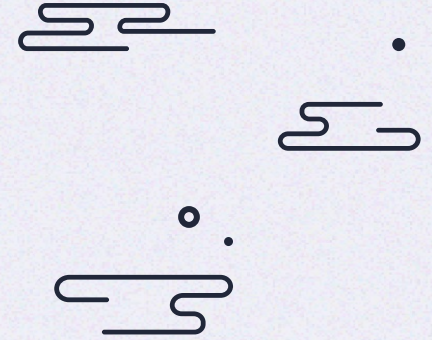

A Two-Tier Refugee System

How NGOs shed
light on the
hypocrisy
surrounding the
Ukrainian
refugee crisis



Group 15
Danha
Joyce
Lujaen
Jiwon
Hugo
Emma

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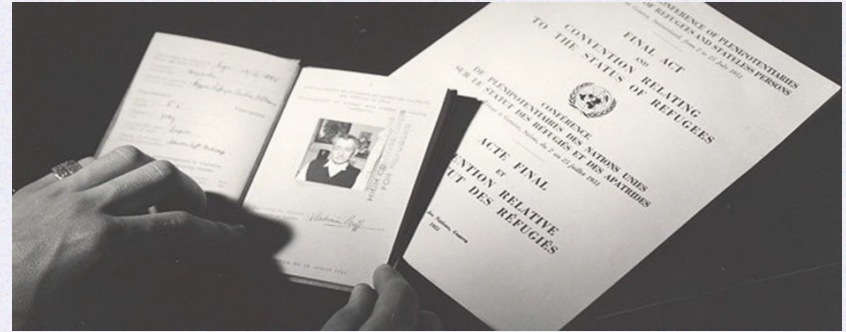


01.

Introduction & Background

The Refugee Crisis: Definition & Statistics

Definition of Refugees



1951 convention & 1967 protocol

“As a result of events occurring before 1 January 1951 and owing to well founded fear of being persecuted for **reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion**, is **outside the country of his nationality** and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, **is unwilling to return to it.**”

— **UNHCR – Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, Article 1 [Definition of the term “Refugee”]**

Statistics about Refugees

26.6 M

Refugees as mid of 2021

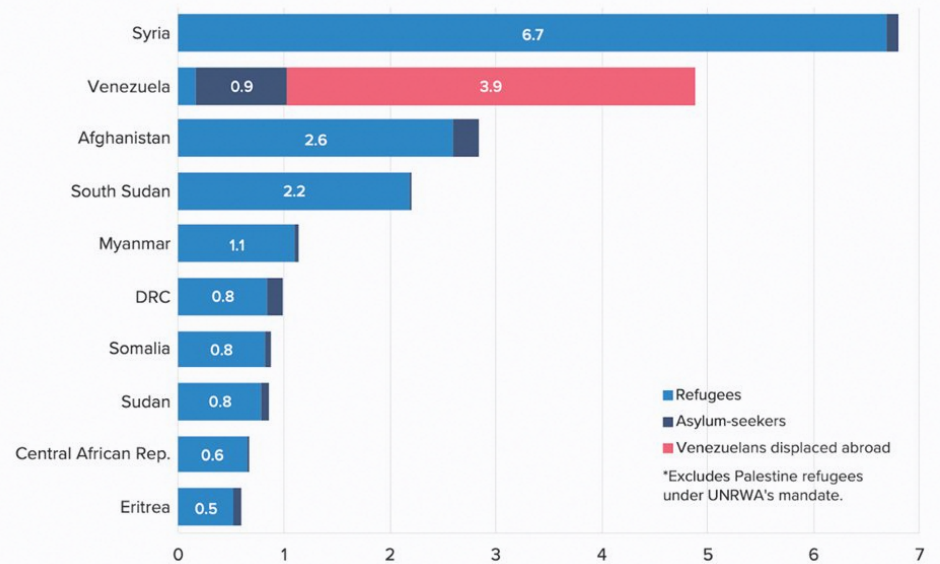
2/3

of refugees come from just five countries

1 million

Children as Refugees

Figure 3 | International displacement situations by country of origin | end-2020*

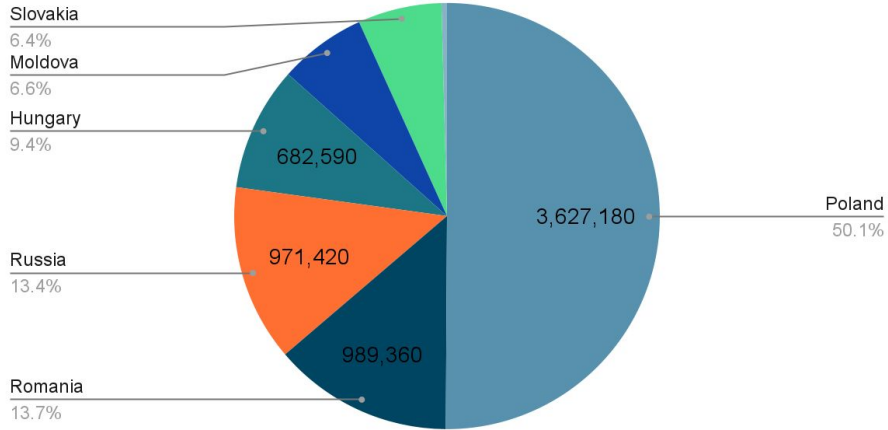


(From World Economic Forum)

2022 Ukraine War and Refugees

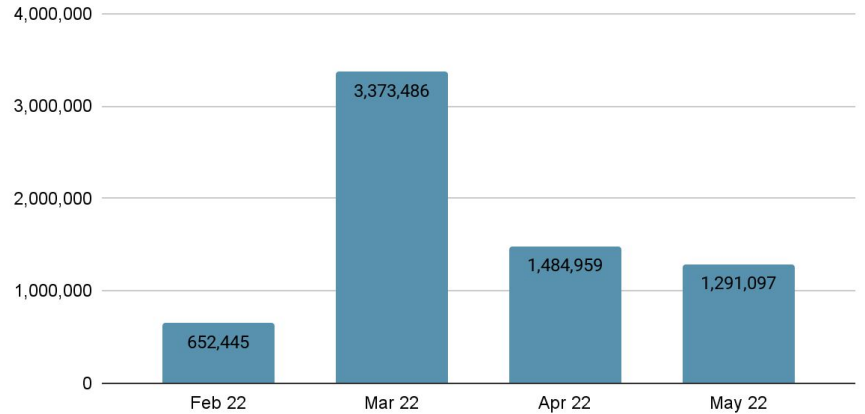
More than 6.8M refugees have left Ukraine

24 Feb - 29 May, By UN, BBC



Refugees By Month

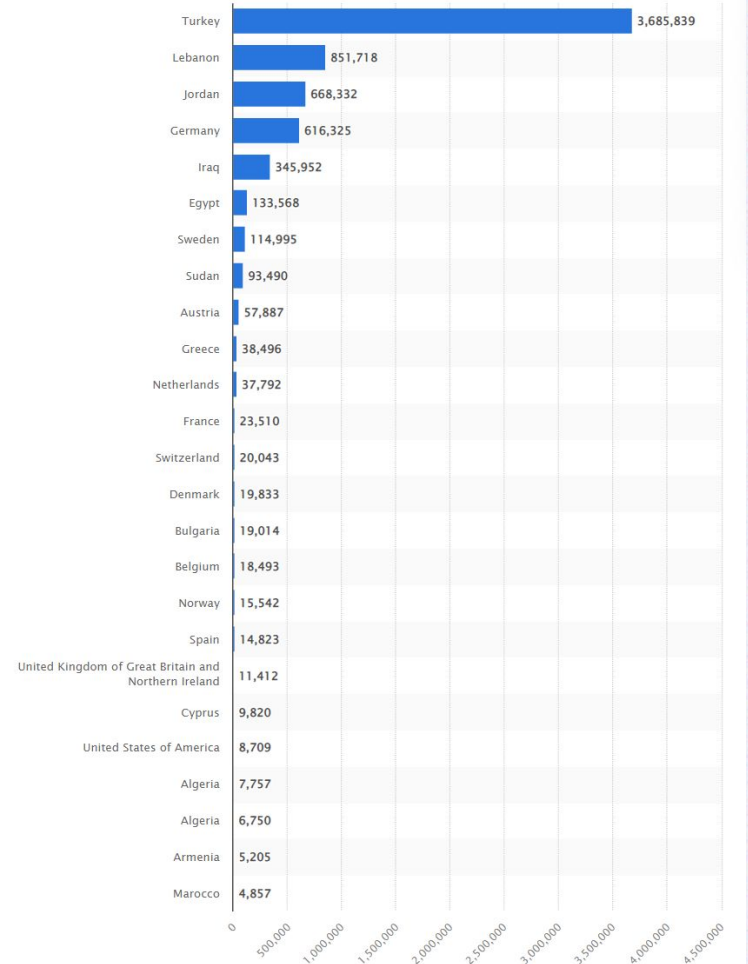
From UNHCR, Governments



Syrian Refugees Crisis



(From BBC)



(2020, From Statista)

Situations depicting a “Two-Tier Refugee System”



“Real refugees”



“Illegal immigrants”

(From Greek Reporter)




02.

Comparative Case Study


Difference in response to
the Ukrainian vs. Syrian refugee crisis &
the role of NGOs in shedding light on the hypocrisy

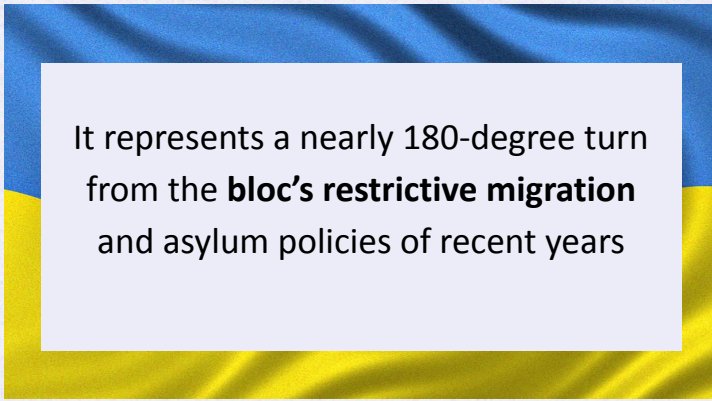
What was EU's response to Ukrainian crisis 2022?



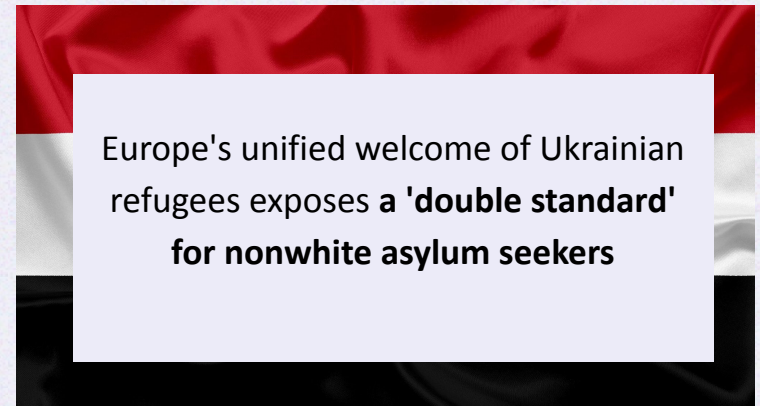

Ukrainian




Syrian



It represents a nearly 180-degree turn from the **bloc's restrictive migration** and asylum policies of recent years



Europe's unified welcome of Ukrainian refugees exposes a **'double standard'** for **nonwhite** asylum seekers

*“Today’s decision means that Ukrainians seeking safety in the EU will **quickly get residence permits, be able to work, and be provided with suitable accommodation, welfare assistance, medical assistance, and education.** It is now up to member states to decide if they will extend that to others fleeing Ukraine. **We call on them to treat everyone fleeing this conflict equally.**”*



The EU activated the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) – a never-before-used policy mechanism that gives **Ukrainian refugees access to social services and paves the way for them to live, work, and study in EU countries of their choosing** for up to three years **without having to apply for asylum.**



Policy Changes for Ukrainian refugees- not seen in Syria 2015

Activation of the Temporary Protection Program Mechanism





Comparison...



Doctor Essam Daod from Haifa, Israel (center) performs CPR trying to save the life of a refugee who was rescued from the open waters of the Aegean sea on Lesbos



Fortress Europe a system of border patrols and detention centers that are used to help prevent asylum seekers and other migrants from entering the European Union.

Policy Changes for Ukrainian refugees- not seen in Syria 2015

29

Countries assistance

30,000

Tonnes in kind assistance

Life saving

medicine, food, and shelter items

EU Civil Protection Mechanism





Comparison...



A young Syrian refugee has been hospitalized after setting himself on fire at the Moria camp on the Greek island of Lesbos. He was protesting after his asylum application was rejected for the second time.



More than 10.000 Asylum Seekers are homeless and helpless, resulting sleeping and living roadside without any shelter, food, running water supply, facility, infrastructure or help after the fire in Moria Refugee Camp.



Policy Changes for Ukrainian refugees- not seen in Syria 2015

Humanitarian Assistance

Aid Projects

€ 243 million

Emergency Support Program

€ 330 million

- This EU humanitarian aid provides food, water, healthcare, shelter and helps cover people's basic needs.
- The emergency support programme that helps to secure access to basic goods and services, such as to education, healthcare and food.

Solidarity Platform



Brings together Member States and EU Agencies



The Platform will help organize the transfers of people within the EU to the Member States that have reception capacity for refugees.



Transport companies organizing humanitarian trains and providing free tickets to those fleeing



Policy Changes for Ukrainian refugees- not seen in Syria 2015

Opening Borders



Many European countries relaxed their entry and visa requirements for those fleeing the Ukrainian crisis early on.

Ukrainian nationals with valid biometric passports were able to stay without a visa in the Schengen area countries for 90 days out of every 180 days following regulation (EU) 2018/1806.

Ukrainian nationals, as visa-free travelers, can choose the EU member state in which they want to exercise the rights attached to temporary protection, allowing them to join family and friends in various EU countries.



Comparison...



Poland builds a border wall, even as it welcomes Ukrainian refugees. It is hurrying to finish a \$380 million 116-mile steel wall that the government says will be “impenetrable.”



Migrants and refugees hoping to enter Greece from Turkey appeared to be fanning out across a broader swathe of the roughly 200-kilometer-long land border on March 3, 2020.

“Our job, at IRC, as a humanitarian agency, is about **outcomes**: how many people do we **help survive, recover** and **gain** control of their lives.”

—**International Rescue Committee**





International Rescue Committee

5 strategies to tackle the challenges of the refugee crisis



Expand their scale to reach more people in need

E

Use their influence to raise awareness and fight against the human rights violations

U

Stabilize the funding to provide long-term assistance and to better respond to refugees

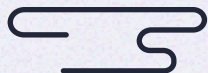
S

Empower people living in crisis by designing programs to help them adapt to changing circumstances

E

Invest in the representation of the communities in need by having a diverse and inclusive workforce.

I



How is the IRC helping Ukrainian Refugees?

IRC response includes:

- Supporting evacuation efforts for women and children
- Cash assistance Program
- Supplying medical equipment and other support to health teams operating at border crossing points and in refugee reception centers



IRC is working with local partners to provide emergency assistance

- Delivering groceries, blankets, warm clothes, stoves, sleeping bags, and other essentials.
- Offering psychological care through a dedicated hotline and translation services
- Providing information about housing, employment, and refugee rights



IRC Advocacy Work

The International Rescue Committee calls for

An immediate ceasefire

An immediate cease to all violations of international law to spare additional harm to civilians and avoid further displacement



Europe and the U.S. to welcome refugees

International donors and world leaders to prioritize the support and protection services of women and girls, who are at particular risk.





Comparative Case Study: Syrian Refugees



**International
Amnesty**

Shedding light on the treatment
of syrian refugees on the
Belarus-Poland border & in
Wędrzyn detention center



**The Legal Centre
Lesvos (AMKE)**

Shedding light on the treatment
of syrian refugees in Greece
through exposing the “Massive
Pushback Operation”

The Belarus-Poland border

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



Arbitrary Detention

- Polish authorities arbitrarily detained nearly two thousand asylum-seekers (2021)
- Subjected to abuse, strip searches, forcible sedation and tasing
- Violent push backs and automatic detention
- unsanitary facilities, limited access to doctors or legal assistance → anxiety, insomnia, depression



The Belarus-Poland border

Retraumatization & Detention Conditions

Wędrzyn detention center
600 people
24 individuals per 8 m²

“welcome to Guantánamo”
Isolation, verbally abusive
behavior, racist remarks





The Belarus-Poland border

Violent forcible returns



- coerced into signing documents in Polish
- excessive force, tasers, handcuffs, sedation

Stranded at the border

- On 20 March (2022), the Belarusian authorities reportedly evicted close to 700 refugees including many families with young children and people suffering from severe illnesses and disabilities



”Most days we were woken up by the sounds of tanks and helicopters, followed by gunshots and explosions. This would go on all day, sometimes. When you have nowhere to go, no activities to take your mind off it or a space for even a brief respite, this was intolerable. After all the torture in prison in Syria, threats to my family, and then months on the road, I think I was finally broken in Wędrzyn”



—**Khafiz, a Syrian refugee**





'Massive Pushback Operation' in Greece

The Legal Centre Lesvos (AMKE)

- A civil non-profit organization in Greece
- Lawsuit involved 11 Syrian refugees part of a group of 180-200 people violently expelled from Greece to Turkey in 2020
- Assaulted by Hellenic Coast Guard vessels and abandoned at sea
- Part of a proven ongoing systemic and widespread practice by the Greek government





03.

Comparative Case Study: Government

The Greek government's differential treatment
between Syrian vs. Ukrainian refugees

Attitude of the Greek government

Deterrence

as a main strategy

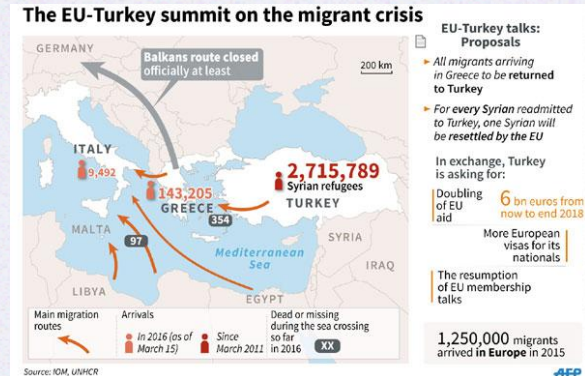
- No policies actively banning the entry of refugees
- Government's efforts are in disincentivizing it



EU-Turkey Deal

to impede people from arriving to Greece

- During the 2015 Refugee Crisis, Greece was unprepared and overwhelmed
- 2016: **EU-Turkey Deal** had successfully decreased the number of people arriving in Greece



Changes in Government & Migration Policies

“New Democracy”

a newly elected center-right government

- Mid-2019, similar timeframe as the surge in refugees, Greece elected a new government
- Accused past governments of being “**too soft and ideological on migration**”



New Asylum Laws

stricter rules on refugee placement, services and aid

- A supposed attempt at speeding up the process of applying for asylum
- Human Rights Watch believes the law provides no protection and increases deportations



Greek Authorities: Reflecting the Greek Government

Violent Authorities

- Keep refugees in prisons, physically abusing them and providing no food
 - Another method in disguise to deter refugees from applying for asylum
 - Treatment is unacceptable and illegal in eyes of both Greek and international law
-



Greece's Policies regarding NGOs



Additional Laws

- Additional requirements for registration for NGOs working with migrants are refugees
 - Confidentiality law prohibits members of NGOs from publicly sharing information about anything they witness
-

www.amnesty.org



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

Date 31 July 2020 index number EUR 25/2821/2020

GREECE: REGULATION OF NGOS WORKING ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM THREATENS CIVIC SPACE

☰ **Forbes**

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Dec 9, 2020, 02:07pm EST | 54 views

Greece Has Intensified Its Crackdown On Refugee NGOs With A New Confidentiality Law

Greece's new government: Limiting the work of NGOs

The government's social influence

- "Good" and "bad" NGOs
 - Accusing NGOs of human trafficking and smuggling
 - Hostile attacks on refugees, journalists and NGO workers
 - Uses its political and social power to curb efforts of NGOs
-



→ *Residents of Lesbos, Greece, attacking German photojournalist Michael Trammer*

Role of the Greek government in the Ukrainian crisis

- Over the last two months refugees fleeing from Ukraine to Greece was given swift access to refuge in Greece with heavy governmental support and with utmost care
- “this country was willing and prepared to take in more Ukrainian refugees who are fleeing their countries due to Russia’s ongoing invasion”
- “we are ready for the hospitality arrangements. And we are ready to register people and provide them with temporary protection”



Ukrainian refugees that are eligible for temporary protection

- Be a Ukrainian national living in the country before 24 February 2022
- Any stateless individuals with international protection or equivalent before 24 february 2022
- Family members in the first two category
- Close relatives to the first two category
- People that are unable to return to Ukraine



Greek government's hospitality towards Ukrainians

- They renovated buildings and installed specialised equipment for refugee use
- Full access to medical support, hot drinks, food and comfortable shelter
- 24 hours a day with sufficient staffing
- As they arrive they receive cell phone cards, and any information they need
- Continuous innovation in logistics to help log Ukrainians faster and more efficiently



The Greek government's bias

- Ukrainians are “real refugees”
- Cherry picking who they allow into the country
- The policies are very Eurocentric
- Large difference between resources the Ukrainians get in comparison to the Syrians
- Outdated and dysfunctional registration programs
- "The asylum system is broken, even the most vulnerable people struggle to access it"



04.

Conclusion & Discussion

Possible third stages of the Ukrainian Refugee
Crisis

Possible Third Stages

Prevention of state and citizen discontent

Discontent spreads and
funding slows

Renewal of temporary protection measures



Community effort to rebuild Ukraine and return its people home





Conclusion

Refugee numbers

6.8 million refugees have left Ukraine
Fled to Poland, Romania, Russia, Hungary, Slovakia, and Belarus

Treatment of Refugees in the past

Trauma and poor treatment in Poland of Turkish refugees
Detention centers and violence

EU policies Ukrainian crisis

Temporary Protection Directive offers assistance at the border and helps states ensure access to education, healthcare, accommodation and jobs

Power of NGOs

Greece new government's attitude towards Syrian refugees and implementation of new laws cut services for refugees and rejected asylum seekers



Discussion Questions



1

What forms of activism can NGOs use to counteract the differences refugee treatment?



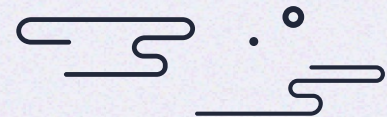
2

What could be the causes behind such difference in treatment?



3

What powers can NGOs utilize even when governments are unresponsive?



**Thank you for
listening!**



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