



# **GA4 Chair Report**

Topic 1: Exploring Effective Methods for War  
Reparations to Support Post-Conflict  
Recovery in War-Affected Countries

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# Personal Statements

## **Chair – Rania Fernandes**

I'm Rania Fernandes, a student at the International School of Laren in the Netherlands. I'm originally from Portugal/India, but I have spent the last 15 years in Dubai and am now in my second year in the Netherlands. Furthermore, I am 17 years old and in DPI. This is my first time chairing, and I am pleased to do it alongside my wonderful co-chair, Rosalie! This will be my fifth conference, but the first outside the country. I am delighted to be chairing and meeting new people with different backgrounds and views, while also ensuring that everyone on our committee has a fantastic MUN.

## **Deputy Chair – Rosalie Geelhoed**

My name is Rosalie Geelhoed and I am a student from the International School of Stuttgart. I'm honoured to be the deputy chair for GA4 at the MUNISS conference of 2025. I have lived in Germany for 12 years now, but I was born in the Netherlands. As I am a 9th grader, this will be my first time chairing but my third conference. I started as an admin and I was a delegate last year. I have always enjoyed getting to know other students from all around the world and am excited to do so again this year. I wish everyone a great conference and I'm looking forward to meeting you in April.

# Introduction

Victims and communities are frequently left devastated after a conflict, with few funds or resources to reconstruct and stabilise. That is why it is critical to address post-conflict reparations and promote the recovery of conflict-affected areas. Following the conflict, when impacted areas are devastated, there is an increase in the number of refugees, injured, and trauma patients. War reparations are compensation payments paid by one side to the other after a conflict has ended. They are designed to cover damage or injuries caused during a battle. War reparations may take the form of money, precious metals, natural resources, industrial assets, or intellectual property (16). For rebuilding to succeed, it must begin with the local populace. Keeping in mind that these measures must take place not just in affected areas, but also in surrounding nations.

The results of recovery may not be rapid, taking months or years. Donor countries and aid organisations must coordinate consistently and effectively (15). Success, in the end, will be determined only when both parties perform shared responsibilities; however, if violated, this may result in increased conflict/tension and cause the receiving country to spiral into more conflict and, in the long run, an uninhabitable place for their people, leading to IDPS, seeking asylum and refuge. To guarantee that residents do not seek asylum and that violence does not return, crucial factors that generate conflict must be addressed, including properties, the environment, the economy, and healthcare (4).

The GA4 (Special Political and Decolonisation Committee) addresses a wide range of political issues not addressed by GA1, as well as decolonisation. Primarily concerned with the well-being of non-self-governing regions, such as former colonies. It focuses on addressing concerns surrounding the route to independence in a peaceful manner.

# Glossary

1. **Special and Political Decolonization (SPECPOL):** A committee of the United Nations General Assembly that deals with a variety of political issues, including decolonization, peacekeeping, and human rights.
2. **World Bank:** An international financial institution that provides loans and grants to the governments of poorer countries to pursue capital projects.
3. **Decolonisation:** The process by which colonies become independent from the colonizing country.
4. **Reparations:** Compensation given for an abuse or injury. In historical contexts, it often refers to payments made by a country that has caused harm to another country or group of people.
5. **IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons):** People who have been forced to flee their homes but remain within their country's borders.
6. **Conflict:** A serious disagreement or argument, typically a protracted one. In international relations, it often refers to armed conflict between countries or groups.
7. **Marshall Plan:** An American initiative passed in 1948 to aid Western Europe, in which the United States gave over \$12 billion in economic assistance to help rebuild Western European economies after the end of World War II.
8. **Assad Regime:** Refers to the government led by President Bashar al-Assad in Syria, which has been in power since 2000.
9. **Russo-Ukrainian War:** An ongoing conflict that began in 2014, involving Russia and Ukraine, primarily over the status of Crimea and parts of Eastern Ukraine.
10. **International Criminal Court (ICC):** An intergovernmental organization and international tribunal that has jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and crimes of aggression.
11. **United Nations (UN):** An international organization founded in 1945, currently made up of 193 Member States, dedicated to maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations

among nations, and promoting social progress, better living standards, and human rights.

12. **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs):** Non-profit organizations that operate independently of any government, typically one whose purpose is to address a social or political issue.
13. **Civil Society Organizations (CSOs):** Organizations that are not part of the government or business sectors, and that work to advance the interests of the public, often through advocacy, service provision, and community organizing.

## Issue Explanation

The issue will be explained in depth in terms of the economic, historical and religious impacts within a post-war affected country and the long-term effects set. With the examples of the Russo-Ukrainian War and the Syrian Civil War.

It has been three years after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, which still holds over 20% of the nation after seizing over 4,000 square kilometres of land in 2024. Since January 2022, Ukraine has received around 407 billion in aid, including over 118 billion from the United States, despite warnings of donor weariness. The ongoing warfare and air attacks have resulted in over 40,000 civilian fatalities, while 4 million people are IDPs and 6.8 million have fled Ukraine. 14.6 people require humanitarian aid. (19) The ongoing conflict between Ukraine and Russia has led to significant discussions about war reparations. The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution in 2022, calling on Russia to pay reparations for the destruction caused by its aggression. The resolution however was not legally binding and was rejected by Russia.

The conflict has left a severe impact on various aspects of Ukraine such as:

### Humanitarian Impact

- Massive Displacement, with millions of Ukrainians forced to flee their home. Including substantial loss of life and injuries. (16)

- Inflicted severe psychological trauma on the affected populations, including children and the elderly. (14)

### **Economic Impact**

- The war has caused extensive damage to Ukraine's infrastructure, including homes, schools, hospitals, and roads. The estimated cost of rebuilding is in the hundreds and billions of dollars. (2)
- Ukraine's economic production is now a fraction of what it was before the war. In the first year of the battle, the country's GDP fell by 30-35%. This resulted in Ukraine's greatest recession in history. The Ukrainian incomes have dropped. According to the World Bank, the country's poverty rate will rise from 5.5% to 24.2% by 2022. As a result, the conflict has forced 7.1 million more people into poverty, reversing 15 years of advancements. (18)

### **Social Impact**

- The war has fragmented communities, leading to social instability and a breakdown of social cohesion. (14)
- The disruption of education and health services has long-term implications for the well-being and development of the affected population. (14)

If these reparations are not addressed, the affected populations will continue to suffer the consequences of the conflict, such as poverty, a lack of access to essential services, and psychological trauma. Failure to handle reparations threatens international law and justice. It may establish an instance that hostile governments can dodge accountability for their acts, undermining the global legal framework created to prevent and resolve such conflicts. (14) Ukraine would continue to suffer significant economic issues. The damage to infrastructure, houses, and companies has already resulted in significant financial losses. Without reparations, Ukraine would bear the whole burden of reconstruction, perhaps leading to long-term economic instability. (12) The sense of injustice and unresolved grievances could hinder national reconciliation and long-term peace.

## **Affected Populations**

**Ukrainian Civilians:** The primary victims of the conflict, including those who have lost loved ones, homes, and livelihoods (16)

**Displaced Persons:** Millions of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees who have been forced to flee their homes (16)

**Ukrainian Armed Forces:** Engaged in defending the country against Russian aggression.

**Russian Armed Forces:** Conducting military operations in Ukraine.

The Syrian civil war, which began in 2011, remains one of the world's most complex and devastating conflicts. The Syrian government, several opposition factions, ISIS, and foreign powers including Russia, Iran, Turkey, and the United States have all played a role in this conflict. As of early 2025, the situation remained.

The situation is unstable, with ongoing fighting among several parties and a substantial foreign military presence. (3). The humanitarian crisis in Syria is severe. Over 580,000 people have died, and millions have been displaced both internally and externally (18) The conflict has resulted in significant devastation of infrastructure, including homes, schools, and hospitals. The civilian population's suffering has been worsened by a lack of access to essential amenities including clean water, healthcare, and education. (1) The Syrian economy has been devastated by the conflict. The cumulative losses in GDP are estimated at around \$226 billion, which is about four times the GDP of Syria in 2010 (9) The destruction of infrastructure and the disruption of economic activities have led to high unemployment rates and widespread poverty (8) Failure to resolve the Syrian issue may result in prolonged instability and misery. The humanitarian situation would worsen, resulting in further fatalities and relocation. Economically, the country would continue to struggle, hurting the recovery even more. Socially, the long-term consequences of trauma and community division would impede healing and rebuilding efforts. (6)



# Perspectives of Parties Involved

**United States** – The U.S. has historically been involved in both paying and receiving reparations. Post-World War II, the U.S. played a significant role in the Marshall Plan, which provided aid to rebuild European economies, including Germany (16).

**Germany** – Germany has a complex history with reparations, having paid substantial amounts after both World Wars (16). Post-World War II reparations included financial payments and industrial assets to the Allied powers (16). Germany continues to support reparations as a means of addressing historical injustices, as seen in its ongoing payments to Holocaust survivors (16).

**Russia** – Russia's stance on reparations is influenced by its historical experiences and current geopolitical interests. After World War II, the Soviet Union received reparations from Germany (16). In contemporary conflicts, Russia has been resistant to reparations demands, particularly in the context of the Ukraine conflict, where it faces calls for compensation for damages caused (11).

**UK** – The United Kingdom has a complicated history with reparations, owing to its colonial past and participation in the transatlantic slave trade. Former colonies and Commonwealth states have demanded reparations, particularly for the economic and social effects of slavery and colonialism. (20)

**Ukraine** – Russia's full-scale invasion began in February 2022 and has had a huge impact on Ukraine. The fight caused massive devastation, loss of life, and serious economic and social chaos. (12)

**India** – India's approach to war reparations is heavily impacted by its colonial history under British control. The economic exploitation and social injustices faced during this time have prompted several requests for compensation. (15)

**United Nations (UN)** The United Nations advocated for reparations as part of transitional justice procedures to aid in post-conflict healing and reconciliation. The United Nations has created frameworks to aid reparations, such as the Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Serious Violations of International Human Rights Law. (14).

**International Criminal Court (ICC)** The International Criminal Court (ICC) works to ensure responsibility and reparation for victims of war crimes and human rights violations. The ICC's Trust Fund for Victims provides financial and psychological support to victims, highlighting the need for reparations in obtaining justice (14).

**Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)** Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International advocate for comprehensive compensation to address victims' needs and foster long-term recovery. These NGOs usually work on the ground to document abuses and assist victims in their quest for justice. (14).

# History of the Topic

**Year****Event****1919**

Treaty of Versailles, Germany was forced to pay massive reparations to the allied countries, including France and the United Kingdom.

**1945**

Post World War 2 reparations, Germany had to pay the allied powers and victims of the holocaust

**1990**

Yugoslav wars

**1991**

Iraq was forced to pay reparations to Kuwait after the Gulf War

**2005**

The United Nations General Assembly accepted proposals of Fundamental Principles and Guidelines for the Right to Redress and Reparation

**2010**

The meeting “Reparations, Development and Gender” was held in Kampala, Uganda 1 - 2 December 2010. The meeting was organized by UN Women Uganda with support provided by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Uganda and UNDP’s Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery

**2022**

Russo Ukrainian war

**2022**

The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution calling on Russia to pay reparations.

## **Previous attempts to solve the issue**

**Past UN Resolutions** The United Nations has passed many resolutions regarding war reparations. The United Nations General Assembly approved a resolution in 2022 requesting Russia to give compensation to Ukraine for the damage caused by the invasion. The resolution created a layout of compensation and a system to record evidence and claims (5).

**United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC)** Formed in 1991 in reaction to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Its goal was to look at claims and provide reparations for damages. The commission effectively dealt with millions of claims and granted billions of dollars in compensation. (5).

## Potential Solutions for the Issue

**International Agreements Numerous** international agreements have been made to address reparation. International agreements help manage compensation payments among affected countries. These agreements usually contain methods for compliance, such as the threat of reoccupation or economic consequences if the obligations are not satisfied.

**Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)** Play an important role in community gathering and advocating for reparations. They provide an opportunity for victims to express their concerns and to ensure that reparations are effective. (7).

## Media Contribution

Many people believe that war reparations are required to hold invading countries accountable for their actions. Reparations are considered a kind of justice for war victims, compelling those responsible for tragedy and suffering to face consequences for their actions. Examples, such as reparations paid by Germany after World War II, are presented as successful scenarios in which reparations helped to rebuild and recover. These examples demonstrate how reparations may aid with post-conflict recovery. The public's attitude on war reparations is often different, displaying a wide range of perspectives and concerns. While reparations are frequently viewed as a form of justice and healing, there are questions about economic, political, and practical consequences.

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