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Refugees and human rights

Nowadays, one of the things that we appreciate the most is human rights, which teach us how to value all the people in the world, including ourselves. Because of that, I feel proud of Europe because they welcome and receive refugees in these times of big crisis and wars all over the world. Although, the majority of young people nowadays isn't conscious about human rights, and this ignorance makes xenophobia and racism exist. The objective of this project is to destroy every prejudice that society has put in our minds.

Thus, in order to inform myself about human rights, I have browsed the Web looking for items related to human rights and refugees. These are some interesting items that I found and I am going to give my opinion on them:

"Article 1

- 1. All peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development."*

In my opinion, many refugees they are been refused because of their current social condition, their personality or virtues. Some countries of Europe have refused them and I do not feel proud of this, because everybody deserves a home, no matter their conditions or customs. But, Europe also has good things, as the ONG OXFAM that between other things has created campaigns for assist and help the refugees. In fact, a member of my family, my sister Patri, has worked in a store supported by OXFAM, and all the money they gained in there was destined to projects to help the refugees from other countries and from this country, as we are one of the countries that has welcomed a great number of refugees, and keeps accepting them.

"Article 6

- 1. Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life."*

From my viewpoint, this article is not being respected in some countries. Many refugees are been injured and do not receive the help they need and some of them die because of this. I only see fair death if it's in self-defence and extreme cases. It is not fair at all to be killed because of their current social condition and culture differences with other people's. This is a big mistake that Europe has and we should correct it. The good thing is that there are many countries that do not do it and that should be all of them, and associations and doctors to help

preventing this from happening in other countries. No one fleeing the war to save his life should die in unfair situations or for random motives.

“Article 7

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In particular, no one shall be subjected without his free consent to medical or scientific experimentation.”

Many of the things that this article says are happening right now with the refugees. Many children have been slaves of the war, but thanks to many refugee aid projects we have been able to save them or at least a large part of them. I think many European countries are doing a very good job and that, little by little, this will be greatly reduced. It is demeaning that this is still happening and that there are people who do nothing to change it, but in spite of this, there are many people helping to prevent this from happening and that's what we really account. On the other hand, in other countries as the United States of America, this right may be sometimes not fulfilled, as there have been cases of torture and abuse in prisons, which should not be tolerated in the XXI century.

Article 8

“1. No one shall be held in slavery; slavery and the slave-trade in all their forms shall be prohibited.

2. No one shall be held in servitude.

3.

(a) No one shall be required to perform forced or compulsory labour;”

I think this is one of the most important items related to this topic. It is something that should not happen to anybody, but there are still refugees who are going through it. Currently, we live in a society in which the stamens control the world and jobs, and this creates a society that is divided by creating prejudices and social differences. Because of this, many people believe that they have the control over others, which means slavery. No one should have, and in fact they don't, the power to be superior to another person in such an inhumane way, and we cannot allow this to continue. Both refugees who have been there and many others who are going to be should not suffer for it under any circumstance.

“Article 9

1. Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention. No one shall be deprived of his liberty

except on such grounds and in accordance with such procedure as are established by law.

2. Anyone who is arrested shall be informed, at the time of arrest, of the reasons for his arrest and shall be promptly informed of any charges against him."

There are many people who are arrested every day without any apparent reason and without proof of any crime. It is something really shameful that this happens nowadays, what also happens in less developed countries. The jails of those countries are inhuman and no innocent person should go through there. The good thing is that in most European countries these things do not happen and less in Spain. Many refugees are illegally sentenced to jail because of the hatred and racism that some countries have. Europe is an example that every country must follow in this aspect, as is a country that help the refugees and do not arrest any of them without reason. So, the other continents and countries should do the same. These are innocent people and those who arrive fleeing from the war do not deserve this.

"Article 12

1. Everyone lawfully within the territory of a State shall, within that territory, have the right to liberty of movement and freedom to choose his residence.

2. Everyone shall be free to leave any country, including his own."

This is also very important, as each refugee will feel much more comfortable with their own residence and have the same rights as being in it even if they were not born in that country. In this Erasmus we are going to do something similar to what is spoken in this article. It will be for less time but we will be in another country, in a residence and being free, and this is how we are going to learn more about that country, its people and its culture. In almost all European countries, if not all, this right is fulfilled and it is something quite good and I am proud that it is that way and be able to do it without any problem.

"Article 26

All persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law. In this respect, the law shall prohibit any discrimination and guarantee to all persons equal and effective protection against discrimination on any ground such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status."

This is a pretty good right, which is really important to every people in the world, not only the refugees that come to another country looking for settlement. Unfortunately, this usually happens in the countries where most of the refugees are, being these not equal before the law as the residents of that country are.

When refugees arrive in Europe and see that they can have their way of thinking, their own religion and sexuality freely is all a way of escape for them and more when they come from such closed-minded countries as theirs, this is another very good point for Europe, and for its reception to the refugees. In the end, this is a situation that should be given everywhere: nobody hurting anyone because he likes a person of the same sex or have political or religious ideas different from those of other people, and be able to do that without being judged, neither punished with death. This is called freedom, something that unfortunately not everyone has. That is why, when refugees come, we open their minds and society will fortunately change little by little as time goes by.

"Article 27

In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities exist, persons belonging to such minorities shall not be denied the right, in community with the other members of their group, to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practise their own religion, or to use their own language."

This is very similar to the previous one, the basis is freedom, freedom that never harms other people, and in these cases they do no harm to anyone, many refugees are judged for doing this kind of thing or they can not belong directly to this type of group or minorities is totally unacceptable. a group with as much importance and repercussion as it is the associations that help the refugees leaving them, establishing their cultures and minority groups or send a great message for those countries that do not think so and have the same people transmit them.

Finally, I must say that human rights are the most important thing that people have nowadays, where we can see what we deserve and what society should let us be. But we still have a lot of struggles to get human rights fulfilled all over the world. Little by little things are changing, as society is and as much people we meet, we open our mind more and we realize the things and the point of view of many different people. That way, we get to know other cultures when we travel and we learn from them. Europe, every day, is more advanced and it is a pleasure to be able to live in this continent and be able to invite more and more people to know our culture and to see how well we are evolving.

This is the reason why I want become a Erasmus student next June, in order to get to know a culture that is different from mine, to meet many different people from different places and to share experiences with them, and to live new experiences. It is important to know that there other cultures different to our, and to learn from them, tolerating them and getting to live surrounded by them, respecting human rights and what they mean.

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