



Issue: Implementing Measures to Integrate Refugees Into Society

Forum: General Assembly 3

Position: Deputy Chair

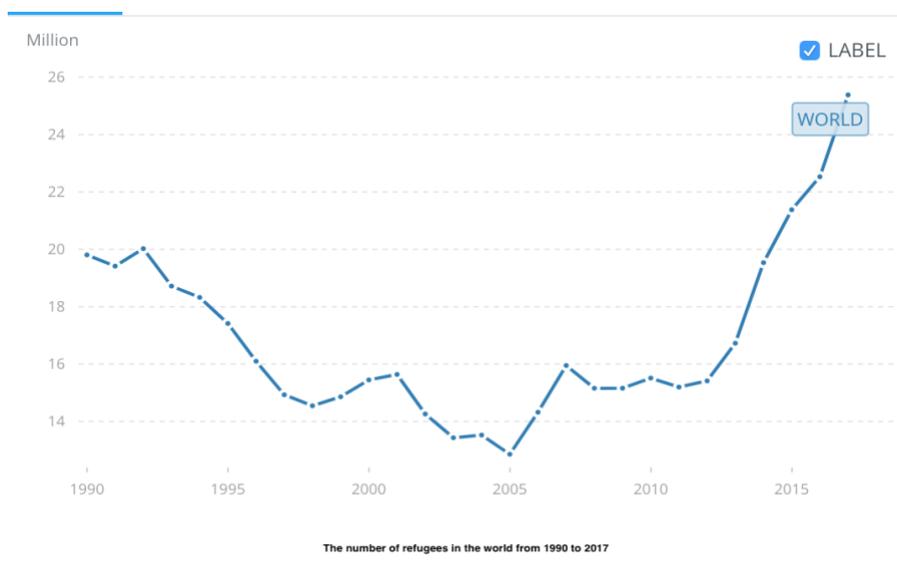
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Introduction

In the history of humanity, the number of wars is beyond measure. War is a state of armed conflict and competition between different sides within a nation or different nations. Many countries throughout history have had safety issues for various reasons, most commonly war. People who can no longer live in their home countries are bound to seek asylum in more developed countries. The world is currently facing the most constraining refugee crisis since World War II, mainly because of the conflict in Syria. There are so many refugees from Syria and many other countries seeking refuge in more civilized nations but unfortunately some are not able to integrate into society due to many reasons such as language barrier and discrimination.

The region suffering the most is the Middle East with war and violence happening in many countries such as Syria, Eritrea, Afghanistan and Iraq without an accountable and foreseeable end to their situation. Millions of asylum seekers leave their homeland in order to find shelter and flee from persecution with the hope of living in proper life conditions within order and peace. Asylum seekers who fled to other countries still face major problems as they are getting excluded from the society due to discrimination and segregation. People should be advised and taught to live with refugees in order to maintain peace and balance in the society. Lack of emphasis towards refugees and the discrimination regarding their race, religion,

culture and sex leave them to be victims of isolation and segregation. It is important to introduce refugees into society because otherwise not only it will affect the refugees in a bad way but also it will cause crime rates to ascend and economic loss for the host country. As the UDHR states in Article 14, “(1) Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution. (2) This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.” (UN General Assembly, 1948), and it can be said that excluding refugees is against human rights and policies, and will only make things worse for everyone.



Definition of Key Terms

Refugee: 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. (UNHCR, UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, Article I, 1951)

Immigrate: “To enter and usually become established; especially : to come into a country of which one is not a native for permanent residence” (Webster, Merriam. Dictionary)

Xenophobia: “Fear and hatred of strangers or foreigners or of anything that is strange or foreign” (Webster, Merriam. Dictionary)

Integrate: “To end the segregation of and bring into equal membership in society or an organization” (Webster, Merriam. Dictionary)

Forced Displacement: It can be categorized as refugees and IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons). Victims of forced displacement are made and pressured to leave their homes. They either find shelter in other countries as refugees or stay in their home country and flee within their country’s borders. Persecution, violence, fear of death and war are the main reasons for DPs (Displaced Persons) to run away and seek asylum.



General Overview

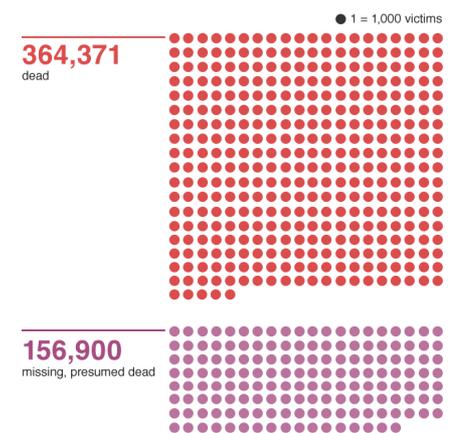
According to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), a refugee is defined as “...someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence.”. People who are mostly from countries with internal conflict have the right to seek asylum in more developed and civilized nations, mostly Western countries, which means they become refugees in countries with dramatically different conditions. According to UNHCR, 85% of the world’s displaced people are located in low- and middle-income countries. More than half percent of the world’s refugees are from Syria, Afghanistan and South Sudan. The countries who are hosting most refugees are Turkey, *Islamic Republic of Iran*, Uganda, Pakistan and Lebanon. Germany hosts the largest quantity of refugees within the European Union. The EU laws for refugees go back to the 1951 Refugee Convention and Article 14 of UDHR. The refugees who enter the European Union have to follow the legislations set in Common European Asylum System (CEAS). CEAS provides common minimum standards for all asylum seekers within the EU. According to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights Article 18, “The right to asylum shall be guaranteed with due respect for the rules of the Geneva Convention of 28 July 1951 and the Protocol of 31 January 1967 relating to the status of refugees and in accordance with the Treaty establishing the European Community.” (Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, Article 18, 2000).

Countries with internal conflicts such as Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan and Myanmar have had a huge amount of citizens flee the country in order to find refuge in civilized nations such as Turkey and many EU countries as stated previously. Afghanistan used to be the leader before the Syrian War. In 1990, 6,339,095 Afghans had to leave their country to seek refuge. That number has dropped to 2,624,225 since, making Afghanistan the largest refugee-producing country after

Syria. Syria is the country with most citizens to find refuge in other countries, with 6,308,619 Syrians living abroad according to the World Bank.

The Syrian War has begun in 2011 after the “Arab Spring”. After the successful uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt, there was hope for the pro-democratic activists in Syria. Before these pro-democratic manifestations erupted in Deraa, a portion of the Syrian population was complaining about issues such as “unemployment, corruption and lack of political freedom under the rule of President Bashar al-Assad. After the deadly act of the Assad government towards the pro-democratic protests, the protests spread across Syria. Many people wanted Assad to resign from his position. As the protests grew and the war between rebels and Assad supporters grew, Islamic State (IS) started to take control of many parts of Syria and Iraq. Iran and Russia are the biggest supporters of the Assad regime while Turkey, Saudi Arabia and many Western powers such as the US, UK and France are backing up the pro-democratic rebels.

More than 500,000 people have been killed or are missing
Exact death toll figures vary depending on the source



Source: Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, August 2018

Discrimination

Discrimination is a major issue worldwide and refugees feel the full impact of it. Due to their race, nationality, religion and gender they are getting excluded, disliked and treated differently. Protests and campaigns are being made against refugees and even in some areas asylums are getting pillaged by these protesters.

Hatred and averseness towards refugees increase everyday and integrating them into society becomes harder by it. Communication is not the only thing that is affected by discrimination. Employment, sheltering, education and access to healthcare services and basic needs are critically affected by discrimination. Refugees cannot contribute to the society because they don't feel like they are a part of it. They don't get educated properly and the employment of refugees is low. Integrating refugees into society is critical to the social structure, economy and security of the country and the people. Killings happen due to xenophobia and the prejudice against the refugees. Death toll is followed by a greater concern: exclusion of refugees.

Human rights groups support the adaptation of Middle Eastern refugees, mainly Syrian and Afghan, in Europe in accordance with the cultural relativist perspective. However, governments and majority of people in European countries show resistance to human rights groups because they believe they don't have any common grounds with these people and these people won't assimilate into the Western culture. The Western culture is the best culture for them; it means civilization, and the home of human rights.

However, not every EU country gives the necessary allowances to every culture. As an example, face covering in public places is forbidden in France, which clashes with the Muslim culture. Women who would rather wear a burqa in public are not allowed to do so. When looked from a cultural relativist perspective, the act of forbidding a cultural element is against human rights, which means banning face covering is actually against the rights of Muslim women in France.

Cultural differences and biased opinions about refugees indicate that there will be more segregation. Not only educating refugees is important, but also teaching

and giving knowledge to the society is a substantial start to a fundamental solution. Respecting everyone's beliefs and culture is essential because separation from the society begins when the people cannot accept differences and when xenophobia breaks through. Fear of refugees is not only a dividing factor it also results in more damage and separation among the country. Murder, arson, rape and verbal and physical abuse are just some of the consequences of xenophobia and antagonistic discrimination. If the events of harm continue, the process of adaptation will be harder and will take longer. Moreover, refugees tend to resettle in particular regions or areas in their host countries which leads to grouping. They grow away from the society and feel like they are the minority occupying foreign lands but they should feel secure, safe and live like it's their own country as well. Distribution is needed but since they search for employment and adequate life standard, they go to crowded and more developed cities or areas. While a majority of them stayed near the borders since principally refugee camps are located near the borderlines. Giving them the chance of filling a part in the society will make their situation easier and it will also benefit the host country.

Language Barrier:

Language barrier refers to linguistic difficulties that non-native speakers of the language face. People who speak a different language as their mother-tongue come across the barrier everyday which makes communication and cultural interactions more difficult. High number of refugees face this barrier which leads to understandings and inapprehensible messages. Lack of provided education, especially linguistic education, to refugees is the main reason why language barrier

is that effective upon refugees. It leaves a cultural gap between the natives and the refugees which causes refugees to be excluded from the society.

Anti-refugee Protests:

Anti-refugee protests are set up because people in host countries don't want refugees occupying their land. They are discriminated by mostly their race, nationality, religion and gender. Stereotypical ideas seem to trigger the campaigns and propogandas. Generalizing an entire race or followers of a belief system is an ignorant and segregationist act. The



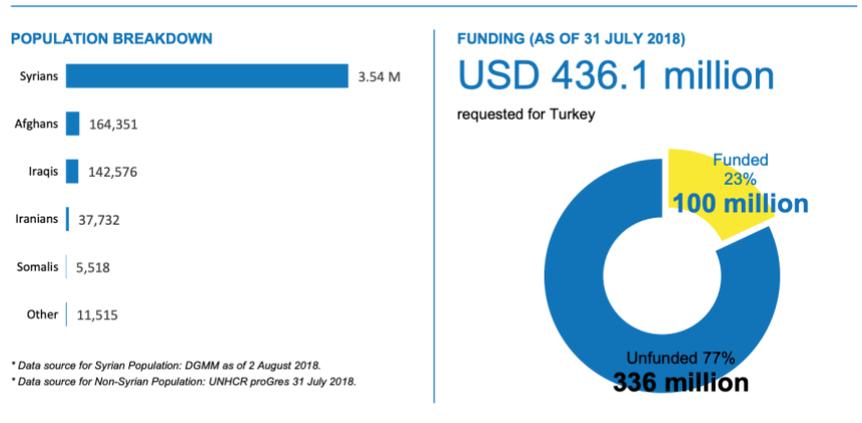
campaigns and protests seem to occur recently in Germany, Greece, Italy, South Korea followed by many other countries. Asylum attacks, notably in Germany, are quite common. Furthermore, in South Korea, anti-Yemeni protests take part even though the amount of Yemeni refugees in the country is very low compared to other host countries. As a last example, anti-Islamic refugee protests have erupted by an organization called PEGIDA (Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamization of the West) in 2014 and still continues. The organization carried out a lot of rallies against the Muslim populations in Europe and proceeds to do so.

Major Parties Involved

Syria: There is currently a civil war in Syria while violence and persecution roams around in its soil. Since the begging of the Syrian Civil War, more than 6 million

refugees fled from the country to find shelter. In their host countries, they face major and minor acts of discrimination as well as getting isolated from the society because of their nationality. They mostly found refuge in Turkey

Turkey: Turkey continues to be the world’s biggest refugee shelter with an estimated of 4 million registered refugees and more than 1 million unregistered refugees. Turkey is given approximately 430 million USD (United State Dollars) according to UNHCR Turkey Fact



Sheet in order to host refugees and provide them with nutrition and shelter. Most of the refugees in Turkey are people who immigrated from Syria in order to run away from the civil war happening in their country. Turkey is not a place where protests happen everyday but large number of of refugees in certain areas seem to overwhelm people living in those areas.

Afghanistan: The Soviet Invasion in Afghanistan in 1979 led to the first major wave of displacement of Afghans to neighbour countries Pakistan and Iran. After the Soviet war, many of these refugees returned to Afghanistan but after only 3 years in 1992, Afghans had to seek refuge in neighbour countries again because of the civil war that began Mujahideen took over the capital and other major cities. By 1990, 6.3 million Afghans were being hosted in Pakistan and Iran ("Afghan Refugees").

Pakistan: Pakistan is currently home for around 1.3 million Afghans who have fled Afghanistan due to major wars or persecution. With UNHCR's help, Afghans in Pakistan began to work and stand on their own feet.

EU: Even with funds and the settlements; EU, besides Germany, still plays a minor role in sheltering refugees. In recent years they welcomed more refugees in their country but many of the refugees face obstacles like racism and discrimination. They get protested and excluded from the society. Rejecting to intake refugees has gone up and some governments seem to work against refugee departures from refugees' countries. In countries such as Germany, Italy, Greece and South Korea anti-refugee protests are displayed.

Hungary: Hungary's rejection rate of refugees is higher than 90% while it believes that the so called "refugees" that seek shelter are mostly economic migrants searching for better life conditions and proper work and wage. Compared to other EU members, Hungary has the highest number of rejections while the following biggest rate is only little more than 75% which is Greece.

UNHCR: UNHCR is a UN agency that works for the safety and protection of refugees. The agency also supports the integration of refugees by acting against segregation. UNHCR help refugees with their status in host countries and save people from persecution, war and slavery by displacing them to a better location. It plays an important role in the current refugee crisis. It tries to integrate refugees into

society by . Also UNHCR’s publication “Article 1F of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees” is a guideline against the exclusion of refugees.

AMIF (Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund): AMI Fund was set up for developing asylums, combating irregular migration, integrating immigrants and refugees into the society, financing European Migration Network and making sure the solidarity in EU states are reliable. It’s four main goals concern solidarity, effective return policies, strengthening asylums and legal migration and integration.

Timeline of Key Events

League of Nations, High Commission for Refugees 1921	Founded in order to assist people who fled the Russian Revolution and the civil war (1917 - 1921). The commission was expanded in hopes of helping the Armenians who left Turkey because of the Armenian Genocide started by the Ottomans in 1914.
Universal Declaration of Human Rights 10 December 1948	Article 14 mainly focuses on the rights of refugees.
European Convention on Human Rights 4 November 1950, Rome	The convention evaluated on the protection of Human Rights and fundamental freedoms of people
Founding of United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR) 14 December 1950	UNHCR was founded by the United Nations after WWII in order to help millions of Europeans to lost their homes during the war. The organization has expanded all over the world in order to help those who are in need to take refuge.
UN Convention Relating to the Status of	It states that, sheltering people who are

Refugees 1951, Geneva	fleeing from persecution and seeking asylum is an international obligation
Text of the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees	1967 Protocol, expanded the scope of the Convention as the problem of displacement spread around the world
The Soviet Invasion in Afghanistan in 1979	In 1979, USSR invaded Afghanistan. A large number of Afghans have fled the country to seek shelter in neighbouring countries.
Charter of Fundamental Right of the European Union 7 December 2000	Proclaimed by the European Parliament, the Council of Ministers and the European Commission with the purpose of reinforcing the right of EU citizens and residents. Article 18 mainly focuses on the right to asylum.
Common European Asylum System (CEAS) 2005	A set of EU laws to ensure all EU members protect the rights of refugees
Syrian Civil War 15 March 2011	In Syria, protests against Assad Regime turned out to be a civil war, which was the beginning of a disaster
Global Compact on Refugees 17 December 2018, New York	The newly constituted compact intends to strengthen the work done upon the refugee crisis and improve cooperation to tackle the problem

Possible Solutions

- Organizing orientations at schools to establish bonds between the refugees and the locals of the host country,
- Establishing more education programs for refugees to teach the local language and rules of the social system of the host country they are in,
- Increasing security of the asylums by assigning guarded police or securing the perimeters of the camps and asylums,
- Giving the educated refugees with certificates the opportunity to work in the host countries with the locals,
- Organizing peace talks by inviting volunteered civilians and people who suffered from forced displacement and designating campaigns with political or motivational figures to speak upon the issue,
- Raising social awareness about the conditions of the refugees by alerting the media
- Ensuring resettlement by giving the right to long term residency to refugees

Useful Links

[UNHCR Figures](#)

[Syrian Civil War explained](#)

[The World Bank: "Refugee population by country or territory of origin"](#)

[Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) (Article 2 and Article 14)

[CEAS](#)

[Application of the Exclusion Clauses: Article 1F of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees](#)

[A New Beginning, September 2013, Refugee Integration in Europe](#)

[Racism and Discrimination in the Context of Migration in Europe \(ENAR Shadow Report 2015-2016\)](#)

[Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor June 2018](#)

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