



Research Report

Cals Model United Nations 2017



"Creating pathways to new opportunities"

Forum: GA 3: Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian (SOCHUM)

Issue: Improving the humanitarian situation of asylum seeker children

Student Officers: Ishvar Lalbahadoersing & Boubka Kleyne

Introduction

The GA3 is the third committee of the General Assembly, or the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural committee. It will focus on the examination of human rights questions, including reports of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council which was established in 2006. The Committee also discusses questions relating to the advancement of women, the protection of children, indigenous issues, the treatment of refugees, the promotion of fundamental freedoms through the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, and the right to self-determination. The Committee also addresses important social development questions such as issues related to youth, family, ageing, people with disabilities, crime prevention, criminal justice, and international drug control.

This research report will discuss in detail what the current situation is regarding to asylum seekers, with the focus on children. Many human rights are currently being violated and the situation is getting worse and worse every single second. Also it will shed lights on the cruel way in which some children; asylum seekers are being dealt with. We must focus on the positive, many attempts have been done in the past to improve this situation, some successes have been made but the situation is still far from ideal.

Definition of Key Terms

Asylum Seeker:

An asylum seeker is a person who has left their home country as a political refugee and is seeking asylum in another. Only asylum seekers who are granted refugee status are allowed to work in the country. We need to make a clear distinction between the terms refugee and asylum seeker. Legally, an asylum seeker is a person who has applied for asylum in the UK and is waiting for a decision on his or her claim. A refugee on the other hand has already received a positive decision from the authorities on his or her asylum claim.

Humanitarian Crisis:

A humanitarian crisis (or "humanitarian disaster") is defined as a singular event or a series of events that are threatening in terms of health, safety or well-being of a community or large group of people. It may be an internal or external conflict and usually occurs throughout a large land area.

Internally displaced people:

Unlike refugees internally displaced people (or IDP for short) have not managed to cross the border of their home country and as a result their protection lies in the hands of the respective government. The reasons which have led them to the search of sanctuary are usually the same as in the case of refugees. It is evident that in some cases those reasons are associated with the government under whose protection they are.

Stateless person:

Article 1 of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons defines a stateless person as "a person who is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law". In other words, a stateless person is someone who does not have a nationality of any country.

Economic migrant:

Economic migrant is a person, who has emigrated from one area to another (even in the same country) in search of better employment opportunities with the intention of improving his/her financial position. It is worth underlying that economic reasons are not entailed in the definition of the term "refugee" as stated in the UN's Refugee Convention.

General Overview

Around 2.45 million individual applications for asylum or refugee status were submitted to States or UNHCR in 174 countries or territories in 2015. This number represents an increase of about 48 per cent compared to 2014 (1.66 million applications).

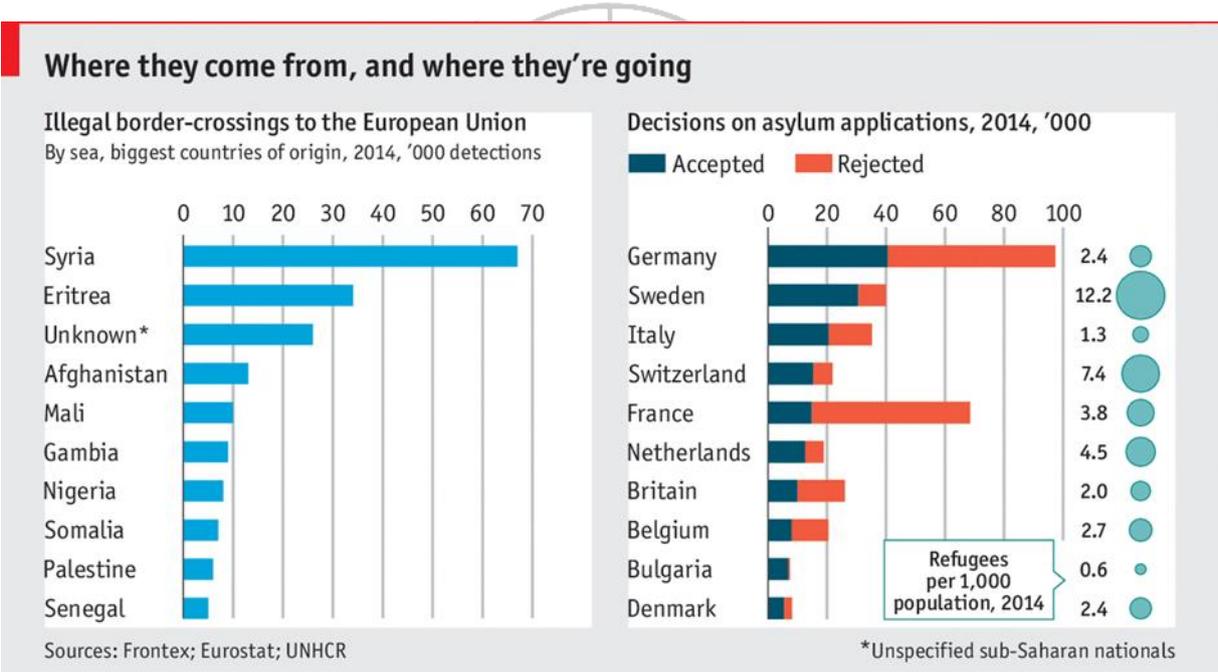
The United States of America was the second-largest host of new asylum-seekers in 2015 with 172,700 claims, a 42 per cent increase from 2014. More than half of all asylum claims in the U.S. were lodged by nationals of 4 countries (Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico), a figure which reflects the ongoing and deteriorating situation as a result of violence generated by organized crime, gang activity and the activities of drug cartels in certain parts of the region.

Not only in the USA are many asylum seekers, in Europe there are plenty too. Germany was the largest single recipient of new asylum applications, with 441,900 registered during 2015. This is more than double the number registered a year earlier (173,100) and the eighth

consecutive increase for Germany. The greatest number of applications was received from individuals originating from the Syrian Arab Republic.

As of the end of 2015, Germany (441,900) and Sweden (156,400) have the largest backlog of registered asylum applications within the EU. The Russian Federation was the fourth largest single recipient of new asylum claims during 2015 worldwide with 152,500 asylum applications.

All too often, the thousands of unaccompanied children arriving in foreign lands without parents or caregivers find themselves trapped in their status as migrants, with officials giving little consideration to their vulnerabilities and needs as children. They may be denied access to adequate medical services and education, abused and mistreated by police, guards, and other detainees, and unable to seek asylum. They may languish in jail-like detention facilities, in conditions that are often degrading and inhumane, and many children are held in cells with adults who are strangers. Children held in detention, particularly for long periods with no release in sight, suffer lasting consequences, physically and mentally. Detention can create new traumas or exacerbate previous ones.



Economist.com

Major Parties Involved

Governments:

Governments of especially Western countries are vital in this matter. It is crucial that they offer help and aid support wherever needed. Only governments currently cannot handle the enormous stream of people that seek for asylum. This is a problem, also because the people in the states usually feel that their government is accepting too many refugees and

considering too many asylum seekers. This is also one of the main reasons why the UK decided to leave the EU, their policy clashed with the one from the EU.

European Union:

The European Union takes a stance in this topic, but is mostly represented by the European Commission (EC)

European Commission:

The European Commission is the EU's executive body. It represents the interests of the European Union as a whole (not the interests of individual countries). The term 'Commission' refers to both the College of Commissioners and to the institution itself.

On 20 April 2015, the European Commission proposed a 10-point plan to tackle the crisis:

- Reinforce the Joint Operations in the Mediterranean, namely Triton and Poseidon, by increasing the financial resources and the number of assets. We will also extend their operational area, allowing us to intervene further, within the mandate of Frontex;
- A systematic effort to capture and destroy vessels used by the smugglers. The positive results obtained with the Atalanta operation should inspire us to similar operations against smugglers in the Mediterranean;
- Europol, Frontex, EASO and Eurojust will meet regularly and work closely to gather information on smugglers' modus operandi, to trace their funds and to assist in their investigation;
- EASO to deploy teams in Italy and Greece for joint processing of asylum applications;
- Member States to ensure fingerprinting of all migrants;
- Consider options for an emergency relocation mechanism;
- A EU wide voluntary pilot project on resettlement, offering a number of places to persons in need of protection;
- Establish a new return programme for rapid return of irregular migrants coordinated by Frontex from frontline Member States;
- Engagement with countries surrounding Libya through a joined effort between the Commission and the EEAS; Initiatives in Niger have to be stepped up.
- Deploy Immigration Liaison Officers (ILO) in key third countries, to gather intelligence on migratory flows and strengthen the role of the EU Delegations.

Timeline of Events

- After the migrant shipwreck on 19 April 2015, Italy's Premier Matteo Renzi spoke by telephone to French President François Hollande and to Maltese Prime Minister Joseph Muscat. They agreed to call for an emergency meeting of European interior ministers to address the problem of migrant deaths.
- On 18 June 2015 the government of Macedonia announced that it was changing its policy on migrants entering the country illegally. Previously, migrants were forbidden from transiting Macedonia, causing those who chose to do so to take perilous, clandestine modes of transit, such as walking along railroad tracks at night. Beginning in June, migrants were given three-day, temporary asylum permits, enabling them to travel by train and road.
- The opening of the Macedonia route enabled migrants from the Middle East to take very short, inexpensive voyages from the coast of Turkey to the Greek Islands, instead of the far longer, more perilous, and far more expensive voyage from Libya to Italy. According to the Washington Post, in addition to reducing danger, this lowered the cost from around \$5–6,000 to \$2–3,000.
- On the 25th of August, 2015 - according to The Guardian - 'Germany's federal agency for migration and refugees' made it public, that "The #Dublin procedure for Syrian citizens is at this point in time effectively no longer being adhered to". During a press conference, "Germany's interior minister, Thomas de Maizière, confirmed that the suspension of the Dublin agreement was "not as such a legally binding act", but more of a "guideline for management practice".
- 2016 Brexit – Has a huge impact on the asylum seeker crisis. Shows politically that Britain does not agree with the current policy on asylum seekers and refugees as the EU.

Previous attempts to solve the issue

Previous attempts to solve the issue were mostly done by the EU and neighbouring countries of conflict areas. The EU set a quota on how many refugees to accept per year, and divided that amongst the member states. Also countries such as Jordan and Turkey have been helping in solving the enormous issue with too many refugees. They try to solve the problem locally and give refugees and asylum seekers a place in their regions. However this has not been enough due to the overwhelming amount of people fleeing certain countries, we cannot simply help everyone. Due to the immense crowd of refugees the conditions of support camps are usually way below standard. Therefore we need to find a solution which is the task of this committee.

Useful Documents

<https://www.asrc.org.au/resources/fact-sheet/timeline-of-events/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brexit>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_migrant_crisis#Triggers_of_the_summer_2015_crisis

http://ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_migrant_crisis#European_Union

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asylum_seeker

<http://www.unhcr.org/asylum-seekers.html>

<http://www.home-affairs.gov.za/index.php/immigration-services/refugee-status-asylum>

<https://www.coa.nl/en/asylum-seekers>

<https://www.asrc.org.au/>

