

PuszMUN 2018

Economic and Social Committee: How can a host society promote opportunities and improve mechanisms for refugees' integration?

Dear delegates,

last year more than 1 million people crossed the Mediterranean Sea to flee to Europe, leaving their homes, family, friends and last of all the situations that have and are taking place in Syria, Libya and so many other countries in search of international protection. While this is only a fraction of the number of those who remained, and were displaced within Italy, Germany and many other countries in the EU, it still represents an astonishing rise of refugees on European soil, more that has not been witnessed since the II World War.

Europe as a continent with rich land and soil, a booming infrastructure and future would be a perfect place to integrate all the refugees coming from countries with civil war, drought and many other problems. Therefore, it needs to contribute and welcome in refugees to give them also the possibility to start a new career and a new life as workers, consumers and citizens of Europe.

Someone once said that a great country is that which doesn't cut itself off from the rest of the world, but rather takes in outsiders and transforms strangers into its people. Asylum seekers need to be provided with integration services as soon as possible. It is the host country's responsibility to promote equal access to basic necessities of life for all its people, including refugees. Learning the formal language of their new home, getting access to education and adequate jobs are the absolute basis. Of course besides those trivial things they should be given the right to take part in the social and political life of their new country. As we all know it is all easier said than done, but that doesn't mean that we should stop striving after the ideal.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the days we're here in Gorzów for its annual Model UN conference, let us take the time to build on civil society to integrate humanitarian migrants and think not only about Europe's economic benefits but instead about its poor social atmosphere. Acknowledge that integration is sometimes a generations-long process, but it's in our hands to make it as fast, honest and comfortable as possible. We need to accept that we are all the same people, black or white, young or old, christian or muslim. We all need the possibility to shine and grow, learn from our mistakes and give everyone the life that they deserve.

Best regards,

Christopher Paul Heep, the chairperson of Economic and Social Committee