

15. RESOLUTION ABOUT THE NEED FOR A COMMON RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE REFUGEE SITUATION

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Not since World War 2 have there been so many refugees and internally displaced people in the world. According to calculations made by UNHCR, 65,3 million people around the world have been forced away from their homes. Among these are nearly 21,3 million refugees, over half of whom are under the age of 18.

One of the root causes behind people fleeing is war and persecution. It is so in Syria, but also in countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Eritrea and Somalia. This situation urges for decisiveness and common responsibility from the international community. Unfortunately, this is not the reality.

Although more than 1 million migrants and refugees crossed into Europe in 2015 there are few countries taking their responsibility. From an EU perspective there are considerable differences between the Member States in handling asylum applications, despite of common regulation on both international and EU level. The directives set the minimum requirements and give the Member States the power to introduce or maintain more favourable provisions than the standards laid down in the directive. As a result of this each Member State can formulate its own criterions regarding valid grounds for asylum in addition to the criterions laid down in the directive and in international regulation. An example of this is that not all countries consider humanitarian reasons as a valid ground for asylum.

In September 2015 did the EU-member states decide to redistribute refugees in accordance to the EU Commission's mandatory quotas. Now the member states need to work on the implementing of the agreed quotas, and furthermore the EU should offer them incentives to do so. To meet the increasing amounts of people fleeing war, the EU should welcome refugees **based on** the Convention of Geneva and the free movement of people, not based on the amount of any quota. The EU resources could be used more efficiently to promote education and job creation for migrants and refugees.

Although there has been some progress, it is clear that the EU is not doing enough. The pressure on the EU-institutions needs to increase, the member states should also support EU efforts in preventing and stopping conflicts, in which the EU can be a role model both regionally and globally. Meanwhile, European union countries should be at the forefront of the international community in refugee reception and integration.

We, Young European Socialists, argue that:

- All Member States of the EU need to take a common responsibility for the current refugee situation. This requires that the Convention of Geneva be implemented and all refugees welcomed.
- That the EU investments funds are used more efficiently to promote education and job creation for newly arrived migrants and refugees.
- The social democratic parties in Europe should be at the forefront regarding refugee reception and integration.
- The EU needs to be a role model in regional and global efforts to prevent and stop conflicts.