Onita Eric

Ird 406

Dr OSONDU, Adaora

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

Human rights are privileges granted to individuals simply because they are humans, human rights are held by all persons equally and forever.

Since 2015 there has been a large number of refugees fleeing their countries for a better life somewhere else where they feel safer with better living conditions to survive, Europe and north America are popular destinations of these refugees which has led to a large number of refugees migrating there, this has become a major issue leading to the migration crises in 2015.

These refugees are granted basic human rights as migration is not a criminal act and irregular migrants also enjoy certain rights under international law but this is not the situation as several reported cases of human rights violation have been reported.

Europe reports a high number of refugees with most coming from middle, east Africa and Asia with their numbers reaching as high as 101,000 people in November 2019 but these numbers are declining steadily, the problem with for European states is how to deal with these refugees and how to properly relocate them across nations in Europe bur with these many numbers it is no surprise that the rights if these refugees are violated.

The European Union acted in defense of human rights values in response to efforts by some EU governments to undermine democratic institutions inside their countries. EU institutions and governments pursued migration policies that too often exposed people to violence and abuse and denied them access to asylum, especially by keeping them outside EU borders.

According to Croatian Ministry of Interior, in the first eight months of 2019, 11,813 new migrants and asylum seekers were recorded, mainly from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Turkey, an increase of more than 8,600 compared to the same period in 2018. In the same period 974 people claimed asylum and authorities approved 71 asylum requests, including 13 from 2018. Croatia reported that it blocked entry to [9,487 people at its borders in the first 8 months of the year.](https://mup.gov.hr/vijesti-8/reagiranje-na-optuzbe-komesarijata-za-izbjeglice-i-migracije-republike-srbije/284701)Despite [credible reports](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jul/16/croatian-police-use-violence-to-push-back-migrants-says-president) during the year about illegal and violent pushbacks of migrants by Croatian police into Bosnia and Serbia, in breach of EU refugee and human rights law, Croatia faced no consequences from EU institutions. Croatia’s president acknowledged in December 2018 on [Swiss television](https://www.srf.ch/play/tv/tagesschau/video/kroatiens-praesidentin-grabar-kitarovi-zur-balkanroute?id=68ae3d79-230b-4af6-a318-717b9aa8a514&fbclid=IwAR0thheIG9J0CfzWBYn1aRqtM1m4Z7KPA-d_k8WkPvcQnEyS8AMeVZuZdgA) that force is sometimes used, but later retracted her comments.

Germany continued to play a leadership role in refugee resettlement in the EU. By October 30, [Germany had accepted 229 refugees](http://dip21.bundestag.de/dip21/btp/19/19094.pdf) who had been rescued at sea. At time of writing, 13 municipalities had signed the [“Safe Haven Cities” declaration](https://www.potsdam.de/sites/default/files/documents/2019_06_03_potsdamer_erklaerung.pdf), launched in April, indicating to the federal government that they were willing to accept resettled refugees rescued at sea. This has not been the case as there have been attacks on refugees, asylum seekers and those providing them with assistance, remained a matter of concern. In the first half of 2019, police recorded 609 attacks on refugees and asylum seekers, 60 attacks on refugee shelters, and 42 attacks against relief organizations and volunteers.

In north America the united states of America receive more refugees than any other state in the region so my primary focus will involve the USA as my case study .

While international human rights law gives States wide latitude in determining their immigration policies, it also mandates that States respect migrants’ human rights, and protects asylum seekers and irregular migrants from criminal prosecution. In the words of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, “Seeking asylum is not a crime, and neither is entering a country irregularly.

Immigrants and migrants in the United States are frequently denied their right to be free from discrimination their daily living and are often discriminatorily denied their fundamental civil and political rights, as well as their economic, social and cultural rights. The United States, through both its direct and indirect action, has failed in its obligations under the Convention to guarantee the rights of immigrants to be free from discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin and ancestry, and to recognize and address the multiplicities of discrimination immigrants face and the intersection of gender, race, national origin and citizenship discrimination.

Recent changes in the United States’ immigration policies have drawn fresh condemnation from human rights experts and civil society, particularly as news spread that authorities had separated approximately 2,000 children from their parents at the country’s southern border. These changes include automatic criminal prosecution and detention of adults including asylum seekers entering the United States without authorization, separation and detention of children who crossed the southern border outside a port of entry with their parents, and a directive instructing immigration officials not to recognize a State’s failure to protect victims of gang violence and domestic violence as grounds for asylum. In response to criticism earlier this month, President Trump signed an [Executive Order](https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/affording-congress-opportunity-address-family-separation/?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=wh) on June 20, 2018 to detain children and parents together, but that also raised concerns because it did not address the reunification of separated families and proposed modifying time limits on detention of families.

All these situations show how poorly refugees are treated despite the are humans and possess the basic human rights of every individual. the united states of America and European union have failed in their responsibilities in protecting the right of asylum seekers.

Citation

European union events of 2019,Human rights watch, <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2020/country-chapters/european-union>

10 human rights standard implicated by the US immigration policy, international justice resource center, <https://ijrcenter.org/2018/06/27/ten-human-rights-standards-implicated-by-u-s-immigration-policy/>