

Strengthening the global regime for migrants and refugees: the need for evidence-based policy solutions

Dear colleagues

First of all, I will express my appreciation to IPU for focusing on one of the largest challenges in the world: migrants and refugees. At the moment, more people are fleeing than after World War 2.

No human being is unaffected by the misery people endure on their flight for a better life or to escape death and destruction. It is a disgrace that people drown in the Mediterranean because they are left in boats, which are not capable of transporting so many.

We appeal to the international community and the involved countries to act.

People should have the opportunity to grow up, to develop and to develop the society they are part of. War, terror, corruption, bad economy and climate change are the vital reasons for leaving.

We, members of the international community, must make an effort so that people can stay where they belong and where they understand the language and the culture. We must create hope for the future for people left without hope.

The chairman of my political party in Denmark has advocated for a so-called “Marshall Plan” for Africa. The precondition is that the international organisations as the UN and the EU play a larger role and take concrete initiatives. Initiatives that can support people’s possibility to stay as part of the societies they belong to.

Ideally, people should only leave their country of origin if they can obtain status as refugees under a quota system, managed by the UN.

Too many people are plunged into hopelessness, debts, assaults and death when they try to depart. Cynical human traffickers make money on other’s despair. That should be stopped.

People who have the possibility to help will understand that. But if people experience immigration where human and cultural values challenge each other, they will not understand.

You are not a bad person if you do not want to see your country being fundamentally changed. And you are not naïve if you want to help others to a better life. These two dimensions should be united in respect for others.

Never has the need for responsible behavior by the world's leaders been bigger. As parliamentarians, we ought to contribute to the support for development, humanism and respect.

It is not an easy task. That is why it is entrusted to leaders who base their values on freedom for the individual – created by and in community.

Let us encourage solutions where people are freed from hopelessness, violence and suppression! Let us inspire people with fresh hope as the fundament for the individual and for the countries!

Thank you.