from persecution and serious human rights violations in another country,

but who hasn't yet been legally recognized as a refugee and is waiting to receive a decision on their asylum claim. Seeking asylum is a human right. This means everyone should be allowed to enter another country to seek asylum.

The Skrull Race

As seen in the film "Captain Marvel", the Skrulls are a race of reptilian shape-shifting aliens that have been at war with the Kree for generations. So far, not much about the species is known in the MCU, but if their origins match the comics, then they were created by the Celestials along with the Eternals and the Deviants. It's already known that Skrulls can copy other organisms with incredible accuracy, however, it's also rather concerning that after extensive experimentation made by Gravik and his group, some within the alien race have the ability to replicate other powers as well, those individuals are known as "Super Skrulls" and have been genetically modified through the usage of "the Harvest" and the Extremis virus.

The Harvest

The Harvest is a collective sample of DNA which includes the genetic material collected from all living entities that fought during the battle of the Earth against Thanos and can be used to replicate the abilities of said individuals. It was originally collected by Gravik and his group in S.H.I.E.L.D. The Harvest's last known location was in the laboratory below the Chernobyl camp and it is still unknown if the DNA was not destroyed, however it is possible that the vile Nick Fury offered to Gravik was not the only sample of the Harvest.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- There were 89.3 million people forcibly displaced world-wide at the end of 2021. Among those were 27.1 million refugees, half under the age of 18 (21.3 million refugees under UNHCR's mandate, and 5.8 million Palestine refugees under UNRWA's mandate). There were also 53.2 million internally displaced

people, 4.6 million asylum seekers, and 4.4 million Venezuelans displaced abroad. There are also millions of stateless people, who have been denied a nationality and access to basic rights such as education, healthcare, employment and freedom of movement.

- There are diminishing prospects for refugees when it comes to hopes of any quick end to their plight. In the 1990s, on average 1.5 million refugees were able to return home each year. Over the past decade that number has fallen to around 385,000, meaning that growth in displacement is today far outstripping solutions.
- Under international law and the principle of family unity, the children of refugees and their descendants are also considered refugees until a durable solution is found. Both UNRWA and UNHCR recognize descendants as refugees on this basis, a practice that has been widely accepted by the international community, including both donors and refugee hosting countries.
- Palestine refugees are not distinct from other protracted refugee situations such as those from Afghanistan or Somalia, where there are multiple generations of refugees, considered by UNHCR as refugees and supported as such. Protracted refugee situations are the result of the failure to find political solutions to their underlying political crises.
- UN peacekeepers are often there to protect the camps in which refugees must live. When they are left without access to such basic necessities as food, water, sanitation and health care, the UN family provides it. Much of this support is provided through the United Nations humanitarian action machinery. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), through its “cluster approach”, brings together all major humanitarian agencies, both within and outside the UN system, for coordinated action.
- The UNHCR is the lead agency with respect to the protection of refugees and

the internally displaced. Along with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), it is the lead agency for camp coordination and management. And it shares the lead with respect to emergency shelter with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees has twice been the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize — in 1954 and most recently in 1981.

- As of their most recent activities Skrulls have been through a lot, considering that since 1995 until 2026 Skrull civilians, including children have been at the service of the US government after Nicholas Fury's intervention and forming an alliance with their former leader, Talos. Skrull civilians for the past 30 years in a pursuit to secure a safe space for themselves to reside alongside humans have ignored their own wellbeing and have had their lives put at risk many times with only few high-ranking government officials being aware of their contribution.
 - This in turn means that Skrulls have lost faith in their treaty with humans and thus are lacking a space where they can reside with integrity
 - All known living Skrull survivors are living under despicable conditions close to the ruins of Chernobyl, however according to Talos' information and considering the amount of civilians in the Chernobyl camp, we can estimate that there's undoubtedly a few thousands of Skrulls who have either been forced to camouflage permanently, meaning they have been stripped of their individual identity or are outsiders, who have been unable to fit in with the human civilization
- The lives of many Skrull civilians are at risk after the Moscow terrorist attack and the attempt on the president's life. Under the command of General Gravik and Raava, who had infiltrated the US government by adopting the identity of "Rhodey" Jones, convinced President Ritson to unleash a nuclear attack directly into the Skrull refugee camp close to Chernobyl. Unfortunately even after Gravik's defeat the crisis has not been fully averted because many believers of his original cause are still in power

- The United States, under the governance of President Ritson, have officially launched a new policy targeted towards extra terrestrial entities and should they enter Earth's territory they shall be immediately terminated. Additionally, during a live television broadcast, President Ritson declared that the United States military will hunt down and exterminate all Skrull civilians. This in turn will lead to:
 - Endangerment of Skrull citizens, including women and children due to the hunting and extermination procedures announced by the US government
 - Loss of innocent, civilian lives of Skrulls who were used as a means of leverage during the Secret Invasion
 - Possible mix-ups of Skrulls and humans which could lead to human casualties, due to the Skrull shapeshifting abilities

COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

Department of Damage Control (United States of America)

The United States Department of Damage Control, also known by its acronym DODC or simply Damage Control, is a federal executive department responsible for dealing with enhanced conflicts. Initially a subsidiary of S.H.I.E.L.D., Damage Control specialised in cleaning up the post-battle damage caused by individuals. As a response to the Chitauri Invasion, Damage Control was made into an executive branch of the United States government in 2012, and in a joint venture with Stark Industries, was tasked with collecting powerful and alien technology.

One of the most important branches of the organisation is in charge of law enforcement tasked with detaining enhanced people along with seizing dangerous and alien artifacts.

Strategic Homeland Intervention, Enforcement and Logistics Division (S.H.I.E.L.D.)

The Strategic Homeland Intervention, Enforcement and Logistics Division, better known by its acronym S.H.I.E.L.D., is an American extra-governmental counter-terrorism

intelligence agency tasked with maintaining both national and global security.

Founded in the wake of the Allied victory over the Axis powers and HYDRA in World War II, S.H.I.E.L.D. was organised to protect the United States from all possible threats. With its advanced weapons and extraordinary agents, S.H.I.E.L.D. was perhaps the greatest military power on Earth. Following his encounter with Captain Marvel, S.H.I.E.L.D. was run by Nick Fury and the World Security Council in the modern age; S.H.I.E.L.D. had to deal with the significant rise in enhanced individuals, dangerous advanced technology, and alien contact.



Figure 2 Source: <https://marvelcinematicuniverse.fandom.com/wiki/S.H.I.E.L.D.>

All the problems S.H.I.E.L.D. had to solve eventually led to the formation of the Avengers, a response team that was recruited to save the world during the alien invasion of Earth in 2012. The agency became publicly known after the Battle of New York, partially because of the Rising Tide website.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is the leading international organisation working in the field of refugees nowadays. UNHCR started its work in 1950 to respond to displacement in Europe as a result of the Second World War. UNHCR started initially as a temporary office to solve the refugee crisis back then in three years; however its mandate was regularly extended due to the persistent need for its work. In 2003, the UN General Assembly removed the time limitation on the UNHCR mandate and extended it until the refugee problem was solved. Nowadays, it is estimated that there are around 25.4 million refugees in

the world. UNHCR works in 128 countries to provide protection and assistance to refugees.

Established in 1949, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is the UN agency concerned with the Palestinian refugees in Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and West Bank. UNRWA focuses its work on the human development of Palestinian refugees, their empowerment and providing them with humanitarian services.

Refugees International

Focusing its work mainly on advocacy, Refugees International works independently to secure basic rights for refugees. Refugees International conducts annual field visits to determine refugees' needs and pursuant to the outcomes of such field visits they decide on their advocacy plans. Refugees International advocated against cutting U.S. budgeted funding for humanitarian assistance and response programs. It also advocated for refugees' rights to legal employment, safe working conditions, and fair wages in Turkey.

International Refugee Assistance Project

Asylum seekers and refugees, in most of the cases, lack the financial capacities to fund the needed legal services during their asylum process. To fill this gap and protect refugees and asylum seekers from exploitation, the International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP) deploys a network of lawyers and even law students to provide legal aid services to refugees and asylum seekers. IRAP works in many countries including the U.S., Jordan, and Lebanon.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

1951	The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees
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1953	The Refugee Relief Act of 1953 authorised nearly 200,000 special non-quota immigrant visas for refugees and escapees from communist countries. The U.S. issued these visas between 1953 and 1956. Chinese refugees received 2,000 visas under this program, at a time when the annual immigrant quota for China was 105.
1962	The Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962 allowed Congress to provide monetary assistance to refugees, particularly those fleeing from Cold War communist countries. The Migration and Refugee Assistance Act also extended the terms of the Fair Share Refugee Act and allowed nearly 20,000 refugees to enter the U.S. under the Attorney General's parole authority between 1960-1965.
1967	The 1967 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Refugee Protocol removed the "geographical and temporal limits" of the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. This allowed the Convention to be used universally. The U.S. signed the 1967 Protocol on Nov. 1, 1968. The Protocol was the only amendment to the Convention.
1968	In 1968 and 1969 BCAR assisted over 900 Czech refugees who had come to the UK following the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia
1995	After their collaboration, Nick Fury and Captain Marvel allowed that the Skrulls immigrated to Earth
2005	Home Secretary David Blunkett announced the scrapping of the voucher system for asylum seekers after a vigorous campaign run by the Refugee Council and other supporters
2004:	2004: Sheffield becomes the first city in the UK to resettle refugees through the Gateway Protection Programme. A group of Liberian refugees arrived and the Refugee Council starts to provide specialist support to help them to integrate

2016	2016: The Refugee Council worked with a law firm on a case that resulted in the Home Office's policy of judging the age of unaccompanied children seeking asylum based on their appearance being ruled unlawful by the High Court.
November 2025	Nicholas Fury returns to Earth after learning of a Skrull conspiracy organised by Skrull leader Gravic, who wants to offer freedom to Skrulls by replacing the humans with their own species

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

The 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees

The Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees or the 1951 Refugee Convention was approved at a special United Nations conference (July 28th 1951) and, as the official UNHCR site states, "is the basis of their work". As of today 145 Member States have ratified the convention. The 1951 Convention is of extreme importance as it defines the term 'refugee' and outlines the rights of the displaced, as well as the legal obligations of states to protect them. Specifically, Article 1 paragraph 2 of the convention defines the term refugee as follows: "As a result of events occurring before 1 January 1951 and owing to well founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it." The basis of the Convention is Article 14 of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights which recognises that "everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution" and its core principle is the one of non-refoulement, or protection against return to a country where a person has reason to fear persecution. This protection has found expression in the principle of non-refoulement which, as will be seen below, is widely accepted by states.

The New York Declaration for Refugees and Immigrants

On September 19, 2016, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. The New York Declaration reaffirms the importance of the international refugee regime and contains a wide range of commitments by Member States to strengthen and enhance mechanisms to protect people on the move. It has paved the way for the adoption of two new global compacts in 2018: a global compact on refugees and a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

In adopting the New York Declaration, Member States:

- Expressed profound solidarity with those who are forced to flee;
- reaffirmed their obligations to fully respect the human rights of refugees and migrants;
- Agreed that protecting refugees and supporting the countries that shelter them are shared international responsibilities and must be borne more equitably and predictably;
- pledged robust support to those countries affected by large movements of refugees and migrants;
- agreed upon the core elements of a Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework; and
- agreed to work towards the adoption of a global compact on refugees and a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

UNHCR guidance and efforts

The UNHCR has issued guidance on addressing racism and xenophobia, providing practical examples and best practices for its operations around the world. UNHCR's efforts to address and respond to racism and racial discrimination focus on the following priorities:

- the human rights of refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons, returnees and stateless persons must be ensured without discrimination.

- strong laws and policies to combat racism, xenophobia, hate crimes and hate speech are essential.
- access to justice and effective remedies for victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, hate crimes or hate speech and holding those responsible to account.
- inclusion of persons under its mandate in all exercises and platforms monitoring and collecting disaggregated data documenting racial discrimination, racism, xenophobia, hate crimes and hate speech.
- education on the rights of persons under its mandate and messages encouraging inclusion, diversity, empathy and tolerance.
- Everyone can play a role to prevent and stop racism and xenophobia that affect refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons, returnees and stateless persons.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

1. **Establish Special Refugee Status:** Create a specific refugee status for Skrulls in international law, acknowledging their unique circumstances and offering them protection and rights while integrating into human society.
2. **Skrull Integration Programs:** Develop comprehensive integration programs that include language and cultural training, education, and vocational support to help Skrulls adapt to their new environment. This would also include the introduction of a new education system so that Skrull children can adapt into human society.
3. **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Launch awareness campaigns to educate the human population about the Skrulls' situation, dispelling misconceptions and fostering empathy and understanding. Additionally Skrull historians in collaboration with human historians should invest time and resources into helping the Skrulls protect their cultural heritage.
4. **Skrull Human Rights Council:** Establish an independent international body to monitor the treatment and rights of Skrulls in different countries, ensuring

they are not subject to discrimination or mistreatment.



Figure 3 Source: <https://marvellegends.co.uk/marvel-skrulls-who-are-they/>

FURTHER READING

Film: "Captain Marvel" (focuses on the origin of Skrulls as well as how their secret alliance with Nicholas Fury came to be)

Series: "Secret Invasion" (focuses on how the Skrull's have been stranded as refugees on an unknown to them planet, whilst showcasing a large amount of Skrull civilians living in refugee camps which are heavily guarded)

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