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Refugee Crisis: Special Reference to European Refugee Crisis

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ABSTRACT

In the year 2015, pictures of a three year old boy's body washed ashore in Turkey made global headlines, Aylan Kurdi drowned with his five year old brother and his mother trying to get to Greece. His father, who survived was given the opportunity to resettle in another country said, "Now I don't want anything what was precious is gone."

'Refugee crisis' which has often been wrongly called 'Migrant crisis', where migrants choose to leave their homes in search of better education, or better employment opportunities, refugees on the other hand, according to United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees "are persons fleeing armed conflict or persecution. These are those people for whom the denial of asylum has led potentially deadly consequences."

Ever since 1951 Refugee Commission, refugees have had certain rights under the international law, these include right not to be returned to their country of origin if their safety cannot be assured and various other rights under the same.

In the summer of 2015, The continent of Europe experienced the arrival of highest number of refugees since the Second World War. For years, human traffickers have preyed, refugees pay these smugglers huge amounts, but the fee does not guarantee their safety, thousands have drowned trying to cross the Mediterranean, hundreds more trying to make their journey on land. These laws have put a lot of pressure on European frontline countries. Many of these countries have opened their arms towards welcoming these refugees whereas, many resist.

We need to understand that we are sharing one, profoundly interconnected world and when the oppressed and marginalized die, it is the duty of the other half of the world to protect them.

We have for too long laboured under the delusion that regional crisis have no global importance. Imagining any widespread human problem belonging to someone else is catastrophically misguided.

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I. REFUGEE CRISIS: A BRIEF HISTORY

Before the ²19th Century moving from one country to another did not require passport and visa and right to asylum was commonly recognized. Despite the various refugee waves around the globe, there was no refugee crisis up until the late 19th century when the asylums deteriorated due to growing number of refugees leading to high amount of human sufferings.

'Refugees are generally people who have made the conscious decision to seek a place far from their homeland which is of relative safety from prosecution.'

During the ³Second World War, about 60 million people in Europe were displaced including many Germans who had been evicted from their homelands in Czechoslovakia and Poland, before this millions of civilians had become refugees during the First World War.

About 90 million people were displaced by the ⁴revolution in 1949 leading to the creation of the People's Republic of China. The ⁵conflict in Balkans led to a refugee crisis as Muslims sought sanctuary in the Ottoman Empire, where their encounter with the local Armenian population was to have tragic consequences in 1915. Large number of mass displacement was also seen during the ⁶Partition of India in the year 1947, with the end of British rule in India leading to a number of people moving between the two partitioned countries- India and Pakistan in order to be in the state of their choice. Quarter of a century to this, there was a population exchange between Turkey and Greece in order to remove ⁷Orthodox Greek Christians from Anatolia and Muslim from Greece.

Today, according to the statistics given out by United Nations, ⁸twenty people are displaced in a minute, one in every 113 people is either a refugee (internally displaced or asylum seeker).

⁹The UN Refugee Agency enunciates in the Mediterranean report. Among 16.2 million newly displaced people, 11.8 million are displaced internally and the remaining are those who fled to other countries and some went as the asylum seekers. These findings pronounce that "the

² <https://www.heritage.nf.ca/articles/society/19th-century-migration.php>

³ Forced Resettlement", "Population, Expulsion and Transfer", "Repatriation". *Encyclopaedia of Public International Law*. 1–5. Amsterdam: North Holland Publishers. 1993–2003

⁴ Westad, Odd (2003). *Decisive Encounters: The Chinese Civil War, 1946–1950*. Stanford University Press. p. 305. ISBN 978-0-8047-4484-3. Retrieved 2019-03-08. last major GMD stronghold.

⁵ Senade Selo Sabic (2017, October) The Impact Of Refugee Crisis in Balkan: A Drift Towards Security. Retrieved from https://www.researchgate.net/publication/320882258_The_Impact_of_the_Refugee_Crisis_in_the_Balkan_s_A_Drift_Towards_Security

⁶ Census of India, 1941 and 1951. A.G. Noorani (25 February 2012). "Horrors of Partition". *Frontline*.

⁷ Gilbar, Gad G. (1997). *Population Dilemmas in the Middle East: Essays in Political Demography and Economy*. London: F. Cass. ISBN 978-0-7146-4706-7.

⁸ *World Refugee Day 20 June*, UNITED NATIONS (May 23, 2021, 4:14 PM) <https://www.un.org/en/observance/s/refugee-day>

⁹ *Mediterranean Migration Route*, UNITED NATIONS (May 23, 2021, 4:14 PM), <https://news.un.org/en/tags/mediterranean-migration-route>

world's forcibly displaced population remained yet again at a record high". According to Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre of the Norwegian Refugee Council; 40 million people belong to the group of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) .

What can be the cause of Migration

It has been seen that people migrant from one place to another based on two broad factors

PUSH FACTOR: These are causes or situation which makes people leave an area, it can be due to low standard of living, lack of job opportunity, unhappy life, transportation, natural disasters, war or shortage of food and other basic amenities.

Example; war torn countries like Syria is making people flee from their country of origin.

PULL FACTOR: The situation that attracts people from different places, it is considered to be opposite of push factor.

II. THE EUROPEAN REFUGEE CRISIS

The European refugee crisis which is also known as, European Migration Crisis is referred to time period from 2015 when high number of people arrived to European union from countries of northern Africa and middle east, the consequences of this crisis is still felt.

- People who migrated from ¹⁰Western Mediterranean root were mostly from countries like Morocco, Algeria, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Senegal, Gambia, even some of the Syrians travelled all the way from East and entered European union through Western Mediterranean root. In this refugees had to first enter Spain by the way, this part has also been the main route used by criminal networks to smuggle drugs into the Europe. The illegal border crossing on the Western Mediterranean route has increased numbers since the last decade.

- In the ¹¹Central Mediterranean route, here the entry point to European union is through Italy, people who migrated from this route were mostly Sub-Saharan African countries like, Eritrea, Nigeria, Libya and many more African countries, people mostly travelled from one African country to another and this way they reached Northern Africa, from there they moved to Italy or Spain by crossing the sea, Libya remained main point of departure for majority of refugees and migrants from Africa who chose the Mediterranean route.

- Coming to ¹²Eastern Mediterranean route, here the entry point to European Union is through Greece, Cyprus and Bulgaria, most of Syrians, Iraqis, Afghans and Pakistanis took this

¹⁰ *The Countries bordering the Mediterranean*, THE MEDITERRAN SEA (May 23, 2021, 4:14 PM), <http://www.mediterranean-yachting.com/Countries.htm>

¹¹ "The Countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea". *mediterranean-yachting.com*. Retrieved 24 March 2015.

¹² Gore, Rick (17 October 2002). Clark, Robert (ed.). "Ancient Ashkelon". *National Geographic*

route to travel to turkey from there the refueed travel to Europe from Istanbul, one part of Istanbul lies in Europe and the other in Asia. Istanbul's European part is separated from its Asian part by the Bosphorus Strait, a 31 kilo meter long waterway that connects the Black Sea with the Sea of Marmara and forms a natural boundary between the two continents. This route witnessed heavy boarder crossing in 2015 and 2016. After entering Greece and Bulgaria the migrants immediately moved to Hungary through Balkans route

These became the main European migration routes that witnessed the arrival of highest number of migrants and refugees to Europe, these refugees came from countries that were severely affected by ongoing armed conflict like Syrian civil war, war in Afghanistan, Iraqi conflict, war in South Sudan, Somalian Civil war and Arab spring. As a result citizens of these war affected countries decided to movie to the European countries in hope for a better life opportunity. Majority of this migrants who were seeking asylum in European unions since 2014 are from Syria, Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan etc.

Why is there a Civil-war in Syria and Iraq?

During the cold war the ¹³US foreign policy in the Middle East, was driven by 3 main objectives

1. Suppress the soviet union
2. Securing petroleum supplies
3. Ensuring survival of Israel

Looking at the United Nations Foreign policy under Bill Clinton's administration from 1993 to 2001, if focused largely on democracy and human rights issues when it came to dealing with countries in the middle east. The united states national interest towards middle east during the 90s was driven by a mixture of liberal democratic principles on one hand and having strong political influence on the other hand for power maximization. This policy was derived by famous democratic peace theory which says ¹⁴democracies are hesitant to engage in armed conflict with other identified democracies, a more democratic world will be safer and more prosperous world for democratic states. In simple words, United States wanted to introduce democracy and liberalism in the Arab world or rather the whole world.

The sudden introduction of idea of liberalism and democracy to a region which is conservative is certainly going to create chaos, giving rise to anti-western Islamist movements, just like the

Magazine. National Geographic Society. Archived from the original on 16 July 2012. Retrieved 17 October 2011

¹³ "An Agent-Based Model of the Acquisition of U.S. Client States" (PDF). University of Washington. 2003.

¹⁴ Doyle 1983a, pp. 205, 207-208.

¹⁵anti- western sentiments during Colonial India.

The terrorist attack of ¹⁶9/11, made united states firm in pushing the idea of liberalism and democracy in middle east with full throttle, immediately after 9/11 attack, the popular view that came to global attention was that Islamic terrorism is now threatening the united states, the united states after the event of 9/11 came with new muddled interpretation of Islam which became the foundation of American policy in the middle east, one of the most important policy was the US middle east partnership initiative of December 2002, the same policy got extended in the form of the broader ¹⁷middle east and north Africa partnership initiative which was announced in June 2004 at G8 summit, Atlanta Georgia.

The word 'broader' targeted countries like Pakistan and Afghanistan in middle east area, it also meant inviting other US allies such as European countries to become partner in promoting democracy in middle east.

The ¹⁸invasion of Iraq in 2003 wherein major combat operations took place in which a combined troops took place from united states, united kingdom, Australia and Poland invaded Iraq to overthrow the government of Saddam Hussein. This invasion was justified by the united states as preventing a terrorist threat against united states and its allies.

In 2009, the arrival of Barack Obama administration gave rise to ¹⁹Obama middle east policy. Obama arrived in office with liberal internationalist principles which is of course the ideology of mainstream democratic party which means that the Obama administration to some extent picked up where Bill Clinton had left in 2000.

In March, 2011 ²⁰pro- democracy protest evolved in the city of Damascus and Dara in Syria against President Bashar Al- Assad as the protest grew more popular, the Syrian government security forces detained some protestors and opened fire, this gave united states a reason to order sanction against the Syrian government for human rights violation.

In 2013, ²¹the Syrian government was accused of using chemical weapons against its own

¹⁵ "Anti-Western alliance". *amp.dw.com*.

¹⁶ "How much did the September 11 terrorist attack cost America?". Institute for the Analysis of Global Security. Retrieved April 30, 2014.

¹⁷ Jeremy M. Sharp, CRS Report for Congress, *The Broader Middle East and North Africa Initiative: An Overview*, p. CRS-2, February 15, 2005.

¹⁸ Malovany, Pesach (21 July 2017). *Wars of Modern Babylon: A History of the Iraqi Army from 1921 to 2003*. University Press of Kentucky. ISBN 9780813169453 – via Google Books.

¹⁹ "Barack Obama's address to Iran: Full text of Barack Obama's videotaped message to the people and leaders of Iran as they celebrate their New Year's holiday, Nowruz". *The Guardian*. London. March 20, 2013. Retrieved July 14, 2013.

²⁰ "Arrest of leader of the Islamic Democratic movement in Syria". *Elaph*. Archived from the original on 7 February 2011. Retrieved 12 February 2011.

²¹ "Timeline of Syrian Chemical Weapons Activity, 2012-2018 | Arms Control Association". *United Nations Arms*

people, Russia came in for support, together Russia and Syria accused United States of lying about chemical weapons attack, in return the united states and the NATO alliance together blamed Russians and Syria, but in ²²2014 the united states conducted numerous air strikes in Syria and this was how Iraq and Syria became a war-torn country. The whole situation turned into a push factor for the citizens of the country and forced people to flee towards the European countries, many travelled through land routes and many simply crossed the Mediterranean sea and went on a dangerous journey in an effort to escape conflict and find a better life, but the sudden incoming of so many people sparked a crisis which is both humanitarian and political. The impact of this mass migration in the world is still being felt till date.

Germany stood highest in the list of countries which sought asylum, the refugees went as north as Sweden to seek asylum. Although refugee received the highest number of refugees, In Hungary the inflow of refugees were highest in the proportion of its population which created a new problem for the European union as some of the European countries were facing disproportionate burden , especially the countries that became gateway to European union. These European countries wanted to settle in those European countries that were part of Shenzhen area so that they could move freely in European countries after getting settled.

The immigration soon became compassion fatigue, in Sweden crime became part of immigration debate, ²³In 2016, in Berlin, Christmas Market terror attack took place which was committed by asylum seekers dominated headlines.

In 2015, ²⁴New year's sexual assault in cologne Germany made the news headlines.

Soon anti migrant sentiments started immersing in Italy and Sweden along with terrorist attack in Austria and France in 2020, collectively served as a brutal reminder that terrorism and migration cannot be separated.

The Insider and Outsider Theory

When one stays in a particular country, they get attached to the culture and emotion of that particular country(insider), when your country gets flooded with migrants from another country, having different culture and practices(outsider), at some point there will be some rise

Control Association. Archived from the original on 19 October 2019.

²² Borger, Julian (14 April 2018). "Syria: US, UK and France launch air strikes in response to chemical attack". *The Guardian*. Archived from the original on 14 April 2018. Retrieved 14 April 2018.

²³ Prince, S.J. (23 December 2016). "WATCH: Anis Amri, 'Berlin Attacker,' Pledges Allegiance to ISIS". *Heavy.com*. Archived from the original on 25 December 2016. Retrieved 26 December 2016.

²⁴ "Germany shocked by Cologne New Year gang assaults on women". *BBC*. 5 January 2016. Retrieved 5 January 2016.

in ²⁵anti-migrant sentiments and will start perceiving migrants as direct competitors in the labour market. The outsiders will also be looked as someone who is eating their welfare system (Pensions, School, Hospitals), forced equality is bad for human society, the idea of liberalism has failed, if you look at European migration crisis as ninety-nine percent of these refugees and migrants come from a conservative background, the west already destroyed their homes by introducing liberalism and democracy that is why they are coming to European union to seek shelter, even the most liberal and equal country like Sweden and Norway has faced this problem

The Crisis

This migration crisis is the direct result of the liberal model introduced by United States and NATO allies in the Middle East, in fact they have over done it for example, instead of introducing the model of democracy or liberalism, developed countries like the United States and Europe could have invested in developing economies and agriculture by not interfering in the way they lived their lives by investing they could have been helped to make a living in their own countries, but the developed countries did not want that and now they have migrants and they will have to accept them after all the west has to show the world that they are soul custodian of liberal value, they have to show the world how open they are.

The overdoing of liberal values imposed by the West onto these countries in Middle East by changing their regime which cannot be imposed whenever wanted and that to on an entire civilization, the result of this has led to the European migration crisis.

Although it started in 2015 and 2016, the arrival of migrants have now dropped and the European government has stopped the movement of undocumented migrants within the Union, however the aftermath is still being felt, both in social and economic domain.

III. FIVE YEARS AFTER EUROPE'S BIGGEST MIGRATION CRISIS: THE EUROPEAN UNION FACING A NEW REFUGEE CRISIS, 2020?

Since 2015, millions of refugees have arrived at the EU borders, the fire that destroyed ²⁶Mariah refugee camp in Greece is a reminder of how urgent the issue is, while Italy and Greece have accused wealthier members of failing to do enough a number of central and east European nations have been openly resistant to the idea of taking in a quota of migrants

Under these new EU proposal, member states will either accept asylum seekers or help with

²⁵ *Insider Outsider Theory Explained*, HRF (May 23, 2021, 4:14 PM), <https://healthresearchfunding.org/insider-outsider-theory-explained/>

²⁶ "LESVOS ISLAND - GREECE". *UNHCR*.

logical support and pay for people to be returned if their asylum claim is rejected.

The European Commission proposed a ²⁷plan for member states to share the responsibility for asylum seekers under a "compulsory solidarity mechanism.". The European Union needs to agree on a system to handle migrant crisis that has been going on for such a long time, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said upon ²⁸announcing the plan. "Migration is complex, the old system to deal with it in Europe no longer works," she added that the EU's migration system has come under increasing pressure in the recent years, with traffic forming at the borders and nations trading barbs over responsibility. Member states who do not want to volunteer to house more migrants could instead take charge of deporting rejected asylum seekers. ²⁹The plan comes on the heels of a devastating fire at the Moria refugee camp on the Greek island of Lesbos, which left around 12,000 people homeless and put EU migration policy under the spotlight. "We need to find sustainable solutions on migration," ³⁰said von der Leyen. "Moria is a stark reminder." Ahead of the proposal, the UN Refugee Agency and the International Organization for Migration on Tuesday urged the EU to respect the fundamental right of a person to seek asylum.

The pact could come into effect by 2023, but still faces approval by the European Parliament. In a ³¹450-page proposal, the EU's executive body set forth five new and amended regulations, some of which address the screening of asylum seekers and crisis situations. The most contentious element of the plan would impose a legal obligation on the state to host an assigned number of refugees and help under "mandatory solidarity." In return, each state would receive about €10,000 (\$11,750) per adult taken in which would be funded from the bloc's budget. The Commission previously said that solidarity can mean not just taking migrants under roof, but also, for example, sending medical supplies, medical help or equipment wherever and whenever it is needed. Screenings could relate to checking for arrivals who are unwell or sick, or for people who have been classified as a security risk along with subjecting migrants to a preliminary assessment to exclude those migrants who allegedly have no basis or are unfit to be take an asylum claim, as proposed by Germany. Five years after the 2015 migration crisis which forced European countries to reckon with new waves of asylum seekers, annual

²⁷ "UNHCR calls for EU to ensure a new chapter for refugee protection", UNHCR Retrieved from <https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2021/1/5ffc80f74/unhcr-calls-eu-ensure-new-chapter-refugee-protection.html>

²⁸ "Speech by President Von der Leyen at the high-level conference on migration and asylum in Europe" (2020, 19 November), Retrieved from https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/SPEECH_20_2157

²⁹ "UNHCR warns and asylum under attack at Europe's borders, urges end to pushbacks and violence against refugees" (2021, 28 January) UNHCR, Retrieved from <https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2021/1/601121344/unhcr-warns-asylum-under-attack-europes-borders-urges-end-pushbacks-violence.html>

³⁰ "Migration and Climate Crisis" (2019, 31 July), Retrieved from <https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/07/1043551>

³¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/proposal-regulation-asylum-migration_en-1.pdf

"irregular arrivals " are down to 140,000 a year. However, EU members still remain divided on the opinion on how to manage asylum procedures. EU leaders have often touted bloc-wide solidarity, but they have never made it mandatory as it was proposed . Many countries such as Hungary and the Czech, etc have on multiple occasions opposed any measure to force countries to take in refugees.

The new EU Migrant proposal includes;

- Pre-Screening of migrants before they cross the border into the EU
- A system to return of failed asylum seekers
- A legal obligation for each member state to take in the refugees

EU official say that the plan will result in a 'fair share of responsibility and solidarity.'

THE COVID PANDEMIC MADE THE SITUATION WORSE.

About more than 4,900 people crossed the Channel in small boats since lockdown began, Italy had recorded ³²16,942 refugees have arrived through sea so far in 2020, compared with 11,471 in all of 2019, reports the UNHCR. Conducting rescues had become "a nightmare" during lockdown because of countries including Italy and Malta blocking boats and refusing to act themselves.

It has been said by the officials that the migrants must quarantine for at least 14 days on ferries, however it has been seen that some have been kept on unsuitable boats or oil tankers.

Italy's Interior Minister Luciana Lamorgese said at a news conference on August 15 that families facing economic crisis in Tunisia were "leaving in search of better life conditions."

"Managing the migrants' flow has been more difficult due to Covid emergency," ³³Lamorgese added.

Greece is accused by Turkey and organisation including Human Rights Watch of pushing boats carrying hundreds of migrants back into Turkish waters between March and July.

On July 30, 129 migrants tested positive for Covid-19 at a camp in Treviso. After more than 200 migrants ran away from a camp in Sicily last month, the region's ³⁴governor Nello

³² data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean/location/5205

³³ Emma Reynolds, "Europe's migration crisis is worsening during pandemic. The reaction is brutal"(2020, September 1); Retrieved from <https://www.wral.com/europes-migrant-crisis-is-worsening-during-the-pandemic-the-reaction-has-been-brutal/19258316/?version=amp>

³⁴ Emma Reynolds, "Europe's migrant crisis is worsening during pandemic. The reaction has been brutal" (2020, September 1); Retrieved from <https://edition.cnn.com/2020/08/28/europe/europe-migrants-coronavirus-intl/index.html>

Musumeci warned in a statement of an "unsustainable situation," saying "the issue of migrants has also become a matter of public order and health."

Border Violence Monitoring Network, a collection of NGOs and associations, raised concerns in a ³⁵July report over the militarization of the borders.

European Commissioner ³⁶Ylva Johansson stated allegations of violence against these asylum-seekers across the EU must be investigated. She said, "We cannot protect our borders by violating people's rights."

IV. WAY FORWARD

About ³⁷69 million people have been displaced around the world, about 20 million of those people are refugees which means they have actually fled their countries because of forced displacement. About 40 million have been displaced for the same reason but haven't cross the international boarder.

Many of these people are highly educated, doctors, engineers, many are farmers so they are skilled, they have willingness to work and they also have great desire to live in peace and no one who flees conflict wants to go and live in more conflict.

So when we ask, what's next for refugees? There are three things that typically happen for refugees called ³⁸'durable solutions.'

- Voluntary return, however this is not an option for most of the refugees, the scale of the crisis is so huge and the violence is so pervasive that it's very difficult for people to go home because there is just no place safe.

- Local integration, which means they fled to a country, they are living there and then eventually they will make that their home which has also become very difficult as the scale is so large at the countries that are hosting refugees who have been generous, for example for countries like Jordan, Lebanon, Ethiopia who have struggled themselves and are not that wealthy countries with just limited opportunities. ³⁹The UN refugee agency that supports these

³⁵ *Special Report*, BORDER VIOLENCE (May 23, 2021, 4:18 PM), www.borderviolence.eu/wp-content/uploads/COVID-19-Report.pdf

³⁶ www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20200703IPR82627/investigate-pushbacks-of-asylum-seekers-at-the-greek-turkish-border-meps-demand

³⁷ *Aleinikoff, Alexander (May 15, 2016). Revitalizing the International Response to Forced Migration: Principles and Policies for the 'New Normal' (PDF). Columbia Global Policy Initiative. pp. 1–2.*

³⁸ "Durable Solution and Refugee Protection No. 56 (XL)- 1989; UNHCR, Retrieved from <https://www.unhcr.org/excom/exconc/3ae68c428/durable-solutions-refugee-protection.html>

³⁹ *Investigate alleged pushbacks of asylum-seekers at the Greek-Turkish border, MEPs demand*, EUROPIAN PARLIAMENT (May 23, 2021, 4:18 PM), https://www.gsma.com/mobilefordevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/The-Importance-of-mobile-for-refugees_a-landscape-of-new-services-and-approaches.pdf

countries are actually only 40% funded to provide support to refugees which is just an average and is higher for Syrian refugees but lower for African refugees which is only 20% funded.

- Resettlement, which is basically when one third countries that can afford to do it, such as USA, Australia, Canada, countries in Europe, actually go out for political reasons for policy reasons identify refugees to bring to our countries to integrate and to support so that they can start their lives, which obviously is a great option only if the count of the refugees are less.

However, what happens when none of these three solution work? We see a big chaos, people dying in crossing southern boarder. We as a world should first of all help all the host countries which has been generous enough to help these refugees resettle, we need to understand that we must share the responsibility which can be done,

- By providing funds to these countries so that they can provide these services, a lot of refugees do not want to necessarily resettle, they want to stay close to home so if the opportunity comes they can go back to their home country.

- Increasing the resettlement can be done by supporting your local resettlement agencies, organisations that work for the same or donating supplies, so that more and more refugees are able to find a place they can call home.

Finally, what we really need is a global movement for refugees, the government we really work harder and do more if we demand it and we are up against some really big challenges such as, fear of change, fear of newcomers. The risk of not doing it and bring a change for refugees will result in all the chaos, people really exposing themselves to very dangerous situations and we can definitely not live in a world like that where we see thousands of people dying just trying to find safety or a safe place. We need to keep this in mind that no one expects to be a refugee, the only power they have is to get up and move, but they do not have any power over policy but we do because we are here and we are safe, so we really should use this opportunity to make their voices heard and to protect the refugees.

According to the statement given out by ⁴⁰UNHCR's Trosien, governments are already working hard in order to increase and expand the resources for the upcoming waves of refugees. But, he says, successful integration will also come down to how much civil society will continue to welcome and support the migrants, ensuring that they don't feel isolated in their new homes.

⁴⁰ "Displaced people host communities all over the world are at heightened risk as the coronavirus pandemic spreads"; UNHCR, Retrieved from <https://www.unhcr.org/news/stories/2020/4/5e79e2410/live-blog-refugees-covid-19-crisis.html>