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**Question: Do you think that Developed Countries in Europe and North America are protecting the rights of refugees**

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**Do you think that Developed Countries in Europe and North America are protecting the rights of refugees**

According to the United Nations 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocols relating to the Status of Refugees, which the United States became a party to in 1968, a "refugee" is a person who, due to race, membership in a specific social group, political opinion, religion or national origin, is unable or unwilling to return to his or her home country because of a "well-founded fear of persecution " (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2017).

The rights of a refugee are stipulated, United Nations 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocols relating to the Status of Refugees, and include; the right of non- refoulement. The basic principle of refugee law of non-refoulement refers to the obligation of States not to refouled, or return, a refugee to “the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion. It also includes, freedom of movement, right to liberty and security of the person and right to family life. The 1951 Convention also protects other rights of refugees, such as the rights to education, access to justice and employment Europe is clearly betraying refugees and this is due to the failures within and outside its control. Across Europe, asylum policies are failing both refugees and citizens. Since Syria's civil war started, Europe has been betraying refugees but the situation is worsening. The EU has wrung its hands year after year as Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and Russian President Vladimir Putin have committed well-documented massacres against the civilian population in Syria's rebel-held regions. Increasingly, Europe’s focus has been on defending its borders against desperate civilians in search of peace and a better life and keeping them out of the EU (Dempsy, 2020).

Across all parts of Europe, there are disturbing patterns in the care of asylum seekers and refugees as well as illegal migrants. States are steadily engaged in intensive border patrols, seeking to prevent migrants from entering their territories.

According to German media reports, guards at the Burbach asylum reception center used barbaric methods in response to even the smallest of transgressions against community rules at the facility. The weekly German news magazine Der Spiegel has accounts of one refugee who was beaten and locked up for five days after arriving back at the refugee center drunk and past its curfew. Other refugees were reportedly slapped across the face, beaten with sticks until passing out, bound to lampposts, pepper sprayed, or told to "lie down in your vomit and sleep" after being punched to the point of becoming sick (Serdanson, 2018) .

Human rights groups in France say police in Calais repeatedly and forcibly evict people who are sleeping outside in wooded areas or by the sides of roads, often arriving in the early morning and confiscating their tents and sleeping bags, leaving them without any shelter. Since the closure of a vast makeshift migrant camp in Calais in October 2016, hundreds of people are still sleeping rough along the coast in squalid conditions, many without proper access to sanitation. Leilani Farha, the UN’s special rapporteur for housing, highlighted the “harsh conditions” of an estimated 600-700 refugees and migrants homeless and sheltering in tents or makeshift camps on the northern French coast with “extremely limited access to emergency shelter” (Chrisafis, 2019) .Migrants, including asylum seekers, who do manage to enter irregularly Council of Europe member states are often criminalized, locked up in prison-like conditions, and expelled as quickly as possible – even to countries where they risk persecution and torture. However, irregular migration is not a criminal act and irregular migrants also enjoy certain rights under international law, which have not been respected.

In an attempt to fight abusive asylum requests, states undermine the rights of genuine asylum seekers, who are frequently detained and unable to access fair and efficient asylum procedures.

An estimated 650,000 Syrian refugees (numbers continue to rise) have fled their home country to escape bloodshed and have found a lifeline working in Turkey, with many working in the garment industry. Without these jobs, many families would face desperate times and would struggle to support themselves. However, the garment industry in Turkey is complex and exploitative conditions are too common. Since 2015, reports and investigations have exposed poor wages, discrimination, and child labor by Syrian refugees working in the Turkish garment industry. Andrew Gardner, Turkey researcher for Amnesty International, said: “Refugees in Turkey are increasingly facing arbitrary detention and forced return to Syria as the government punishes those it perceives as jeopardizing its lucrative EU deal.” (Human rights.org).

The United States has long been a global leader in refugee resettlement — and the need for such leadership continues to be immense. The number of refugees fleeing conflict or persecution in their home countries in search of stability abroad has risen significantly in the last decade. Before recently, more refugees were given asylum in the United States each year than all other nations combined. Yet the Trump administration has cut the overall number of refugees that may reach the United States significantly. Moreover, before they can be admitted to the country, the United States government has implemented new security screening requirements on refugees, which has significantly increased waiting times and left many refugees in unsafe conditions for extended periods of time. In 2017 the United States welcomed fewer immigrants for the first time in human history than the rest of the world. The Trump administration’s action turns a cold shoulder to countries on the front lines of conflict, many of which are close US allies and bear the burden of caring for and protecting the overwhelming majority of the world’s refugees (Frelick, 2019). The US authorities forcibly separated thousands of families seeking asylum, deliberately inflicting extreme suffering that was tantamount to torture in some cases (Amnesty International, 2019). Support for taking in refugees varies around the world. About two-thirds or more of people in Mexico, Canada, Australia, the United States and Japan say they support taking refugees from countries where people are fleeing violence or war. This support comes at a time when the number of refugees allowed to resettle in Canada, Australia and the U.S. has decreased. In September, the U.S. announced it would resettle a maximum of 30,000 refugees during fiscal 2019, a record low(Connor, 2018) .

In conclusion, developed Countries in Europe and North America are not protecting the rights of refugees to their maximum capacity. The rights of the refugees continue to be violated thereby, subjecting the refugees to violence and human rights abuse they initially sought to escape.

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