Introduction

‘Despite falling numbers of migrants arriving at the borders of the European Union, populist leaders in EU states sought to use the issue of migration to stoke fear and increase their support at the polls. Their positions on migration frequently undermined the EU’s moral standing and often had little to do with effective policy. However, EU institutions acted to address the Hungarian government’s attacks on the country’s democratic institutions and the Polish government’s attacks on the rule of law.

[Regardless of] arrivals of migrants and asylum seekers decreasing to pre-2015 levels, the often-opportunistic hardline approach of anti-immigrant European Union governments, including those of Italy, Hungary, and Austria, dominated the migration debate throughout the year.

By mid-November, 107,900 arrivals were registered by sea (the vast majority) and over land, compared to 172,300 in 2017. A combination of factors, including the EU’s problematic migration cooperation with Libya and curbs on nongovernmental rescue efforts in the central Mediterranean, led to a marked decrease in arrivals to Italy, while crossings from Turkey to Greek islands and from Morocco to Spain increased.’

‘Teams found that the vast majority of migrants were in a vulnerable situation due to experiences they had encountered in their countries of origin, during their journeys and upon reception, and/or due to a particular aspect of their identity or circumstance (e.g. being a child, a woman at risk, persons with disabilities, sexual orientation and gender identity, minority or other status). Yet States often seemed unable to adequately identify migrants in vulnerable situations and provide appropriate protection.

---


Your introduction is to go here. Please introduce the topic clearly and coherently, placing it into context and introducing the main ideas you will discuss throughout. All text is to be in Arial in size 11. Paragraphs must begin with indentation in the first line. Section headings must be in this colour and bold in Arial font size 14. Hyphenation is to remain turned off throughout the document. The entire document must be in 1.5 line spacing. Between different sections (e.g. from Introduction to Definition of Key Terms) you must leave one line blank between the two titles. The research report should be between 3,000 and 4,500 words in total.

The document is in .docx format. Please do save it in the .docx format (and specifically not any other format). When you make changes and try to save it, you will automatically get a “save as” option. Also, the name of this document must correspond to the exact agenda item number of this topic (which can be found on the THIMUN website– http://www.thimun.org/ - issues), and include your first name. You must also include the date of completion of the Report. An example of this would be “SDC1 2 Clement Hubert 20NOV.docx”, a research report from the Social Development Committee 2, the second issue on the agenda, written by _____(name)_____, completed on the _____(date)_____.

Please fill your name (as you have indicated on your THIMUN Application) in the “Student Officer” section. For your position, you must include your title. Please choose from the titles displayed in the ‘Appointments’ section of www.thimun.org/). Also, please fill in the title of your committee and your issue.

Definition of Key Terms

Term 1

There must be no blank lines left between definitions.

Protection

Protection is a concept that encompasses all activities aimed at obtaining full respect for the rights of the individual in accordance with the letter and spirit of human rights, refugee and international humanitarian law. Protection involves creating an environment conducive to respect for human beings, preventing and/or alleviating the immediate effects of a specific pattern of abuse, and restoring dignified conditions of life through reparation, restitution and rehabilitation.  

---

Human Rights

Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status. Human rights include the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education, and many more. Everyone is entitled to these rights, without discrimination.

International human rights law lays down the obligations of Governments to act in certain ways or to refrain from certain acts, in order to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals or groups.

One of the great achievements of the United Nations is the creation of a comprehensive body of human rights law—a universal and internationally protected code to which all nations can subscribe and all people aspire. The United Nations has defined a broad range of internationally accepted rights, including civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights. It has also established mechanisms to promote and protect these rights and to assist states in carrying out their responsibilities.

The foundations of this body of law are the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the General Assembly in 1945 and 1948, respectively. Since then, the United Nations has gradually expanded human rights law to encompass specific standards for women, children, persons with disabilities, minorities and other vulnerable groups, who now possess rights that protect them from discrimination that had long been common in many societies.4

Asylum Seekers

An asylum seeker is someone whose request for sanctuary has yet to be processed. Every year, around one million people seek asylum.

Moreover, according to Amnesty International, an asylum seeker is “an individual who is seeking international protection. In countries with individualised procedures, an asylum seeker is someone whose claim has not yet been finally decided on by the country in which he or she has submitted it. Not every asylum seeker will ultimately be recognised as a refugee, but every refugee is initially an asylum seeker.”

Stranded

Many ‘stranded migrants’ are asylum-seekers, expelled persons and victims of human trafficking and smuggling. These groups have long been identified by UNHCR and others involved in refugee protection activities. In one example at the time of this writing, in Syria, hundreds of Iraqi refugees have become stranded awaiting their visas for travel to resettle in the U.S., because the U.S. stopped screening refugees in Syria due to the increasingly difficult security situation.

It is not uncommon for asylum-seekers to become stranded after their claim is rejected. As a group however, they might need to be distinguished from the stranded migrant groups discussed previously because their initial reasons to move were not migration related but flight-related. As subjects of an asylum process (even unsuccessful) they may be holders of specific statuses and rights under applicable law (notably, certain national, regional and international frameworks), and existing protection strategies might apply. (Braeunlich)

Borders

‘Maintaining secure maritime, land and air borders is extremely challenging for many Member States. Land borders, for example, can be tremendously lengthy and porous, and difficult to monitor. Other challenges derive from the lack of financial and human resources, equipment and specialist skills, or the lack of intra-State and inter-State cooperation.

International borders can be dangerous places for migrants, particularly those who are (or who are presumed to be) in irregular situations. Many migrants lose their lives when they board unseaworthy boats, smugglers leave them to die at sea, or when border guards are given orders to “shoot at sight” to deter irregular migration.'

National law and administrative regulations can also characterize borders as zones of exclusion or exception for human rights obligations, and seek to exempt them from compliance with the human rights safeguards, checks and balances that are usually embedded in national laws. (United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner)

---


Page 4 of 12 | Research Report
Background Information

Please do remember that these section titles are not set in stone. You may change/add subtitles them if you feel so (according to the nature and substance of your Research Report) your Presidents/DSG will comment on this in regards to your RR. Remember that the background information is the longest section.

Sub-heading here and only capitalize first word

Sub-headings must be in Arial size 11, bold, and in this colour. You may continue writing text in the same format as the rest of the document. Please remember that the beginning of each paragraph must be indented.

Sub-sub heading

Title must be in Arial size 11, bold and italicized, and in this colour. Please indent the title, as well as all of the text. Spacing must remain same as throughout the document. Also, every picture incorporated in the report must contain captions. The captions can be brief descriptions of the content and relevance of the picture (preferably not more than a sentence long). You must put all captions in Arial size 9, bold and italicized.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

“UNHCR strives to engage with migration issues that affect refugees and other persons under its mandate, including asylum-seekers, internally displaced people and stateless people. In certain circumstances, the General Assembly has asked UNHCR to contribute its expertise to processes that relate to migration.

With this in mind, UNHCR focusses broadly on:

- Seeking to ensure that migration-management policies, practices and debates take into account the particular protection needs of asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless people, and acknowledge the legal framework that exists to meet those needs;
- Assisting States and partners to meet asylum and migration-management challenges in a manner that is sensitive to protection concerns;
• Identifying migration, trafficking and related developments impacting on persons under UNHCR’s mandate, and

• Supporting stronger governance and closer observance of the universal character of human rights, including the rights of all persons on the move, regardless of their legal status, in ways that reinforce the principles and practice of international refugee protection.  

In South America, for example, “Across the region, UNHCR complements government efforts to provide emergency shelter for Venezuelans arriving in the border states and main cities. In Brazil, [UNHCR is] providing site planning, tents, relief items, drinking fountains, registration through biometrics, community mobilization, information dissemination and site management. So far, 13 temporary shelters have opened in Boa Vista and Pacaraima, hosting over 6,000 Venezuelans. In Maicao, Colombia, a temporary reception centre opened in March 2019, set up at the request of national and local authorities, with an initial capacity to host 350 individuals.”

**France**

France adopted a flawed asylum and immigration law. The French Ombudsman, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and NGOs criticized the law for undermining access to asylum, including by weakening appeal rights and safeguards for those subject to accelerated asylum procedures. The law failed to ban detention of migrant children, despite six European Court of Human Rights rulings that such detention by France violated their rights.

**Venezuela**

“UNHCR is supporting government registration efforts in Aruba, Brazil, Colombia, Curacao, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago. In Peru, asylum requests from Venezuelans have increased more than five-fold, from 33,100 in 2017 to 190,500 in 2018. In Brazil, 61,600 asylum claims were submitted, up from the 17,900 reported in 2017.”

“Venezuela’s refugee crisis is the largest in Latin American history. Worldwide, it is now second only to that of Syria. A staggering four million Venezuelans have fled their homeland, the majority since 2015. This number constitutes more than 12 percent of the country’s total population. Leaving behind a collapsed economy and mounting repression, over one million Venezuelans have fled since last

---


Page 6 of 12 | Research Report
November. The UN (United Nations) projects that the number of refugees will climb to 5.4 million by the end of 2019, while other researchers have predicted several hundred thousand more." (Arnson)

Croatia

“According to the minister of interior, 3,200 migrants and asylum seekers crossed into Croatia between January and August, with 852 claiming asylum. Authorities granted 140 people asylum and 21 subsidiary protection during the same period.

In August, UNHCR reported allegations that since January around 2,500 asylum seekers and migrants had been pushed back by Croatian police to Bosnia and Herzegovina, hundreds of cases of denied access to asylum procedures, and over 700 allegations of police violence and theft. The same month, a group of members of the European Parliament from 11 EU states jointly requested the European Commission to urgently investigate the allegations, with the Council of Europe human rights commissioner echoing that call in October.

A decade after Croatia ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), thousands of adults and children with disabilities remain trapped in segregated institutions. A draft law on foster care tabled by the government in May would prioritize placement of adults with disabilities in foster care, including without their consent, in contradiction to the CRPD. It remained pending at time of writing.”

Germany

“Arrivals of asylum-seekers and migrants fell for the third year in a row, and federal authorities made significant progress clearing a backlog of asylum claims during the year. By the end of July, 96,644 new asylum-seekers had been registered, decreasing by a sixth from the previous year.

Despite disagreements within the newly formed federal coalition government over Germany’s approach to EU asylum and migration policy, Germany continued to play a leadership role in refugee resettlement. In April, the government announced that Germany would accept 4,600 resettled refugees in 2018 and 5,600 in 2019 as a contribution towards an EU program. In July, the government granted admission to up to 300 refugees evacuated to Niger from Libya.”

## Timeline of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description of event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 10(^{th}), 1948</td>
<td><strong>Proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is a milestone document in the history of human rights. Drafted by representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world, the Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948 (<a href="https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/index.html">General Assembly resolution 217 A</a>) as a common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations. It sets out, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected.(^{12})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 15, 2011</td>
<td><strong>Outbreak of Syrian civil war</strong>&lt;br&gt;● Peaceful protests in southern cities in March are met with violent crackdowns by Syrian security forces. Hopes of Arab Spring reforms are dashed by armed repression. Opposition groups organize but can't seem to unite.&lt;br&gt;● International sanctions and other attempts to pressure the government to moderate are futile; its actions are met with defiance.(^{13})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March/April 2017</td>
<td><strong>Syrians seek safety, stability</strong>&lt;br&gt;● <strong>March</strong>: More than 5 million people have fled conflict in Syria.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---


April: 58 people are killed in a suspected nerve gas attack.

**Reception conditions for asylum seekers: Council ready to start negotiations**

**November 29th, 2017**
EU ambassadors agreed a mandate for negotiations on draft rules for the qualification of asylum applicants and better living conditions for asylum seekers across the EU.

**Migration policy in the strategic agenda 2019-2024**

**June 20th, 2019**
EU leaders called for further developing a fully functioning comprehensive migration policy in the EU's strategic agenda for 2019-2024.

**Venezuelans rejected protection in U.S**

**July 30th, 2019**
In a vote that split the G.O.P. caucus, the U.S. Senate Republicans blocked a vote that would have granted temporary protected status (TPS) to Venezuelans. Venezuela is the top country of origin for asylum seekers in the United States.


---

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

Tanzania UNHCR camps

“During the reporting period, 9,200 Congolese asylum-seekers arrived in the United Republic of Tanzania and were accommodated in Nyarugusu camp. 40,238 Burundians were accepted into the United Republic of Tanzania; the arrival and acceptance rate declined during the reporting period, few arrivals were recorded, as many were refused entry. Voluntary return programme commenced in September 2017 after the Government of Tanzania and Burundi collectively declared that Burundi was safe to return. eight border entry points were closed by the government by end of 2017. On average, UNHCR carried out one border monitoring mission per month to ensure access to territory and reduce the risk of refoulement, however, at various times, border monitoring within the central corridor (Kibondo and Kakonko districts) was restricted. Border officials and the relevant competent authorities were trained on protection principles and referral mechanisms.” ¹⁵

Possible Solutions

- One solution is a cooperative effort between host-governments of receiving nations of asylum seekers to set up living and integrational programs for stranded asylum seekers.
- Develop educational programs for minors under the status of asylum seekers.
- Provide augmented resources for search and extraction missions for stranded asylum seekers. These resources should include an increase in funds and additional personnel to carry out these operations.
- Encourage international organisms such as to UNHCR carry out border monitoring missions to ensure access to territory and reduce the risk of refoulement.

Bibliography


¹⁵ “Refugee (Camps) and Asylum-Seekers.” Global Focus, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2019, reporting.unhcr.org/node/15750.

Appendix or Appendices

Please include any materials that you may wish to Appendix in this section. Also, Roman numerals must be used in labelling the different appendices. It is highly recommended that any useful links be placed in this section.

*If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask the DSGs, PGA or SG* 
Please be aware that you are expected to only use the sections mentioned (below is a summary which you could use as an outline).

1. Introduction
2. Definition of Key Terms
3. General Overview
4. Major Parties Involved and Their Views
5. Timeline of Events
6. UN Involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events
7. Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue
8. Possible Solutions
9. Bibliography
10. Appendix or Appendices
To end with a very important note: plagiarism will NOT be tolerated at THIMUN, and can lead to serious repercussions.