REFUGEE CRISIS IN WAR TORN REGIONS  
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ABSTRACT

In the modern era the international community has started to recognize the agony faced by the refugees and have tried out different ways to improvise their plight and provide them with aid. The United Nations came into existence as a result of the World War II which rendered many people homeless. The organization played a pivotal role in addressing the issue of war crimes, refugees, formation of the tribunals and various international laws. In the past decades during the civil wars in Africa and the Middle East a large number of civilian populations have died in an attempt to escape the clutches of brutality, hostility and oppression in those war torn nations. Some of the most horrifying and appalling instances that reiterate the aforesaid circumstances and have been highlighted in the paper are that of Syria, Rwanda and Yemen. The significance contribution made through the 1951 refugee convention, treaties like the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights for the protection of these refugees have been enumerated in the paper.

I. INTRODUCTION

In an endeavour to flee to Europe a Syrian tot took his last breath in the Turkish sea where the boat carrying him along with his family capsized. Amidst the fear that families will be locked up in sinister sounding "camps", they left no stone unturned to escape with their children sleeping on floors and sidewalks. Continuous war, persecution and oppression have rendered these innocent people helpless and subsequently homeless. Presently, more than 19 million people have left their home due to the above reason an estimate of 42,500 people join them on a daily basis.  As indicated in the paper, what causes the paradigm shift in the lives and subsequent approach to life of these citizens is the spark that catches fire due to the altercation between institutes that are ideally construed as bodies for peace and law making among these citizens themselves.

The greed and selfish agendas of the oppressors instigated them to commit a series of atrocities on innocent civilians who aimed nothing but to lead a simple life, a life which included playing in the gardens, sharing laughter and love with their families and building innumerable memories worth cherishing. The notions of morality and compassion towards humans have been completely obliterated by the greedy and people are left with a devastated surrounding to endure with no other option but to cry for help, which most of the times has been in vain. When humans themselves have contributed, or in certain cases, initiated misery and hardship for the innocents, Law steps in to ensure that the basic rights as human beings as well as particular rights pertaining to refugees do not become subservient to any show of power, no matter how mighty it may be.

1 Amanda Taub, Europe's refugee crisis, explained (Sep 5, 2015, 11:40am EDT) [https://www.vox.com/2015/9/5/9265501/refugee-crisis-europe-syria]
II. THE 1951 REFUGEE CONVENTION, OTHER RIGHTS AND CASE LAWS

A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. 2

As mentioned above, the cruelty and atrocities faced by the people as a result of the wars are beyond any scope of imagination and no amount of sympathy can compensate for the loss. An insight of specific crisis and its aftermath shall be dealt in the latter part of the paper. Our primary concern is how the law brings back peace and order in these war-ridden countries. More importantly, how it extends help to ensure that justice is done to the victims and sense of security is instilled in them by the means of rules, rights and norms.

A. RIGHTS OF THE REFUGEES ENVISAGED IN VARIOUS LAWS

The refugees enjoy several rights consisting of important civil, political, economic and social ones by the virtue of application of the refugee definition which grants a limited right to remain. A biased application of the definition wherein persons of one nationality are denied the refugee rights and status while the same of another nationality in similar circumstances are granted the rights and status are precluded in one level of the application of definition highlighting the non-discrimination doctrine.

Another level of potential discrimination entails of the level of due process available to the refugees in comparison with that of the citizens of that nation. In a case where the courts and independent tribunal make up the norms for adjudicating rights, usage of administrative decision-making for the determination of the status of refugees can result in discrimination and hence, a human right treaty body is advisable in examining and comparing the rights of the citizens with that of the refugees. 3

The benefits of rights that are enjoyed by the refugees beyond the purview of The 1951 Refugee Convention are envisaged in Article 5 of the said Convention. Article 5 also provides for refugees to have equal access to benefits under other treaties for a major part of the Geneva Convention rights. Various other treaties especially the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ("ICESCR"), an universal instrument, provides for a detailed elaboration of economic and social rights like that of health and General Comments for implementation of the treaty.

Article 6 provides for comparison of refugees with citizen or non-citizens by defining 'in the same circumstances' on the basis of rights in issue and subsequently in the application of human right treaties to refugee situation.

2 UN Refugees, http://www.unrefugees.org/what-is-a-refugee/

Article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ("ICCPR") which states the right to leave and return to one's country has been interpreted as giving right to leave and enter to certain non-citizens like a stateless person.

In Stewart v Canada\(^4\), the Human Right Committee stated the prohibition of expulsion and therefore refoulement in certain cases especially where the person is stateless. It further held that the rights of a registered refugee are same as that of a stateless one.

Certain provisions of the Refugee Convention provide for necessary affirmative measures to facilitate the right to leave out of and return to the same country. These are administrative assistance (Article 25), identity papers (Article 27) and travel documents (Article 28).

Article 31 of the Refugee Convention is another affirmative measure in favour of the refugees i.e. they cannot be penalized for illegal entry. This provision enables the Human Rights Committee to interpret Article 12\(^5\) and Article 13\(^6\) of ICCPR as to who is 'lawfully within the territory of a State' which further helps them in determining who is entitled to the ICCPR rights.

However, the exclusion of such Article in the ICCPR and ICESCR does not indicate a denial of such rights to other non-citizens on the account of illegal entry. The 1990 International Convention on the Protection of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families grants right to the possible extent to migrant workers who do not enjoy regular rights.

The case of Anumeeruddy-Cziffra et al v Mauritius\(^7\) highlighted the competence of the Human Rights Committee to deal with rights of entry and in General Comment 15 (The position of aliens under the Covenant) in congruence with Article 13 ICCPR establishes the right of a non-citizen to a hearing in an expulsion procedure.\(^8\)

Further under the Customary International Humanitarian Law, Rule 55 states that in\(^9\)

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\(^4\) 2002 2 S.C.R. 645, 2002 SCC 46

\(^5\) (1) Everyone lawfully within the territory of a State shall, within that territory, have the rights to liberty of movement and freedom to choose his residence.

(2) Everyone shall be free to leave any country, including his own.

(3) The above-mentioned rights shall not be subject to any restrictions except those which are provided by the law, are necessary to protect national security, public order (ordre public), public health or morals or the rights and freedom to others, and are consistent with the other rights recognized in the present Covenant.

(4) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of the right to enter his own country.

\(^6\) An alien lawfully in the territory of a State Party to the present Covenant may be expelled therefrom only in pursuance of a decision reached in accordance with law and shall, except where compelling reasons of national security otherwise require, be allowed to submit the reasons against his expulsion and to have his case reviewed by, and be represented for the purpose before, the competent authority or a person or persons especially designated by the competent authority.


\(^8\) Tom Clark and Francois Crepeau, Mainstreaming Refugee Rights, The 1951 Refugee Convention and International Human Rights Law, 389, 397-398 (Freedom of Movement, Illegal Entry, Documentation, Naturalisation)
case of international armed conflict, the Fourth Geneva Convention requires the States to "allow the free passage of all consignments of medical and hospital stores" intended only for civilians and "the free passage of all consignments of essential commodities for children under 15, pregnant woman and maternal cases." And in case of Non International Armed Conflict the Article 33 of the Convention consists of the Additional Protocol II which allows and provides access for humanitarian relief to civilians in need. Further it also states that without the consent of the parties concerned the protocols cannot be implemented. The operation of any humanitarian organization is not possible without prior permission of the states involved. The passage of humanitarian relief can be provided by any party to protocol and need not necessarily be limited to the stated involved. 9

Refugee Convention grant rights to refugee keeping in mind the rights of citizens and other classes of non-citizens. Rights in congruence with citizens are laid in articles pertaining to religion (Article 4), artistic rights (Article 14), court access (Article 16), rationing (Article 20), elementary education (Article 22(1)), public relief (Article 23), labour legislation (Article 24) and fiscal charges (Article 29).

Rights in comparison with that of other non-citizens are included in articles exemption from reciprocity (Article 7(1)), property (Article 13), association (Article 15), employment (Article 17(1)), self

employment (Article 18), profession (Article 19), housing (Article 21), post elementary education (Article 22(2)) and freedom of movement (Article 26). 10

B. CASE LAWS

In Gonzalez v. Canada (Minister of Employment and Immigration)11 the quality of persecution which a claimant might suffer if returned could not be weighed against the gravity of what had been done to engage the exclusion clause. A private soldier in action against armed enemy was not guilty of war crime or crime against humanity within Convention refugee definition. However, each individual case will depend on its own particular facts and circumstances. It may be that in a given situation, while the death of innocent civilians occurred at the time of or during an action against an armed enemy, such deaths were not the unfortunate and inevitable casualties of war as contended, but resulted from intentional, deliberate and unjustifiable acts of killing and slaughtering.

In another case12 the test of “serious reasons for considering” that an individual has been guilty of crimes against humanity is a lower standard of proof than the balance of probabilities. That standard of proof only


10 Tom Clark and Francois Crepeau, Mainstreaming Refugee Rights. The 1951 Refugee Convention and International Human Rights Law, 389, 400 (The Rights Granted to Refugees by Comparison with Citizen or Other Foreigners)

11 [1994] 3 F.C.646, 26 May 1994 (Canadian Federal Court of Appeal)

12 Garate (Gabriel Sequeiros) v. Refugee Status Appeals Authority [1998] NZAR 241, 9 October 1997 (High Court of New Zealand)
comes into play, however, when the decision-maker is considering determinations of fact. Membership of an organization which from time to time commits international offences would not normally be sufficient to exclude a person from refugee status. However, where an organization is principally directed to a limited, brutal purpose, such as secret police activity, mere membership may by necessity involve personal and knowing participation in prosecutorial acts. Frequent participation in such acts is unnecessary as Article 1F(a) of the 1951 Convention only speaks of a crime against humanity in the singular.

The “reasonable grounds to believe” standard was elaborated in Mugesera v. Canada (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration) wherein the Supreme Court stated that it required something more than mere suspicion, but less than the standard applicable in civil matters of proof on the balance of probabilities. Reasonable grounds will exist where there is an objective basis for the belief which is based on compelling and credible information. This standard of proof applies to questions of fact. Whether the facts meet the requirements of a crime against humanity is a question of law. The facts, as found on the “reasonable grounds to believe” standard, must show that the “hate” speech did constitute a crime against humanity in law.

III. MAJOR CRISIS ACROSS REGIONS

A. THE SYRIAN CIVIL WAR

"The Syrian civil war is the deadliest conflict the 21st century has witnessed so far"

- Al Jazeera

After the success of the pro-democratic protests in the Tunisia and Egypt, it inspired and led to the protests by a large section of the Syrian pro-democratic activities. These protests did not go down well with the government of Bashar - Al-Assad and there was a heavy crackdown on the protestors. This fueled more anger amongst the rebels of the government watching their freedom rights being plagued. Even a large section of the Islamists were against the regime. Going back in history, in 1982 Assad’s father had ordered a military crackdown on the Muslim Brotherhood in Hama, which killed between 10,000-40,000 people and flattened much of the city. In 2011, glimpse of a sectarian divide in the nation started to emerge and the gap between the Sunni majority and Shia majority of which Assad is a member widened. Economic as well as the environmental issues like the 4 year drought from 2007-2010, leading to poverty and migration also added to the social unrest amongst the citizens of Syria. The aforesaid episodes eventually led to the commencement of one of the world’s largest humanitarian crisis in recent years.

The crisis has torn the country into shreds with almost 6.3 million Syrians being internally displaced and more than 4.3 million fleeing to neighbouring countries. The crisis has not only affected the lives of millions but has also exposed the country's
cultural heritage to various threats and there has been rampant destruction of important sites and monuments. A huge proportion of this population include children and youth and approximately 8.1 millions of them are in dire need of education. It has resulted in catastrophic consequences rendering two-thirds of the citizens unable to secure basic food and essentials and at least 6% of the population subjected to brutality which has eventually killed, maimed or wounded them.

UNESCO has been active in responding to this crisis, particularly by assisting Syrian refugees and host communities in Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon, and safeguarding Syria’s cultural heritage. Education, and particularly post primary education remains the gap area when it comes to humanitarian response to the Syria crisis. Capitalizing on the achievements made so far and further consolidating its efforts, UNESCO has scaled up its response by addressing learning gaps of youth in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq. In February 2015 UNESCO launched “Bridging Learning Gaps for youth”, a programme that will enable access to secondary and higher education, improve its quality, and build resilient education systems for the affected youth, between ages of 15 to 30, both within Syria and in the region.14

“We felt maybe it’s our turn to die. But we didn’t want to die. So we made up our minds to leave.”
- Sahar, 25, Syrian refugee in Lebanon

UNHCR is providing life-saving humanitarian aid for Syrian refugees, helping the most vulnerable with cash for medicine and food, stoves and fuel for heating, insulation for tents, thermal blankets and winter clothing. In early 2017, with Syria’s war heading into its seventh year and with no end to the fighting in sight, we joined forces with other United Nations humanitarian and development agencies to appeal for US$8 billion in vital new funding to help millions of people in Syria and across the region. The first aspect of the appeal is the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP), led by UNHCR, which calls for US$4.63 billion to support 4.7 million refugees in neighbouring countries and over four million in the communities hosting them. The second aspect is the 2017 Syria Humanitarian Response Plan, which seeks nearly US$3.2 billion to provide humanitarian support and protection to 13.5 million people inside Syria.

UNESCO’s Action Plan for emergency safeguarding measures and post-recovery actions was launched and in the light of this plan a three-year “Emergency Safeguarding of the Syrian Heritage project”, which focused on ways to reduce destruction and loss of cultural heritage in order to bring back normalcy and social cohesion in the country. An approximate of €9.4 billion has been channelized for humanitarian and resilience purposes by the European Union and its Member as an act of extending help and support to Syrians inside the country.


and in countries like Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq.

As a result of the efforts of EU around 2 million people have access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene items, more than 850,000 have received food, 1 million have received non-food items and shelter, and 350,000 children have been covered by child protection programmes, thousands out of school children are supported with education in emergency programmes. The EU along with various UN agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International non-governmental organisations have provided humanitarian assistance. The EU has undertaken advocating steps for the access and protection of Syrians. In March 2017 The European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy have adopted a Joint Communication proposing a forward-looking EU strategy for Syria. During the year 2016, approximately 4 million non-food items were distributed across Syria; nutrition items were made available to some 3 million, and shelter was provided to nearly 300,000 people. With the commencement of cross-border operations in July 2014, after the adoption of UNSCR 2165 (2014), the UN has conducted around 467 cross-border convoys, which has facilitated UN partners in delivery of medical supplies for 9 million treatments, which includes two million people to be vaccinated. Apart from this, the UN has completed 294 airlifts to Qamishly, making available 10,000 metric tons of food, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene ("Wash"), nutrition, education, shelter and NFI assistance on behalf of humanitarian actors, including 120,000 full food rations.

B. THE YEMEN CRISIS

Another country which is in the grips of a sectarian conflict is Yemen - one of Arab world’s poorest countries. The devastated state of the country is a result of the combat between the Shia Houthi rebels and the forces loyal to the then President Abdrahm Mansour Hadi who belonged from the Sunni community.

UNHRC provide life-saving aid to displaced Yemenis, as well as to refugees and as asylum-seekers, across the country. Under the humanitarian coordination system in Yemen, they provided emergency shelter, mattresses, blankets, sleeping mats, kitchen sets, buckets and more to help those displaced and most vulnerable. These aids assist families in repairing their destroyed homes and also restructured public buildings and settlements to provide the displaced families with shelter and protection. Their aid also entered into the sphere of health facilities and undertook steps to prevent and control the spread of cholera, which was a subsequent result of the conflict. Approximately 29,300 cholera cases across 18 of Yemen’s 22 governorates were suspected with over 300 deaths. UNHRC extend their support to approximately 278,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, mainly from the Horn of Africa, who remain in Yemen despite the conflict and are particularly at risk.

16 Supra Note 14

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The European Commission had undertaken steps to protect those who suffered from malnutrition or faced food insecurity and armed clashes as a result of the conflict. Most of humanitarian funding was directed towards providing food, water and sanitation, basic health care, shelter and household items to the internally displaced people, the refugees from the Horn of Africa and the communities who are hosting these uprooted people. A portion of the fund was also allocated to humanitarian agencies who looked after children suffering from acute malnutrition and provided them with appropriate treatment and relief. Since the commencement of the conflict in 2015, the European Commission has provided €171 million in humanitarian assistance, inclusive of €51 million announced by Commission Christos Stylianides during a conference in Geneva in April 2017. The Commission also ensured monitoring of the rapidly evolving humanitarian situation and security and coordination among humanitarian actors and donors. Advocacy work such as circulation of information about the humanitarian principles also took place.

UNICEF has also initiated steps for the improvement of maternal health and nutrition and increased access to clean water and achievement of basic rights for children, including addressing child marriage and preventing children from being victims of grave violations and advocating against the recruitment and use of children by armed forces and armed groups.

Various factors were taken into consideration for coming to Djibouti in order to escape the horrific conditions in Yemen such as the proximity between the two places, close cultural, social and linguistic links, and open door policy of the Djiboutian Government. Certain factors, however, restricted some Yemenis like harsh weather conditions, particularly in Obock and Markazi refugee camp, and expensive living conditions. Of the population the gender breakdown was 36 per cent were men above 18 years old, 25 per cent were women and 38 per cent were children. Fleeing for security reasons, avoiding forced recruitment and new income opportunity in Djibouti in order to support their family in Yemen constituted as some of the reasons for fleeing to the country. At present, approximately 2,800 individuals live in Markazi camp and an increase in the number is anticipated not only with Yemeni refugees coming from Yemen, but also with Yemeni refugees presently living in the city of Obock, who cannot sustain themselves in the city. The Government of Djibouti recently adopted a new policy to allow Yemenis to reside in urban areas. The needs for both urban and camp refugees are considerable ranging from health, nutrition, shelter, self-reliance, non-food items and protection. Majority of the Somalis who fled Yemen and were recognized as refugees in Yemen, arrived in Somalia. Prior to the crisis there were 257,645 recognized refugees under international protection in Yemen. Currently these refugees are living in hazardous conditions. Since the worsening of the conflict in Yemen an approximate of 29,505 individuals (89 per cent Somalis; ten per cent Yemenis, and one per cent other nationalities) fleeing the area have become arrivals in Somalia. Reintegration of Somali returnees further
added challenges as the widespread conflict and political strife had crippled essential infrastructure and more than three quarters of the population in Somalia lack access to healthcare, proper sanitation and safe drinking water. In Ethiopia, the Government recognized Yemenis as prima facie refugees after the nationality screening procedures and registration. The arrivals through Jijiga, at the border with Somalia, were refused assistance from UNHCR until they are registered by the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA.) Constant delays contributed to the hardship of the living conditions.

The open door policy and the policy of the Government of Sudan to treat Yemenis as brothers and sisters allow Yemenis to work and to move freely, but might deny them assistance granted to refugees of other nationalities. 17

C. THE RWANDAN GENOCIDE

Another instance where morality and human life became subservient to the hunger for power and authority was the Rwandan genocide in the year 1994.

It was a result of a longstanding history of tension between the Tutsi and Hutu ethnic groups in Rwanda. Ethnic tensions existed in Rwanda for centuries, growing even more extreme after Rwanda gained independence from Belgium in 1962. In the 1990’s, the Hutu political elite blamed the Tutsi population for increasing political, social, and economic problems in the country. They also associated Tutsi civilians with the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) rebel group. A Hutu revolution in 1959, supported by the colonized power, the Belgians, forced as many as 300,000 Tutsis to flee Rwanda.

Within three months from the commencement of the crisis as an estimated five to eight hundred thousand people lost their lives due to civil war and genocide in Rwanda. Large numbers were physically and psychologically afflicted for life through maiming, rape and other trauma; over two million fled to neighbouring countries and maybe half as many became internally displaced within Rwanda. As the RPF units aimed to seize power in mid-July, there was massive flow of civilian refugees across the border to Tanzania and Zaire. Among them were some 30,000 government soldiers, militia members, local officials and former national leaders. As the level of violence became clear, groups of Tutsi—and Hutu who feared they might be targeted—fled to places that in previous times of turmoil had provided safety: churches, schools, and government buildings. Many of these refugees became the sites of major massacres. For example, during the first days of the genocide, more than 2,500 Tutsis sought refuge at a school, the Ecole Technique Officielle (ETO) in Kigali, where Belgian UN troops were stationed. Around 1.2 million refugees fled into Zaire who established themselves in a corner of Zaire remote from central authority. In addition to a large external refugee population, war and genocide had created a large number of internally displaced persons, especially in the French

17 UNHCR, Yemen Situation Regional Refugee And Migrant Response Plan, January-December(2016)
“safe zone” where an estimated 1.2–1.5 million people had fled towards the end of the war. For the new Rwandese government, the concentrations of internally displaced represented an internalized version of the problems posed by the camps across the border.

During the nine months of the emergency in 1994, April to December, international assistance for emergency relief to Rwandese refugees and displaced persons is estimated to have cost in the order of US$ 1.4 billion, of which about one-third was spent in Rwanda and two-thirds in asylum countries.

According to the Statutes of UNHCR and subsequent UN authorizations, as well as the OAU Refugee Convention, all refugees from war are prima facie entitled to protection, but the exclusion clause of the 1951 Refugee Convention applies if there is reason to believe that a person has committed serious war crimes or crimes against humanity. Registration is necessary to determine eligibility, but the rapid influx and vast numbers involved made it impossible to register the refugees upon arrival. An agreement was reached between UNHCR and the Tanzanian government that recognized the legal fact that the formal authority and ultimate responsibility for policing refugee populations lies with the host state.

As the lead agency in refugee matters, UNHCR early on raised the issue of camp security with the Zairian government. In September 1994, a joint mission from UNHCR and the government of Zaire considered the feasibility of separating the militia from the rest of the population. The mission estimated that around 100,000 persons, consisting of militia members and their families, would have to be moved. The costs and problems of identifying, separating and relocating this group – by force if necessary – were considered prohibitive. UNHCR fell back on a more modest proposal to police the camp with a security contingent drawn from Zaire’s elite forces, backed by international technical expertise.

Two principles of refugee policy are generally recognized in the international community: refugees have the right to return, and those who cannot return should be given asylum or resettlement elsewhere. Failure to observe such principles typically creates festering refugee problems, and in many cases militant communities who seek to escape from their dilemma by force. The phases of the Rwandese conflict considered here started and ended with festering refugee problems. While cognizant of the problems preceding the 1990 invasion, UNHCR could rely only on its good offices to promote a solution.

A more serious factor was the failure of the international community to invest adequate resources in Opération Retour to initiate the information campaign in both the camps and the home areas as well as rehabilitate the justice system and the home communes in preparation for the returnees, particularly in the winter phase of the plan when the operation was still a voluntary one. There was also a failure to act sooner and use the not-so-gentle persuasion of promising to withhold food when the incentives to return home to take...
advantage of the January crop season were stronger, before the extremists could organize the resistance, and when the IDPs were not subject to the dismal feedback by returnees and new IDPs about the perilous conditions at home.

The Rwanda case demonstrated the need for greater policy coherence, but equally the need for principled coherence. With respect to the latter, at least two major standards of international conduct were violated at various times: the sanctity of borders and the rights of refugees. The refugee issue was central to the Rwanda crisis and remained a critical factor to later developments. To deal effectively with the refugee issue before the 1990 invasion, UNHCR would have needed a plan of action to settle the problems within a reasonable time-frame, and support from states and financial institutions with leverage that could be brought to bear on the situation.18

IV. PICTORIAL REPRESENTATION OF EMPIRICAL DATA

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V. CONCLUSION

Despite all the endeavours made by various international bodies, the situation is far from being solved owing to the absence of an organized and systematic structure pertaining to a valid immigration policy.

Countries face a constant dilemma in deciding on the number of refugees to be accepted. Recently, Germany agreed to take in 800,000 refugees and needed approximately $5 billion for the same which the officials believed to be manageable. According to a survey by the Pew Research Center, the fear of terrorists entering the lands for their own outrageous agendas serves also add as one of the reasons for countries to refuse refugees; Kingdom of Denmark, being an example.

On September 3rd 2016, photos of two drowned Syrian children carried by Turkish police flooded the world’s media; story of a Kurdish family fleeing from Turkey to Europe in a rubber boat, of whom the father was the only survivor, shocked the conscience of the society. As a result of this, countries like the UK have opened doors to the affected and extended humanitarian aid and support to them.

The 1951 UN Refugee Convention and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights cast a duty upon European countries to provide asylum to those who seek it. The underlying rationale behind this is to provide a shield to basic human rights as one’s life and the lives of the loved ones are of utmost importance and no act can rip a person off from his life. A fight for humanity and standing together to provide them with helping hands is the need of the hour.

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