

BACKGROUND GUIDE

ODMMUN 2025



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

AGENDA-Investigating and Addressing Systematic
Violations of Human Rights in Ongoing Conflicts - Case
Study: Gaza Strip

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1. Letter from the Executive Board

We are very pleased to welcome you to the simulation of the **UNHRC at ODM Model United Nations 2025**. The agenda which will be simulated will be: -

‘Investigating and Addressing Systematic Violations of Human Rights in Ongoing Conflicts - Case Study: Gaza Strip’

Please take a note that the study guide is in no way exhaustive and is only to provide you with enough background information to begin your research. We would like you to do a good amount of research beyond what is covered in the guide. Relevant links have been added in the guide to help you research and further your knowledge on the agenda.

Considering the nature of the conference, we look forward to making this more of a learning engagement while still keeping up the spirit of competition and the essence of debate.

We THE Executive board expect the debate to comprise of substantive points, logical analysis of facts and suggestions and advancement of country opinion. To clear any contentions, the participants need not let thoughts about our expectations be a hurdle in their research or give way to any fear regarding fulfilment of their objectives. The only thing the Executive Board will put strong emphasis on, would be helping you understand the international analysis, and argumentative debating. Participants shall be tested on their knowledge and arguments, along their specific country lines and the respective ideology, over the various topics discussed in the debate and also the deliberations before choosing a particular topic. This guide, although very comprehensive and factual, provides a basic idea of the topics likely to be argued upon and topics to be discussed in view of the committee and may vary from those of the respective delegate's ideologies. In no way is this guide to confine a participant's research. The guide consists of subjective and factual data with arguments, but this is just to make the participants understand the ways in which they must make their addresses.

In no way can the study guide be used as the sole source of information for your research. A few basic ideas have been enshrined in the guide on which you are required to research extensively and prepare. We would like to see the highest standards of diplomacy from you when you represent your nation. It is always advisable to go through the basic rules of procedures before attending the conference. However, we shall be briefing you about the same.

**RESEARCH WELL!
ALL THE BEST**

EXECUTIVE BOARD (UNHRC)

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2. Introduction to the Committee

UNHRC is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, and meets for regular sessions three times a year, with additional special sessions convened as required. Its membership consists of 47 United Nations Member States, elected directly by the UN General Assembly through a secret ballot, based on equitable geographic representation. The Council also engages with observer states, specialized agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to ensure a broad and inclusive approach to human rights issues.

UNHRC also oversees the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism, which examines the human rights record of all UN Member States every four years. This process encourages international cooperation and accountability by providing recommendations to states for improving their human rights practices.

Since its inception, the UNHRC has played a pivotal role in addressing global human rights challenges. It has established commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions, adopted resolutions on thematic and country-specific issues, and contributed to the development of international human rights law. The Council's ability to address emerging human rights crises and its focus on the principle of universality make it an essential organ in the global governance of human rights.

3. Mandate of United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

UN Human Rights is mandated to:

- Promote and protect all human rights for all
- Recommend that bodies of the UN system improve the promotion and protection of all human rights
- Promote and protect the right to development
- Provide technical assistance to States for human rights activities
- Coordinate UN human rights education and public information programmes
- Work actively to remove obstacles to the realization of human rights and to prevent the continuation of human rights violations
- Engage in dialogue with Governments in order to secure respect for all human rights
- Enhance international cooperation for the promotion and protection of all human rights
- Coordinate human rights promotion and protection activities throughout the United Nations system
- Rationalize, adapt, strengthen and streamline the UN human rights machinery.

4. Overview of the Agenda

The Gaza Strip conflict refers primarily to the ongoing and deeply entrenched struggle between Israel and Palestinian entities—chiefly the Islamist group Hamas—centered on the small, densely populated enclave of Gaza. Located on the Mediterranean between Israel and Egypt and home to around 2.3 million Palestinians, Gaza has long been subject to Israeli control over its borders, airspace, and seaport, even after Israel’s withdrawal of settlements and troops in 2005. In late 2006, Hamas won legislative elections and by June 2007 violently seized full control of Gaza from the rival Fatah faction, prompting Israel and Egypt to impose a tight land, air, and sea blockade—justified by security concerns but widely condemned as collective punishment. Gaza’s economy rapidly collapsed, with unemployment soaring above 45 percent, poverty rates skyrocketing, potable water scarce, and modern infrastructure deteriorating under the blockade and recurring violence .

Periodic flare-ups have erupted into larger military confrontations, including major operations in 2008–2009 (“Cast Lead”), 2012 (“Pillar of Defense”), 2014 (“Protective Edge”), and most recently in October 2023. That month, Hamas militants orchestrated a large-scale attack into Israel, killing around 1,200 civilians and soldiers, and seizing over 240 hostages—prompting Israel to declare war. Israel responded with intense airstrikes, a ground invasion, and by imposing a “total blockade”—cutting off food, water, medicine, fuel, and electricity, which the UN labeled collective punishment and many called a war crime.

Over the course of 21 months of sustained conflict, casualties have been catastrophic. As of July 2025, over 60,000 Palestinians in Gaza have died—mostly civilians including thousands of women and children—with vast destruction of homes, hospitals, schools, infrastructure, and cultural heritage sites. Gaza’s GDP plunged by approximately 80% in late 2023, pushing nearly all residents into poverty and triggering famine-like conditions, with widespread displacement—over 1.9 million internally displaced by early 2024. The environmental damage is similarly profound: airstrikes have generated up to 50 million tonnes of debris and hazardous waste, contaminating water, soil, and air, with lingering toxins such as white phosphorus.

Humanitarian agencies, including Médecins Sans Frontières, report repeated strikes on hospitals and aid convoys, and have denounced the situation as ethnic cleansing or genocide, though Israeli officials argue their actions target Hamas militants embedded in civilian areas . Gazan civilians have suffered trauma from bombing, displacement, starvation, and collapsing medical services, with hospitals often operating without power or supplies .

Diplomatic efforts have intermittently produced temporary pauses in violence—January to March 2025 saw a fragile ceasefire with hostage exchanges and a brief humanitarian corridor—yet fighting resumed in mid-March. International pressure for a durable ceasefire and resolution has intensified, with UN intervention, aid initiatives, and a legal genocide case filed by South Africa before the International Court of Justice in December 2023. Proposed solutions vary widely—from Israeli demands to neutralize Hamas completely to Palestinian insistence on ending the occupation, lifting the siege, and establishing statehood—but mutual

distrust, competing security claims, domestic politics, and regional dynamics have repeatedly stalled progress. The Gaza Strip conflict is a tragic manifestation of the longstanding Israeli–Palestinian dispute, worsened by political exclusion, blockades, militant rule, cyclical warfare, civilian devastation, and failed peacemaking—creating a humanitarian and political crisis that endures without a clear path to peace.

5. “Humanitarian catastrophes,” conflicts and calamities generating both widespread human suffering and destructive events in Gaza Strip

The Gaza Strip is experiencing one of the worst humanitarian catastrophes in recent memory, defined by a convergence of destructive conflict and massive human suffering:

- **Widespread Civilian Casualties:** Since October 2023, at least 57,000 Palestinians have been killed and over 137,000 injured, with daily reports of mass casualties stemming from Israeli bombardment, ground operations, and violence at aid distribution sites.
- Many of these victims are women and children.
- **Catastrophic Displacement:** Nearly 1.9 million people—about 90% of Gaza’s population—have been forcibly displaced, many multiple times. Over 714,000 people have been displaced in just the past three months as military orders and active combat force civilians to flee to ever-shrinking and overcrowded enclaves with little to no safety or shelter.
- **Destruction of Infrastructure:** The conflict has obliterated Gaza’s infrastructure:
 - Nearly all hospitals and health facilities have been destroyed or rendered nonfunctional; only a fraction still provide any services, and even these are on the brink of shutting down due to fuel shortages and attacks.
 - Over 72 health facilities and dozens of ambulances are out of service, putting intensive care, paediatrics, and emergency response in jeopardy.
 - Water, sanitation, and electricity services are largely defunct, contributing to mounting public health threats.
- **Hunger and Starvation:** The blockade and ongoing hostilities have induced acute shortages of food, clean water, and medicine.
 - At least 773 people were recently killed, and over 5,000 injured, just while trying to access food supplies, illustrating the desperate scramble for basic survival.
 - Children are particularly at risk, with malnutrition rates rising sharply and famine conditions looming.
- **Attacks on Humanitarian Sites and Workers:** Humanitarian response efforts are themselves under attack.
 - At least 107 aid workers have been killed in 2025 alone, part of a total of 479 since October 2023—including 326 UN staff—hindering operations.
 - Schools and shelters for civilians are being struck, sometimes with fatal results; attacks have targeted tent encampments, schools and people queuing for aid.
- **Persistent Insecurity and Restrictions:**

- Fuel shortages threaten critical health, water, and protection services. Blocked roads and recurring telecommunications blackouts cripple both humanitarian delivery and coordination.
- People face danger from both ongoing hostilities and the violence at militarized aid distribution points.
- Psychosocial and Protection Risks: The ongoing violence, trauma, family separation, and lack of protection expose already-vulnerable populations—especially children—to long-term psychological harm.
- West Bank Spillover: Simultaneously, military operations in the West Bank have led to thousands of additional displacements, extensive infrastructure damage, and heightened insecurity for Palestinians in Jenin, Tulkarm, and Tubas.

6. CURRENT EVENTS IN GAZA STRIP

The Israeli military continued to kill, wound, starve, and forcibly displace thousands of Palestinian civilians in Gaza, and to destroy their homes, schools, hospitals, and infrastructure at a scale unprecedented in recent history. The Gaza Ministry of Health reported in late November that more than 44,000 people had been killed and 104,000 wounded since hostilities escalated on October 7, 2023. Nearly all Palestinians in Gaza were forcibly displaced, and all faced severe food insecurity or [famine](#).

In November, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued [arrest warrants](#) for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza from October 7, 2023, to May 20, 2024, when the ICC Prosecutor requested the warrants, and the leader of Hamas's military wing, [Mohammed Deif](#), for the attacks in Israel on October 7, 2023, that included war crimes and crimes against humanity. The Prosecutor's request had also named Hamas leaders Ismail Haniyeh and Yahya Sinwar, whom Israel later killed.

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, the [UN reported](#) that Palestinians killed 6 Israeli settlers and 16 soldiers, while Israelis [killed](#) 719 Palestinians, from October 7, 2023, to October 7, 2024 – far more than in any other year since 2005, when the UN began systematically recording fatalities. The number of Palestinian dead stem from Israel's [continued use of excessive lethal force](#), including [airstrikes](#) and drone-launched missiles.

In September, Israel escalated airstrikes in Lebanon, following attacks using booby-trapped [paggers](#) and [walkie talkies](#) distributed among Hezbollah members that killed at least 32 people and wounded more than 3,250. Israeli ground forces invaded Lebanon on October 1. From October 7, 2023, to mid-November 2024, there were 3,445 conflict-related [deaths](#) and [14,600](#) wounded in Lebanon, most after mid-September. Over 400,000 people fled to Syria.

Armed groups in the Gaza Strip killed 6 hostages from Israel and continued to hold an estimated 100, including over 30 people believed to have died during the hostilities. Since October 7, 2023, Hezbollah, Iran, the Houthis in Yemen, and Palestinian armed groups in Gaza [launched](#) 28,000 rocket, missile and [drone attacks](#), mostly intercepted, that killed at least 29 civilians in Israel and in Israeli-occupied territory as of mid-October. Twelve children were killed by a rocket in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights; Hezbollah denied responsibility. The attacks displaced tens of thousands of people from the Gaza Envelope and northern Israel.

The Israeli authorities continued to commit the crimes against humanity of [apartheid and persecution](#) through their repression of Palestinians. In July, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued an advisory opinion finding Israel's presence in the occupied Palestinian territory is unlawful, that Israel is in breach of the prohibition on racial discrimination and apartheid, that it should evacuate and dismantle all settlements and make reparation to Palestinians, including compensation and allowing Palestinians it displaced after 1967 to return to their homes, and that other governments should cease any recognition of, trade or investment in settlements and work to bring the illegal situation in the occupied territory to an end.

The EU, UK, and other countries resumed funding to UNRWA, the key humanitarian agency for Palestinians. The US continued to withhold funding to [UNRWA](#), while it approved over 100 [arms sales](#) and provided Israel an unprecedented [\\$17.9 billion](#) in security assistance. Countries including the [Netherlands](#), Canada, and the [UK](#) suspended some arms transfers or licenses to Israel due to a clear risk of their arms being used in serious violations of international law.

The 44,000 deaths in Gaza due to the conflict reported by the Gaza Ministry of Health did not include many people who died from illness, disease, or who were buried under the rubble. The data on deaths and injuries do not include civilian status, but [70 percent](#) of the 8,200 fatalities the UN Human Rights office (OHCHR) had verified by September were women and children.

Israeli forces forcibly displaced nearly all of Gaza's population, often multiple times. In October 2023, Israel ordered more than 1 million people in northern Gaza to evacuate within 24 hours. By May 2024, more than half of Gaza's population was crammed into the southern city of Rafah, which the Israeli military then attacked, forcing more than 1.4 million people to flee again. Beginning in October 2024, Israel cut all aid to northern Gaza and again forcibly displaced people there. Most of Gaza's territory was under military [evacuation orders](#), part of a system of forcible transfer of Palestinian civilians that amounts to a crime against humanity. Al-Mawasi, the Israeli-declared "humanitarian zone," lacked adequate shelter, water, sanitation, or other infrastructure, and had a population density of [88,000 people](#) per square mile as of August. Israeli attacks and demolitions by combat engineers and military bulldozers destroyed or damaged 63 percent of all Gaza's buildings, rendering much of the Strip uninhabitable, clearly constituting ethnic cleansing in some areas and violating Palestinians' right to return.

More than 87 percent of all [schools](#), and all universities in Gaza were damaged or destroyed, including in attacks that were apparently [unlawful](#). Since October 7, more than [10,000](#) students and 441 educational staff were killed in Gaza.

Almost [84 percent](#) of health facilities were destroyed or damaged, including in apparently [unlawful](#) attacks. The collapse of the healthcare system deprived the estimated [50,000](#) pregnant women and girls in Gaza of access to adequate care, and increased the [risk](#) of [serious](#) health complications during pregnancy, birth, and post-partum. UN experts warned of a 300 percent [increase](#) in miscarriages in Gaza.

In January, March, and May, the International Court of Justice issued provisional measures as part of a case filed by South Africa that Israel violated its obligations under the 1948 Genocide Convention in Gaza. Israel flouted the court's orders to open border crossings and allow humanitarian aid into Gaza at scale.

Israeli authorities deprived people in Gaza of [adequate water needed for survival for months](#), restricting piped water and forcing water pumps, desalination, wastewater, and sewage facilities offline by cutting electricity, razing solar panels at several facilities, and blocking fuel needed to run electricity generators. Israeli forces attacked water and sanitation workers and warehouses, preventing repairs, and blocked the entry of equipment and parts. On average, from October 2023 to July 2024, people had access to less than 5 liters of water per day, one-third of the WHO's minimum standard for survival, and lack of water and sanitation contributed to a public health disaster, notwithstanding a child-vaccination campaign after the first polio case in 25 years were [detected](#) in August. Cases of diarrhea among children under 5 increased from 2,000 per month before October 7, 2023, to 71,000 as of January. Israel's denial of water to the Palestinian population of Gaza amounts to the crime against humanity of extermination and the genocidal act of inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about the destruction of the group in whole or part.

Israel's blockade denied [83 percent](#) of food aid entry to Gaza as of September, and on average people were eating one meal every other day, while more than one million people in southern and central Gaza did not receive any food rations in August. In October, Israel ordered the population of northern Gaza to evacuate and blocked all aid to the area, while the total aid Israel allowed to enter Gaza overall [fell](#) to its lowest level since the beginning of the escalation, leading to [assessments](#) that famine was "imminent" in the north.

Israeli forces repeatedly [attacked known aid-worker locations](#) after aid workers had shared with the Israeli military their precise coordinates in advance. In September, the [Inter-Agency Standing Committee](#) stated that "the number of aid workers killed in Gaza in the past year is the highest ever in a single crisis." At least 318 aid workers were killed in Gaza from October 2023 to October 2024.

The Israeli military's forced displacements, lack of effective advance warnings of attacks, and siege of Gaza created [extreme risks and suffering](#) for children and adults with disabilities, who often could not flee for safety or access the food, medicine and assistive devices

necessary for their survival. Its extensive use of explosive weapons, including in densely populated areas and attacks on [residential buildings](#) with no apparent military target, caused injuries resulting in permanent disabilities and lifelong scarring for children in Gaza. All children with disabilities faced unique psychological harm due to the violence and deprivation they have experienced or witnessed.

Israeli authorities did not allow any Palestinians to exit Gaza through the Erez Crossing, the only passenger crossing from Gaza into Israel through which Palestinians can travel to the West Bank and abroad. About 110,000 people were able to leave Gaza to Egypt from October 2023 until Israel took control of the Rafah crossing and closed it on May 6. From May to November, Israel allowed only around 320 critical patients to leave Gaza for medical care. About [12,000 people](#) in need of medical evacuation were on waiting lists to go to Egypt as of September. Egypt, Turkey, Qatar, Jordan, Italy and several other countries accepted or offered to accept Palestinians in need of medical care; other Western countries, such as [the UK](#), had accepted [none](#) by early November.

Hamas and Palestinian Armed Groups in Gaza

In addition to holding civilian hostages, Palestinian armed groups shot to death six hostages one to two days [before](#) their bodies were found by Israeli forces in a tunnel under Rafah on August 31. The Qassam Brigades stated that fighters guarding hostages had been given “[new instructions](#)” and that Israeli military pressure would cause hostages to be returned “in shrouds.”

The UN special representative on sexual violence in armed conflict [reported](#) in March that her mission had found “clear and convincing information” that some hostages held in Gaza had been subjected to sexual violence including rape.

7. THE POSITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE REGION

The violation of many humans rights in the region is an unarguable fact. Doesn't matter from which side they are from, people are facing various types of violence unwillingly. Children, women, elders, the defenseless and so on... In order this guide not to deviate from its aim and stay objective, there will not be examples of the violations. Both sides have in some ways committed crimes but we are neither here to expose nor blame any side. Each side might naturally believe what they do is the right thing. However no matter for what cause it is, violation of human rights are not acceptable. Considering this inadmissible case is still ongoing, our priority is to stop the violation of the human rights in the region and find a permanent solution so that things will never turn back to what they are right now as follows;

- **Widespread and Systematic Violations:** Israeli military operations have resulted in the killing, wounding, starvation, and mass displacement of thousands of Palestinian civilians, alongside the large-scale destruction of homes, schools, hospitals, and essential infrastructure

- **Extermination and Genocide Allegations:** UN bodies and Human Rights Watch have repeatedly characterized ongoing Israeli policies—including destruction of infrastructure, forced displacement, and continuing blockade—as acts that amount to crimes against humanity, extermination, ethnic cleansing, and genocide.
- **Uninhabitable Conditions:** The blockade has been intensified, cutting off food, water, fuel, and medical supplies, and driving the population into overcrowded “humanitarian areas” lacking sufficient shelter or resources, effectively making vast areas of Gaza uninhabitable.
- **Targeting Civilian Life and Institutions:**
 - Over 90% of schools and universities, and more than half of religious and cultural sites, have been destroyed.
 - Education has collapsed, affecting over 658,000 children for 20 months.
 - Attacks on shelters, hospitals, schools, and even tents for internally displaced people have resulted in countless civilian deaths and injuries.
- **Emergency Health and Sanitation Crisis:** The healthcare system has collapsed, with destruction or severe damage to over 80% of facilities. Water access fell below a third of survival minimums, contributing to disease outbreaks and a public health disaster
- **Impact on Vulnerable Groups:** Most affected are children, women, and people with disabilities, who face sharply heightened risks of hunger, deprivation, trauma, and death.

Case Studies Illustrating the Human Rights Crisis

Case Study 1: Mass Displacement and “Humanitarian Zones”

In May 2025, Israeli plans aimed to force Gaza’s entire population into a tiny “humanitarian area” by demolishing remaining civilian infrastructure and threatening further forced displacement if no agreement was reached with Hamas. This plan has been decried as an attempt at ethnic cleansing and extermination, using the denial of aid, bombardments, and forced population movement as tools of collective punishment.

Case Study 2: Educational and Cultural Obliteration

By June 2025, Israeli forces had destroyed or damaged over 90% of Gaza’s schools and universities, and more than half of its religious and cultural sites. UN investigations concluded that this obliteration of Gaza’s educational and cultural life is a “concerted campaign” to erase Palestinian life, with repercussions for generations, and constitutes war crimes and extermination.

Case Study 3: Attacks on Shelters and Mass Civilian Casualties

Reports from the UN Human Rights Office in March 2025 documented the killing of hundreds of civilians including a high proportion of women and children, from airstrikes and artillery on homes, schools used as shelters, and tents for displaced people. The use of explosive weapons with wide-area effects in densely populated zones has resulted in large-scale civilian casualties and violates the core rules of international humanitarian law.

Case Study 4: Blockade as a Weapon

Since March 2025, the blockade on Gaza tightened further, cutting off food, water, and medical supplies for months and inducing starvation. Experts warn of a deliberate intent to use starvation as a weapon of war, making daily survival uncertain and producing mass mental and physical trauma. These acts are considered grave international crimes, demonstrating clear patterns of genocidal conduct

8. Legal and Normative frameworks in Gaza Strip

1. International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

- **Geneva Conventions (Especially the Fourth Geneva Convention):**
Applies during armed conflicts and occupations. Gaza remains treated as an occupied territory legally, thus Israel—as the occupying power—must *protect civilians*, *allow humanitarian assistance*, and *ensure basic needs are met*.
- **Customary IHL:**
Prohibits direct attacks on civilians, destruction of civilian objects, collective punishment, forced displacement, starvation as a method of warfare, and mandates proportionality in use of force.

Current Violations Documented:

- Widespread attacks on civilian areas, including schools, shelters, and aid distribution sites, causing mass casualties.
- Destruction of essential infrastructure—health, water, electricity—leaving over two million people without basic services.
- Starvation as a method of warfare: severe blockade on aid, food, fuel, and medicine, with critically limited aid allowed in.
- Mass displacement: 1.9 million people (about 90% of Gaza’s population) have been displaced, many repeatedly, with many forced to live in tents, schools, or unsanitary conditions.
- Attacks on and killings of aid workers (479 since October 2023, including 326 UN staff), undermining humanitarian operations.

2. International Human Rights Law (IHRL)

- **International Treaties:**

- **ICCPR, ICESCR, CRC:** Israel, as a party to these treaties, must ensure the right to life, protection from torture, access to education, health, food, adequate housing, and protection of children—even during conflict.
- Grave violations include the killing/injury of tens of thousands of civilians (including a very high proportion of children and women), denial of access to health and education, and deliberate deprivations.

- **Right to Education and Health:**

Over 90% of schools/universities and most health facilities have been destroyed or made nonfunctional. Hundreds of thousands of children are deprived of schooling, and critical health services have collapsed.

3. United Nations Charter and Resolutions

- **UN Charter:**

Requires the protection and promotion of human rights, peaceful settlement of disputes, and cooperation for humanitarian assistance. Recent Security Council and General Assembly resolutions reiterate demands for ceasefire, release of hostages, and unfettered humanitarian access.

- **Secretary-General Remarks:**

The UN Secretary-General has publicly emphasized the obligation of Israel, as the occupying power, to facilitate humanitarian relief and condemned the attacks on civilians and aid workers.

4. International Criminal Law

- **Rome Statute (ICC):**

Outlaws war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide. Current allegations regarding Gaza include direct targeting of civilians, starvation as a weapon, and forced displacement—all grave international crimes subject to investigation and prosecution by the ICC.

- **Genocide Convention:**

Legally obliges all states to prevent and punish acts of genocide. Recent reports and statements by UN officials point to patterns that could meet this threshold.

5. Obligation for Humanitarian Access

- Belligerent parties must facilitate rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief.

- Systematic denial and obstruction of humanitarian aid (with aid convoys frequently denied or impeded) constitute manifest breaches with severe humanitarian impact.

Framework	Core Obligations	Current Violations Noted in 2025
Fourth Geneva Convention	Protect civilians, enable aid, prohibit starvation	Attacks on shelters/schools, aid blockage, forced displacement
Customary IHL	No indiscriminate or disproportionate attacks	Wide-area bombardment, civilian infrastructure destroyed
ICCPR, ICESCR, CRC	Right to life, health, food, education, child rights	Tens of thousands killed, education/health system collapse
UN Charter/Resolutions	Uphold peace, rights, humanitarian access	Aid workers/convoys attacked, hostages held, destruction continues
Rome Statute/Genocide	Punish war crimes, crimes vs. humanity & genocide	Starvation, mass population targets, possible extermination acts

9. Role of UN and international collaborations in GAZA SRTIP

1. Humanitarian Aid Delivery and Coordination

- The UN agencies—especially UNRWA, UNICEF, WHO, and OCHA—are the **primary international responders providing medical consultations, vaccinations, food, water, and other essential services** to millions of Gazans. For example, between October 2023 and May 2025, over **8.7 million medical consultations** have been conducted by UNRWA in Gaza.

2. International Legal Frameworks:

- UN bodies operate under and uphold:
- **Fourth Geneva Convention:** Protects civilians in occupied territories—explicitly applies to Gaza.

- **International Human Rights Treaties:** ICCPR, ICESCR, CRC (right to life, health, food, education, protection from forced displacement).
- **UN Security Council and General Assembly Resolutions:** Demand ceasefire, humanitarian access, protection of civilians, and compliance with international law
- In the absence of sustained access, the UN humanitarian apparatus has prepared plans and pre-positioned vast quantities of aid (e.g., 160,000 pallets), fully ready to be delivered on the ground once access is restored.
- The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) coordinates humanitarian efforts, monitors the situation, and reports on urgent protection concerns and aid shortfalls.

3. Advocacy, Protection, and Legal Framework

- The UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR) documents civilian casualties and violations of humanitarian and human rights law. It recently reported that as many as **875 people have been killed trying to obtain food near aid distribution sites**, highlighting the deadly risks civilians face even when seeking life-saving help.
- At the political level, the UN General Assembly in June 2025 adopted a resolution demanding that Israel immediately end the blockade, open border crossings, and ensure humanitarian aid reaches Palestinian civilians throughout Gaza, condemning starvation as a method of warfare and unlawful denial of aid.

4. Challenges Posed by Restrictions and Alternative Aid Initiatives

- Since March 2025, **Israel has imposed a near-total blockade on Gaza, severely restricting movement of food, fuel, medicine, and aid convoys**, claiming security concerns and hostage negotiations.
- The UN, along with most major humanitarian actors, has **rejected Israeli and US-backed alternative aid schemes, such as the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF)**, due to concerns over lack of neutrality, independence, and safety. The UN has labeled GHF efforts as a “failure” from a humanitarian perspective, criticizing its inability to deliver aid safely and equitably, and highlighting incidents where civilians were killed while trying to access GHF-run sites.
- UN agencies stress that humanitarian aid should be delivered **impartially and neutrally**, and that alternative schemes which place civilians at risk or politicize aid worsen the crisis.

5. International Collaboration and Solidarity

- The UN system works alongside **many international partners, NGOs, and donor states** to mobilize resources, expertise, and political pressure aimed at alleviating humanitarian suffering.
- The collective international community has repeatedly called for an **immediate ceasefire, protection of civilians, unimpeded humanitarian access, and compliance with international law**. The UN acts as a platform for multilateral diplomacy and coordination around Gaza, especially given Security Council deadlocks and the resulting stronger role of the General Assembly and Human Rights Council³.

6. Protection of Aid Workers and Civilians

- The UN continues to call for the **protection of humanitarian workers, health personnel, and aid delivery points**, as attacks on these have caused hundreds of deaths and forced many aid providers to suspend operations¹⁸.
- The UN and partners promote adherence to principles of **humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence**, emphasizing that humanitarian aid must never be used as leverage or a “bait”.

10. Questions a Committee Should address

1. What specific acts or patterns constitute systematic violations of human rights in Gaza?
2. How have Israeli actions in 2024–2025 matched or exceeded the thresholds for war crimes, crimes against humanity, or genocide under international law?
3. What is the impact of infrastructure destruction on the fundamental rights to life, health, education, and shelter?
4. How are vulnerable groups—children, women, elderly, people with disabilities—uniquely affected?
5. How are ongoing violations in Gaza being documented, investigated, and prosecuted?
6. What steps are being taken to prevent impunity for perpetrators and complicit actors (including state and non-state parties)?
7. What role has international complicity played in continuing or enabling violations (e.g., continued arms sales, diplomatic support)?
8. What are the barriers to humanitarian access and aid delivery, and how are these being artificially imposed?
9. How can the international system ensure the safety of aid workers, medical personnel, and those seeking aid?
10. What are the urgent steps needed to protect children’s rights amid the collapse of education and basic services?
11. What mechanisms exist or should be created for the reconstruction of Gaza’s infrastructure, education, and health systems after conflict?

12. How do occupation, continued military operations, and external interventions impede or enable progress towards self-determination and sustainable peace?
13. How effective has the UN Human Rights Council and broader international system been in addressing ongoing violations and pushing for accountability?
14. What new actions, resolutions, or international collaborative efforts are most urgently needed to halt the crisis and protect fundamental rights?

11. Evidence or proof is acceptable from sources:

1. News Sources:

- a. REUTERS – Any Reuters article which clearly makes mention of the fact or is in contradiction of the fact being stated by a delegate in council. (<http://www.reuters.com/>)
- b. State operated News Agencies – These reports can be used in the support of or against the State that owns the News Agency. These reports, if credible or substantial enough, can be used in support of or against any Country as such but in that situation, they can be denied by any other country in the council. Some examples are,
 - i. RIA Novosti (Russia) <http://en.rian.ru/>
 - ii. IRNA (Iran) <http://www.irna.ir/ENIndex.htm>
 - iii. BBC (United Kingdom) <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>
 - iv. Xinhua News Agency and CCTV (P.R. China) <http://cctvnews.cntv.cn/>

2. Government Reports: These reports can be used in a similar way as the State Operated News Agencies reports and can, in all circumstances, be denied by another country.

However, a nuance is that a report that is being denied by a certain country can still be accepted by the Executive Board as credible information. Examples are,

- i. Government Websites like the State Department of the United States of America <http://www.state.gov/index.htm> or the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation <http://www.eng.mil.ru/en/index.html>
- ii. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of various nations like India (<http://www.mea.gov.in/>), People's Republic of China (<http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/>), France (<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/>), Russian Federation (http://www.mid.ru/brp_4.nsf/main_eng/)
- iii. Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Reports <http://www.un.org/en/members/> (Click on any country to get the website of the Office of its Permanent Representative).
- iv. Multilateral Organisations like the NATO (<http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/index.htm>), ASEAN (<http://www.aseansec.org/>), OPEC (http://www.opec.org/opec_web/en/), etc.

3. UN Reports: All UN Reports are considered as credible information or evidence for the Executive Board of the Security Council.

- i. UN Bodies: Like the SC (<http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/>), GA (<http://www.un.org/en/ga/>), HRC (<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/HRCIndex.aspx>) etc.
 - ii. UN Affiliated bodies like the International Atomic Energy Agency (<http://www.iaea.org/>), World Bank (<http://www.worldbank.org/>), International Monetary Fund (<http://www.imf.org/external/index.htm>), International Committee of the Red Cross (<http://www.icrc.org/eng/index.jsp>), etc.
 - iii. Treaty Based Bodies like the Antarctic Treaty System (<http://www.ats.aq/e/ats.htm>), the International Criminal Court (<http://www.iccpi.int/Menus/ICC>)
- Under no circumstances will sources like Wikipedia (<http://www.wikipedia.org/>), Amnesty

International (<http://www.amnesty.org/>), Human Rights Watch(<http://www.hrw.org/>) or newspapers like the Guardian (<http://www.guardian.co.uk/>), Times of India (<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/>), etc. be accepted.

