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17/sms09/097

A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Most likely, they cannot return home or are afraid to do so. War and ethnic, tribal and religious violence are leading causes of refugees fleeing their countries. Protecting refugees is the primary responsibility of States. Countries that have signed the 1951 Convention are obliged to protect refugees on their territory and treat them according to internationally recognized standards. Refugee law and international human rights law are closely intertwined. Most refugees often find themselves in Europe seeking asylum. Europe has accommodated several refugees and asylum seekers over the years. Therefore, Europe led by the European Union generated an EU policy on refugees and the Dublin system which has been used by EU countries when they are accepting refugees. This EU policy and other regulations on refugees have deficiencies which affect the protection of rights of refugees. One of the most important problems in European asylum policy, is the lack of cooperation amongst different European countries. Without uniform mechanisms to address the large numbers of refugees fleeing crisis at the regional level, the burden falls disproportionately on certain states who are unable to manage it, thus offering inadequate human rights protection to refugees as they quickly run out of means to provide for themselves because international support in limited. European countries in general often fail to discuss refugees in human rights terms. Issues such as the right to leave a country, the right to seek asylum, the right not to be discriminated against, the right to peace, and the right to work, among others, are rarely included in the discourse concerning refugees and asylum seekers. European countries, such as Italy, consistently do very little to help refugees find their way into society, even where entry has been allowed. This halts their integration and makes life very difficult for the refugees.

The United States has long been a global leader in the resttlement of refugees .Historically, the US has resettled more refugees than the rest of the world combined. But for the past several years, the number of spaces available for protecting refugees from human rights violations has shrunk alarmingly. The Trump administration has drastically reduced the maximum number of refugees that can enter the United States. Moreover, the United States government has imposed new security vetting procedures on refugees before they can be admitted into the country, which has greatly lengthened waiting times and left many refugees in dangerous situations for prolonged periods. The prospects for refugees hoping to resettle in the United States changed abruptly in 2017. In January of that year, President Trump signed an executive order that suspended the entire U.S. refugee admissions program for 120 days. In addition, the Trump administration suspended indefinitely the entry of Syrian refugees into the country and lowered the 2017 refugee admissions from 110,000 (set under the Obama administration) to 50,000. The admissions was lowered to 45,000 in 2018 (with fewer than 50 percent admitted) and again to 30,000 in 2019. This has gravelly affected many refugees around the world as many are left stranded and forced to stay in unbearable situations as there is no place for them to resettle and flee the situation they face at home.