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**ASSIGNMENT**

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

**ANSWER**

Refugee law/rights is the branch of international law which deals with the rights and duties States have in relations to refugees. Refugee law includes customary law, peremptory norms, and international legal instruments. The only international instruments directly applying to refugees are the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees. Both the Convention and the Protocol are open to states, but each may be signed separately. 145 states have ratified the Convention, and 146 have ratified the Protocol. These instruments only apply in the countries that have ratified an instrument, and some countries have ratified these instruments subject to various reservations. Various regions and countries have different variations of refugee law. They all stem from the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol which relates to refugee status. The United States became a party to this protocol in 1968.

The United States has yet to ratify the treaty, making it the only nation in the UN that is not party to it. In 1980, the Refugee Act of United States was passed. This law incorporated the International Convention's definitions of a refugee into U.S. law. The law also created the legal basis for the admission of refugees into the U.S. An important aspect of this law is how an individual goes about applying for status. A person may meet the definition of refugee but may not be granted refugee status. If the individual is inside of the U.S. with a different status or no status, they are granted the status of asylee but not refugee.

On the other hand, Canadian immigration policy allows several classes of people to enter. The Family Class allows permanent residents or citizens to sponsor a family member's or spouse's entrance into the country. In the case of a same sex couple, if they are emigrating from a country where they cannot marry, proof of a long-term relationship is required. The Economic Class provides admissions to applicants (and their immediate families) who are supposed to be likely to find employment and contribute to the Canadian economy. This is determined by ranking candidates against one another, and the weighing of factors such as education, language skills, and work experience. Some 60,000 come to Canada each year under the International Experience Canada initiative, which provides Working Holiday, internship, and study visas.

French asylum law today is founded on constitutional principles and heavily influenced by international and European law. In 2010, France received about 48100 asylum applications which makes it one of the top 5 countries receiving the most asylum seekers. During the Europe Refugee Crisis since 2015, France responded initially and became one of the five EU members that accepted 75% of asylum seekers. During 2015-2017 due to the Europe refugee crisis, there was an upward trend of asylum applications numbers in France. In May 2017 Emmanuel Macron was elected President of France, and some of the new measures were being taken concerning the asylum policy. In July 2017, new facilities founded by France for dealing with asylum applications were set up in Libya, as a way for releasing the pressure occurred with the flow of asylum seekers and immigrants. Applications for asylum in 2015, 2016 and 2017 reached to 71,000, 85,244 and 100,412 respectively. Up to 2018, according to Office français de protection des réfugiés et apatrides (OFPRA)’s statistics, nearly 122,743 persons have been registered as asylum seekers residing in France

Italy has adhered to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, whose article 14 provides that “everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution”. Italy proclaims a right to asylum in their Constitution. The Italian Constitution provides that “a foreigner who, in his home country, is denied the actual exercise of the democratic freedoms guaranteed by the Italian constitution shall be entitled to the right of asylum under the conditions established by law”.

In 2014, 202,834 asylum applications were filed in Germany. 128,911 decisions were made. 25.9% were recognised as refugees, 4% received subsidiary protection and 1.6% were granted a prohibition of deportation. 33.4% of the applications were rejected after substantive examination. Following the calculation of charity organisations, Germany has an adjusted protection rate of 48.5% (not including those whose cases were passed on to other EU countries according to the Dublin Regulation). If successful legal claims against the decisions of the office are counted as well, more than half of the refugees were granted a status of protection in 2014. In 2015, Germany made 282,762 decisions on asylum applications the overall asylum recognition rate was 49.8% (140,915 decisions were positive, so that applicants were granted protection).

The great powers of Europe have done a great deal of help in ensuring the protection and safety of displaced and endangered people from other part of the world. They of adhered to the international laws and policies established by the United Nations in various conventions. These include to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees etc. It is safe to say that the developed countries of Europe and North America are protecting the rights of refugees.