

Debunking Myths to End Xenophobia

MYTHS Vs. FACTS

WHAT IS XENOPHOBIA?

Xénos = Stranger
Phóbos = Fear



Xenophobia =
Fear of the Stranger

Refugees

are persons fleeing armed conflicts and persecution.

Migrants

are persons who move for different reasons, for instance to improve their lives at work, for family reunion, for education.

Myth: "Migrants are hurting my country's economy"



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

*OECD: The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.



Between 1995 and 2011, European immigrants made a positive contribution of more than £4 billion (\$6.4 billion) to Britain, compared with an overall negative contribution of £591 billion for native Britons.

The Economist



Typically, immigrants will pay a net \$80,000 more in taxes during their lifetimes than they collect in government services in the US.

US National Academy of Science

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 BOOSTING RESEARCH AND INNOVATION, AS WELL AS TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS, WHICH LEADS TO MORE JOBS.*

*OECD Report 2014

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

THESE ARE YOUR CHANCES OF...

Being the victim of a terrorist attack committed by a refugee in the US: 1 in 3.6 Billion
Being the victim of a terrorist attack committed by any foreigner in the US: 1 in 3.6 million
Being hit by an asteroid or comet: 1 in 75 thousand
Being struck by lightning in your lifetime in US: 1 in 13 thousand

*US Department of Justice 2014

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.

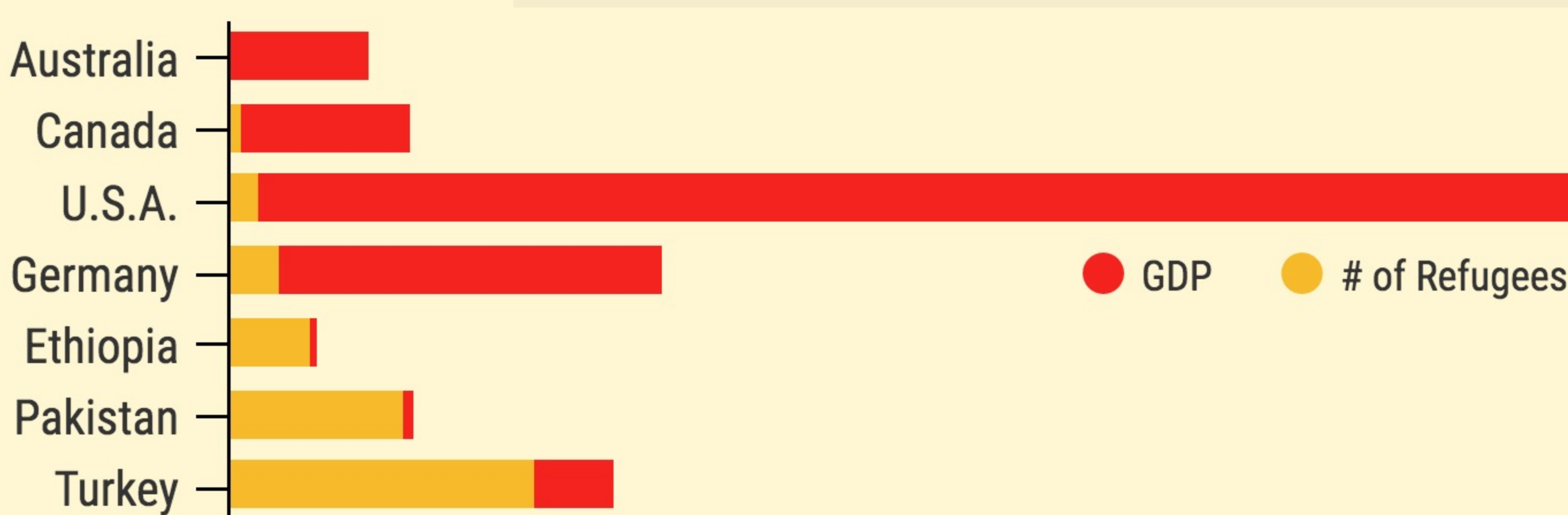
Migrants are more than half of the population in Brussels and Dubai.*

*IOM report 2015

We can all co-exist.

Myth: "There are too many refugees in my country"

COUNTRIES WITH SMALL GDPs ARE WELCOMING A DISPROPORTIONATE NUMBER OF REFUGEES IN COMPARISON TO VERY WEALTHY ECONOMIES.



#of Refugees: UNHCR 2016; GDP: IMF 2016



"Refugees should go back to where they come from"

Over half of the world's refugees are children

UNHCR, 2017



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 2016 in Afghanistan, more than 3,500 children were killed or injured in violence. The conflict has also disrupted access to health care and education.

UN, 2017

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.

NGO Committee on Migration



Subcommittee on Xenophobia and Social Inclusion:

