Debunking Myths to End Xenophobia

**MYTHS VS. FACTS**

**WHAT IS XENOPHOBIA?**

- Xenophobia is the fear of the stranger.
- Refugees are persons fleeing persecution and persecution.
- Migrants are persons who move for different reasons, for instance to improve their lives at work, for family reasons, or for education.

Myth: “Refugees and migrants are hurting my country’s economy.”

In most OECD countries, migrants provide more in taxes and social contributions than they receive in individual benefits.

Between 1995 and 2018, European immigrants made a positive contribution of more than 64 billion dollars to Britain, compared with an overall negative contribution of 26 billion for native Britons.

Typically, immigrants pay a net 500,000 euros in taxes during their lifetime than they collect in government services in the UK.

Myth: “Migrants are taking jobs away from citizens who need them.”

Migrants’ skills and abilities supplement the human capital of the labor market.

In the US, evidence shows that skilled immigrants contribute to economic growth and innovation, as well as technological progress, which leads to more jobs.  

Myth: “Keeping migrants away will ensure safety in my country”

Did you know that non-citizens account for only 5% of the US prison population?*

More interesting facts:

- Being the victim of a carjacking attack committed by a refugee in the US: 1 in 3,000
- Being the victim of a carjacking attack committed by a foreigner in the US: 1 in 3.7 million
- Being hit by a pedestrian or car in New York City: 1 in 1,400
- Being struck by lightning in your lifetime: 65 in 5,000

Myth: “With all these migrants coming in, my culture is going to disappear”

Great cities are extraordinarily multicultural.

Migrants represent over a third of the population in London, New York, and Sydney.

Migrants are more than half of the population in Brussels and Dubai.*

We are all part of a world.

Myth: “There are too many refugees in my country”

Countries with small 20% are welcoming a disproportionate number of refugees in comparison to their wealth.

Australia  
Canada  
U.S.A.  
Germany  
Ethiopia  
Pakistan  
Turkey  

Refugees should go back to where they come from*

Over half of the world’s refugees are children:

UNICEF says that Syria is one of the most dangerous places to be a child. Right now, children in Syria are at high risk of starvation, torture, arrest, sexual abuse, abduction, early marriage, recruitment by armed groups, and death.

In 2015 in Afghanistan, more than 3,000 children were killed or injured in violence. The conflict has disrupted access to health care and education.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT?**

- **Spread the word to break prejudicial myths. Share this with your friends and family.**
- **Exercise acts of solidarity in your community, school, and work. Be inclusive.**
- **Listen to the voices of migrants and refugees. Base your decision on facts. Be smart.**

*Subcommittee on Xenophobia and Social Inclusion, UN Committee on Migration

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