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**My answer to the question is “NO”**

Refugee law is the branch of [international law](/wiki/International_law%22%20%5Co%20%22International%20law) which deals with the rights and duties States have vis-a-vis  [refugees](/wiki/Refugee%22%20%5Co%20%22Refugee).

In 2014 it reached 626,000. According to the UNHCR, the EU countries with the biggest numbers of recognised refugees at the end of 2014 were France(252,264), Germany (216,973), Sweden (142,207) and the United Kingdom (117,161). No European state was among the top ten refugee-hosting countries in the world. Just over 100,000 [people](https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) 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.

Migrants and refugees trying to reach Europe are taking enormous risks, including abuse at the hands of smugglers, freezing temperatures in winter and negotiating unknown and dangerous terrain such as forests and fast-flowing rivers. This is an often terrifying situation where robbery, injuries and even death are the price being paid.

In March 2016, the shutdown of the Western Balkans route to Europe has left thousands of them stuck in limbo and facing an uncertain future, many in unsafe accommodation. European borders have been militarized with aggressive controls, fences and border patrols, with little consideration for human dignity.

It is the sum total of these policies and practices, within, at and outside the EU’s borders, that this report refers to as “Fortress Europe”. The construction of this fortress has ostensibly been designed to prevent irregular economic migration. Indeed, national authorities and EU institutions frequently pay lip service to the right to seek asylum and Europe’s obligation – both legal and moral - to provide it. The reality, however, is that almost half of those irregularly entering Europe are fleeing conflict and persecution in countries like Syria, Eritrea, Afghanistan and Somalia, and the EU is no more porous for them than it is for economic migrants. All are exposed to unacceptable risks to their lives and rights as a result of the EU’s relentless drive to reduce the overall number of arriving migrants.

In 2017 and 2018, President Trump’s administration has implemented immigration policies that have caused catastrophic irreparable harm to thousands of people, have spurned and manifestly violated both US and international law, and appeared to be aimed at the full dismantling of the US asylum system.

Those policies and practices have included, among others: (1) mass illegal pushbacks of asylum-seekers at the US–Mexico border; (2) thousands of illegal family separations, through which the Trump administration has deliberately and purposefully inflicted extreme suffering on families, ill-treatment which rose to the level of torture in some cases; and (3) increasingly arbitrary and indefinite detention of asylum-seekers, without parole, constituting cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (ill-treatment) which is absolutely prohibited in international law.

Based on public statements by US government officials, those policies and practices were indisputably intended to deter asylum-seekers from requesting protection in the United States, as well as to punish and compel those who did seek protection to give up their asylum claims.

The US has little or no regard for refugees and their human rights.

 First, with President Donald Trump predisposed to drastically reduce refugee resettlement numbers, Secretary Pompeo will need to decide whether to try to hold the line on further deep cuts in the refugee admissions ceiling. He also will need to decide whether to resist White House pressure to eliminate the State Department’s refugee bureau.

Both decisions will have implications for the world’s 25 million refugees and for the stability of the countries where most of them live, including geopolitically sensitive countries such as Turkey, Jordan, Pakistan, Ethiopia and Kenya. But these decisions also will have broader implications for U.S. foreign policy and the guiding humanitarian principles that traditionally have underpinned much of U.S. global engagement.

U.S. leadership in global refugee protection comes not only from its ranking as [the top donor](https://fts.unocha.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) for refugee humanitarian response but also as the country [that resettles more refugees](http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/resettlement-data.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) than any other. This has been a strong bipartisan priority, one that for many lawmakers and policymakers reflects both U.S. interests and values. Because of the depth of its commitment and its history as a haven to the persecuted, the United States has been able to exert critical leadership in shoring up sometimes faltering international support for the countries on the front lines of refugee crises.

In September 2016, President [Barack Obama](http://thehill.com/people/barack-obama%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) stood before the United Nations General Assembly and pledged to resettle 110,000 refugees in the coming year, as part of his effort to leverage other countries to do more to rescue refugees and relieve the burden on countries of first arrival. But with Donald Trump coming into office after the start of fiscal year 2017, the United States resettled less than half that number — 53,716 — that year.

Then the White House set the FY 2018 ceiling at 45,000, the lowest since the passage of the Refugee Act in 1980. Despite that ceiling, the United States is on pace to resettle only 21,000 this year. [President Trump](http://thehill.com/people/donald-trump%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)’s senior adviser Stephen Miller [reportedly is pushing](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/01/us/politics/trump-refugees-reduction.html?rref=collection%2Fsectioncollection%2Fpolitics" \t "_blank) to lower the FY 2019 ceiling to 25,000. Some [reports say](https://www.politico.com/amp/story/2018/08/02/trump-immigration-refugee-caps-759708?__twitter_impression=true" \t "_blank) the president would prefer to go even lower — topping out at 5,000.

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