

**Committee:** GA – General Assembly  
**Issue:** Measures to Overcome the Global Refugee Crisis  
**Student Officer:** Nour El-Messary (General Assembly President)

## I. Introduction

*"Wars, conflict and persecution have forced more people than at any other time since records began to flee their homes and seek refuge and safety elsewhere."* — The United Nations, June 2015.<sup>1</sup>

The various national and international wars that have been taking place throughout the twenty-tens (2010-2019) have directly resulted in the occurrence of the Global Refugee Crisis (GRC) and its rapid development. The Global Refugee Crisis is the name given to the drastic increase in the number of refugees moving from areas of conflict and/or post-conflict zones into safer countries, which has resulted in other numerous conflicts. The highest number of displaced persons in history, whether internally or externally, is currently being surpassed.<sup>2</sup>

Conflicts in host countries have been increasing as time passes due to the economic burden caused by the presence of the refugees. Moreover, conflicts and tension between host countries are building up, especially in the European Union (EU), due to the unequal number of refugees each country hosts. The different policies each host country sets, results in more conflicts between them, since there is an unequal division of refugees between them. Furthermore, the less the requirements the host country sets, the more refugees apply seeking asylum there and the more migrants smuggle themselves in, faking refugee status. Hence, after the applicants' cases are adjudicated, some of them are granted the refugee status without deserving it and vice-versa. Meanwhile, a lot of other refugees fail in reaching their destinations due to the lack of resources and obstacles they suffer from on their way. In addition to that, due to the flexible requirements some host countries have, the refugees' entry gets rejected usually due to reaching the host country's set limit for the acceptance of refugees earlier, causing the refugees more problems. As a result, strict measures need to be taken and established to get over such conflicts and to end the GRC.<sup>3</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Bixler, Mark, and Michael Martinez. "War Forced Half of All Syrians from Home. Here's Where They Went." *CNN*, 18 Apr. 2016,

[www.edition.cnn.com/2015/09/11/world/syria-refugee-crisis-when-war-displaces-half-a-country/index.html](http://www.edition.cnn.com/2015/09/11/world/syria-refugee-crisis-when-war-displaces-half-a-country/index.html).

<sup>2</sup>"Amnesty International." *Global Refugee Crisis – by the Numbers*,

[www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2015/10/global-refugee-crisis-by-the-numbers/](http://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2015/10/global-refugee-crisis-by-the-numbers/).

<sup>3</sup> Yan, Holly. "Why Some Countries Are Obligated to Take in Refugees." *CNN*, Cable News Network, 29 Dec. 2015, [www.edition.cnn.com/2015/09/08/world/refugee-obligation/index.html](http://www.edition.cnn.com/2015/09/08/world/refugee-obligation/index.html).

## II. Involved Countries and Organizations

### [Hungary]

*“Every single migrant poses a public security and terror risk.”* —Viktor Orban, Hungarian Prime Minister<sup>4</sup>.

Hungary, despite being an EU member, opposes the bloc’s quota for the number of refugees each member should take in, refusing to host **any** refugees. Its citizens share a similar stance regarding this issue, as well as its fellow EU members Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia. In order to ensure that refugees are unable to enter the country via an illegal method, they built a 175 km razor-wire fence along their borders with Serbia in September 2015. Anyone who was caught within 8 km of the fence was tortured and sent back to Serbia, ensuring the absence of any refugees in Hungary. *“Hungarian police are beating people. They injured many people by spraying [tear gas]. They use a very dangerous sort of spray,”* says Wahed Khan, an Afghan refugee in Hungary<sup>5 6</sup>.



Not only did the Hungarian government oppose the bloc’s quota, but in 2017 the parliament passed a law that causes all asylum seekers to be detained. Despite the UNHCR, European Court of Human Rights, and the EU’s success in pressuring the Hungarian government to suspend the practice of detaining asylum applicants in 2013, the government still insists on doing so, hence passing that same law again 4 years later. These actions are unacceptable under the EU’s law, since they not only oppose the quota, but they torture asylum seekers on the borders by beating as well. The EU has sent allegations of mistreatment and abuse to the Hungarian government. However, the government has dismissed them, arguing that they are keeping their country safe in a lawful and professional manner. Prior to the law being issued once again in 2016, 17,800 persons entered Hungary illegally. After the imposition of the law, only 470 refugees have managed to cross Hungarian borders. According to

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<sup>4</sup> Dearden, Lizzie. “Hungarian Parliament Approves Law Allowing All Asylum Seekers to Be Detained.” *The Independent*, Independent Digital News and Media, 7 Mar. 2017, [www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/hungary-parliament-asylum-seekers-detain-law-approve-refugees-immigration-crisis-arrests-border-a7615486.html](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/hungary-parliament-asylum-seekers-detain-law-approve-refugees-immigration-crisis-arrests-border-a7615486.html) .

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> *Refugees trying to enter Hungary through the razor-wire fence*  
Kondalamahanty, Aditya. “Europe Refugee Crisis: Hungary's Razor Wire Fence Failing To Keep Out Refugees, Police Say.” *International Business Times*, 21 Feb. 2016, [www.ibtimes.com/europe-refugee-crisis-hungarys-razor-wire-fence-failing-keep-out-refugees-police-say-2316210](http://www.ibtimes.com/europe-refugee-crisis-hungarys-razor-wire-fence-failing-keep-out-refugees-police-say-2316210)

Orban, “Violent crime and acts of terrorism have become more prevalent within the EU,”<sup>7</sup> as a result of the acceptance of refugees.

## [Syria]

5.5 million Syrians have received the status of a refugee since the occurrence of the Syrian Civil War that started post the 2011 revolution. Syrians now shape the third highest number of refugees in the world, following South Sudan and Afghanistan. The Syrian government is currently nowhere close to solving the issue and are forcing people to remain in Syria. In fact, they oppose and block the aid other countries and humanitarian organizations offer the refugees in other countries when they have the authority to do so, along with those internally displaced<sup>8</sup>. Despite, the government’s actions, Syria is directly related to the crisis not only considering the government officials and their authority, but the Syrians as well, since the the asylum seekers are one of the main reasons why the world is left with the GRC.

Most Syrian refugees have been viewing the European countries as their dream destinations to seek asylum and look for a better and more stable livelihood. However, not all European countries are welcoming refugees (most Eastern European countries have a stance similar to Hungary’s), leaving the European Migrant and Refugee Crisis more complicated. Almost 1 million Syrians have sought asylum in European countries. Some have welcomed them such as Germany, and others like Czech Republic and Hungary have found methods to hinder their entry. The excessive and increasing numbers of Syrian refugee have left more countries with national and international conflicts. For example, several developing countries, such as Lebanon are accepting refugees despite the consequences, such as straining the public services of the host country, which decreases the quality of the service, overcrowding these services and markets, environmental degradation, and civil conflicts arising.<sup>9</sup> Nevertheless, Syrian refugees constitute the greatest population of refugees in the Middle East, causing international conflicts between the countries in the region, as most of the Gulf states refuse to aid the Syrians despite being considered More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs), while others such as Egypt and Lebanon are forced to take them in. As a result, the Middle East and Europe are now left debating on the number of refugees each country should accept and aid, and whether they should accept any at all.

## [Turkey]

Turkey acts as the largest host country for displaced persons worldwide, holding almost 3 million refugees according to UNHCR. Unlike Eastern European countries, Turkey easily allows refugees to enter and seek asylum.

“A year ago European leaders met in Brussels and agreed that every person arriving irregularly on Greek islands – including asylum-seekers – should be returned to Turkey,” says Kondylia Gogou,

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<sup>7</sup> Mansfield, Agnes Kegl and Katie. “EU Officials Are NOT Doing Enough to Stop Illegal Migration, Blasts Viktor Orban’s Aide.” *Express.co.uk*, Express.co.uk, 4 Jan. 2017  
[www.express.co.uk/news/world/750320/european-union-borders-security-illegal-migrant-viktor-orban-hungary-gyorgy-bakondi](http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/750320/european-union-borders-security-illegal-migrant-viktor-orban-hungary-gyorgy-bakondi)

<sup>8</sup> As reported: “Syrian Government Blocking Aid to Millions of Refugees.” *Human Rights Watch*, 18 Apr. 2014, [www.hrw.org/news/2014/04/14/syrian-government-blocking-aid-millions-refugees](http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/04/14/syrian-government-blocking-aid-millions-refugees).

<sup>9</sup> Shellito, Kevin. “The Economic Effect of Refugee Crises on Host Countries and Implications for the Lebanese Case.” *University of Pennsylvania Scholarly Commons*, Penn Libraries, 2016,  
[www.repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1022&context=joseph\\_wharton\\_scholars](http://www.repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1022&context=joseph_wharton_scholars)

Amnesty International’s Greece researcher, in March 2017.<sup>10</sup> In return, Turkey would receive 3 billion Euros from the EU to assist the refugees they host and Turkish nationals would be granted visa-free travel to Europe. Once this agreement is put in place and the rate of irregular arrivals drops, a voluntary humanitarian scheme will be adopted that will relocate them into European countries. During their stay in Turkey, whether they’re staying temporarily or permanently, the refugees are offered temporary protection under the Turkish authorities. Despite its efforts, Turkey fails to fulfill the expected and required protection under international law. Moreover, Erdogan has been threatening the EU to abandon this deal due to their non-compliance with the terms of the agreement.



“Turkey will be in charge of sea patrols and enforce border restrictions to manage the flow of refugees to Europe[,] . . . combat human trafficking and passport forgeries, and return refugees to their countries of origin if they do not meet refugee requirements” thereby becoming a “ ‘wall of defense’ against the flood of refugees.” — EU/Turkey 2015 Joint Action Plan<sup>11</sup> Almost all asylum seekers are now placed under “temporary protection” until they get settled in another country, instead of being granted refugee status in Turkey.<sup>1213</sup>

### [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)]

UNHCR was founded in the 1950s as a sect under the supervision of the UN. It was founded to help refugees, displaced people, asylum seekers, stateless people, and migrants find a safe refuge and seek asylum in places that would enable them a safer and more stable future via safeguarding their rights and promoting their well-being. They have programs to improve the situations of those displaced in terms of their education, their shelter (which is mostly in camps), offering them health services such as: the prevention of certain diseases, treatment, ensuring food and water security, sanitation and hygiene, etc.

UNHCR has a Refugee Coordination Model, which focuses on directly advocating for refugees regarding their protection in host countries through collaboration with host governments. Furthermore, they have an inclusive Refugee Consultation Forum within the host countries, having both representatives from the refugees and from government officials giving feedback on all issues affecting the asylum seekers. Nevertheless, UNHCR has various strategic plans and methods that ensure the refugees’ and migrants’ safety at all times.

<sup>10</sup> “Amnesty International.” *The EU-Turkey Deal: Europe's Year of Shame*, [www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/03/the-eu-turkey-deal-europes-year-of-shame/](http://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/03/the-eu-turkey-deal-europes-year-of-shame/).

<sup>11</sup>Zeldin, Wendy. *Refugee Law and Policy: Turkey*, 1 Mar. 2016, [www.loc.gov/law/help/refugee-law/turkey.php](http://www.loc.gov/law/help/refugee-law/turkey.php)

<sup>12</sup> “Asylum Seekers and Refugees: What Are the Facts?” *Parliament of Australia*, [www.aph.gov.au/About\\_Parliament/Parliamentary\\_Departments/Parliamentary\\_Library/pubs/rp/rp1415/AsylumFacts](http://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/pubs/rp/rp1415/AsylumFacts)

<sup>13</sup> *Members of UNHCR in action*

“Volunteer.” *UNHCR: The UN Refugee Agency (Thailand)*, [www.unhcr.or.th/en/support/volunteer](http://www.unhcr.or.th/en/support/volunteer).

The UNHCR is currently working on building on Annex I of the New York Declaration, specifically the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, with the aim of coming up with a “a global compact on refugees.” The compact will be raised in the General Assembly’s annual report in 2018.<sup>14</sup> In the meantime the UNHCR is working with governments and stakeholders to be able to meet their aim. According to the UNHCR official website,

“This compact is a unique opportunity to strengthen the international response to large movements of refugees (both protracted and new situations). It will have four key objectives:

1. Easing pressures on countries that welcome and host refugees;
2. Build self-reliance of refugees;
3. Expand access to resettlement in third countries and other complementary pathways;
4. Foster conditions that enable refugees voluntarily to return to their home countries.”<sup>15</sup>

### III. Focused Overview of the Issue

#### 1. Background Information

Tens of wars are taking place in the world today, which are mostly civil wars. Despite the world mostly focusing on the Syrian civil war that has been ongoing since 2011, wars in other countries are occurring and resulting in a lot of civilians seeking refuge in host countries. According to the UNHCR, in March 2017, there were 15,874,208 refugees worldwide, excluding 640,982 persons who are considered to be in a refugee-like situation. With that number increasing, and with more people trying to seek asylum, they unfortunately suffer from many obstacles before reaching their host countries and once they’re within the country itself. Nevertheless, the countries the refugees are targeting have different policies regarding their acceptance of refugees, causing international conflict.

#### 2. Legal Issues Refugees Face<sup>16 17</sup>

##### a. Responsibility to Protect

*The responsibility to protect* is what all refugees seek and aim to feel secure under. However, some countries, such as those in Eastern Europe are unwilling to accept them. Hence, after they reach their destination; after all the obstacles they have faced on their way, they are not permitted entry and are left to be dealt with by the international community. Meanwhile, they struggle to smuggle themselves illegally into the country, since their issue being left to the international community may take too long to be solved.

##### b. Rejection of Migrants

Once migrants are rejected entry into a country, they resort to applying for entry as refugees instead. This maneuver is one of the main reasons why refugees do not get accepted into countries

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<sup>14</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. “Towards a Global Compact on Refugees.” *UNHCR*, [www.unhcr.org/towards-a-global-compact-on-refugees.html](http://www.unhcr.org/towards-a-global-compact-on-refugees.html).

<sup>15</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. “Towards a Global Compact on Refugees.” *UNHCR*, [www.unhcr.org/towards-a-global-compact-on-refugees.html](http://www.unhcr.org/towards-a-global-compact-on-refugees.html).

<sup>16</sup> Karpazli, Ertan. “How 6 Eastern European Nations Have Hunted down Refugees-in Policy, and in Practice.” *Medium*, TRT World, 12 Jan. 2017, [www.medium.com/trt-world/how-6-eastern-european-nations-have-hunted-down-refugees-in-policy-and-in-practice-2e6040ab9264](http://www.medium.com/trt-world/how-6-eastern-european-nations-have-hunted-down-refugees-in-policy-and-in-practice-2e6040ab9264).

<sup>17</sup> “Refugees: Risks and Challenges Worldwide.” *Migrationpolicy.org*, 2 Mar. 2017, [www.migrationpolicy.org/article/refugees-risks-and-challenges-worldwide](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/refugees-risks-and-challenges-worldwide).

with lenient policies and few requirements for the acceptance of asylum seekers. When countries reach the refugee population they had set—based on certain measures and agreements, depending on each country’s policies—the other applicants get disallowed from entering the country. One of the reasons this happens is because migrants get rejected, so they defraud themselves, pretending to be refugees instead, in order for them to be allowed legal entry into the host country; taking up a refugee’s place.

### c. Temporary Protection

Countries like Turkey, and Germany in some cases<sup>18</sup>, take in asylum seekers, providing them with Temporary Protected Status (TPS), meaning that they can only stay in the country for a certain period of time. The stipulated agreements between the UNHCR and any member of the international community usually request the host country to only return the refugee when they can live "in dignity and safety". This policy is unclear and troubling to both the host countries and the asylum seekers, since it does not define the circumstances in which a person can live safely and in dignity. Moreover, it does not clarify where the refugees should be returned to. Nonetheless, countries like Germany, have a national law mentioning that whoever resides there for more than five years becomes eligible for permanent residence, hence the question of it applying to the refugees as well arises. In similar cases, the host country may pressure the refugees to voluntarily depart before the 5 years end. However, the refugees usually object. Conflicts arise between both parties in this case, typical to what happened between the Bosnians and the German government: “Germany has exerted great pressure on Bosnians to return "voluntarily;" about 225,000 have done so and another 7,000 have been resettled in third countries. But Germany has also forcibly repatriated over 8,000 Bosnians, thereby bringing upon itself protests and condemnation by UNHCR and other refugee advocacy groups.”<sup>19</sup>

### 3. The Conflict between Host Countries

Countries who take in refugees, regardless of their nationality, religious and/or political affiliation, etc., are abiding by the 1951 Refugee Convention<sup>20</sup> that they have signed upon. Other host countries, like Turkey, Italy, Greece, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, etc., are the closest to conflict zones, hence those seeking refuge target them. Even though a lot of them suffer from economic instability, they are obliged to take in these refugees if they arrive at their borders. In fact, according to UNHCR, 80% of the refugees’ population settle in developing countries. While, the other 20% is divided upon



<sup>18</sup> Depending on the refugee’s profile and application (i.e: Bosnians and certain Syrian refugees)

<sup>19</sup> “Refugees: Risks and Challenges Worldwide.” *Migrationpolicy.org*, 2 Mar. 2017, [www.migrationpolicy.org/article/refugees-risks-and-challenges-worldwide](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/refugees-risks-and-challenges-worldwide) .

<sup>20</sup> Check section V (Past Resolutions and Treaties)

Europe and the rest of the world, 16% and 4% respectively<sup>21</sup>.

### Examples:

- Iraq taking in Kurds despite the political unrest and civil war that has been ongoing since 2014.
- Pakistan taking in most of the Afghani refugees, which shape the highest population of refugees in the world.
- Syrian refugees constitute 25% of the Lebanese population.

What makes that an issue is that these host countries are usually unable to support the refugees, and with the increase in their population, the country tends to suffer from “(1) straining public and private services (2) causing physical and economic overcrowding and (3) increasing societal strife and the potential for civil conflict.”<sup>22</sup> As a result, deals have been made to help support refugees in developing nations, such as Turkey’s deal with the EU, and Italy annually paying Libya 220 million Euros to take refugees heading to Italy back to Libya. Despite, this aid, the host countries are still finding problems with countries that are not accepting enough refugees, since not all of them have taken action.

While some countries bear most of the refugee burden, other governments, such as those of Eastern European nations, Gulf nations, and the USA, are developing policies to limit the numbers of refugees entering their countries. Mainly, they fear that they may suffer from the aforementioned issues. For instance, Czech Republic has taken strict measures not to allow the entrance of Muslim refugees in order to prevent the spread of Islam in the republic. Similarly, “The reason is that Muslim migrants could be a problem for Poland’s homogenous society,” says Donald Tusk, the founder of Civic Platform of Poland and former prime minister who is now president of the European Council.<sup>23</sup> On the other hand, the Gulf countries decided not to take in any refugees regardless of their identity and only decided to pay the UNHCR to help in aiding the refugees. Similar actions have been taken by European countries to help prevent people from seeking refuge and safety in their countries. Parallely, the American government has signed an executive order in January 2017 that bans all Syrian refugees from entering the US and sets very strict measures to ensure that no refugee is allowed in<sup>24</sup>. These actions are complicating the issue more, since, for example, in Libya’s case, the refugees still suffer from lack of safety and instability, hence they seek asylum in other countries, such as Turkey or Lebanon; exceeding the capacity the governments are accepting. Consequently, the host countries are unable to tolerate any more refugees. At this point, the issue is of global importance and utmost urgency, since not only are international conflicts and tension between countries increasing, but asylum seekers are dying while waiting for their turn to enter the country. In 2016, the refugees death toll increased to one in every 88 refugee seekers dies before being granted the status of a refugee.

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<sup>21</sup> “New Report: Developing Countries Host 80% of Refugees.” *RSS*,

[www.unric.org/en/world-refugee-day/26978-new-report-developing-countries-host-80-of-refugees-](http://www.unric.org/en/world-refugee-day/26978-new-report-developing-countries-host-80-of-refugees-)

<sup>22</sup> Shellito, Kevin. “The Economic Effect of Refugee Crises on Host Countries and Implications for the Lebanese Case.” *University of Pennsylvania Scholarly Commons*, Penn Libraries, 2016,

[www.repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1022&context=joseph\\_wharton\\_scholars](http://www.repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1022&context=joseph_wharton_scholars).

<sup>23</sup> Cienski, Jan. “Why Poland Doesn’t Want Refugees.” *POLITICO*, POLITICO, 26 May 2017,

[www.politico.eu/article/politics-nationalism-and-religion-explain-why-poland-doesnt-want-refugees/](http://www.politico.eu/article/politics-nationalism-and-religion-explain-why-poland-doesnt-want-refugees/).

<sup>24</sup> “EXECUTIVE ORDER: PROTECTING THE NATION FROM FOREIGN TERRORIST ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES.” *The White House*, The United States Government, 23 Feb. 2017,

[www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/01/27/executive-order-protecting-nation-foreign-terrorist-entry-unit-ed-states](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/01/27/executive-order-protecting-nation-foreign-terrorist-entry-unit-ed-states).

#### IV. Key Vocabulary

**Refugee**<sup>25</sup>: people fleeing conflict or persecution. They are defined and protected in international law, and must not be expelled or returned to situations where their life and freedom are at risk.

**Asylum Seeker**<sup>26</sup>: someone whose request for sanctuary has yet to be processed.

**Refugee Claimant**<sup>27</sup>: a person who has made a claim for protection as a refugee. This term is more or less equivalent to asylum-seeker

**Responsibility to Protect**<sup>28</sup>: known as R2P, The Responsibility to Protect doctrine is the enabling principle that first obligates individual states and then the international community to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

#### V. Important Events & Chronology

Date (Day/Month/Year)	Event
1951 <sup>29</sup>	1951 Refugee Convention
1967 <sup>30</sup>	1967 Refugee Protocol
15 March, 2011	Syrian Revolution, which developed to be the Syrian Civil War
5 June, 2011	Sudanese conflict
22 March, 2015	Yemen Civil War
2015	War in Afghanistan
September, 2015 <sup>31</sup>	EU Refugee quota is announced
27 January, 2017 <sup>32</sup>	USA's Executive Order 1376

#### VI. Past Resolutions and Treaties

1951 Refugee Convention:

<sup>25</sup>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. "Refugees." *UNHCR*, [www.unhcr.org/refugees.html](http://www.unhcr.org/refugees.html) .

<sup>26</sup>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. "Asylum-Seekers." *UNHCR*, [www.unhcr.org/asylum-seekers.html](http://www.unhcr.org/asylum-seekers.html) .

<sup>27</sup>*Talking About Refugees and Immigrants: A Glossary Of Terms* . Canadian Council for Refugees.

<sup>28</sup> "Responsibility to Protect." *Responsibility to Protect*, [www.unric.org/en/responsibility-to-protect?layout=default](http://www.unric.org/en/responsibility-to-protect?layout=default).

<sup>29</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. "The 1951 Refugee Convention." *UNHCR*, [www.unhcr.org/1951-refugee-convention.html](http://www.unhcr.org/1951-refugee-convention.html).

<sup>30</sup> "Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees ." 4 Oct. 1967.

<sup>31</sup> Rankin, Jennifer. "EU Met Only 5% of Target for Relocating Refugees from Greece and Italy." *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 8 Dec. 2016,

[www.theguardian.com/world/2016/dec/08/eu-met-only-5-of-target-for-relocating-refugees-from-greece-and-italy](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/dec/08/eu-met-only-5-of-target-for-relocating-refugees-from-greece-and-italy).

<sup>32</sup> "EXECUTIVE ORDER: PROTECTING THE NATION FROM FOREIGN TERRORIST ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES." *The White House*, The United States Government, 23 Feb. 2017, [www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/01/27/executive-order-protecting-nation-foreign-terrorist-entry-United-states](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/01/27/executive-order-protecting-nation-foreign-terrorist-entry-United-states).

<http://www.unhcr.org/3b66c2aa10>

The convention has been signed on the 28th of July, 1951. 144 countries have signed it. The convention basically defines who a refugee is and sets guidelines for the rights of all legally displaced persons. Its main principle is non-refoulement, meaning that host countries are not allowed to return the refugees to any country that puts them in danger.

1967 Refugee Protocol:

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/ProfessionalInterest/protocolrefugees.pdf>

The protocol was adopted on the 4th of October 1967. It was an extension to the 1951 convention and has updated the meaning of refugee to fit more people and under more conditions.

Both the convention and the protocol shape the basic premise of the UNHCR and all the international actions taken by both governments and the international community.

## VII. Failed Solution Attempts

Not a lot of efforts have been put in solving the legal aspect that is being targeted in this issue, however, most deals between countries that have to do with paying the host countries to take in more refugees and prevent them from reaching the funding country, like the case with Italy and Libya, have failed, since it “traps tens of thousands of people in conflict ravaged country and expose them to the risk of torture and exploitation,” according to Iverna McGowan, Director of Amnesty International’s European Institutions Office<sup>33</sup>. Similarly, the EU and Turkey’s refugee deal has failed, since it violates several principles of the 1951 convention, such as returning refugees to countries that are unable to guarantee them their rights, considering that Turkey is one of them. Moreover, there is tension between European countries and Turkey, hence more conflicts are arising; making the deal ineffective.

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## VIII. Possible Solutions

Delegates should aim to find a strategy to divide the refugees fairly among all countries, be it through an organization, a certain calculation that determines the number each country should take in proportionally, a treaty, etc. They need to come to a compromise that ensures that their countries would no longer be overwhelmed with refugees. They may also want to unify the requirements for accepting the refugees. On the other hand, delegates whose countries don’t accept refugees should find a strategy that would also allow them to reach a compromise, maybe accepting a very small number of refugees that would suit them. Countries may also request funds if they decided to accept refugees. Furthermore, they may work in alliance with UNHCR and similar organizations to be responsible for the refugees. Others can also set very strict conditions to grant asylum-seekers the status of a refugee. Finally, all delegates must stick to their country’s policies and find ways and solutions to reach what is most suitable for their country via comprehensive resolutions.

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<sup>33</sup> “EU: Plans to 'Close' Sea Border Would Lock Refugees and Migrants in Horrendous Conditions in Libya.” *Amnesty International NZ*, [www.amnesty.org/nz/eu-plans-%E2%80%99close%E2%80%99-sea-border-would-lock-refugees-and-migrants-horrendous-conditions-libya](http://www.amnesty.org/nz/eu-plans-%E2%80%99close%E2%80%99-sea-border-would-lock-refugees-and-migrants-horrendous-conditions-libya).

<sup>34</sup> To read more about reasons why it failed check: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/mar/08/eu-turkey-refugee-deal-qa>

## IX. Useful Links

**All necessary statistics that the delegates need to know about the refugees' migration to Europe in detail:**

“Migrant Crisis: Migration to Europe Explained in Seven Charts.” *BBC News*, BBC, 4 Mar. 2016,

[www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34131911](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34131911)

**If the delegates are interested to know more about the legal issues the refugees face, and more sub-issues, visit the following sources:**

Karpazli, Ertan. “How 6 Eastern European Nations Have Hunted down Refugees-in Policy, and in Practice.” *Medium*, TRT World, 12 Jan. 2017,

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“Refugees: Risks and Challenges Worldwide.” *Migrationpolicy.org*, 2 Mar. 2017,

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**Reasons why some countries are taking in refugees and why others are refusing to do so:**

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