

Vancouver Youth Model United Nations 2021



EU

Background Guide



VANCOUVER YOUTH MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2021

European Union

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Dear delegates,

My name is Namara Morse and I am excited to serve as your director of the European Union at VYMUN this year. As your director, I hope to foster a fun and safe environment, for all delegates, filled with engaging and educational debate. Over the course of VYMUN 2021, we will dive into two topics: Relocation of Asylum Seekers and Combatting Intersectional Racism.

Our first topic, the Relocation of Asylum Seekers, is a prevalent issue in the EU and has been for the past decade. The goal of debate is to reach a method of efficiently dealing with the steady flow and the build-up of those who are entering the EU looking for asylum and protection. The diversity of political views, cultures, and backgrounds among the EU contributes to past difficulty in achieving solidarity throughout the policies and efforts of its member states. It is crucial for future actions to have a united front that will allow for smooth procedures with relocation and border management.

The second topic, Combatting Intersectional Racism, has become an even more important global issue throughout COVID-19 and pertains to new initiatives and rising issues in the EU. Intersectionality is a relatively new term in the area of policy. Its application will elevate the ability of the EU and its members to confront and eliminate the presence of racism and discrimination. The pandemic has exemplified the need for immediate action in combating the hate and harassment that minorities face. The question EU members face is how to deal with this growing issue effectively and adapt to new challenges that are arising.

If any questions, concerns, or issues arise leading up to the conference, please feel free to reach out to me at eu@vymun.com. I cannot wait for the conference and look forward to meeting you all this October.

Sincerely,

Namara Morse
Director of the EU | VYMUN 2021

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Relocation of Asylum Seekers

Questions to Consider

1. What factors have contributed to the difficulties in allocating asylum seekers, both domestically and internationally?
2. How can a plan be devised that appeals to all the blocs and members of the EU, both those in support and against the intake of asylum seekers?
3. What are the main goals and objectives that need to be achieved in terms of legislative agendas?
4. What pre-emptive actions can be taken to ensure that the EU can efficiently process asylum applicants moving forward?

Overview

As a stable and strong union in a desirable geographical location, the European Union is, understandably, a popular refugee destination. Compared to many neighbouring countries, the peace and freedoms found in the EU are incredibly attractive. This has resulted in the issue that the members of the EU have been dealing with for the past decade: high numbers of refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants have been leaving their homes to seek residence and help in these countries. The situation was at its worst from 2014 to 2019, during the migrant crisis.¹ During this time, the EU was bombarded with record-breaking numbers of applications for asylum and residence that reached millions. This led to numerous questions regarding the safety and security for both the EU and the asylum seekers.

Motivated by the unrest, violence, and instability of their home countries, large numbers of asylum seekers flee to the EU looking for protection. The journey itself is incredibly dangerous and even upon reaching the EU there are even more difficulties with legal and border procedures. Asylum differs from a complete citizenship; however, the free movement and integration of the EU countries attracts asylum seekers with the hope of an easier time finding permanent residence. The issue, however, that arises with this constant stream of people is how to allocate and provide for them. In addition, the dire circumstances that prompt many asylum seekers to leave their home often makes it difficult for them to enter EU nations with proper resources. This looks like documentation in the case of illegal immigrants and money in the case of asylum seekers.

Policies such as the Common European Asylum system have made progress in addressing the difficult situation facing the EU, however, the wide spectrum of countries, political parties and ideologies that make up the European Union slows the EU's ability to reach a compromise. In order to resolve this, delegates must make decisive actions to efficiently allocate the asylum seekers that are growing at the borders.

Timeline

¹<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-53925209>

October 24th - 25th, 2013: An EU summit is held and members develop a plan of action in response to the two ships full of refugees that sank this month in Italian waters by the island of Lampedusa is the main point of the summit. Safety of migrants and the routes and entry points into the EU are discussed.²

December 20th 2013: At the EU summit, a 38-point plan is created to increase EU border presence and address the dangers in Mediterranean crossings in addition to minimizing the risks involved in migration.³

April 2nd - 3rd, 2014: Promises to discuss migration are bumped off the agenda and not discussed at the EU-African summit. This summit fails to address the intensifying situation regarding the increasing problems with migrants. Instead, more promises are made to tackle human smuggling and other migration and border issues.⁴

June 26th - 27th, 2014: Following the scheduled EU summit, Jean-Claude Juncker is appointed as the European Commission president. His agenda for the next five years consists of work with the UNHCR and donation of funds as well as addressing human trafficking and establishing a common policy with third world countries.⁵

June 25th - June 26th 2015: At this EU summit, the refugee relocation policy is introduced to the EU member states; however, out of all the elements of the plan, using hotspot check-in stations to register refugees proves to be the best functioning part. Other aspects were not as successful but overall the plan was a moderate success; although, despite specifying that 160,000 refugees are to be distributed, the policy is not living up to its intentions.⁶

September 23rd, 2015: The EU refugee policy to impose mandatory refugee quotas⁷ was voted through by EU leaders; however, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Czech Republic are all strongly opposed to this plan. In addition, one billion Euros are promised to agencies such as UNHRC and the World Food Programme along with additional services and aid to the Middle East.⁸ Since many refugees come from countries in the Middle East, providing aid and working to stabilize the region will not only improve their safety but also slow the stream of incoming asylum seekers.

October 25th, 2015: Thus far into the year, Germany has received 500,000 refugee applicants. An EU summit has been called to discuss the strain of the masses of refugees entering the EU via the Western Balkans. Leaders agree on a plan including financial aid, increased communication, and a plan to register all refugees before they enter are all promised results of this summit.⁹

September 14th, 2015: An emergency relocation scheme, the EU migrant relocation and resettlement scheme, giving health and movement assistance is put in place across the entirety of the EU and will

²www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-24380247

³https://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/140245.pdf

⁴<https://www.politico.eu/interactive/migration-summits-timeline-of-failures-european-council-meetings-migration/>

⁵https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_15_5039

⁶<https://asylumineurope.org/reports/country/greece/asylum-procedure/access-procedure-and-registration/reception-and-identification-procedure/>

⁷<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/22/eu-governments-divisive-quotas-deal-share-120000-refugees>

⁸ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2015/09/23/statement-informal-meeting/>

⁹<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/oct/26/eu-and-balkan-leaders-agree-migration-plan>

extend into 2018.¹⁰ Assistance is provided to more than 34,500 asylum seekers in the relocation process from Italy and Greece among the EU and other associated states.¹¹

March 3rd, 2016: The European Commission pledges an additional €50 million for 2015-2016 in the support of a resettlement plan for refugees across all of the EU. The scheme offers 20,000 places for relocation across the EU.¹²

March 20th, 2016: In a new deal, Turkey agrees to take back migrants coming into Greece who either do not apply for asylum or whose claims for citizenship and asylum are rejected.¹³

June 7th, 2016: To enhance cooperation between the EU and third world countries, the European Commission introduces the New Migration Partnership Framework: a series of long term and short term collaborative action and policies.¹⁴ Examples of policy actions include additions to Common Security and Defense Policy regarding Libyan waters and assistance in combating human smuggling and trafficking.¹⁵

September 2017: Alternative for Germany (AfD), an assertive right-wing nationalist party enters into German parliament and bring in very clear, strong anti-immigration sentiments and beliefs. This attitude, paired with the numbers of migrants trying to enter the country, creates tense resistance against asylum seekers.¹⁶

May 2018: Germany passes legislation that allows 1000 family members to enter into Germany and reintroduces family reunification for some current refugees paired with subsidiary protection.¹⁷

July 2019: Proposed by Germany and France, a new “solidarity mechanism” is announced by Macron and aims to provide a collective approach to allocation of migrants across the bloc. Fourteen other states have agreed with the Franco-German document proposed.¹⁸

December 2020: The Voluntary Relocation scheme from Greece to other European countries is a plan announced to settle some 1,600 children and families from their arrival in Greece to permanent final residence. The plan includes applicants and beneficiaries of international protection such as those with vulnerable family members or conditions, such as medical issues.¹⁹

June 2021: The cooperative action of agencies such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency and others, has led to the relocation of some 4,000 individuals from Greece including recognized refugees, asylum seekers and unaccompanied children since the initiatives start in April 2020.²⁰

¹⁰https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ%3AJOL_2015_239_R_0011

¹¹https://asylumineurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/aida_brief_relocation.pdf

¹²https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/default/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/proposal-implementation-package/docs/20160316/first_report_on_relocation_and_resettlement_en.pdf

¹³<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/mar/08/eu-turkey-refugee-deal-qa>

¹⁴https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_17_1595

¹⁵https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/eunavfor_med_-_mission_01_june_2017_en.pdf

¹⁶<https://www.dw.com/en/afd-what-you-need-to-know-about-germanys-far-right-party/a-37208199>

¹⁷<https://www.dw.com/en/german-cabinet-approves-new-refugee-family-reunification-law/a-43710490>

¹⁸<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-migrants-france-idUSKCN1UH21D>

¹⁹<https://reliefweb.int/report/greece/voluntary-scheme-relocation-greece-other-european-countries-18122020>

²⁰<https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2021/6/60d4a2c14/un-agencies-welcome-relocation-4000-asylum-seekers-refugees-greece.html>

Historical Analysis

The two greatest causes of migration are conflict and disaster.²¹ Along with the ever-increasing conflicts in the world comes increasing movement. The geographical location of the EU makes it a popular destination as it is geographically close to many conflicts, has desirable open borders and a policy free movement between member states. Immigration to Europe started following the Second World War, especially to western European countries. This spiked in 2014-2019, during what is known as the European Migrant Crisis. Starting in the late 1990s and continuing into the 2000s, a wave of incoming asylum seekers from Africa and the Middle East were prompted by geopolitical unrest.²² In addition, the integration of the EU countries and the EU's expansion promoted internal movement as Central and Eastern Europeans began relocating to Western and Southern Europe.

In September 2015 a horrifying photo of a young boy drowned on a beach in Turkey surfaced²³ and brought attention to the destruction and danger facing migrants. This event turned views on the migrant crisis into more of a humanitarian issue than a political one. The photo, and subsequent news of the 12 other Syrians who faced the same fate trying to reach Greece, captured the desperation of refugees as well as the extreme human rights and humanitarian crisis that this was.

While the migrant crisis was declared to be over in March of 2019, it is important to note that asylum seekers and displaced persons still continue to enter the EU in high numbers. Currently, the Syrian Civil War, Libyan Civil War, Afghanistan War, and Iraqi Conflict have previously, and continue to be, heavy refugee-producing conflicts. Half of the refugees that entered the EU during 2015 originated from Syria, Iraq, or Afghanistan.²⁴ During the Libyan Civil War especially, control of migration was difficult due to the collapse of the Libyan border and the rise in smuggling across the border. Italy and Greece are faced with the challenge of high numbers of incoming displaced persons in situations of crisis due to their proximity to high conflict areas. Even though Europe is coming down from the peaks of the migrant crisis, conflicts in the middle east provide difficulty for the EU. Turkey is bordered by Greece to the Northwest and because of this many asylum seekers who enter Turkey seek to gain access to Greece and the rest of the EU. In recent years, Germany, Hungary, Sweden, and Austria received two-thirds of the EU's total applications for immigration.

Revisions to the Western Balkan route into Europe were prompted due to the 1.5 million applicants to Germany and a summit was called by Germany as it had been demonstrated that the Western Balkans were overwhelmed with the amount of people entering and a solution was needed.²⁵ The Western Balkan route is a transit route for incoming refugees and migrants coming from Middle Eastern, Asian and African regions into Europe. This prompted more intensive border patrol by Frontex, the EU border control, and policies that were criticised to endanger the refugees and asylum seekers by limiting registration and entrance.

²¹ <https://academic.oup.com/jtm/article/25/1/tay040/5056445>

²² <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34131911>

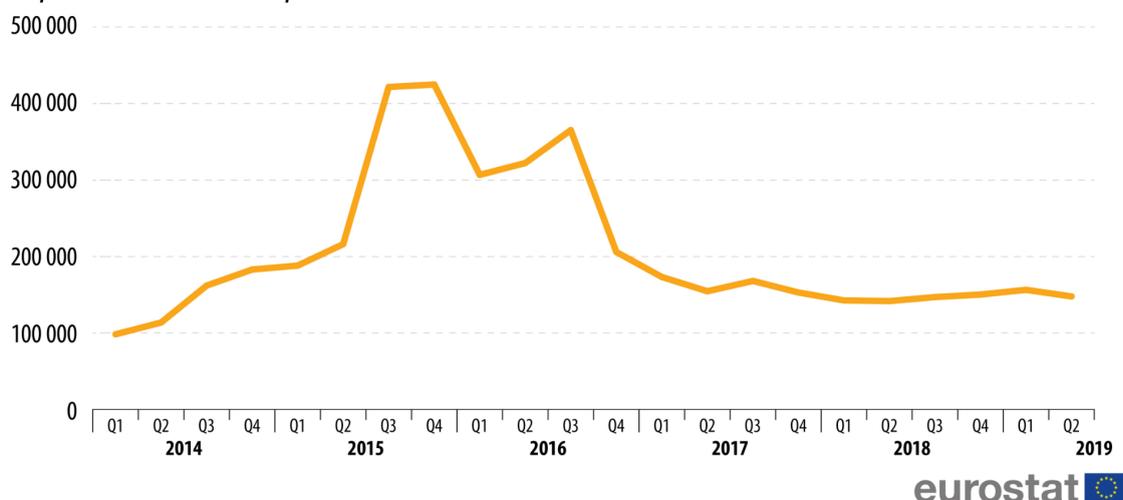
²³ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/02/shocking-image-of-drowned-syrian-boy-shows-tragic-plight-of-refugees>

²⁴ <https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2016/08/02/number-of-refugees-to-europe-surges-to-record-1-3-million-in-2015/>

²⁵ <https://www.euractiv.com/section/justice-home-affairs/news/eu-summit-set-to-close-the-balkan-route-to-migrants/>

First-time asylum applicants in the EU Member States

First quarter 2014 - second quarter 2019



Visual timeline of the first time applications received by the EU from 2014-2019.²⁶

Past Action

The relocation of asylum seekers has become an increasingly relevant issue over the past decade. As it has progressed, there have been numerous summits and discussions trying to resolve the problem of how to settle the incoming asylum seekers across the EU member states.

An EU-African summit took place from October 2nd to October 3rd of 2014. The day of, the Italian Coast Guard saved an approximate 730 migrants from a death at sea. The issue of migration and migrants safety in between the EU and Africa was as pressing as ever but unfortunately the number of crises and events to be discussed hindered meaningful discourse towards a resolution. Human smuggling and trafficking as well as the returns of asylum seekers were covered and cooperation in dealing with the pressing issues was promised.²⁷

After a series of talks, on December 15th, 2015, the European Commission proposed a group of schemes to manage the external borders of the EU, and subsequently manage migration, in a secure and efficient way. In the press release on the new European Border and Coast Guard included in this plan, it was shared that it will take on a larger role in supervision including the right to intervene, a mandate to work in third world countries, a bigger part in returns and a larger reserve of personnel on call.²⁸ In this same package, the commission delivered a recommendation for a cooperative plan with Turkey in regards to refugees from Syria²⁹ and proposition for a suspension of Sweden's EU relocation requirements.³⁰ Around two months later on February 3rd, 2016, EU members continued with their promises to deliver assistance in their agreement on the financing of Turkey's refugee facility. The details include three billion Euros in aid to Turkey.³¹ This did work to improve the condition and

²⁶<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/-/DDN-20190926-1>

²⁷<https://www.politico.eu/interactive/migration-summits-timeline-of-failures-european-council-meetings-migration/>

²⁸https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_15_6327

²⁹https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_15_6330

³⁰https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_15_6329

³¹<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/02/03/refugee-facility-for-turkey/>

situation in the Mediterranean.³² As a large portion of the asylum seekers entering Europe does so through routes in Turkey, this move was crucial to the progression of the care and eventual resettlement of the incoming migrants.

That same month, on February 4th, the EU pledged over three billion Euros to assist Syria and the surrounding region. The European Council President, Donald Tusk, was in attendance at a conference in London to announce the new policy.³³ The instability of the region was a large factor driving the movement of many asylum seekers to the EU. The attempts to stabilize the region were preemptive plays in dealing with asylum seekers and curbing the amount seeking residence in the EU. On the 18th of February, the European Council and leaders underscored the need to advance numerous areas in the migration conversation. As stabilizing aid in Turkey had proven to be helpful, these new advances include the administration of permanent measures to deal with relocation, return and readmission.³⁴

On May 4th, the European Commission came out with a series of proposals to renovate and enhance the Common European Asylum System. These proposals, designed to move towards a fairer system to recipient countries, stated that asylum seekers would continue to apply for asylum in the first country they enter; however, the EU would now ensure that no member state would be left with an overwhelming or disproportionate number of asylum seekers.³⁵

Many summits held over the past decade have been underwhelming, as while migration has been a major issue since 2013, many times the issue was addressed with empty promises and unfulfilled policies. In 2015, Italy received 30,775 applications and 42,356 illegal border crossings, meanwhile, Greece followed with 7475 applications and 137,000 illegal crossings.³⁶ Applications to Hungary increased by 1290% with a total of 98,072 applications and 78,472 illegal border crossings.³⁷ Migration topped the agenda for the first time in 2015 and it was at that summit that the refugee relocation policy was first introduced to the attendees. In two emergency proposals, a total of 160,000 people were proposed to be relocated from Italy, Greece, and Hungary. Firstly, in May of 2015, it was proposed that 40% of recent applicants, 40,000 people, would be relocated from Italy and Greece.³⁸ 24,000 would be taken from Italy and 16,000 from Greece.³⁹ Hungary was added to the list in September of 2015, during the second emergency proposal where it was decided that 15,600, 50,400 and 54,000 people would be relocated from Italy, Greece and Hungary, respectively.⁴⁰ This plan was not completely fulfilled and so presently, the flow of incoming asylum seekers has slowed however the situation was not properly resolved and is not going away. The relocation of asylum seekers is a pressing issue requiring the cooperative action of EU members and agencies.

A new pact on Migration and Asylum outlined in September 2020 highlighted the need for solidarity and responsibility in dealing with external borders and procedures, asylum claims and returns. In December of 2020, the European Commission proposed a reform to the Common Asylum Rules of

³²<https://www.duvarenglish.com/eu-to-provide-turkey-with-3-billion-euros-in-extra-funding-for-refugees-news-57947>

³³<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/02/04/eu-pledge-for-syrians/>

³⁴<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/european-council/2016/02/18-19/>

³⁵https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_16_1620

³⁶https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/default/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/background-information/docs/2_eu_solidarity_a_refugee_relocation_system_en.pdf

³⁷Ibid 33

³⁸Ibid 33

³⁹Ibid 33

⁴⁰Ibid 33

the EU.⁴¹ The new pact and its legislative proposal covered numerous important areas of debate such as internal migration and management inside the EU, agencies and organizations among the EU, returns, and external factors such as relations with third world countries and routes into the EU. Three days later following approval from Parliament, the long term EU budget for 2021 to 2027 was announced.⁴² The support promised by EU leaders and agencies is demonstrated in the budget; out of the €1,074.3 billion budget, 22.7 billion Euros is allotted to be spent in areas of migration and border management. The budget also supports up to 10,000 border guards by 2027 to the European Border and Coast Guard Agency for them to use as fit. This pact was strongly backed by Germany, which still takes in the most asylum seekers out of EU countries; however, it was criticized by many on both sides of the debate. Czech Prime Minister, for instance, Andrej Babiš, found the plan too lenient and stated that, “the strategy should be that these people really should stay and live in their home countries, and we have to do the maximum for this and we have really to discuss it.”⁴³ On the other hand, parties such as the Human Rights Watch had the opposite complaint calling aspects of the plan, “ghastly” on account of their seemingly indifferent attitude towards the wellbeing of refugees.⁴⁴ A compromise or agreement between two very polarized sides is complex and requires detailed thought and action.

On June 29th, the European Council and Parliament agreed upon a provisional agreement regarding EU Asylum Agency Regulation.⁴⁵ In 2016, seven legislative proposals were made and a partial plan was implemented. In 2018, a new amended proposal was presented however two years later, in 2020. There were several legislative actions from 2016 that were still in place and had made progress. Negotiations between the council and parliament were in progress and resulted in the new agreement which recognized the relevance and urgency of the migrants inside the EU and in April 2016 transformed the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) into a complete agency.⁴⁶ Notable points of the agencies' responsibilities are advancing the abilities of the member states and playing a larger role in the assessment of the applications for asylum or protection. The assistance of the new EASO would allow for applications to be considered quicker and for more efficient distribution of incoming asylum seekers.

Current Situation

Since the peak in 2015 with a record 1.3 million people entering the EU seeking asylum, the number has dropped since to some 280,000 people receiving any sort of asylum or protection in 2020.⁴⁷ Some points to consider and for delegates to discuss are the distribution of asylum seekers who are already in the EU into balanced permanent residences, implementing decisive policies in regards to entrance into the EU, and relations and stability with third-world countries. Over the past two years, these areas have aimed to be addressed by actions from the European Council and Commission as well as Parliament. Solidarity across the union especially when dealing with border procedures and rules and returns is crucial to addressing the relocation of asylum seekers.⁴⁸

⁴¹<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/jha/2020/12/14/>

⁴²<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/the-eu-budget/long-term-eu-budget-2021-2027/>

⁴³<https://www.vox.com/21454758/european-union-asylum-migration-plan>

⁴⁴<https://www.esdelatino.com/the-eus-new-asylum-plan-is-filled-with-promise-and-peril/>

⁴⁵<https://www.vox.com/21454758/european-union-asylum-migration-plan>

⁴⁶https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3241

⁴⁷https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/promoting-our-european-way-life/statistics-migration-europe_en

⁴⁸[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2020/649344/EPRS_BRI\(2020\)649344_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2020/649344/EPRS_BRI(2020)649344_EN.pdf)

The pandemic led to restrictions around borders and the EU has struggled with the steady stream of asylum seekers attempting to enter the more closed-off state. The German political party Alternative for Germany (AfD) was a trailblazer in the outspoken rise in populism. At its start in 2013 the AfD was not as rightwing as it presents itself today. It had become so far right that it has been considered to have slight nazi overtones.⁴⁹ It is now the largest opposition party in Germany and aligns with other European right wing parties such as the French National Front and Austrian Freedom Party. Stemming from the rise in populism around the EU, especially that incited by the AfD, opposing policies and perspectives are rising too. In the early months of 2021, Denmark⁵⁰ and the UK⁵¹ have come out with increasingly anti-refugee statements and policies that, especially in the case of Britain, were quickly rejected. The Danish idea to relocate the asylum screening process outside of Europe by setting up reception centers in a nearby third-world country was slammed by many, including organisations such as Refugee Welcome. They stated that, “what [the policy is] all about is that Denmark wants to get rid of refugees. The plan is to scare people away from seeking asylum in Denmark.”⁵² This would also put significant pressure and strain on the country's economy in forcing them to cooperate with EU policies and forces. The UK's Home Secretary, Priti Patel, came out with a scheme to deport all illegal immigrants to other EU countries and thus far has received no support from any other EU country. In addition the EU received criticism on some of their more recent border actions as they were seen to endanger refugees and asylum seekers.⁵³

A whole other issue in the discussion around refugees and asylum seekers are refugee camps. Set up as temporary housing, refugees stay at camps for years in miserable conditions. Camps are overcrowded and pose high danger for illness, abuse, and exploitation, especially for children and young women, as the living conditions are incredibly poor. While they have been established in many locations all over the EU, they are most prevalent in Turkey, a hotspot for incoming asylum seekers. There are an approximate 4 million refugees inside Turkey including some 3.6 million Syrian refugees.⁵⁴ Relocation of asylum seekers would help in eliminating the overpopulated refugee camps.

With recent events and take over of the Taliban in Afghanistan adding to the difficulties already imposed by COVID, violence, and drought, there is some concern about a new migrant crisis reaching Europe. While the Taliban has limited border movement the EU has said that they expect “increased migratory pressure” to ensue regardless.⁵⁵ Britain announced that they plan to accept up to 20,000 Afghan refugees with 5,000 in the first year.⁵⁶ Aid in both stabilizing the situation and protecting asylum seekers is necessary to prevent the crisis from escalating to the magnitude of the migrant crisis. On August 21st Ursula von der Leyen, the EU Commission chief, declared it to be a “moral

⁴⁹<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-37274201>

⁵⁰<https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20210603-danish-lawmakers-approve-refugee-reception-centres-outside-europe>

⁵¹<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/may/09/eu-countries-snob-priti-patels-plans-to-return-asylum-seekers>

⁵²<https://apnews.com/article/united-nations-africa-europe-migration-government-and-politics-a199bb4b9990696a857eeb40f455cb25>

⁵³<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/may/05/revealed-2000-refugee-deaths-linked-to-eu-pushbacks>

⁵⁴<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2021/06/22/10-years-on-turkey-continues-its-support-for-an-ever-growing-number-of-syrian-refugees>

⁵⁵<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/will-afghan-crisis-trigger-new-refugee-crisis-europe-2021-08-19/>

⁵⁶Ibid 55

duty” to provide help to refugees escaping the Taliban.⁵⁷ Next week there will be a G7 meeting on the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan. It is expected for Britain to push for sanctions to be imposed⁵⁸ and the meeting will serve as an important test of the EU's ability to handle this crisis.

Moving forward, it is important to consider the refugees and asylum seekers already in the EU, often in densely populated refugee camps, that have claims for asylum and international protection needing to be dealt with. The new proposals and plans address many areas of concern with new asylum seekers, but less so the issues around distributing those already in the EU.

Possible Solutions

Proportional Allocation

More developed EU members such as Sweden, The Netherlands, Germany and others support a balanced, proportional allocation of asylum seekers into the countries of the EU. This aligns with the current goals of the EU, however, for this solution to be feasible, tangible policies and actions would have to be outlined with direct results. This solution would have to include a plan to distribute the incoming refugees based on different factors such as their economic strength, available housing and jobs. Ideally, this would allow for countries to maintain a positive attitude towards asylum seekers as they are not overwhelmed. Finances and economic capability are a point of concern for some EU members. To resolve this, a financial plan that assists both countries and asylum seekers themselves would help to alleviate stress and strain on the host countries. This solution would likely look like a comprehensive set of policies or legislation that binds members to a timeline. Important points to cover in the solution are what determines how asylum seekers are allocated followed by the communication and transportation at borders as well as applications and solidarity. While under this solution the exact number of asylum seekers going into each country would not be the same, there needs to be a common system for border procedures, application review and returns. Hotspots are the regions and border areas where some of the highest numbers of refugees and asylum applications reach. Hotspot check in stations are more concentrated efforts and allocations of resources into those particular areas to control and understand the increased inflow. After demonstrating to be effective in 2015, hotspot check in stations will help to provide accurate data and information about the numbers of asylum seekers and allow them to be better dealt with.⁵⁹ The positions that would be in support of this solution, or one similar, are any countries in support of taking in the steady flow of asylum seekers that apply for asylum and protection, as it provides the support they might be lacking.

Restricted Intake and Movement

Countries such as Hungary, Croatia, and more, hold more reserved views on taking in asylum applications and refugees whether that be for fear of economic difficulties or other reasons. Solution number two is similar to the implementation of solution one but with the opposite intentions. This solution, again either by a series of legislation or policies, restrictions on the number of asylum applications approved and where they are permitted to live among the EU. The policies would be followed by implementation and an important part would be revisions to the border procedures and returns. In order for the EU to maintain control over the number of incoming people and prevent build

⁵⁷<https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20210821-european-leaders-determined-to-avoid-mass-influx-of-afghan-refugees>

⁵⁸<https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/britain-calls-g7-meeting-tuesday-discuss-afghan-crisis-2021-08-22/>

⁵⁹<https://www.politico.eu/article/why-eu-refugee-relocation-policy-has-been-a-flop-frontex-easo-med/>

up inside the EU, documentation and management at the border has to be stepped up. Similarly to the first solution, hotspot check in stations can be used in an opposite way and document and restrict the people seeking protection. In addition, this solution would have to be paired with increasing work with third-world countries in order to still protect at-risk people despite not granting asylum. This plan of action would be pushed by and receive support from leaders and parties against the increasing intake of asylum seekers. The opposition to the growing number of asylum seekers in the EU is a valid viewpoint that is held by many across the EU especially amongst right wing populist perspectives.⁶⁰ This solution does not mean completely limiting the number of asylum seekers that are granted any sort of asylum, as that is still a large way that the EU can contribute to aiding in humanitarian crises and world conflicts.

Bloc Positions

Developed Countries Opposed to Asylum Seekers

The countries in this bloc are not in favour of increasing the number of asylum seekers that are allowed into the EU and are cautious towards the fragility of the situation. Instead, they endorse heavier restrictions on the movement of refugees and asylum seekers. This viewpoint stems largely from two main influences: firstly, a country's desire to protect and prioritize their own people and not jeopardize the security and stability of the people or nation; secondly, a lack of resources and finances and concern for the ability to support incoming asylum seekers is another notable factor in hesitance towards granting asylum to masses of people. Examples of countries in this bloc include the Czech Republic, and Hungary. While this bloc is not necessarily against taking in asylum seekers, there is stronger resistance to more open policies.

Developed Countries Open to Asylum Seekers

Many countries of the EU with stronger economies and more stable political and social systems are in favour of taking in more asylum seekers. Countries that are typically more centrist or left-leaning politically tend to fall under this bloc as well. Members of this bloc have the capability to fully support not only their own citizens but are also able to provide asylum and protection to the additional incomers. The political views of a country and its major parties also play a role in the attitude towards more welcoming policies. Countries in this bloc are the Netherlands, Sweden, the UK and more. There are a range of positions that fall under this bloc as the combined strength and attitude of a country affect how strongly they feel, but the key point that connects them is that they are in support of the intake of asylum seekers and allocating them across the EU.

Developing Countries

A final bloc to consider is the countries that are somewhere in the middle. For example, countries that see a lot of asylum seekers entering, such as Greece and Turkey, would likely back each other and push others to take in more refugees as they are unable to keep up; however, ones that are neither needing support or have the support to offer to others would fall into this final middle category. Financially, these countries are not likely to be at the extreme on either end of the spectrum and would be able to take action with the aid of a financial plan to avoid the risk of being overwhelmed by a lack of control around asylum applications. The political views of countries, as well as the presence of any NGOs, affect their positions as well. These countries who are neither struggling or thriving may share

⁶⁰https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-54895-7_14

a similar stance on maintaining a balance so they do not become overrun. Examples are Greece, Kosovo, Bulgaria and others. At the same time, they would have a similar view that support needs to be included in the outline of a plan. The countries in this bloc are ones that while they may not have a strong stance need to be considered as with a fitting solution they can play a helpful role in the aid of asylum seekers and the rest of the EU.

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Combatting Intersectional Racism

Questions to Consider

1. How would new policies from an intersectional perspective differ in structure and results from the status quo?
2. To what level can intersectionality be implemented into EU policy?
3. What are the main obstructions and issues that prevent racism from being entirely dealt with?
4. Which actors and parties are most important in the battle against racism and how can they be better?

Overview

Racism is a widespread, persisting issue across the world and in the EU. It has been considered and dealt with often as a solely moral issue rather than one that is ingrained in many aspects of government, life, and society. The importance of the concept of intersectionality is that it allows for racism and discrimination to be considered from numerous different facets. It is a framework that combines and leverages aspects of privilege, discrimination, and a person's identities to comprehend the nuances of discrimination and racism. Previously in law, academia, and policy, discrimination would be considered from a single axis-framework, such as gender, race, or class, but through intersectionality, an enhanced, nuanced viewpoint has emerged. Intersectionality is most relevant in law and policy and academic fields as it advances and heightens the process of identifying the factors and levels that play into discrimination.

The geographical location of the EU attracts increasing populations of immigrants as well as the integration of the member states creates a diverse range of inhabitants. The consolidation of many varying cultures, races, genders, ethnicities, etc, into one larger union exemplifies the need for intersectionality. There are many factors that contribute to the discrimination faced by those among the EU especially due to the wide variety of backgrounds and experiences. Because of this, racism cannot accurately and completely be considered from a single-axis perspective of solely race as it does not recognize the different struggles that different and overlapping minority groups face.

The EU is actively battling racism through policies, legislation and campaigns, and while progress is being made, there are still groups among minority populations that are overlooked due to the EU's limited analysis into the nuances of discrimination. Ensuing EU policies can better address the modern manifestations and applications of racism through a more thorough understanding and implementation of intersectionality.

Timeline

1989: American lawyer Kimberlé Crenshaw first uses the term "intersectionality" in one of her papers. This will start the ensuing rise in its popularity and ability to apply to addressing discrimination in fields of academia, policy, and law.

May 1st, 1999: Having been signed on October 2nd 1997, the Treaty of Amsterdam is in play and is the first to discuss discrimination based on factors other than nationality and gender and is now extended to include facets such as race or ethnicity.⁶¹

⁶¹https://europa.eu/european-union/sites/default/files/docs/body/treaty_of_amsterdam_en.pdf

2000: The EU's first anti-racism legislation, "the Race Equality Directive," which implements the principle of equal treatment of people regardless of race or ethnic group, is adopted by all member states.⁶²

July 19th, 2003: The 2000 directive is beginning to be transposed into national law by the member states, starting with Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom⁶³

January 1st, 2007: Bulgaria and Romania transpose the 2000 directive into their national law and the directive is now officially a part of the national law for all EU members.⁶⁴

November 28th, 2008: The new Council Framework Decision on combatting certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law is a plan aiming to eliminate discrimination by punishing offences with direct penalties.⁶⁵

2010: The European Commission launches a new platform under the 'Support for voluntary initiatives promoting diversity management at the workplace across the EU'. This platform is a series of diversity charters, since expanded into 24 charters with some 10,000 signatories.⁶⁶

March 14th, 2017: The EU Court of Justice backs the private sector workplace ban that allows employers to prohibit Muslim women from wearing headscarves in the workplace.⁶⁷

October 2017: A subgroup on equality data is implemented by the High Level Group on Non-Discrimination, Equality, and Diversity. It plans to analyze the data by merging factors such as religion or gender.⁶⁸

2018: A report from the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights titled "Being Black in the EU" is released and it takes the experiences from some 6,000 people across 12 EU countries. These experiences are converted into data and analysis of topics such as harassment and violence, police stops, and awareness of rights.⁶⁹

March 2018: The European Parliamentary Research Service highlights that minorities experience considerable economic disparities, which are transferred to impact the entire society, in the 2018 report.⁷⁰

September 14th, 2020: A joint effort with the Center for Intersectional Justice, the European Network Against Racism announces that they will be launching a report on "Intersectional discrimination in Europe: relevance, challenges and ways forward" to combat racism in the EU.⁷¹

⁶²https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/MEMO_07_257

⁶³https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/MEMO_07_257

⁶⁴https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/MEMO_07_257

⁶⁵<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32008F0913>

⁶⁶https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Racism/RES_43_1/IO/european-union.pdf

⁶⁷https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/MEMO_07_257

⁶⁸https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Racism/RES_43_1/IO/european-union.pdf

⁶⁹https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2018-being-black-in-the-eu_en.pdf

⁷⁰[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2018/615660/EPRS_STU\(2018\)615660_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2018/615660/EPRS_STU(2018)615660_EN.pdf)

⁷¹<https://www.enar-eu.org/intersectionalityreport>

September 18th, 2020: The European Commission announces and outlines the anti-racism plan for 2020 through to 2025.⁷² Before this plan, European documents referred little to their history of slavery and colonisation and referred to Nazism as the largest form of racism in Europe.

February 14th, 2021: A protest takes place against France's oppressive hijab ban against Muslim women. This follows France's 2004 ban of Muslim headscarves from being worn in public schools and a prohibition of full-face veils, such as a niqab, while in public.⁷³

March 19th, 2021: At the European Union's anti-racism summit, topics on individual racism, such as hate speech, take precedence over other issues, such as police brutality and institutionalized racism brought up by protesters and organisations.⁷⁴

Historical Analysis

The concept and term "intersectionality" is credited to Kimberlé Williams and was coined in 1989. Originally it applied to explaining the oppression of African American women, however, in a broader sense, it can look at the ways that many factors, such as gender, class, religion, and resources, play into racism as a whole. Explicitly oppressive laws such as being denied the right to vote or own property based on gender or race have been abolished, and so, dissecting racism now requires examining more subtle instances of aggression and discrimination.

A prominent way that racism manifests itself is through politics. In the 2010s, Europe's political scene began to shift to a more polarized, right-leaning climate. In particular, harsh attitudes towards people of colour, especially migrant workers, refugees, and Muslims, were very evident and pushed by parties such as Germany's AfD. For instance, the AfD's outspoken intolerance towards minority groups incited violence and contributed to some 1000 attacks on the homes of refugees in 2015.⁷⁵

The rise in the popularity of these right-wing groups can be partly attributed to their ability to manipulate the public sentiment surrounding the migrant crisis. By making it seem like a threat they were able to polarize voters and grow their political platform. From an intersectional viewpoint, the views of extremist political parties often target minorities based on things such as class, nationality, and access to resources. Populism, and its rise in the EU over the past decade, is a large factor of this problem. While the goal is to appeal to the concerns of the masses, this typically results in hateful manifestations of nationalism. Especially when pushed by extreme parties, populism scapegoats and endangers minorities and the usual victims of racism in its attempts to appeal to the 'common people.' This is particularly evident in the case of migrants and asylum seekers.

While discrimination based off factors including race has been addressed before, there is no question that it continues to persist. A report from 2018 specified the effects of discrimination on society and economy, estimating that the amounts lost by societies annually totals somewhere between 2.4 billion

⁷²<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/legislative-train/theme-a-new-push-for-european-democracy/file-eu-anti-racism-action-plan>

⁷³<https://time.com/6049226/france-hijab-ban/>

⁷⁴<https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2021/3/29/the-eu-needs-to-face-its-institutional-racism-problem>

⁷⁵https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.18772/22019033061.9?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents

to 10.7 billion Euros.⁷⁶ Similarly, it states that marginalized individuals lose between 1.8 billion and 8 billion Euros from discrimination. A more recent example of the prevalence of discrimination in the EU is the extreme rise in hate crimes and violence against minorities, notably Asians, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the rise of misinformation.⁷⁷ The pandemic disproportionately impacted those with a lower socioeconomic status and belonging to ethnic or racial minorities.

Back in 1996, the Council adopted a joint action decision⁷⁸ which was then updated in 2008⁷⁹ with penalties enforced for offences such as public acts of violence and discrimination, and dismissing genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Accompanied by the Victim's Rights Directive,⁸⁰ which provided support and education around legal procedures, such as the status of cases and legal advice and advocacy, this decision is the type of action that should be remodeled with the consideration of intersectionality.

Historically, many policies and agencies regarding discrimination have been stratified into specific, single identity categories. For example, this would isolate gender discrimination, without considering the impacts of socioeconomic class, religion, race and more. The European Network Against Racism (ENAR), is a widely known organization but even it has received the critique that explaining discrimination based on one factor does not even begin to address the nuances and levels at play. Intersectional feminism is a commonly known branch of intersectionality as it looks at the levels of oppression women of varying races, statuses, and religions face.

A shortcoming of historical policies and even more recent actions and plans is that they are merely continuations of past policies. To deal with modern racism, contemporary solutions need to be considered and implemented. This is where intersectionality in both analysis and policy is extremely important. Revisions to both current policies and the approach taken to create new ones will allow for the many layers that factor into discrimination to be considered and dealt with.

Past Action

Much of the past action around racism in the EU and combatting racism and discrimination have not included an intersectional attitude. With that being said there have been successful initiatives. The European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance was set up in 1994 and continues to monitor and provide guidance and suggestions to governments.⁸¹ The reason why this body was initially supported is because, at its inception, it had more range and capability to combat racism compared to smaller organizations. Five years later in 1997, the EU held the "Year Against Racism", designed to concrete action against racism, xenophobia and anti-semitism. Out of this, the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) was established. Founded by the European Union, the Open Society Foundations, the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, and the Sigrid Rausing Trust, ENAR is a system of NGOs and other organizations that advocate and work for change. Along with action plans and

⁷⁶[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2018/615660/EPRS_STU\(2018\)615660_EN.pdf#page=33](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2018/615660/EPRS_STU(2018)615660_EN.pdf#page=33)

⁷⁷https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2020-coronavirus-pandemic-eu-bulletin_en.pdf#page=33

⁷⁸<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A31996F0443>

⁷⁹<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32008F0913>

⁸⁰<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32012L0029>

⁸¹<https://www.euractiv.com/section/justice-home-affairs/opinion/25-years-fighting-racism-and-intolerance-across-europe/>

educational programs, ENAR also makes statistics and data about racism, crime, and discrimination easily accessible for use in policy. Both these organizations have been able to use their platforms to advise member states on actions and potential initiatives, as well as continue to spread awareness among the EU.

Part of the criticism the EU has received is that many of the plans do not seem to adapt to the persisting problems. From March 15th to the 30th of 2018, the EU held its anti-racism week in Patras, Greece with the topic “no child is foreign.”⁸² This effort was intended to be more inclusive towards migrants in the fight against racism. The week was a conference of sorts, as it included discussions around equality, human rights, and consultation meetings with migrant and human rights organizations.

In the quest to provide a standardized and effective framework on racism for the EU, on both a national and international level, the EU published their first five-year anti-racism plan for 2020-2021 on September 18th, 2020. While it was not initially outlined in the workplan for the EU, it acknowledges the prevalence of structural racism in the EU, an issue that has typically not been recognized to the extent it needs to be. A feature of this project is that there will be an anti-racism coordinator in the European Commission. The clear, widespread racism that exists in the EU was exemplified and highlighted by the impacts of COVID-19 on minorities. The influence and power of protest is seen in the EU parliament, as both the response to the concerns of racial groups and the abilities of organisations to instigate change has increased. In addition, the concerns being voiced throughout the pandemic have shifted the attitude towards racism being seen as more of a structural issue, instead of a solely individual one. Another feature in the increasing recognition of the types of racism was the EU’s first Anti Racism Summit. While this summit was an important step and valuable in not only recognizing the problems, but it was also crucial in the process of creating a platform for them to be discussed. A problem brought up in debate multiple times is that although action and efforts have been promised, the funding and mandate to ensure decisive action is still unclear. The concern raised was in regards to equality bodies which play an important role in data collection, reports, and victim assistance, but lacked the comprehensible support to do so.

Current Situation

The past few years have seen not only an increase in action surrounding racism and combatting its presence in the EU, but also a shift in the way racism is understood and thought of. What was once primarily thought of as a moral and individual issue is now being dissected for the ways in which it is ingrained into society and social structure. In addition, awareness around the complexity of the issue of racism has risen. An intersectional approach is crucial to unpacking racism and the rise in popularity of the approach is a good sign for the future of equality.

The three main ways that intersectionality is often applied and is being applied are for analysis and law and policy. An intersectional analysis on different levels of racism is commonly seen in academic work, political debate, and most forms of discussion. It provides insight into the factors that perpetuate and heighten inequality, discrimination and racism. This can also be used in applications to create and adjust policies designed to protect and aid vulnerable groups and minorities. Especially with the rising concerns of protesters and organizations, policymakers need to consider and

⁸²<https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/inclusion-migrants-and-refugees/european-anti-racism-week-2018-patras-greece.html>

incorporate a wider, more inclusive perspective. In addition, many existing laws require proof and substantial evidence of discrimination and racism experienced in order to pursue legal consequences and actions. Intersectionality and its role in understanding different facets that play into common manifestations and exhibits of racism. Because of this, it can be used to help prove and explain racism in legal terms. An example of this given by the European Network of Equality Bodies (EQUINET) is *DeGraffenreid v. GENERAL MOTORS*. In this case, black and white women were treated differently; however, the court ruled that discrimination did not take place because they did not separate gender by race and only looked at the most privileged women. Additionally it was ruled that there was no race discrimination as Black men were treated better than the women.⁸³ This example not only highlights the use of intersectionality, but also the importance of recognizing the different layers that play into discrimination.

Without the integration of intersectionality into future efforts in combating racism, policies will continue to fall short of their intended goals. A case study to look at to understand this better is Germany. Considered to be on the better end of the spectrum in regards to social conditions, especially looking at their response to COVID-19, Germany could still do better. This is largely due to the single-axis perspective used by many to consider policy and racism. Similar to other countries around the world, harassment has risen towards their Asian populations, with an increase in verbal assault in public places and even being denied medical treatment and services.⁸⁴ An obstruction in the resolution of problems such as this is that national statistics do not break down incidents and cases specifically enough. If cases were to be broken down in more detail it would allow for governments to see varying levels of treatment among groups. For example, it would be easier to recognize and address the facts that among racial groups, males still hold a certain level of privilege over female, or non-binary individuals. Because of this, the challenges faced by marginalized groups and the subgroups within them are not recognized to their full extent.

Kimberlé Crenshaw, who coined the term “intersectionality,” gave a TED Talk in 2016 on “the urgency of intersectionality.”⁸⁵ She discussed how intersectionality and representative data will allow for the marginalization and discrimination of different groups to be fully acknowledged and understood. In addition, there is a need to go beyond simply creating new systems but instead to revise and break down the oppressive institutions still existing. The pandemic has not created new problems to the extent that it may seem but instead just exposed and heightened existing shortcomings and failures in society. Structures have the opportunity to be revised, especially due to the instability that the pandemic stirred up. From here, there is the chance to change the system so that the extreme disparities and struggles will not continue.

An issue that the EU is susceptible to, as an integration of many countries and cultures, is solidarity. Presenting a unified front allows for plans and laws to fully be implemented, but it is also harder to compile the many different viewpoints and individual issues that each country faces into one comprehensive plan.

There are really two steps to intersectionality: the first being intellectual comprehension; the second being an implementation of policies into society and legislation. Debates and discussions around racism and plans need to carry through a level of consideration for intersectionality and extreme care

⁸³<https://equineteurope.org/2020/why-intersectionality-is-relevant-for-a-fairer-europe/>

⁸⁴<https://equineteurope.org/covid-19-response/#data>

⁸⁵https://www.ted.com/talks/kimberle_crenshaw_the_urgency_of_intersectionality/transcript?language=en

and detail towards those who are often marginalized. When moving forward with policy it is also crucial to consider past actions and the impacts of past action. It is not possible to resolve the issue by only new efforts. In addition, learning from the shortcomings of previous schemes allows for a more educated perspective which is undoubtedly more helpful.

Possible Solutions

Implementing Education Programs in Schools

Schools and education play a huge role in shaping the next generations and they also act to spread awareness and information. This is why the first potential solution involves developing an education plan that includes intersectionality to put into schools' curriculum. By enforcing a mandatory curriculum for youth that teaches racism, discrimination, and equality, it will advance the progress of anti-racism efforts. Through transparent education and discussion, students will be exposed to the truths of racism in the real world as well as how it can be fixed. The curriculum will be cooperatively developed by the EU member states and research and data will be used to accurately confront racism. An important consideration is the implementation of this program. For it to succeed, the EU will have to manage the quality and execution of the program. Delegates must also consider how to ensure countries have the resources and motivation to implement the curriculum to its full extent and fulfill its purpose. Conducting annual audits and reviews of the curriculum and its execution would allow for the EU to make sure that member states are upholding their commitment to this program. The design of this plan and the education program enhances its versatility as it allows for the differing views of the member states to all be heard. Because of this, this solution has the ability to appeal to member states from any bloc. At the same time, a compromise will have to be reached. In addition, due to the varying economic status among the EU, a plan for financial aid and distribution of resources should be established to ensure the implementation of this solution.

Reversing Current Racist Legislation

Despite the EU making efforts to advance their fight against racism, policies have and are still being made that proliferate it. A widely known and controversial example of this was France banning face coverings, first imposing a ban on face veils in public and then another bill in 2021 to ban hijabs for minors in public. While this policy was extensively condemned it was still an unsettling attack on the Islamic Religion. Through the data that is collected by governments, NGOs, and other bodies such as ENAR, the EU has an extensive collection of research on racism in the EU. This should be applied to all future policies and legislation created. In addition, past laws need to be examined and if necessary, revised. Revision would be called for if the legislation not only does not aid the battle against racism, but also doesn't incorporate intersectionality. In extreme cases, it may even be fully overturned. Data is helpful in policy making but the EU must ensure that it is up to date and can serve its purpose. Continuing research on local and national levels will allow for data to be as accurate as possible. Moving forward, intersectionality should be a key point in EU legislative actions for all future decisions.⁸⁶ The subsequent step is the consequences that follow infringement on anti-racist laws. Hate crime has seen a rise during COVID-19 and it must be swiftly dealt with and eliminated. As important as it is for countries to address these crimes and for them to be held accountable through transparent crime statistics and court procedures, it is also important for data collection to play a role in the way this happens. Data should be wielded to combat the rise in crime.

⁸⁶https://www.enar-eu.org/IMG/pdf/intersectionality-report-summary_final-2.pdf

Bloc Positions

Socially Prioritizing Countries

This first bloc consists of the financially strong and politically stable countries of the EU who typically have either a middle or left dominant political climate, such as Denmark and France. This bloc is invested in the incorporation and application of intersectionality into the EU both in analysis and application. The countries of this bloc are the ones who have been pushing anti-racism plans and ideas in previous EU discussions and summits. This bloc and its members could be in support of either solution as they both address key issues and work against racism. Due to the fact that these countries are financially and politically stable, their contributions to debate and their support for solutions largely comes down to the largest political parties and ideologies in their country. The countries are influential and are powerful proponents to the solutions that benefit them as they have the power and control to do so. Because this bloc is made up of members most tuned in to social issues, the solution with the largest expected effects would draw the attention of this bloc. Their role in influencing others through the design and implementation of solutions is important to the final decisions.

Politically and Economically Focused Countries

The second bloc is made up of the countries that are consistently less concerned with social issues and more with the politics and economics of their country, such as Poland and Hungary. While this could be for a variety of reasons the main ones are instability or political priorities. Depending on the individual country and the large motivators, political parties, organizations, and such, they would likely support either solution but in its implementation, their economy and politics would come first. Some other influencing factors that may sway a country could be the demands of citizens and the countries concern for their global reputation. This bloc is still against racism and in support of policies and initiatives such as ones that have been proposed in the past, but they are not as likely to support the idea of redesigning policies to include the implementation of intersectionality. Past actions of the country, such as the legislation they have in place, could sway them against the second solution as it encourages major attention to the policies in place which may be undesirable for some.

The Weaker Economies of the EU

The third bloc is made up of the countries with potentially differing views, but are less stable countries often with weaker economies, such as Greece and Cyprus. These countries could be in support of any of the solutions but for the solutions requiring new implementations of programs and plans. These countries would likely look for a central support system such as a fund or national body. The dominant political views of a country, the final structure and format of each plan are important and influential aspects to consider. For example financial plans, future requirements and stipulations are all conditions that will affect the decisions of the countries in this third bloc.

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