**Committee: Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (GA3)**

**Issue: Anti-immigrant Sentiment**

**Student Officer: Maria Patouna**

**Position: Co-Chair**

Dear delegates,

My name is Maria Patouna and I will be acting as one of your co-chairs in the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee in this year's Campion School Model United Nations. I am attending Costeas-Geitonas School and so far I have participated in seven Model United Nations Conferences, this being my 8th and my first time as a Student Officer. It is my absolute honour to be serving in such a position and I eagerly anticipate working with all of you at the conference.

The topic of this study guide concerns the anti-immigration sentiment and I hope it will be a valuable first introduction to the topic that facilitates the process of writing your resolutions. Yet, given how wide and currently relevant the topic is, I strongly advise that this study guide should be seen as a mere foundation and thus personal research should follow its reading. This will allow you not only to have a more well-rounded and timely understanding of the issue but also to adapt your knowledge and ideas to your country's policy.

I wish you a most productive preparation and I trust that we will have fruitful and constructive debates.  If you are to have any questions regarding this topic, do not hesitate to contact me anytime at the following e-mail address: mariapatouna20@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Maria Patouna.

# INTRODUCTION

As the United Nations Department of Economical and Social Affairs (UNDESA) has stated, "international migration is a global phenomenon that is growing in scope, complexity and impact. Migration is both a cause and effect of broader development processes and an intrinsic feature of our ever-globalizing world"[1].footnote any quotes Indeed, in our contemporary times, plenty of nations are experiencing exoduses and, respectively, a plethora of nations are becoming hosts. Notably, the most popular countries of origin of the migrants arriving in Europe are India, North-western African countries, such as Morocco, Lebanon and Algeria, Eastern European Ukraine and Poland, and Balkan Albania and Romania, while the preferred host countries are the United States of America, Germany, Russia and Saudi Arabia. These countries of destination have undergone social change, evolving into multicultural societies. In certain countries this is acceptable, even desirable, whereas in others it is the subject of much debate.

The reason why the phenomenon of immigration poses such a great challenge for today's societies is that it is treated as a problem and not as an opportunity to foster sustainable development and cultural interaction. Migrants are not seen as ordinary people who want to resettle in another country, but as foreigners prone to illegitimacy. In fact, in the United States, any individual who is not a U.S. citizen or U.S. national is defined as 'alien'[2]. Thus, the anti-immigration sentiment is becoming more and more widespread, sparking a lot of hate and xenophobia around the world.

The only way we can combat this issue is through the realization that "the challenges we face as nations have not been imported by our immigrants, nor would they disappear if we could only succeed in sealing our borders for good -- even if that were possible, and contrariwise there is good reason to believe that some of the problems we should take most seriously as a people -- from the decline in our economic competitiveness to the decay of our community values -- are problems that the new immigrants can help us solve"[3] and the acting upon this realization.

# KEY TERMS

### Immigration

The international movement of people from their homeland into a foreign destination country in order to settle, reside and work permanently there.

### Immigrant

A person who comes to a new country, region or environment to take up permanent residence.

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[1] "International Migration - United Nations Population Division | Department of Economic and Social Affairs." *Welcome to the United Nations.* Web. 30 Jun 2017.
<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/theme/international-migration/>.

[2] "Immigration Terms and Definitions Involving Aliens." *Internal Revenue Service.* Web.
<http://www.irs.gov/individuals/international-taxpayers/immigration-terms-and-definitions-involving-aliens>.

[3] Quote by Mario Cuomo, Governer of New York State, 1993.

### Illegal immigrant
A person who unlawfully immigrated into a country by bypassing immigration controls, and is living and working there without official permission from the government.

### International migrant
According to UNDESA, the definition of an international migrant is a person living outside of their country of birth.

### Migrant
Someone who moves from one place to another in order to find employment or better living conditions.[4]

### Emigrant
Someone who leaves his own country or region to permanently settle in another.[5]

### Externally displaced person
Someone who has left his homeland, crossed an international border and is temporarily abroad, but is expected to eventually return in the country of origin. Based on the ability of this person to return, and whether they are subject to persecution in their home country, externally displaced people may be entitled to recognition as refugees, under the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' (UNHCR) mandate.[6]

### Internally displaced person
Someone who has left his residence and moved within the bounds of his own country, by reason of real or imagined danger.

### Refugee
A person who, 'owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion', has been forced to flee his country of origin and seek safety elsewhere. [7]

### Sentiment
"A general feeling, view or opinion that is held or expressed".[8] In this case, the sentiment is negative.

### Nativism
A political idea that supports that the native people of a country are more important than the immigrants, and therefore, encourages the emphasis on indigenous customs and the opposition to outside influences.[9]

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[4] "Migrant - definition of migrant in English | Oxford Dictionaries." *Oxford Dictionaries - Dictionary, Thesaurus, & Grammar.* Web. 28 Jun 2017. <http://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/migrant>.

[5] "Emigrant - definition of emigrant in English | Oxford Dictionaries." *Oxford Dictionaries - Dictionary, Thesaurus, & Grammar.* Web. 28 Jun 2017. <http://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/emigrant>.

[6] "Externally Displaced Persons Law and Legal Definition | USLegal, Inc.." *Legal Definitions Legal Terms Dictionary | USLegal, Inc..* Web. 17 Jul 2017. <http://definitions.uslegal.com/e/externally-displaced-persons/>.

[7] Definition quoted from the 1951 Refugee Convention

[8] "Sentiment - definition of sentiment in English | Oxford Dictionaries." *Oxford Dictionaries - Dictionary, Thesaurus, & Grammar.* Web. 28 Jun 2017. <http://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/sentiment>.

### Nationalism

The fanatical devotion to one's nation and exaggerated advocacy of the independence and full sovereignty of this nation, which is associated with the belief that a particular nation is better than any other.

### Territoriality

The persistent attachment to a specific possession or particular territory that leads to pattern of behaviour associated with the defence of this possession or territory.[10]

### Multiculturalism

"The presence of, or support for the presence of, several distinct cultural or ethnic groups within a society".[11]

### Globalisation

Globalisation is "the process by which the world is becoming increasingly interconnected as a result of massively increased trade and cultural exchange"[12]. Referring to the free international movement of goods, services, technology, information and people, globalisation is the procedure from which the merging of world views, ideas and other aspects of culture arises.

### Enclave

A portion of territory enclosed within a larger territory whose inhabitants are ethnically, politically and culturally distinct.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### Immigration trends and examples

Immigration has existed during the whole history of human kind. In the very old times we were talking about tribes roaming in search for their livestock. Later on in history, people began to migrate in search for lands and foundations that would be more profitable and convenient for their settlements. Today, unfortunately, people are forced to change their places of living due to different reasons which are not only economic; natural and manmade disasters make people leave their native country in search of security. Also, it can be a movement towards political freedom or escape from political persecution. Religious intolerance and war often force people to look for refuge in other countries, as well.

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[9] "Oxford Dictionaries ." Web. 28 Jun 2017. <http://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/nativism >.,"Cabridge Dictionary ." Web. 28 Jun 2017. <http:// dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/nativism >.

[10]"Territoriality | Definition of Territoriality by Merriam-Webster." *Dictionary: Search the Merriam-Webster dictionary first. Here's why....* Web. 29 Jun 2017. <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/territoriality>.

[11] "Multiculturalism - definition of multiculturalism in English | Oxford Dictionaries." *Oxford Dictionaries - Dictionary, Thesaurus, & Grammar.* Web. 28 Jun 2017. <http://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/multiculturalism>.

[12] "BBC - GCSE Bitesize: What is globalisation?." *BBC - Home.*Web. 17 Jul 2017. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/geography/globalisation/globalisation_rev1.shtml>.

## CAUSES OF IMMIGRATION

### War: Syria

A noteworthy example of war forcing people to look for refuge outside their homeland is Syria's civil war. This war has created the worst humanitarian crisis of our time, causing a considerable influx of migrants in neighbouring European states; more than 11 million people have been forced to flee their homes, risking their lives on the way to the destination countries, where they hope to find safety, acceptance and opportunity. On the contrary, however, they are to face anti-Muslim bigotry, racism, hate crimes and, most importantly, prohibition from entering or settling in certain destination countries, such as the U.S.A.

### Religious intolerance: Kurds

The Kurdish immigration is caused by ethnic and religious intolerance; the Kurds are one of the largest non-state nations in the world, whose homeland, Kurdistan, has been divided and lies mostly within the present-day borders of Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Armenia and Syria[13]. The Kurdish people either settle in these countries or seek residence in other countries, such as Germany and France. In either way, they are a treated discriminatively; in Europe and the U.S.A. they are subjects of hate crimes and religious intolerance, almost always associated with the terrorist Kurdish Workers Party, while in Turkey and Iran they are struggling to survive, being often imprisoned, or sentenced to death simply because of their political outlook[14]. The anti-Kurdish sentiment is spreading in the Arab world accordingly.

### Retrospection of immigration in the U.S.A.

Given that the immigration of European people with different ideas, customs and traditions 12,000 years ago in the New World and the convergence and modification of those varied cultural traits into an utterly new culture, are the two forces that shaped today's United States of America, the country is rightfully considered as a land of immigration. Indeed, with the French and the Spanish being the first to establish settlements, and the English and Dutch following suit, the creation of permanent colonies took place.

By 1790, the newborn nation of the United States was already a "kaleidoscope of languages and ethnicities"[15]. Notable is that the same year, the first national census was launched in order to estimate the number of people that lived in those lands and their country of their origin; according to the results, from a total population of 3,9 million residents, the majority (65%) were of British descent (people not only from England, Wales, Scotland, but also Ireland), a little over 19% of the population came from Africa, while the rest came from the Netherlands, France, Sweden or were not attached to a country in particular (for example immigrants of the Jewish faith)[16]9.

The importance of this lies in the fact that the first people to reside, build and trade in the area, were a group of people from different origins; they lived in a heterogeneous environment that called for intercultural dialogue in order to ensure survival, proving that people with different cultural identities can, not only cohabit, but also be the cause of the rise of a great nation. Truly, the American culture is a mix of some of the best characteristics

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[13]

[14] Hassanpour , Amir. "The Kurdish Experience | Middle East Research and Information Project." *MERIP Home | Middle East Research and Information Project.* Web. 17 Jul 2017. <http://www.merip.org/mer/mer189/kurdish-experience>.

[15] "A History of Immigration in the USA." *Sutori.* Web. <http://www.sutori.com/story/a-history-of-immigration-in-the-usa>.

[16]

of almost all the cultures in the world, which is a great basis for building a new - and vibrant-culture and an invigorating economy.

Lastly, during the period of 1821 to 1840, the number of immigrants was approximately 740,000. In the following ten years, the number more than doubled to 1,710,000. According to a survey conducted in 2016, the immigrant families now number approximately 84.3 million people, meaning 27% of the overall American population[17].

### Retrospection of immigration in Europe

Western-European countries experienced high rates in migration after World War II. In today's globalised world, migration rates to Europe have accelerated in scale and speed especially due to political instability and unrest.

Until the late 1960s and 1970s, many European countries such as Greece, Ireland, Italy, Norway were the many sources of emigration, sending large numbers of people to Australia and the USA. Also, countries such as France, Switzerland and Germany attracted a lot of people because of the high living standards.

Between 2010 and 2013 around 1.4 million non-EU nationals, excluding asylum seekers and refugees, immigrated into the E.U. In 2015 the numbers increased, but this time because of the European migrant crisis which makes thousands of asylum seekers arriving from outside Europe.

### Opposition trends

The advocates of anti-immigration invoke a number of arguments both to justify their position and to convince others to adhere to their anti-immigrant movement. To begin with, the most common argument of the proponents of anti-immigration is the increased competition for employment. It is argued that migrants hurt the opportunities of the natives to find jobs, by undercutting wages to become more appealing to the employer and eventually 'stealing' the positions, thus provoking higher unemployment rates.

Likewise, it is claimed that immigrants harm the economy of the host country. Not only do they avoid taxes and substitute local citizen employment, but they also export their money out of the state economy, rather than having that money recycled and circulated domestically. Hence, the native workforce is displaced and a vacuum is created on the economy. Having said that, the local citizens resent paying for the social services used by immigrants and their families, considering them burdens to the social welfare systems.

What is more, numerous anti-immigrant organisations oppose immigration because it causes overpopulation. In other words, given that each immigrant contributes to the reduction of the per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the destination country, concern about crowding is focused on the quantity and quality of publicly provided goods, services, resources (e.g. scarcity of energy) and environmental space.

In addition, supporters of anti-immigration, perceive a link between immigration and crime; it is their belief that the more the immigrants, the higher the crime rates in the host country. Similarly, it is believed that the expansion and growth of terrorism own to the international movement of immigrants. The fact that an amount of terrorist attacks has been carried out by people migrating is fueling the overstatement that all immigrants are members of terrorist organizations.

Another argument that is used to oppose anti-immigration is that immigrants, due to the cross-border movement from their homeland to the destination country, transport
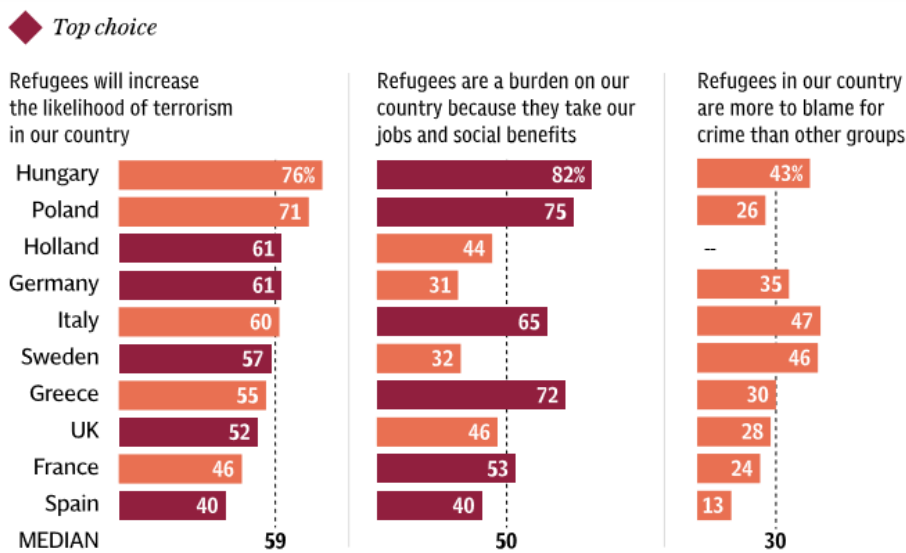
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[17] Batalova, Jeanne and Jie Zong. "Frequently Requested Statistics on Immigrants and Immigration in the United States | migrationpolicy.org." *Migration Policy Institute | migrationpolicy.org.* 8 Mar 2017. Web. 30 Jun 2017. <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/frequently-requested-statistics-immigrants-and-immigration-united-states>.

infectious diseases. These diseases are unknown to the innate population, who may not be vaccinated to them, or able to provide the appropriate treatment at hand.

Lastly, the identity of the nation is considered to be threatened by the heterogeneous people that immigrate to the country, as they undermine the host country's institutions and influence the original culture, degrading it with additions from their own norms, customs, traditions, language and sociopolitical views. Anti-immigration proponents are convinced that in order be loyal to their country and safeguard national sovereignty, they must protect it from such influences through the banishment of immigrants.

To conclude, it is evident that all the aforementioned arguments called upon by the supporters of anti-immigration are based on misconceptions and persistent fallacies. Even if some of them are actual problems that the host society will have to face, under no circumstances is the situation so extreme and with such a wide range of application to include the behaviour and aspirations of all immigrants.

## Many Europeans concerned with security, economic repercussions of refugee crisis

◆ *Top choice*

| | Refugees will increase the likelihood of terrorism in our country | Refugees are a burden on our country because they take our jobs and social benefits | Refugees in our country are more to blame for crime than other groups |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hungary | 76% | 82% | 43% |
| Poland | 71 | 75 | 26 |
| Holland | 61 | 44 | -- |
| Germany | 61 | 31 | 35 |
| Italy | 60 | 65 | 47 |
| Sweden | 57 | 32 | 46 |
| Greece | 55 | 72 | 30 |
| UK | 52 | 46 | 28 |
| France | 46 | 53 | 24 |
| Spain | 40 | 40 | 13 |
| MEDIAN | 59 | 50 | 30 |

Note: Netherlands excluded on question about crime (Q51b) due to administrative error.

Source: Pew Research Center, Spring 2016 Global Attitudes Survey. Q51a-c.

**Figure  SEQ Figure \* ARABIC 2; Opposition trends' popularity in European countries**

### Causes of the anti-immigration sentiment

The origins of the issue are not mere bigotry and racial prejudice, but two more profound factors that lie in the human instincts; territoriality and the endowment effect[18].

Concerning materialistic territoriality, it is true that humans, as every living creature of the animal kingdom, want to secure the resources necessary for their survival and reproduction, such as housing subsidies, social welfare and energy. When these resources are scarce, usually due to defalcation, they become valuable and humans have to compete in order to secure them. That being said, immigrants are threatening the possessions and privileges of the citizens of the host country, using their social services and covering employment

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[18] Lixing Sun, . "Xenophobia in the Light of Evolution: On the Origins of Anti-Immigration Sentiment | The Evolution Institute." *The Evolution Institute.* 1 Feb 2017. Web. 29 Jun 2017. <http://evolution-institute.org/article/xenophobia-in-the-light-of-evolution-on-the-origins-of-anti-immigration-sentiment/>.

positions, and this provokes an egocentric and hostile reaction; the anti-immigration sentiment.

As far as the safeguard of the intangible cultural sovereignty of the host country is concerned, it is explained by the endowment effect. More specifically, the endowment effect describes a situation where a person values something which he already owns, more than something he does not. The perceived greater value occurs because of the familiarity and comfort that derive from that mere possession of the object in question. Thus, the endowment effect is an instance of an emotional bias[19]10 that the natives experience when heterogeneous people arrive and 'disrupt' the unvaried cultural environment with which they are familiar. The citizens value their culture more that they value the one of the immigrants, hence racism, nativism and anti-immigrant sentiments arise.

These sentiments are accelerated due to the "burgeoning cultural backlash" against the modern values of globalisation, multicultural tolerance and openness to diversity[20], that today's societies experience. In other words, the rapid social changes and cultural turmoil created by globalisation and mass immigration are responsible for the high levels of existential insecurity that many of the citizens of the host countries experience, which translates into hostile sentiments as shown above.

Moreover, the rise of the right-wing populism contributes to the increase of anti-immigration sentiments. Indeed, with their ideology being characterized by racism, nationalism, anti-globalization and anti-immigration sentiments, right-wing populist parties' agenda includes unfavourable to the immigrants policies. Accordingly, the surge of populist parties signifies the increase of anti-immigrants, hence the anti-immigrant vitriol is being further encouraged.

Lastly, the final cause of the anti-immigration sentiment is the susceptibility of the citizens to the aforementioned phenomena. The members of the older generation and of the uneducated sectors, not only fail to realise that prejudice and fear are the pillars of the anti-immigrant arguments (acting based on their sense of the erosion of their status into the society and reproaching the displacement of their familiar traditional norms, ergo favouring anti-immigration), but they also influence the youth. Intergenerational transmission of right-wing extremist attitudes towards immigration takes place between the parents and the children[21] and its results unfortunately worsen the situation, favouring conventional and xenophobic ideas.

## Consequences

The anti-immigrant sentiment has strengthened racial prejudice, xenophobia and stereotypes. Notably, discriminative treatment and marginalization have become salient experiences in host countries, especially for Jaws, Roma, Muslims and coloured people. Not to mention the hate crimes taking place against foreigners, such as the insult and shooting of two Indian immigrants in Kansas, USA, by a white man doubting the legitimacy of their immigration status[22]. This poor behaviour affects the immigrants' quality of life, as well, causing feeble physical and mental health, which usually manifests as depression.

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[19]

[20] "Where's Populism Coming From? - CityLab." *CityLab.* Web. 13 Jun 2017.
<http://www.citylab.com/politics/2017/03/what-is-really-behind-the-populist-surge/519921/>.

[21] NOWRASTEH, ALEX. "Common Arguments against Immigration | Cato @ Liberty." *Cato Institute | Individual Liberty, Free Markets, and Peace*. 8 Aug 2016. Web. 28 Jun 2017.
<http://www.cato.org/blog/common-arguments-against-immigration>.

[22] STEVENS, MATT . "Kansas Man Indicted on Hate Crime Charges in Shooting of Indian Immigrants - The New York Times." *The New York Times - Breaking News, World News & Multimedia.* 9 Jun 2017.

Having said that, the hostility and discrimination do not allow immigrants to assimilate properly into the host country. Because of the fact that they feel unwanted, instead of trying to integrate to the new social environment (for instance through learning the language and local customs), they form self-organized communities where the human contact takes place solely between homogenous people. Although these ethnic enclaves promote social cohesion, it is at the cost of official inclusiveness and decreasing tolerance between heterogeneous groups[23]. Subsequently, ethnic and religious fractionalisation, conflicts and socio-political instability arise.

Moreover, exaggerated anti-immigrant sentiment and bigotry may lead to the bias of the legal system. Unlawful discrimination in the workplace that does not reach the court – or is not acknowledged in court– and unfair trials against immigrants have, and are still taking place. To demonstrate, in the Sacco and Vanzetti case, there were two Italian anarchists who had immigrated to the United States in 1908; the men were arrested and prosecuted for a murder and a robbery they did not commit, and were eventually sentenced to death in 1927, simply because of biases and prejudices. The trial's significant defects (the fact that even when another man confessed he had participated in the crimes, a second trial was not granted) were not taken into consideration, leaving the men to be innocent victims of a mishandled and biased verdict. This kind of legal approach, based on fanatic racism and anti-immigrant sentiment, undermines the democratic nature of a country and can be translated into having a feeble and unjust judicial power.

With that in mind, it should also be noted that immigrants have, more than once, become targets of hostile and exclusionary legislation. In fact, American exclusionary policies date back to the 19th and early 20th century, when the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 effectively ended Chinese immigration for ten years and prevented Chinese from becoming US citizens, and Immigration Act of 1924 reduced the number of immigrants that were allowed entry into the United States through a national origins quota (the quota provided immigration visas to two percent of the total number of people of each nationality in the United States) and completely rejected immigrants from Asia. Today, Mr Trump, the president of the United States of America, seeks to place a 90-day ban on people from six mainly Muslim nations and a 120-day ban on refugees from "terror-prone countries"[24], claiming that "as president, I cannot allow people into our country who want to do us harm"; this kind of mental and political approach is harmful because, not only does it promote an idea that these immigrants are inherently bad, but also because it is easily spread to the people, causing them to approach immigrants with a preconceived, prejudiced notion.

The resulting banishment of immigrants will affect the economy of the host country. With the idea that immigration harms the economy of the destination country being a well-entrenched myth that has its basis on the mistaken assumption that there is only a fixed number of jobs in the economy; however, immigrants contribute mightily to the economy. In particular, they pay billions in annual taxes, fill low-wage jobs that keep domestic industry competitive, create new jobs by forming new businesses, spend their incomes on innate goods and services and spur investment and job-creation, revitalizing once-decaying

Web. 19 Jun 2017 . <http://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/09/us/indian-immigrants-kansas-hate-crime.html>.

[23] MacKenzie, Debora. "End of Nations: Is There an Alternative to Countries?." *Mashreq Politics and Culture Journal - Homepage.* 9 Nov 2016. Web. 28 Jun 2017. <http://mpc-journal.org/blog/2016/11/09/end-of-nations-is-there-an-alternative-to-countries/>.

[24] "Trump travel ban injunction partly lifted by top US court - BBC News." *BBC - Homepage.* 26 Jun 2017. Web. 29 Jun 2017. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-40409490>.

communities[25]. Therefore, the loss of such a skilled workforce and buying power can be fatal for the finances of the nation.

Accordingly, it is financially more beneficial to legalize and socially accept immigrants, rather than having large numbers of illegal immigrants in the country. Illegal immigrants can neither pay taxes nor offer their services to the community; they are consumers but not employees, meaning that the money are not circulated into the economy, thus harming it.

Essentially, the situation ends with a bi-directional loss, with the immigrants having to live in a hostile and violent environment that disrespects their culture and the natives having to sustain a trembling economy and society in general.

## COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED IN THE ISSUE

### Italy

In metropolitan Italy, citizens strongly oppose immigration. With 50,000 migrants arriving in the country in 2015 alone, the levels of economical anxiety and xenophobia are rising.

What is more, because of right-wing populist parties and neo fascist groups such as CasaPound, Forza Nuova and Northern League, the situation is deteriorating and anti-immigration protests are now becoming violent.

The social media, overflowing with anti-immigration posts (e.g. immigration related photos/text with the aim of acting as entertainment) and exaggerated report stories about immigrants abusing their privileges, robbing, harassing, and even threatening honest Italians, also prove that the phenomenon of anti-immigration in Italy is out of control.[26]

Now Italy warns that the influx of migrants into the country is unsustainable and, therefore, wants to stop vessels from other countries from bringing migrants to its ports.[27]

### Hungary

Due to its geographical location, Hungary is one of the main transit countries of irregular migration on land towards other E.U. Member States. Indeed, eastern and south-eastern migration routes cross the territory of the country, with the so-called Western Balkan route[28], whose main destination is Germany.

The country has set as a goal to attract knowledge-based European migration; given that the majority of the Hungarian firms have significant difficulties filling jobs, the Hungarian Migration Strategy (adopted in 2013), has underlined the fact that although protecting the national labour market is essential, receiving additional migrant labour is a necessity.

Nonetheless, Hungary is also one of the most xenophobic countries in Europe. In fact, when Europe faced the first wave of the huge influx of migrants, Hungary was the first country to try to block their route with a razor-wire fence. Furthermore, the majority of Hungarians have a negative outlook, with 81% of the population being convinced that immigrants do not contribute to Hungary and 67% believing that Hungry should not help refugees, according to

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[25] "Immigrants and the Economy | American Civil Liberties Union." *American Civil Liberties Union.* Web. 29 Jun 2017. <http://www.aclu.org/other/immigrants-and-economy>.

[26] Massimo, Carlo . "Unwelcome: Why is cosmopolitan Italy so anti-immigrant? by Carlo Massimo | The Wilson Quarterly." *The Wilson Quarterly.* 22 Sep 2015. Web. 30 Jun 2017. <http://wilsonquarterly.com/stories/unwelcome-why-is-cosmopolitan-italy-so-anti-immigrant/>.

[27] "Europe migrant crisis: Italy threatens to close ports as ministers meet - BBC News." *BBC - Homepage.* 2 Jul 2017. Web. 2 Jul 2017. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-40470102>.

[28] "Migration Issues in Hungary | International Organization for Migration | Budapest." *International Organization for Migration | Budapest.* Web. 18 Jul 2017. <http://iom.hu/migration-issues-hungary>.

a survey conducted in 2016. The of Prime Minister Viktor Orban expressed opposition to migration, too, declaring that the migrants are a threat to European existence.

## United Kingdom

Immigrants in the United Kingdom have been continually identified as undeserving, a security menace and an existential threat to British values[29]. Indeed, not only in the past has Thatcher, a former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and the Leader of the British Conservative Party from 1975 to 1990, shut off immigration aiming at national renewal, and the "New Labour", the British leftist political party, as part of its agenda had encouraged offensive stance against failed multiculturalism and attacked non-EU immigration[30]24, but also nowadays policies of reduced immigration are central to the declarations of different political parties and are discussed by the conservatives.

Despite the fact that approximately 1,800,000 EU migrants currently live and work across all four nations of the United Kingdom, anti-immigration feelings are particularly high. According to Iain Macwhirter, a British social and political commentator, "there are cultural nationalists in England who fear that their country is being taken over by a different culture"[31].

Having said that, immigration and its supposed negative consequences, was one of the central arguments of leave campaigners in the run-up to the referendum on whether Britain should remain in the E.U. Despite the current rejection of immigration, however, the U.K. will have adopt an immigration system that welcomes skilled workers, as they are needed in particular sectors (e.g. health, technology, manufacturing), to exchange knowledge and to feed the demands of the British labour market.[32]

## Germany

 German right-wing populist party "Alternative for Germany" (AfD) is the main anti-immigrant party.  Founded in 2013, AfD was an eurosceptic party with a nationalist ideology, opposing any form of cooperation and expression of altruistic help towards other countries and being against the bailouts of indebted European Union member states. Today, it has turned its focus to immigration and Islam; the Party not only wants to seal the E.U.'s borders, institute identity checks along the country's borders and encourage financially foreigners to return to their home countries, but it also underlines the supremacy of the German language and traditions against the ones of the immigrants. Noteworthy is the fact that "Alternative for Germany" has stated that their country is not in favour of immigration, because immigration is fundamentally flawed, and it proposes unfavourable measures against immigrants, such as a change to the country's unemployment benefits law, so that

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[29] "Why is there so much hostility to immigrants in the UK? | Richard Seymour | Opinion | The Guardian." *News, sport and opinion from the Guardian's US edition | The Guardian.* 14 Oct 2014. Web. 3 Jul 2017. <http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/oct/14/why-hostility-immigrants-uk-racism>.
30

[31] Soussi, Alasdair . "Rising tide of UK anti-immigrant sentiment - Al Jazeera English." *Al Jazeera: Live News | Bold Perspectives | Exclusive Films.* 17 Nov 2014. Web. 3 Jul 2017. <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2014/11/rising-tide-uk-anti-immigrant-sentiment-20141117112820336156.html>.

[32] Stewart , Heather . "Brexit unlikely to cause significant fall in immigration, says report | Politics | The Guardian." *News, sport and opinion from the Guardian's US edition | The Guardian.* 13 Apr 2016. Web. 18 Jul 2017. <http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/apr/13/brexit-unlikely-fall-immigration-report>.

European Union unemployed migrants would be unable to access the benefits employed citizens enjoy[33] and ban on minarets and the burqa.

Despite the many xenophobic and misanthropic statements it has made, the Party has the increasing support of the German people, with which it gain MPs in nine of Germany's 16 state parliaments.

### France

In the wake of terrorist attacks, a backlash against immigrants, especially those who are Muslim, can be seen in France and it is being fuelled by the right-wing populist and nationalist party "National Front". The Party encourages the anti-immigrant sentiment in France and wants to impose a special tax on job contracts for foreigners, minimise the eminence of EU law and end the border-free Schengen area.

Given that Europe's Schengen Area, created by the Schengen Agreement, is an area comprising of 26 European states that have officially abolished all other types of border control at their mutual borders, thus allowing the free movement of their residents, it is true that the signatories gave up a basic element of national sovereignty, trusting the other Member States. Therefore, opposition towards the Agreement means lack of trust, fear of the different and desire for separation from a multicultural society.

This translates into the emergence of the phenomena of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, violent hate crimes against migrants, outbreaks of racial tension and anti-immigrant demonstrations, all of which are continuously taking place in France.

### United States of America

In the United States of America, the anti-immigrant sentiment has sharply risen since the President Donald Trump claimed that "Mexican immigrants could bring crime and rape across the southern U.S. border". Mr Trump has explicitly linked Muslim immigrants and Syrian refugees to terrorist attacks around the globe, racializing crime and terrorism, thus promoting racial bigotry.[34].

Having said that, in January 2017, President Trump signed an executive order that supports the ban of almost all permanent immigration from 7 majority-Muslim countries, including Syria and Iraq. He appears to want to "reinstate a new type of Asiatic Barred Zone".

Although the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 banned all discrimination against immigrants on the basis of national origin-thus making the order illegal-, Mr. Trump asserts that he still has the power to discriminate, given the 1952 law that allows the president the ability to 'suspend the entry' of 'any class of aliens' that he finds are detrimental to the interest of the United States.[35] Noteworthy is that the U.S. Supreme Court actually revived

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[33] Hartogs, Jessica . "Germany proposes drastic change to benefits law for migrants." *Stock Markets, Business News, Financials, Earnings - CNBC.* 29 Apr 2016. Web. 18 Jul 2017. <http://www.cnbc.com/2016/04/29/germany-proposes-drastic-change-to-benefits-law-for-migrants.html>.

[34] Esther Yu Hsi Lee, . "Poll: Americans' Anti-Immigrant Attitudes Are Fueled By Racism." *ThinkProgress.* 7 Jul 2016. Web. 29 Jun 2017. <http://thinkprogress.org/poll-americans-anti-immigrant-attitudes-are-fueled-by-racism-30968b83a908>.

[35] BIER, DAVID J.. "Trump€™s Immigration Ban Is Illegal - The New York Times." *The New York Times - Breaking News, World News & Multimedia.* 27 Jan 2017. Web. 3 Jul 2017. <http://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/27/opinion/trumps-immigration-ban-is-illegal.html>.

parts of a travel ban and the President said the court's action was a clear victory for the country's national security[36].

## European Union

The migrants have always constituted part of Europe's history and are well recognized as integral part of the European Union's cultural and socio-economic structures. Indeed, the European Union's refugee and migrant admission policy has been highly selective, accepting migrants who can contribute to the national interests of the hosting states; people who are able to secure economic profits for the European bloc and erudite people who are beneficial to the European countries.

However, since the beginning of the Syrian war and the escalation of the violence in Afghanistan, Libya and Iraq, the abuses in Eritrea and the exasperating situation in Yemen, an international refugee crisis has began, demanding from the European Union the address of huge migratory pressures. The majority of the arrivals to the European Union are coming via the Mediterranean Sea, chiefly from West Africa, overwhelming the Union's external borders and countries such as Greece and Italy. Yet, given, that the goal of the migrants is the transportation to West or North European states, in order to resettle, live and work there and reunite with their families, internal borders are also under pressure. What is more, the refugees arriving are grouped with offenders, are without any legal documents or money and can hardly provide for themselves and their families, much less contribute to the destination country.

Therefore, the E.U. has to both prevent the inhumane treatment and discrimination of refugees arising from the anti-immigration sentiment- particularly when confrontation between Islamic and European identities is growing in many E.U. countries - and adopt an effective asylum policy. To that end, the European Agenda on Migration is focusing on reducing the incentives for irregular migration (e.g. addressing the main causes behind irregular migration in non-E.U. countries, dismantling smuggling and trafficking networks), saving lives and securing the external borders (better management of E.U.'s external border, solidarity towards the Member States that are located at the external borders, improving the efficiency of border crossings) and developing a new policy on legal migration with the aim of attracting the workers that the E.U. economy needs (especially through facilitating entry and the recognition of qualifications)[37]. Moreover, the E.U. has reviewed its Common European Asylum System (CEAS) and improved its legislative framework. The most noteworthy revisions of the CEAS are the ones of the Reception Conditions Directive, which will ensure that there are humane material reception conditions for asylum seekers across the E.U. Member States and that their fundamental rights are fully respected, and of the Dublin Regulation, that will enhance the protection of asylum seekers and refugees during the process of establishing the State responsible for examining of their asylum application and will clarify the rules governing the relations between states concerning the hosting of migrants[38].

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[36] Chung , Andrew and Lawrence Hurley . "Supreme Court breathes new life into Trump's travel ban | Reuters." *Business & Financial News, U.S & International Breaking News | Reuters.* 27 Jun 2017. Web. 3 Jul 2017. <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-court-immigration-idUSKBN19H1OR>.

[37] "European Agenda on Migration." European Commission | Choose your language | Choisir une langue | Wählen Sie eine Sprache. Web. 20 Jul 2017. <http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration_en>.

[38] "European Commission - PRESS RELEASES - Press release - A Common European Asylum System." EUROPA - European Union website, the official EU website. 12 Jun 2013. Web. 20 Jul 2017. <http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-13-532_en.htm>

The E.U. can no longer be selective with migrants asking for access to its Member States, but oughts to welcome all those seeking a safe haven and try to take advantage of their knowledge and skills.

# TIMELINE OF EVENTS

| Date | Description of Event |
|------|---------------------|
| 1882 | The Chinese Exclusion Act was the first major law restricting immigration to the United States. The Chinese Exclusion Act, signed into law on May 6, 1882, by President Chester A. Arthur, "effectively halted Chinese immigration for ten years and prohibited Chinese from becoming US citizens. Through the Geary Act of 1892, the law was extended for another ten years before becoming permanent in 1902."[39] |
| 1924 | The Immigration Act of 1924 "limited the number of immigrants allowed entry into the United States through a national origins quota. The quota provided immigration visas to two percent of the total number of people of each nationality in the United States as of the 1890 national census. It completely excluded immigrants from Asia".[40] |
| 1951 | The International Organization for Migration (IOM) was established. It is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and works to "ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need".[41] |
| 1965 | The Immigration and Nationality Act banned all discrimination against immigrants on the basis of national origin and officially committed the United States, for the first time, to accepting immigrants of all nationalities on a roughly equal basis.[42] |
| 1985 | Schengen Agreement; citizens of European Member States have the right to live and work within the EU. |
| 1900s | Massive movement of immigrants in Western-European states came from Eastern-block states. |
| July 28th, 1951 | The 1951 Refugee Convention, a United Nations multilateral treaty that sets out the rights of individuals who are granted asylum and the responsibilities of nations that grant asylum, was signed in Geneva. |
| December, 1996 | On December 13th, the United Nation's General Assembly adopted the resolution 51/148 on the Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration. |
| April, 2011 | The Syrian refugee crisis began, and up to 5.000 Syrians fled to Lebanon. |

[39] "Open Collections Program: Immigration to the US, Chinese Exclusion Act (1882)." *Harvard University Library: Open Collections Program: Home.* Web. 28 Jun 2017. <http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/immigration/exclusion.html>.

[40] "Milestones: 1921â€"1936 - Office of the Historian." *Office of the Historian.* Web. 28 Jun 2017. <http://history.state.gov/milestones/1921-1936/immigration-act>.

[41] "About IOM | International Organization for Migration." *International Organization for Migration.* Web. 3 Jul 2017. <http://www.iom.int/about-iom>.

[42] GJELTEN , TOM . "The Immigration Act of 1965, 50 Years Later - The Atlantic." *The Atlantic.* 2 Oct 2015. Web. 28 Jun 2017. <http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/10/immigration-act-1965/408409/>.

| October 3rd, 2013 | On October 3rd, the United Nation's General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. |
|---|---|
| December 18th, 2014 | On December 18th, the United Nation's General Assembly adopted the resolution 69/167 on the Protection of migrants |
| February, 2016 | The number of migrants and refugees arriving in Europe in the last two months exceeded 100.000. |
| August, 2016 | The majority of Germans refused the "open door" migrant policy led by their Chancellor Angela Merkel, according to an online poll in Germany. |
| September 19th, 2016 | On September 19th, the United Nation's General Assembly adopted the 71/1 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. |
| December 29th, 2016 | On December 29th, the United Nation's General Assembly adopted the resolution 71/237 on International migration and development. |
| January, 2017 | The US President Mr Trump signed an executive order to prevent the entrance of refugees into the country for 120 days and immigrants from seven predominantly Muslim nations - Iran, Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Libya, Yemen and Somalia- for three months. |
| June 2017 | U.S. Supreme Court allowed parts of a travel ban to go into effect, "banning foreign nationals who lack any 'bona fide relationship with any person or entity in the United States' and leaving the travel ban against citizens of six majority-Muslim on hold".[43] |

## POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

International migration is a global phenomenon that we can not evade. To attempt to is ineffective, and leads to increased illegal immigration, which is harmful for both the immigrants unable to access state-provided social services such as education and healthcare, but the state is also harmed by the lack of taxes and information on its citizens. We can, however, embrace it and reap its rewards to make a welcome multicultural haven in host countries. In order for that to happen, it is deemed essential that we combat the origins of the anti-immigrant sentiment and promote ethnic, cultural and religious tolerance. Having said that, it is recommended that delegates include solutions that aim at refuting the arguments opposing immigration and ensure the respectful and humane treatment of all migrants.

### Education

Proper education and intercultural awareness are a prerequisite if the arguments against immigration are to be belied. Given that they have already been proved to be false notions thanks to various research, governments only have to explain away the fears and concerns of the civilians. The concepts of xenophobia, discrimination and racial prejudice need to be eradicated and replaced by open-mindedness, intercultural dialogue and respect. To that end, the organization of special awareness campaigns with the cooperation of United Nations bodies and agencies, such as the International Organization for Migration and the

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[43] De Vogue, Ariane . "Supreme Court allows parts of travel ban to take effect - CNNPolitics.com." *CNN - Breaking News, U.S., World, Weather, Entertainment & Video News.* 27 Jun 2017. Web. 3 Jul 2017.< http://edition.cnn.com/2017/06/26/politics/travel-ban-supreme-court/index.html.>.

United Nations University, and other relevant Non-governmental Organizations (e.g. the NGO Committee on Migration, Social Platform) is crucial. The campaigns could include lectures, academic educational programs, public conferences, and other interactive activities.

Similarly, intercultural empathy and mutual understanding, fostered through unbiased transcultural communication, can be used to combat the phenomenon of territoriality and the endowment effect (the root causes of the issue). The right-wing populist extremism against immigration is to be combated via intercultural awareness initiatives, as well.

### Immigration policies

Furthermore, in order to have desired effects as regards the elimination of the anti-immigrant sentiment it is also necessary to adopt immigration policies that reflect the ideal of multiculturalism. Accordingly, governments ought to impose assimilative citizenship laws, laws that protect immigrants from hate crimes, develop migrant integration programs and enhance immigration assistance and settlement support services. The regulation of the influx of migrants must also take place, so that their management is facilitated and illegal migrants are detected.

### Previous declarations and resolutions

Delegates should delve deeper into the United Nations' previous attempts to solve the issue, so that they can evaluate their role, and reinforce or further develop them accordingly. Characteristically, it is strongly advised that the 68/4 declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, the 71/1 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, the Refugee Convention, the 71/237 resolution on International migration and development, the 69/167 resolution on the Protection of migrants and the 51/148 resolution on the Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration are studied. The Sustainable Development Goals should also be taken into consideration.

In conclusion, the anti-immigrant sentiment is not a tangible issue that we can take direct measures against. Despite the fact that it is fuelled by political parties, it remains an opinion of the people. Therefore, delegations are to approach it carefully and with critical thinking, finding long-term solutions that will prevent further social division and polarization. It is pertinent to remember that the goal is the creation of a transcultural world free from discrimination and not the eradication of the phenomenon of migration.

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