



Official Statement and Position of the LAZARUS UNION Regarding the Global Refugee Situation

The term “refugee” is generally used in this statement for all kinds of immigrants regardless of war refugee, economic refugee or illegal immigrant (for whatsoever reasons as illegal is and REMAINS illegal). We will maintain this position according to our mission statement also in the bodies and committees of the United Nations ECOSOC (where the LAZARUS UNION as NGO with special consultative status has the right to file proposals and to deliver speeches).

Mission Statement

In the past days, weeks, and months we have been asked several times what is the position of the LAZARUS UNION regarding the current refugee situation which currently inundates Europe. The LAZARUS UNION mission statement is still valid and there are no plans to modify it. Yet we consider it appropriate to sharpen and render more precisely our mission statement and to enhance it with some “rough edges.”

The CSLI is an independent private relief organisation after the ideals and in the spirit of St. Lazarus. Its members are united by the mission to delight other people, provide disaster relief, care for handicapped fellow persons, and support the homeless. We act pro bono, come from all groups of age, professions, and society.

(From the LAZARUS UNION-CSLI statutes (§ 19))

Refugees are not mentioned explicitly in our mission statement. We without any reservation confess to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) from 1948 and the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (aka Geneva Convention). But as the great number of refugees is an enormous strain not



only for the refugees themselves but also for ALL affected countries and their population some things need an INTERNATIONAL solution.

We pay respect to all people. We accept them as they are, regardless of their nationality, ethnicity, religion, age, social standing, and background.

It is absolutely unacceptable that this respect is a one-way road. Just as we show respect to other people we have to demand the same respect also towards us, the public authorities, the executive, and all national facilities. It simply is absolutely unacceptable that people seeking protection with us at the same time disregard our values and refuse to accept them fully or even accept them at all because those values are different from theirs, having developed differently over centuries in a different culture area.

We place out emphasis on the quality of the relations. We provide room for the development of self-esteem and livelihood responsibility.

To guarantee this principle in the future also (considering the more and more “overturning” public mood against the refugees which has to be urgently counter-steered to avoid not providing legitimate asylum chances to war refugees in accordance with the Human Rights Carta), we think the following steps have to be taken:

- 1. Spots must be installed urgently (at EU embassies, EU borders, perhaps even with the Red Cross or the Red Crescent etc.) where refugees can officially apply for asylum and where this application will be decided upon QUICKLY, perhaps even at the application location. This would be fair on the refugees but also fair on the population of those countries which finally will provide asylum to these people, besides it ruins the “business model” of the people smugglers*
- 2. It HAS to be made unmistakably clear to all asylum seekers what are valid preconditions for asylum to be granted and that a special country for final asylum can only be asked for under VERY special circumstances. Asylum seekers have ALWAYS to tell the truth. Untruths will be considered as abuse*



of the hospitality of the receiving country. If such untruths turn out during the procedure for granting the right of asylum (or later) this must lead to an immediate stop of the procedure and eviction with prohibition to come back for several years, if such is in accordance with the rules of law, as any cheating prevents a positive asylum procedure. (Here special attention and sternness must be paid to forged documents like forged passports etc.) This has also to apply to ILLEGAL immigration if a LEGAL application procedure would have been possible!

- 3. Persons not qualifying for refugee status have to be turned back immediately, if necessary with financial aid from the EU. Refugees arriving without documents (those are often thrown away to avoid identification) must wait in a transit area until their identity can be verified. If this is not possible within some reasonable period of time and they do not cooperate they must also be sent back to guarantee the security of the receiving countries. Someone who has something to hide cannot ask for right to hospitality! Humanitarian rights of abode must be considered nevertheless.*
- 4. The laws and the culture respectively the lifestyle of the host country must be accepted and followed by ALL asylum seekers during their stay without restrictions, independently of which laws and religions they had to follow in their former home countries. If they break any laws in their host country this consequently has to lead to an immediate stop of the procedure and eviction with prohibition to come back. These regulations HAVE to be made clear to all asylum seekers as soon as possible (even back in their home countries).*
- 5. Local assistance in the home countries of the asylum seekers and in existing camps need to be dramatically improved by the "rich" countries. Even if this does cost money. Nobody takes refuge voluntarily and leaves his homeland if the situation has not become unbearable (by all means even subjectively from the refugees' point of view) and one's life is in danger.*

We face the challenge of ever-changing tasks. We are bound by team spirit. There are continually manifold chances for spiritual and personal development.



If these five items mentioned above will be implemented CONSEQUENTLY we believe that the community of states can handle this great challenge of our time (single countries are DEFINITELY hopelessly overextended and risk their inner stability and the cooperativeness of their population).

Asylum for all who qualify without any “ifs and buts.” A clear NO with all rigidity to asylum misuse. (whereupon asylum misuse is difficult to define – in principle every person has the right to apply and take legal action in succession. If the application is turned back, procedure has to be taken in accordance with the principle of a lawful state, so technically there is no asylum misuse. If someone fades into the crowd or hides they technically have not been granted asylum (which is misused) but stay in the country illegally which again technically is no asylum misuse.)

EVERYBODY, even governments and their representatives as well as ALL asylum seekers have to obey valid laws in effect. There can be NO exception!

Our friends and supporters we give transparency and security in return for their support. The resources donated we use appropriately, competently, economically, and responsibly.

The LAZARUS UNION collects neither member fees nor entrance fees and so has only very limited means. Our largest “value” is our attitude every LAZARUS UNION member lives in THEIR personal field. We primarily are a COMMUNITY IN ATTITUDE represented all over the world and so can contribute much to convince also other humans of this attitude. Nobody is free of bias and doubt. We must fight those REALISTICALLY (also in ourselves) and only so can live up to our mission statement.

Oriented at our moral values we accept every person in their own uniqueness. Our doing and thinking is guided by our love of people, trust, carefulness, joy, self-responsibility, courage, and a willingness to conciliation.

If we succeed in planting those moral values also into the hearts of the refugees we can contribute a lot for all. We are FULLY aware that this will be very difficult (for us as well as for the refugees). Yet we will



try! He who has nothing to hide does use the door and not the window. To welcome anybody it is necessary to know who he is, where he comes from and how to address him! Only then any sustainable assistance is possible.

The main principles of the CSLI are tolerance, humbleness, mercy, and brotherly love.

Let us beware of ANY way of extremism. This is dangerous and NEVER can lead to success! Yet the refugees are also called upon not to misuse our trust and to prove themselves worthy of our hospitality.

Everybody can do something.

Let us TOGETHER provide new perspectives.

For the LAZARUS UNION

Senator h.c. Wolfgang Steinhardt

President and Union Commander

Grand Master of the Knighthood of Honour

Vienna, October 2015