

2. OUR AIM: THE RIGHT TO STAY- THE RIGHT TO MOVE

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Migration and refugees in the 21st century

Worldwide 60 million people are on the move. Since World War II there hasn't been a bigger movement. At no moment in history more people have fled as a result of war, conflict or because of economic or climatic changes that have destroyed their home, to start their life threatening journey hoping for a better future.

As migration leaves an imprint the 21st century as no other social development it is important to make it the pivotal topic of a global policy that fights for equality and justice. It is time to figure out reasons and causes for migration and provide shelter for refugees. The Geneva refugee convention and its attached protocols define the personal protective rights as well as the legal protection status of a refugee. This convention poses a particular challenge considering the refugee movements of the 21st century. The migrants that arrive in Europe today only represent a small proportion of the amount of people that have to flee their homes in a global context. Most of the migrants flee to territories within in their home country or neighbour states.

This is why not all of these people have a legal status as a refugee, as the Geneva convention defines a refugee as a person that /resides outside of the country of their citizenship as well as stateless person that does not reside in their accustomed state of country of residence. Additionally the convention does not accept every individual reason or cause why people have to flee their home. Wars, conflicts, changing economic or climatic conditions are not considered sufficient causes to receive a refugee status. In the context of the convention someone is considered a refugee if people are prosecuted because of their race, religion, nationality, political views or if they belong to a specific social group.

Because of this narrow definition many people fall through the cracks regarding the convention's definition and thus have no legal protection. Either because they left their home for the wrong reasons or because they are internally displaced persons. For us Young European Socialists the debate of migrant issues represents a central feature of our fight for a better life for all people(?). We want to secure the right to stay, in other words we want to improve the living conditions in the countries of origin and fight causes for fleeing. In the long term we fight for the global right to move, as every human being has the right to live a prosperous life in safety.

In the European discourse the fight against causes for migration equals campaigns to prevent migration instead of organizing it. The reasons that lead to migration are far too complex to promote fast solutions that are not sustainable. The course of action of the European protagonists does not end at the EU borders. The fight of causes for migration has to be part of a global justice policy.

We cannot let the right wing parties dominate the discourse by promoting the prevention of migration. We have to redefine the discourse because of the historic, political and economic responsibility of Europe regarding the fighting of causes for migration.

Reasons for migration:

An event or condition is considered a cause if it has an impact. A reason is an element of rational reflections or explanation. This means that for example if there happens to be a drought it causes starvation. In this case the climatic changes are thought of as primary causes for migration and the drought that is a result of these developments is considered a secondary cause for migration.

The reasons why people flee their homes are diverse and not all of them are included in the Geneva Convention. The majority of people that seek refuge leave their homes because they fear for their lives. However this decision is based on multicausal principles.

This is why the focus should not be on measurements that target the direct causes of internal conflicts or other crises that are product of human intervention. We have to take a closer look at deep rooted and long term causes that risk the lives of a population. In particular the causes of the conflicts regarding resources and the collapse of the state have to be considered in more detail. Therefore it is necessary to safeguard the implementation of human rights that need to be secured particularly in times of war or other types of crisis.

We like to focus on the two types of migration that are not covered by the Geneva Convention: 1. Economic and Climatic changes

Migration based on economic conditions

The reasons for migration caused by economic conditions are caused primarily by the global distribution of resources, factors of production, development potentials and the existing trade structure. All these factors are determined by the discrepancy between labour and capital. While a few countries experienced a major increase in the production of goods in the last few centuries leading to growing wealth, other countries suffered from stagnation of the level of production and wealth. The technical progress that the global North is using and developing, that is only accessible for a certain group of countries worsened the condition and the injustices caused by it.

The continued exploitation of the global South by the global North is a basic pattern of the global hierarchy. The unequal distribution of resources has not changed since the colonial age. Poverty and starvation are results of a neoliberal economy policy in times of capitalism. This can be seen for example if we take a look at the trade policy that is highly unjust, a development cooperation that is not sustainable, in corruption, the trade with basic food staples and water as well as the resulting shortage of resources. Today's social hierarchy and climatic and environmental changes have a negative impact. The consequent poverty represents a self reproducing social situation. Unstable economy, fragile states and governments and the absence of public services as well as the lack of access to educational institutions and lack of accessible medical care worsen the situation of people living in poverty. The bad working conditions –predominantly in transnational companies of the global north but also in the companies of local employers- prevent people from developing perspectives for a better future. As the lack of perspectives is dominating the lives of the people they flee and accept a life threatening journey hoping for an ensured livelihood.

The lack of public services resulted in a downsizing of possibilities for better labour market mechanisms that led to bad working conditions, high unemployment rates and the growing lack of perspectives. People believe that they have better perspectives elsewhere. Financially weak regions suffer a braindrain as the intellectual elite leaves the country and national development opportunities shrink.

We are convinced that global development is only possible if we achieve an equal distribution of wealth that diminishes conflicts regarding resources that lead to (civil) wars.

Environmental changes leading to migration

Every year nature or human beings cause changes of the environment that force people to move such as droughts, tropic storms, floods, heavy rain, earthquakes or other extreme weather conditions. Because of these manmade climatic changes many of these reasons for migration will get more frequent and the effects will exasperate. In endangered territories, countries of the global

South in particular where customization options are in great demand will be affected intensely by these developments.

Migration caused by environmental changes is primarily a result of environmental catastrophes that often lead to spontaneous migration and the climatic change that is not considered an autonomous reason for migration. On the contrary climatic change reinforces the existing causes for migration. Even if there are only a few cases in which climatic change led to forced migration such as the endangerment of flat islands in the sea and local record heat waves. Ecological changes caused by the climate change do not automatically lead to more migration. Technical developments and adaption measures can compensate the influence of extreme weather conditions and the loss of basis existence. Even if the fight against climate change is one of the major goals of international politics for the future, we have to accept that people can survive in various climate environments. Desertification does not necessarily lead to a lack of food staples, starvation and migration. The material conditions and the injustice are decisive factors: social security systems (public services), structures to achieve a more equal distribution of wealth in local and global contexts as well as an efficient knowledge and technology transfer is necessary. This lack is rooted in the contradiction between labour and capital. The dissolution of this antagonism would diminish reasons for migration such as climatic change. Furthermore, we know that the climate change represents a global struggle and is based on global capitalism. The reasons for migration mentioned above are massively reinforced by it. Without the equal distribution of resources it leads to impoverishment and ultimately migration. This is why we need an approach that focuses on the fight against climate change on the one hand and the destruction of global capitalism on the other hand. We are aware that the fight for the right to stay and the right to move are long term projects.

Gender based reasons for migration

The category of gender determines the position of the individual in societies social hierarchy and influences all categories/spheres of life. According to the UN refugee organisation UNHCR half of the refugees in 2015 were women*. Often limited finances or care work women have to flee their homes and migrate within their country or to neighbouring countries. Similar to men women' seek refuge because of poverty, war, prosecution, state repression or other cases of violence or violations of human rights. Gender or sexual orientation can reinforce the causes for migration. While women represent a major part of the workforce, they own only a tenth of the world's income and a hundredth of the world's properties and are suffering from poverty disproportionately.

Examples of gender related causes are: genital mutilation, rape (in the context of civil wars and other conflicts), honor killing, lapidation/stoning, forced prostitution, sexual slavery, forced abortions and forced marriage. Women and LGBTIQ* experience structural discrimination in all stages of life and thus they are more vulnerable in times of unforeseen catastrophes and generally have a weaker position economically, politically and socially.

Gender specific prosecution has to be considered a reason for seeking refuge and we have to place special emphasis on the issue. Sexualized violence and sexist discrimination are intentionally used to hurt people that belong to a specific social group and hence need to be taken into account by the Geneva Convention. Legal protection is needed.

The Geneva Convention needs to consider poverty, starvation and gender based prosecution as reasons for migration. Moreover we demand that internally displaced people are guaranteed the same protection as refugees. In the medium term we need a global policy that ensures equality by focusing on development cooperation, trade policy, environmental and gender policy, as it is our responsibility as representatives of the global north.

Development cooperation:

One of our central demands regarding development cooperation is that it has to become an autonomous policy field and at least 0,7 % of the GDP should be used for DC every year. We demand that the money of the DC are not used for emergency management, instead it should be used for the long term prevention of climate induced migration.

Gendermainstreaming and a focus on the role of women* have to be considered while analyzing, defining goals and their implementation. In most cases women* are affected in multiple ways by poverty, injustice, effects of climate change and patriarchal structures and are in need of special support. At the same time they play a major role in the implementation of DC projects.

We as Young European Socialists demand

1. An new and autonomous form of development cooperation
2. At least 0,7 of the BIP annually have to be used for the development cooperation
3. A focus on migration that is rooted in climate and environmental changes
4. Money gathered for development cooperation mustn't be used for disaster management/civil protection, instead they should be used for the prevention of climate-induced migration
5. Development cooperation has to be Europeanized
6. The DG Devco and the European parliament need to be more valued
7. Gender mainstreaming and the situation of women* need to be examined more considering goals and their implementation

Trade policy

If we don't rethink our trading policy the fight of causes for migration and development cooperation target the symptoms rather than the roots of the problem. Today's world economy is defined by the capitalistic framework and won't stop producing injustices or a gradient between poor and rich or North and South. Thus, it is our goal to destroy capitalism. Until we reach this goal we need fundamental reforms of our global economy and trade policy.

1. A global and multilateral trade architecture which will get past the imbalance between the global North and the global South
2. A reform and democratization of the international finance and trade organisations
3. An essential ban of exports used for armaments
4. Essential labour, social and environmental standards have to be applied
5. Fair trade instead of free trade
6. The stop of EPAs. Fair renegotiation with the AKP group as a whole but individual requirements of all partners have to be borne in mind.

Many people are fleeing because of wars, violence against humanity, famine and poverty. These causes for migration are not mentioned in the Un convention and this is why they don't enjoy legal protection./benefit from the protection of the law.

Hence we demand:

1. Poverty and starvation have to be included in the Un convention as reasons for fleeing
2. Wars and the violation of human rights have to be included in the convention
3. To guarantee the internally displaced people the same protection as refugees.