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Answer

I don't think that both Europe and North America are protecting the rights of Refugees.

### **Europe**

Just over 100,000 people arrived irregularly at European Union (EU) borders in 2019, the majority by sea. The EU and its member states focused on preventing arrivals, outsourcing responsibility to countries outside the bloc, and repelling people unlawfully at EU borders. An increase in arrivals to Greek islands and at the Greece-Turkey land border in early 2020 underscores the willingness of political leaders like Turkey's President Erdogan to use refugees and migrants as pawns and demonstrates the very urgent need for the EU to adopt an approach to migration grounded in respect for human rights. The EU continues to cooperate with Libya on migration controls, despite overwhelming evidence of systematic abuses against migrants and refugees and the ongoing conflict. Reform of the EU asylum system and initiatives to improve responsibility-sharing among member states remain stalled.

### **The challenges that Europe faces with protecting the refugees rights**

First, the practical challenge presented by the sheer scale of the crisis should not be underestimated. The volume of people moving, the diversity of their countries of origin and vulnerabilities and the dynamic nature of their routes of entry and the clandestine means they often use all present an incredibly complex and demanding situation.

For Italy, Greece, Croatia and Hungary – the EU countries on the frontline – the volume and speed of the influx has simply overwhelmed their asylum systems at a time when their economies are particularly weak.

Second, identifying those in need of international protection and those who are not is complex. Whilst the refugee status of people fleeing Syria or other conflicts is more clear-cut, others needing international protection may not fit within the legal definition of a refugee. As highlighted in previous research, for many of these people the line between 'forced' and 'voluntary' international migration is increasingly blurred: their migration is driven by an array of overlapping 'push' factors relating to chronic poverty, inequality, environmental degradation and the effects of climate change, as well as 'pull' factors including real and perceived economic and educational opportunities in Europe.

Third, there is a substantial financial cost to countries receiving large-scale influxes of refugees and others granted international protection in terms of integration support (e.g. housing, education, health and other welfare services). Given the slow economic recovery in many EU states, this is not a cost that all are willing to bear. There are also concerns about how long refugees will remain in Europe, and thus how long they will need such support. Certainly, global trends suggest that many arrivals may have to remain for years: of the total global refugee population in 2014, more than half had been displaced for more than ten years (Crawford et al., 2015).

Lastly, obtaining a coherent approach from all 28 EU members is proving extraordinarily difficult. Although in recent months there has been growing recognition of the need for an EU-wide response, the crisis has also compounded underlying political and economic divisions within Europe. Some Central and Eastern European states have rejected what they perceive as a

domineering attitude from Germany; arguments over movement across their shared border has reignited tensions between Serbia and Croatia; and the UK has declined to participate in a plan to relocate within the EU a further 120,000 refugees currently in Greece, Hungary and Italy agreed by EU leaders on September 22.

### **North America**

The value for Refugee population by country or territory of asylum in North America was 427,350 as of 2018. As the graph below shows, over the past 28 years this indicator reached a maximum value of 995,325 in 2006 and a minimum value of 370,291 in 2016. The United States plans to admit a maximum of 18,000 refugees in fiscal year 2020, down from a cap of 30,000 in the one that ended Sept. 30, 2019, under a new refugee admissions ceiling set by the Trump administration. This would be the lowest number of refugees resettled by the U.S. in a single year since 1980, when Congress created the nation's refugee resettlement program.

### **Challenges**

1. Design and fund humanitarian interventions that integrate refugees over the long term. Donors should fund projects that span 3 to 5 years that are exile and responsive to opportunities, and that focus on helping refugee populations return

to a normal way of life, through employment and education. The international community must also shift its mind-set and skill-set from solely providing short-term assistance to supporting longer-term, sustainable livelihoods more quickly. This includes investing in solutions beyond camp solutions for the displaced, as well as addressing their holistic needs. Peacebuilding and psychosocial programming must be integrated into existing responses.

2. Engage development actors. To respond to the long-term needs of refugee populations, efforts to integrate refugee response into development goals and programs must not only be appropriately funded, they must adequately prioritize links between humanitarian and development actors.

3. Bring market-based assistance to scale. This will require the U.S. government to plan for and fund the necessary supports for putting market-based systems in place, including supporting NGOs to build cash readiness of local partners, sharing learning, carrying out pre-market crisis assessments in high-risk environments within ongoing development programming, and pre-identifying multiple platforms for both cash and voucher programming that would also facilitate data sharing and stronger coordination.

4. Engage local actors as the norm. The U.S. government's Grand Bargain commitment to apportion 25 percent of funding to local actors by 2020 will only become a reality if training and accompaniment is an essential part of the plan. This will require adequate funding for capacity building of local partners at the outset.

### **References**

crs.org

Migration crisis? Facts, challenges and possible solutions by V Melfcate Hough.