

Forum: Population Movement Council

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TOPIC 1: The question of equal opportunities for migrants and refugees.

I. Introduction to the Topic

As the world now is facing the worst cases of war refugees since World War II, as well as the unequal distribution of PECS around the world (Political, Economical, Cultural, and Social), an immediate response to these power asymmetries is necessary. The most recent example is the Russo-Ukrainian war, which produces approximately 7,500,000 international refugees on the date of September 30th ([CSIS](#)). These refugees, spread mostly amongst European countries, need and demand urgent care from the host country. Before that, there were multiple occasions when migrant workers did not have work opportunities in foreign countries. As a result, they were deported from the host country. Under this circumstance, discussing and debating on the question of equal opportunities for migrants and refugees is obligatory in order to resolve the dispute between different countries regarding the population movement.

II. Definition of Key Terms & Concepts

Migrant: Migrant is an umbrella term, not defined by the law, that describes an individual that moved from the initial residence, both within and outside the country, for a variety of reasons, either temporarily or permanently. This term encompasses different categories that are legally well-defined, such as migrant workers working internationally. ; and individuals whose entrance to the host country is not legally defined; by international law. This key term and its definition will be significant in the debate as there is a clear difference between migrants and refugees. Before the debate, it is necessary to define and differentiate migrants and refugees in order to discuss the opportunities they are about to receive.

Refugee: According to the [1951 Refugee Convention](#), and 1967 United Nations [Protocol Relating To The State of Refugees](#), the official and legal document that is the foundation of the

entire refugee program, translates the term 'Refugee' as "someone who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion(Refugee Convention)." They forcibly flee from war, violence, genocide, persecution, and economic difficulties to other countries that provide higher living conditions. This key term will be also highly significant in the debate as they are considered to be one of the main victims of discrimination and prejudice in the host countries, hence being the center of the controversy about whether enough opportunities are given or not.

Foreign Direct Investment: Foreign direct investment (FDI) is a type of international investment, that a resident of one economy establishes a long-term interest in and significant influence over a resident of another economy. FDI is an important component of international economic relationships because it establishes stable and long-term links between economies. Furthermore, it is a significant method of technology transfer among countries, promoting international trade by providing access to foreign markets, and can be a powerful economic development tool. Foreign direct investment will have a significant role in the debate, as this is one of the solutions to address the question of equal opportunities for migrants and refugees.

Transnational Organized Crime: The term "transnational organized crime" refers to self-sustaining groups of people that engage in international activity in order to acquire control, influence, money, or other financial or commercial benefits. The structure of Transnational Organized Crime is constantly developing. The grouping, routes, and networks frequently utilize similar routes to most of their commodities. Selling and buying of humans, weapons, drugs, minerals, and wildlife are typical crimes that are committed by criminal organizations. They also engage in complex financial crimes, such as but not limited to selling or buying counterfeit goods, engaging in international fraud, the black market, and money laundering.

Subsidiary Protection: Subsidiary protection is given to asylum seekers that do not qualify as refugees. A person with subsidiary protection status is one who is a national of a third country or is stateless and would be seriously endangered if sent back to their country of birth.

Push-Pull Factor: The push factor is the reason why citizens choose to leave their country. Some examples can be war, unemployment, famine, poverty, and religious persecution. On the

other hand, pull factors are why migrants and refugees decide to stay or even dwell in the hosting country. Higher wages, high employment, religious freedom, and higher living standards can be the main pull factor of the country.

Burden Sharing: The idea of burden sharing is to share out responsibilities with different states or countries. In the context of refugees and migrants, burden sharing can work as distributing the incoming refugee in regard to the economy, populations, and job opportunities of the states/countries.

Burden Shifting: The definition of burden shifting is to entirely change the responsibilities of approving and disapproving from one party/state/country to another. In this context, it can refer to disapproving of the entire incoming refugee population in the country, and thus forcing them to go to another.

Safe Third Country: The safe third country is the country that is eligible for providing the protection refugees seek, under the circumstances that the refugee is not facing serious harm or persecution within the country. The countries have to pass strictly organized criteria in order to be safe third countries. Currently, EU member states, States of America without the death penalty, Canada, and Australia are the most prominent safe third countries.

Refugee Protection: Refugee Protection refers to prohibiting refugees to go back to their country of origin if the country is determined to be unsafe due to push factors.

Nonrefoulement: The meaning of refoulement is protecting its citizens by forbidding countries and states from forcefully moving, or transferring from their legal control or jurisdiction when there are enough reasons to conclude that the transferred citizens are a risk of facing mistreatment, discrimination, torture, and persecution. This is often associated with international refugee, human, and humanitarian laws and protocols.

III. Key Stakeholders

Ukraine: According to the most up-to-date data from UNHCR and the Ukrainian government, there are 7,915,287 refugees that are spread across Europe. As the Russo-Ukrainian war is an

ongoing crisis, immediate and effective measures and procedures are necessary in order to protect refugees from Ukraine.

Turkiye: According to UNHCR, Turkiye hosts the most refugees. As of 2022, they hosted 37 million refugees, mainly from the Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela, and Ukraine. Turkiye has been implementing both laws and policies in order to maintain refugee security and impartiality, following multiple international standards. The Law of Foreigners and International Protection, Turkey's first asylum law, was approved by the government in early 2013 and implemented in April 2014. The establishment of the Directorate General Of Migration Management(DGMM) enabled Turkiye to have secure and forceful protection of all foreigners. Furthermore, Turkiye also passed the regulation on the protection of refugees on October 22, 2014, outlining the rights and obligations, as well as the procedures for those who have been granted the right of temporary stay.

United States of America: As the country that accepts the most migrants, with 47.9 million by September 2022, The United States government legally prohibits discrimination in Employment, promotion, wage, benefits, training, classification, and other work aspects based on race, color, and nationality. This is enforced by the U.S Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), which is made to ensure equal opportunities for migrant workers in the United States. In addition, to provide equal opportunity for refugees, even though they are accepting small numbers of refugees (25,465 by 2022), multiple laws and regulations such as the 1964 Civil rights Act.

Qatar: Qatar hosted the 2022 World Cup, without fundamental preparation for the migrant workers, which caused over 6000 deaths since 2010 when Qatar was chosen to host it. The workers are mainly from LEDCs (Less Economically Developed countries), such as the Philippines, Kenya, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. Without regulations on the security and safety of migrant workers, it is inevitable for Qatar to suffer from a serious manpower shortage in the future as Qatar has a small population, meaning a small working force.

The Kutupalong refugee camp: The Kutupalong refugee camp is the biggest refugee camp in the world, providing shelter for over 800,000 refugees, mainly Rohingya refugees from Myanmar. Even though the UN and Bangladesh government is coordinating to improve the

quality of life at the refugee camp, the overall health of inhabitants is far below the average. Most of them lack access to drinking water, food, and medical care.

UNHCR: UNHCR, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, is a non-governmental, non-political organization to protect and help refugees to settle in a new host country.

IOM: International Organization for Migration, IOM is part of the UN system, promoting and supporting orderly migration of citizens in 175 member countries, and over 100 countries.

IV. Key Issues including Background Information

Russo-Ukrainian war: The Russian-Ukrainian conflict began in 2014 when Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula. When Russia attacked Ukraine on February 24, 2022, the conflict between the two countries quickly escalated. Germany is one of the major countries involved in the dispute, as its pipeline transports fuel from Russia to the European Nation (EU). The issue's regional scope includes migrant issues in bordering countries such as Poland and Belarus. This issue will be important in the debate as the Russo-Ukrainian war produced around 7 million refugees that will potentially be the main benefit of equal opportunity.

Rohingya Refugee Crisis: In Rakhine State, Myanmar, the Rohingya population faced decades of discrimination, statelessness, and targeted violence. The entire villages were burned down, people were mistreated, raped, and killed. Even though they had fled to the surrounding countries, like Bangladesh, they have access to necessities such as food and minimum health care. They dwell in extremely difficult circumstances, are exposed to monsoon elements, and are reliant on aid. This issue will be significant in our debate as this issue continues today, and viable and effective solutions are needed.

Economical Challenges: Immigrants face unstable employment conditions and, on average, lower workplace seniority than natives, making them more vulnerable to economic shocks. Immigrants suffered during periods of confinement when employment was reduced and social connection between employees became even more important for finding work. There is also

evidence of increased discrimination during times of labor market failure. This is significant and necessary in our debate, as the economic and opportunity distortion amongst LEDC (Less Economically Developed Countries) and MEDC (More economically developed countries) are getting bigger.

Climate Crisis: Environmentalists and demographers predict that migration will increase as the planet warms. According to the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report released in 2022, rising seas, drought, searing temperatures, and other climate disasters are likely to uproot 143 million people over the next 30 years. Around 21.5 million citizens lose their shelter due to natural disasters, like landslides and sea level rise. This issue will be significant as the rate of climate change will be faster, and an effective solution is needed to slow down or halt the climate crisis.

V. Timeline of Resolutions, Treaties, and Events

Timeline of Resolutions, Treaties, and Events

Date	Description of event
18 December 1990	Establishment of International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.
2002-2003	Establishment of Department of Homeland Security. Creation of USCIS (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services), CBP (U.S. Customs and Border Protection), and ICE (U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement).
15 March 2011	Beginning of the Syrian Civil War.
2014	The Syrian Refugee group becomes the largest refugee group in the world.

2014

The start of the Russo-Ukrainian conflict.

VI. Possible Challenges & Solutions

Mandating standardized procedures for the question for UN nations: When accepting refugees or migrants, adding more procedures and interview processes will guarantee equal opportunity for the migrants and refugees. When they are interviewed, determining their past occupation will enable the process of a direct connection between the employee and employers. This process will reduce the financial distortion between native citizens and migrants. The main problem with this resolution is that this process will take a long time; it could be inefficient when there are more than millions of refugees or migrants entering the country at the same time.

Ensuring the human rights of migrants/refugees: Ensuring fundamental human rights is necessary when a country is hosting refugees and migrants. Before the country opens the border, UNHCR should undergo the testing process to determine whether the country is eligible for mass migration. The problem with this solution is that this will take time for UNHCR to check, as there are multiple refugee camps across the world, and even within the nation. This could be ineffective when the nation is geographically close to the war.

Stop migrant workers from possibly taking jobs: When sending workers abroad for physical labor, the government should highly recommend stopping the workers from traveling if the country or the worksite is unsafe and risky. This could be done by multilateral agreement, to ensure workers' safety and guarantee of fundamental rights that they deserve. The possible problem with this resolution is that some companies or even governments could lie about their facilities and workforces in order to recruit more workers from other countries.

VII. Recommendations for Resolution Writing include Research

The chair strongly advises delegates to approach this question from multiple perspectives. In the course of writing the resolutions, it will be necessary to break down the question into international, national, regional, and local manners as it provides different perspectives and insights into this global issue. In addition, the chair urges delegates to present their country, not the individual. In the course of researching and writing the resolution, delegates of origin countries for refugees and migrants, such as Ukraine and Syria, should focus on the internal conflict and their solutions in order to provide opportunities for citizens. For the delegates from hosting countries, such as the United States of America and Turkey, it is necessary to search for resolutions that are inclusive to not only the international migrants but also the regional migrants.

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IX: Additional Resources



Map of Ukraine & Surrounding Countries



Map of Syria & Surrounding Countries

	Origin	
	Estimate	Share of International Migrant Population (%)
Total International Migrant Population	280,598,105	100%
Europe and Northern America	67,601,621	24%
Central and Southern Asia	51,229,549	18%
Latin America and the Caribbean	42,890,481	15%
Eastern and Southeastern Asia	38,400,740	14%
Northern Africa and Western Asia	37,563,820	13%
Sub-Saharan Africa	28,284,538	10%
Australia and New Zealand	1,404,924	1%
Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand)	565,281	0%

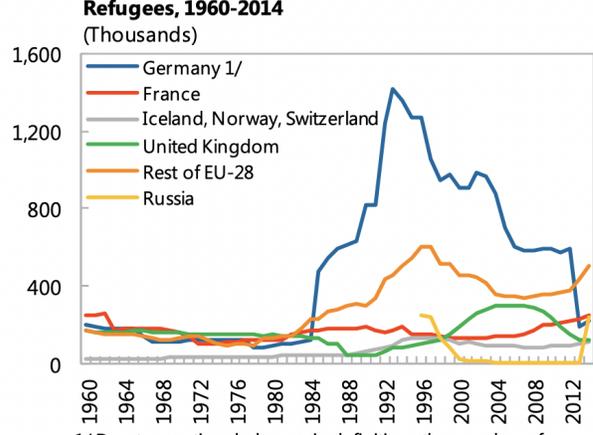
Origin of international Migrants, 2020

	Destination	
	Number	Share of International Migrant Population (%)
Total International Migrant Population	280,598,105	100%
Europe and Northern America	145,414,863	52%
Northern Africa and Western Asia	49,767,746	18%
Sub-Saharan Africa	22,221,538	8%
Eastern and Southeastern Asia	19,591,106	7%
Central and Southern Asia	19,427,576	7%
Latin America and the Caribbean	14,794,623	5%
Australia and New Zealand	9,067,584	3%
Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand)	313,069	0%

Destinations of international Migrants, 2020

The Refugee Surge in Europe, 2016

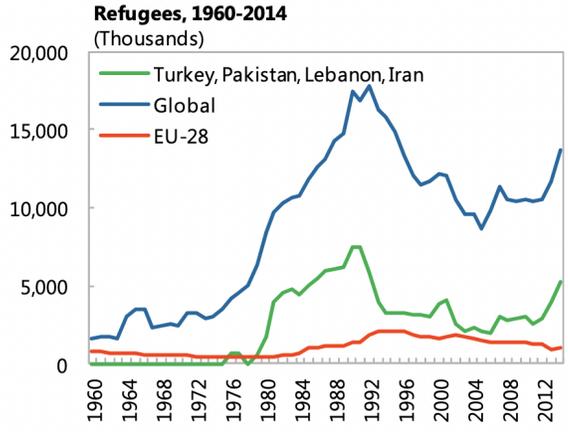
The number of refugees living in European countries now is still low compared to the 1990s



1/ Due to a national change in definition, the number of refugees in Germany was reduced in 2013.

The Refugee Surge in Europe, 2016

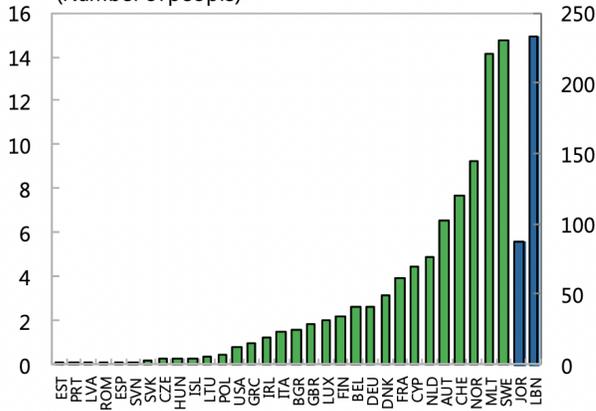
Of about 14 million refugees worldwide, only 1 million live in the EU



The Refugee Surge in Europe, 2016

The refugee share of the population varies across EU countries, but is relatively low

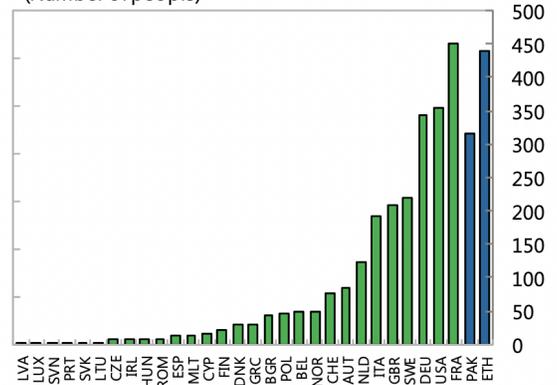
Refugees to 1,000 Inhabitants, 2014
(Number of people)



The Refugee Surge in Europe, 2016

The number of refugees to income ratios are among the lowest globally in most EU countries

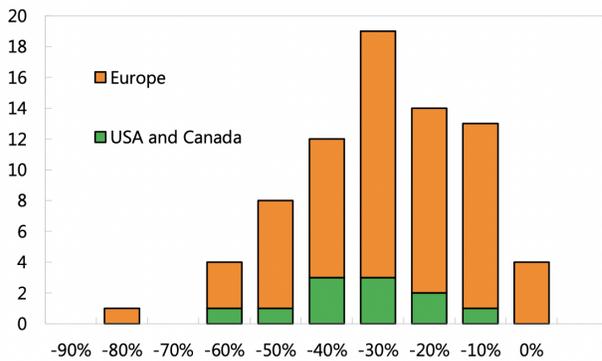
Refugees per GDP (PPP) Per Capita, 2014
(Number of people)



Note: Bars in blue are shown on the right axis.

The Refugee Surge in Europe, 2016

Immigrant Wage Gap: Distribution of Estimates in Select Studies

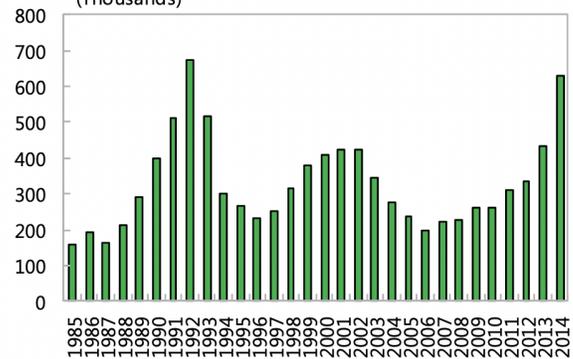


Note: Histogram of migrant wage gap, conditional on observables, based on 75 estimates across 9 studies on earnings assimilation of immigrants in the US, Canada and Europe. The greater height of the bars for Europe relative to the North American countries reflects a large number of estimates for the former; the median and mode of the distribution is similar for both.

The Refugee Surge in Europe, 2016

Asylum applications have reached levels seen during the conflict in the former Yugoslavia

EU-28: Asylum Applications
(Thousands)



Sources: Eurostat