

Forum: Ecosoc

Issue: Integration of migrants in cities while preventing ethnical and social fragmentation

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Introduction

Due to the rapidly rising rate of conflicts in the current society, a myriad of people are forced to leave their home countries and seek for a safe place to reside in. Regarding this issue, various countries have adopted different attitudes; whilst some countries have closed their borders, others have allowed refugees to resettle in their countries. However, even in those countries that have open up their borders, migrants are suffering from countless hardships. The strain on resources, increased fear for potential terrorism, and higher competition for occupations have all led to conflict between the locals and the migrants.

Terms & Definition

-Integration: integration is when immigrants are accepted into a society and are granted equal participation in an institution

-Fragmentation: fragmentation indicates the lack of connection between different groups of people within the society. Different race, culture, language, appearance, occupation, and religion can cause fragmentation.

-Migrants: people who move, either temporary or permanently, from their home country into a foreign country.

-Refugees: people who are forced to leave their home country in order to escape persecution, conflict or natural disasters.

-Asylum: The protection granted by a nation to someone who has left his or her native country as a political refugee.

-Asylum seeker: a person who has left their home country and is seeking asylum in another.

Background

Syrian refugee crisis

The conflict between President Bashar al-Assad and the rebels in addition to the spread of Islamist extremist group has brought an era of turmoil in Syria. The Syrian crisis, which began in 2011, still continues on today. The heavy violence has led to the death of more than 250,000 people and 4.5 million people had to leave Syria in fear of severe persecution.

Countries that are currently hosting Syrian refugees include:

- Turkey: 2.5million
- Lebanon: 1.1million
- Jordan: 635,324
- Iraq: 245,022
- Egypt: 117,658
- Germany: 39,987

Although, these nations mentioned above has opened up their borders to Syrians, Gulf countries such as UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain has still not accepted any Syrian refugees. Moreover, numerous MEDCs in Asia such as South Korea, Japan, Russia, and Singapore also have not offer any spaces for Syrian refugees. Furthermore, Hungary has enhanced her border patrol in order to prevent Syrian immigrants entering its territory and has sentenced Syrian refugees who have illegally crossed the borders to jail. These negative attitudes towards Syrian immigrants exhibited by many countries have sparked anti-immigrant feelings worldwide. In fact, anti-immigrant feelings have escalated into personal attacks on asylum seekers by the local people especially in Europe. Additionally, according to a survey conducted by international polling and market researching company, 64 percent of French people have claimed that refugees are “major source of crime”. Judging from the fact that France, which used to be one of the most generous European countries at the start of the refugee crisis, is going through a heated debate between the anti-immigrants and pro-immigrants, it wouldn’t be long until other European countries start shutting down its borders against Syrian refugees.

Benefit of Migrants

Migrants leave their own country in hopes of finding a better life. Taking Syrian refugees as an example, Syrians put their life at the stake in order to reach Europe. Thousands and thousands of people die during the process, however, Syrian refugees insist on carrying on because Europe is a symbol of security for them. However, rather than ending up in a place with high living standards, Syrians often find themselves in a foreign country full of hostile people. Many nations are, unquestionably, unaware of the benefits that migrants can bring.

Currently, a plethora of countries around the world are suffering from ageing population. Especially, in Europe, countries like Germany have entered the fifth stage of the Demographic Transition Model where a natural decrease in population occurs due to

higher death rate than birth rate. Nations that are undergoing ageing populations are expected to experience a huge shortage of workers in the near future. Ageing population also means that the number of economically active will decrease and the number of older dependents will increase. Thus, nations will be receiving less tax and less tax indicates that governments wouldn't be able to implement new policies or build more infrastructures. However, with the help from the migrants, countries can overcome this problem. Migrants can take on jobs to ensure industries are operating at maximum capacity and this will boost the economy.

Major Parties Involved

Syria

-The conflict in Syria that involves ISIS, president Bashar al-Assad and the rebels have displaced more than 5 million Syrians.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

-IOM is an intergovernmental organization initially found in 1951 for the purpose of resettling people displaced from the Second World War. IOM promotes world cooperation towards Migration issues and it also provides humanitarian Assistance to migrants. Furthermore, IOM focuses on 4 key main areas; migration and development, facilitating migration, regulating migration, and addressing forced migration.

Hungary

-Hungary has deployed its own army and has strengthened border patrol in order to stop the flow of refugees and migrants into Central Europe. In September 2015, Hungary has built a fence along its borders in order to prevent refugees and migrants from crossing Hungary to reach Western Europe. Hungary also places severe punishment upon migrants who tries to illegally cross the borders.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

-UNHCR is a United Nations organization, which ensures that everyone has the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another State, with the option to eventually return home, integrate or resettle. UNHCR is also responsible for providing basic supplies such as medication, water, food, and blankets during displacement period. UNHCR also carries out worldwide campaigns in order to raise global awareness and raise funds.

Previous Attempts/Solutions

UNHCR

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has encouraged states to implement policies and develop laws to do with education, social welfare, employment, and health so that it will serve as a base for successful integration.

EU

- Common Basic Principles (2004)
- Common Agenda for integration (2005~2010)
- European Agenda for integration (2011)
- Common Basic Principles-Ten years on (2014)
- Integration Action Plan (2016)

Possible Solutions

Creating Opportunities

-Host countries should create job opportunities for migrant. Nations should also create an introduction program to support newly arrived migrants entry to employment. Host countries could also establish an employment centre to record migrants' educational background, work experience, and skills in order to help migrants find jobs that suit them.

Ameliorating Living Conditions

-Migrants should be granted good access to social and health services. Host nations should also help migrants combat poverty. If migrants are political refugees, countries should give migrants free psychological care.

Education

-Governments should ensure that children from migrant background receive equal educational opportunity as local children. Teachers and staff should be educated for managing diversity. Children from migrant background should be encouraged to pursue higher level of education.

Raise Awareness

-Government should cooperate with relevant NGOs to organize nationwide campaign in order to educate citizens the negative impact of discrimination

Gender Equality

-Reduce the gender gap by providing migrant women equal opportunity for employment.

Financial Support

-Host countries should provide migrants some financial support until they get a steady source income in order to ensure that adequate standard of living is achieved.

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