

## Social-Cultural committee, PRAMUN 2017

### Synopsis

**Topic #1:** Cultural integration in times of increasing rates of displaced persons worldwide

#### I. Background information

Cultural integration of displaced persons is currently one of the most discussed topics all around the world, along with the migration crisis itself. Nowadays, this topic applies to the majority of European countries and millions of immigrants from Syria. The increasing rates of displaced persons worldwide are mostly caused by the war in Syria and by terroristic attacks of ISIS. People from the Middle East and from South-West Asia are fleeing from their homes and looking for help and consolation in economically more developed countries.

Governments of all European countries are not able to agree on further procedures. More and more inter and domestic conflicts arise these days. Therefore, cultural integration in the last two years was a difficult issue addressed to many politicians and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

As a reaction to migration crisis are people separated in two groups. Those, who believe we must provide help for refugees, accept and try to integrate them into our cultures, and on the other hand, those, who are afraid of the cultural integration of international refugees. This fear concerns especially Muslims, because people have assumptions that Muslim refugees will not be able to integrate themselves into our countries and it will have bad impact on our society since their culture differs a lot. Therefore, the conflict between these two sides creates civil unrest, attacks on refugees or disagreement with the work of NGOs trying to help with the integration of displaced persons.

#### II. UN Involvement

*The integration of refugees as a durable solution is an important part of the commitments of States under the 1951 Convention. UNHCR encourages EU Member States to include refugees in general integration plans and policies, while also providing for targeted actions for refugee-specific needs. Integration can also be enhanced through reception policies for asylum-seekers which promote social inclusion, rather than isolation and separation from host communities. There are also compelling reasons to align the rights of persons granted subsidiary protection with the rights of refugees in a number of areas, including access to the labour market, integration support and family reunification. Drawing on these considerations, UNHCR encourages the EU to develop further its policies and practices on integration, to the benefit of persons in need of international protection and their host communities in Member States alike.*

*(UNHCR, May 2007)*

### III. Bloc Position

#### European bloc:

The key priority for the EU at a time when Europe is receiving extraordinary numbers of refugees and migrants is supporting national governments in tackling this situation.

*Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) founded The Creative Europe programme to help refugees socialise and express themselves without necessarily speaking immediately the host country language, to be learning platforms in a wider sense, fostering respect and understanding for diversity, intercultural and civic competencies, democratic values and citizenship and to give EU citizens the opportunity to discover, learn from and understand the values and cultures of refugees and - in the process rediscover and enrich their own.*

European Union countries, however, have differing views on the procedure. Some countries are making borders against refugees and some are building asylum shelters.

#### American bloc:

Given the outcome of the election of the new president of the USA, future position of the American bloc is not clear. Donald Trump says he will do everything to stop refugees. Indeed, we cannot predict what will really happen.

#### Middle Eastern bloc:

Today's conflicts are mostly located in these areas. People run away in fear, try to get to Europe for the rest of their money. They are keen to integrate into our society and live with us as equal citizens.

**Rest of the World:** Most states are in favour to help them and to integrate displaced persons to our society and culture.

### IV. Questions to consider

- How the increasing rate of displaced persons affects other cultures?
- Is it possible to devise an universal program for the integration of immigrants or to learn the traditions of the hosting country?
- Should displaced people adapt themselves to the countries and its new environment or should the hosting country tolerate their culture diversity?
- How to calm down the unrest among the inhabitants of European countries?
- Bear in mind the difference between a refugee and an internally displaced person.

**V. Possible sources for further research**

<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/87/8/08-060806/en/>

<http://www.unhcr.org/463b462c4.pdf>

<http://www.unrefugees.org/what-is-a-refugee/>

[https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/cross-sector/refugees-migration-intercultural-dialogue\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/cross-sector/refugees-migration-intercultural-dialogue_en)

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1414713/>