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**IRD 406**

**Human Rights**

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

A refugee can be defined as a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster. According to the United States law: a refugee is a person who is unable or unwilling to return to his or her home country because of a ‘well-founded fear of persecution’ due to race, membership in a particular social group, political opinion etc. in addition, a person is regarded to be an asylum seeker if that displaced individual is forced to cross national boundaries and cannot return his or her home safely and until the person is granted refugee status by the contracting state or the United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

There are several types of refugees and they are named after the reasons why these individuals are fleeing in the first place. The types of refugees are internally displaced persons, stateless persons, returnees, religious or political affiliation, escaping war, discrimination based on gender/sexual orientation, hunger and climate change.

European countries have adopted various measures at the European Union (EU) level to bring down the cases of irregular migration into their countries as well as securing her external borders. The European Union has come up with better ways to integrate the migrants into the system as social inclusion policies are adopted to successfully aid those arriving in Europe. Refugees especially Child migrants are to have access to proper education and healthcare. With the timely measures that have been put in place including adequate funding would assist national and local authorities improve the settlement of refugees and asylum seekers.

An important sector of the European agenda on migration acknowledges the fact that various forms of legal migration should be encouraged and promoted in order to prevent various humanitarian abuses such as human trafficking. In addition, legal migration for individuals seeking international protection are allowed to apply for humanitarian visa in their various country of origin. The efforts of the European parliament to provide accessibility to the Union Visa code has been acknowledged regardless of the fact that the issuing of Visas on the basis of humanitarian grounds falls outside the scope of the EU law.

Another frontier in which Europe is trying to provide a secure environment for the migrants is by creating an open Europe in the sense that regardless of the open nature of Europe and the increasing cases of migrants entering her borders the openness is still to remain preserved and uncompromised. EU citizens are allowed free movement to other European countries within Europe and these migrants that gain the legal document are also given access to this free movement.

The United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) works together with other nonprofit organizations both domestically and internationally to admit and identify refugees for resettlement in the United States. The USRAP is supposed to provide cash assistance but it has arguably not been successful due to inadequate funds and the diversity of the refugees entering the country from various sectors of the US have not made it easy and the organizations may not be able to locate the refugees because some sneak in.

Refugees are often placed in short term jobs to get them employed and also a way of preventing petty crimes. In some cases, this ignores the refugee’s abilities looking past education and professional experience. These short-term jobs pay above minimum wage but the overall earnings may not be able to carter for refugees taking care of families. This method of providing a short-term solution eventually affects the refugee’s ability to be self-sustaining given that the jobs provided are only temporary and they will still face unemployment.

The USRAP is also in charge of addressing health care both mental and physical for refugees. A lot of refugees entering the US have gone through activities that troubles their mental health. Most of these refugees are coming from Iraqi because of the war so they have faced losing their families, a lot of them are traumatized which is a problem for the organization. This then calls for more training of psychologists to adapt to the clinical services in order to meet their mental health needs.

In conclusion, these receiving states try to put facilities and policies in place to benefit and protect the refugees however, these policies are not effective enough. These countries should build a system where countries fairly share asylum seekers based on the principles of solidarity and human rights protection. This would assist in improving the protection these countries improve the protection provided for the refugees eventually relieving the pressure on the receiving countries.