

Motion - Directive 2001/55/EC must be applied for every human being

(on the occasion of the International Human Rights Day on 10 December 2022)

Proposed by Rifondazione Comunista

Considering that on March 2, 2022 the Council of the European Union, on a proposal from the Commission, ascertained the existence of a massive influx of refugees from Ukraine.

Considering that as written in the Article 5 of Council Directive 2001/55/EC of July 20, 2001, which has as its effect the introduction of temporary protection, the Council considered that this should be applied to any Ukrainian citizen who applies for it.

Considering that until then these directives had never been applied, even though there were enormous humanitarian crises with arrivals of refugees and asylum seekers in Europe.

Considering that there are many areas of conflict that continue to cause the flight of people and especially vulnerable people.

We, the representatives of the parties attending the 7th Congress of the Party of the European Left (EL) in Vienna, Austria, on 9-11 December 2022, pledges to mobilize, in each of the member states and with each of its constituent parties, to ensure that Directive 2001/55/EC is applied fairly for every human being fleeing invasion, persecution, and dictatorship.

Indeed, the proper application of the directive is a valuable first tool to save lives by actually taking them away from traffickers, to ensure safe channels of access, and to commit all member states to offer welcome and refuge.

It cannot be the origin, the color of the skin, the culture of origin that determines whether or not one has access to the guarantees offered by the European Union.

There cannot be refugees to be welcomed and refugees to be rejected.

Motion - Free Julian Assange

(on the occasion of the International Human Rights Day on 10 December 2022)

Proposed by Die Linke

The European Left Party calls for the immediate release of journalist and Wikileaks founder Julian Assange and the prevention of his extradition to the United States.

If extradited to the US, Assange will face 18 charges under the 1917 Espionage Act and a potential sentence of 175 years in prison for “crimes” that include great pieces of journalism relevant to the whole society since they tell the truth about war, like the Iraq War Logs, the Afghan War Logs, Cablegate and the collateral murder video.

The Assange case is one of the most important press freedom cases of a generation. Its implications for civil liberties and fundamental rights are far-reaching and serious.

It is with hope that we observe voices and initiatives from all over the world calling for Julians release and have been condemning the treatment of him in jail. United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture, Nils Melzer, reported that Assange showed “*all the symptoms typical of victims of prolonged psychological torture*”. He continued: “*The case is a huge scandal and represents the failure of Western rule of law. If Julian Assange is convicted, it will be a death sentence for freedom of the press.*”

We welcome recent initiatives, like :

- The nomination of Julian Assange among the finalists for European Parliaments’ Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought.
- “*Publishing is not a crime*” by big media groups (The New York Times, The Guardian, Le Monde, Der Spiegel, El País) appealing to the administration of President Joe Biden to drop the charges.
- Latin American state leaders Petro and Lula showing their commitment and support for Julian Assange’s freedom.

The member, observer and partner parties of the European Left will continue raising the issue in their respective countries by:

- Organizing events, rallies, hosting film screenings (tbc) of “Ithaka”, a powerful documentary following the campaign to free Assange ahead of the extradition proceedings
- Trying to exert pressure on parliament members and governments.

#AssangeCase #FreeAssange #JulianAssange

Motion - Human Rights are non-negotiable!
The European Left Party stands in Solidarity with Refugees!
(on the occasion of the International Human Rights Day on 10 December 2022)

Proposed by Die Linke

On December 10th people around the world celebrate the international Human Rights Day. It serves as a reminder of the principles that should govern both our politics and everyday lives. In times of global turmoil and disturbance, the right of all people to choose their place of residence, equality and non-discrimination are more important than ever. The European Conventions on Human Rights set out these principles and proposed the guidelines for the European Court of Human Rights, which is tasked with enforcing the latter.

Currently, many people have to leave their habitat and flee to other countries in fear of persecution and their livelihoods. Since 2014, more than 25,000 people have drowned in the Mediterranean Sea. Each number represents a person, with a name, a family, and hopes for a better future in Europe. The European Border and Coast Guard Agency Frontex has been violating fundamental human rights for years. We condemn the agency's involvement in, and covering up of, illegal pushbacks and we take accusations of misconduct and irregularities serious.

European countries in particular have a responsibility to guarantee refugees a fresh start, whether they seek refuge for political, economic or other reasons. We stand up for human rights – and for all the people who have been victims of Frontex's human rights abuses.

One of the frightening examples currently in the spotlight is Qatar. Since Qatar won the hosting rights for the 2022 FIFA World Cup in 2010, it exemplifies the corruption of the FIFA-system. Many migrants live and work in Qatar, most of them come from South Asia, and human rights violations can be observed in their everyday lives – particularly during the preparations for the World Cup. There have been an enormously high number of deaths on the construction sites for the soccer World Cup in Qatar, the estimates are at least 6500. This event was supposed to be a celebration of the world coming together over sports. In reality, it has shown us the violation of the rights of migrant workers, as well as the discrimination against women and LGBTIQ* community within the hosting country.

For the European Left, human rights are non-negotiable - not on ships crossing the Mediterranean, not in the woods at the Belarusian-polish border and not on building-sites in Qatar. We stand in solidarity with all those whose fundamental human rights are under attack, be it by border regimes or exploitative and harming working conditions!