NAME: ODIWAMKPA CHINEMEREM VIVIAN

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QUESTION: Do you think that developed countries in Europe and North America are protecting the rights of refugees?

A refugee can be defined as persons who are outside their country of origin for reasons of feared persecution, conflict, generalized violence, or other circumstances that have seriously disturbed public order and, as a result, require international protection.  The refugee definition can be found in the 1951 Convention and regional refugee instruments, as well as UNHCR’s (National High Commissioner for Refugees) Statute. According to the United States law a refugee is a person who is unable to return to his/her home country due to race, a well-founded fear of prosecution and political opinion. A refugee can also be defined as a person who has been forced to leave his/her country in order to escape war, prosecution. Refugees are not protected by their own government but by International community who ensures that they are protected. Refugee law also protects them under the Principle of Non- Refoulement in which states are not allowed to return any refugee to any country where he/ she are likely to face persecution. Legal migration methods should be applied and also these refugees should be able to apply for them in order to prevent humanitarian abuses such as human trafficking.

At the level of the European Union (EU), European countries have taken various steps in order to minimize the cases of illegal migration to their countries and to protect their external borders. The European Union has come up with effective ways of integrating migrants into the economy as strategies of social inclusion are implemented to support those arriving in Europe successfully.

Refugees in particular Child migrants need access to sufficient education and healthcare. With the timely steps that have been placed in place including sufficient funding to help these children have and get better life than the one they have , this will help strengthen the processing of refugees and asylum seekers by both national and local authorities.

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) founded in 1933 which is a nongovernmental and non-profit organisation has been able to respond to world’s worst crisis and also working with governments, local organizations to help refugees all around the world. They have been able to help refugees in Greece and other people seeking for asylum in Germany who have welcomed about 1.8 million refugees from Iraq, Syria and many more. Every year, Italy receives more refugees and asylum seekers more than any other European country. Children traveling by themselves, women and girls and others in need of professional psychosocial treatment due to experiences and trauma they have gone through.

Supported by the United States Department of State's Bureau of Immigration, Refugees, and Migration, the United States Refugee Resettlement Programme (USRAP) is aimed at choosing refugees who are unable or unable to return to their country of origin and whose plight cannot be resolved in the country of asylum to resettle and start life anew in the United States (US).

The USRAP entails the processing of refugee cases referred by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). IOM Malta is responsible for the preparation of refugee cases, arrangements for interviewing and fingerprinting missions, and pre-departure procedures (including medical checks, travel arrangements and cultural orientation) once the applicants are accepted as refugees by the US.

In recent years the ongoing crisis in Africa and Middle East is resulting to strong outflows, from the consequence of the 2011, Libyan crisis in Tunisia, the Choucha camp in Tunisia have accommodated of about 530,000 refugees and they have been able to ensure that these individuals are been protected and taken care of with the support of government.

In conclusion receiving countries should make policies and mandates to protect these refugees because they are helping them and enable that they do not go through what they have experienced before rather make life better and better that would profit them rather these policies are not as effective as they should because they are violates, not giving jobs, healthcare and basic needs are been neglected, sexual violence for women and girls, isolated in refugee camps and many more. Rather these refugees should be taken care of countries should come together and help these individuals, government etc.

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