



BEYOND THE HEADLINES

Increasingly we see inflammatory headlines designed to grab attention, and complex issues reduced to fit a two minute slot on news programmes which are “info-tainment”. We all know that things are never that simple.

We have collected weblinks and articles together to try and encourage critical thinking, and learning more about the situation.

What is happening in Hungary?

News Reports

On 7th March the Hungarian parliament reinstated a law that requires all asylum seekers to be detained immediately upon entry and held in camps while their claims are considered. The move has been criticised by human rights organisations.

All news / media has a bias/ agenda attached to it. We have collected articles which for the most part are limited in their bias.

(Please also be aware we are responding to an evolving situation, and not all sources have reported at the time we compile our information)

The Guardian - <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/mar/07/-hungary-to-detain-all-asylum-seekers-in-container-camps>

The Independent - <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/hungary-parliament-asylum-seekers-detain-law-approve-refugees-immigration-crisis-arrests-border-a7615486.html>

BBC website - At the time of writing the BBC has not produced a report on this story. Below is a link to an article looking at the recruitment of border police in Hungary published last week. - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-38977319>

Analysis

What does the Church say?

The Church across the world responds to a wide range of situations and experiences. Below are links to several responses from church leaders. What is common to all is that we cannot ignore our responsibilities to welcome the stranger, and when thinking specifically about asylum seekers and refugees the Church recognises the responsibility of the state to protect those in need.

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/immigration/>
<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/2015/January-March/Teaching-on-Migration>
<http://cmsny.org/wp-content/uploads/Kerwin-Catholic-Church-and-Immigration-Gans.pdf>



UNHCR

The United Nation's High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) has also been monitoring this situation, and has responded to recent events.

UNHCR is deeply concerned at a new law which has been voted this morning at the Hungarian Parliament and which foresees the mandatory detention of all asylum seekers, including many children, for the entire length of the asylum procedure.

In practice, it means that every asylum-seeker, including children, will be detained in shipping containers surrounded by high razor wire fence at the border for extended periods of time. ... Alternatives to detention should always be considered first. Failure to do so could render detention arbitrary. Children should never be detained under any conditions as detention is never in a child's best interest.

Full statement available here <http://www.unhcr.org/news/briefing/2017/3/58be80454/unhcr-deeply-concerned-hungary-plans-detain-asylum-seekers.html>

This follows their report on the situation in Hungary from May 2016 – which includes some background - <http://users.ecs.soton.ac.uk/harnad/Hungary/2016UNCHR.pdf>

Amnesty International

The situation in Hungary has been one which Amnesty International have been researching over several years. Their reports '**Fenced Out**' (2015), and '**Stranded Hope**' (2016) both look at Hungary and the migration situation. They can be downloaded (PDF) for free here.

<https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/EUR2726142015ENGLISH.pdf>

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur27/4864/2016/en/>

Response - a chance to take action

Below are links to organisations working in Hungary, and places where you can find more information about the situation and ways to get involved.

<http://www.migszol.com/>

<http://migaid.org/>

<http://>

www.refugeelegalaidinformation.org/hungary-pro-bono-directory

Bigger Picture

Hungary is not the only place where vulnerable migrants are facing new challenges. Recently the Trump administration in the US has re-introduced legislation to ban travellers from certain Muslim-majority nations

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/donald-trump-travel-ban-muslim-executive-order-sign-iraq-refugees-immigration-restriction-a7613486.html>

<https://www.aclu.org/news/aclu-comment-trumps-new-muslim-ban>

In France, the Mayor of Calais is attempting to ban the distribution of food to migrants in the area where "the jungle" was located. Several organisations' including 'Secours Catholique' have vowed to ignore the ban and continue their work.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/mar/02/calais-mayor-bans-distribution-of-food-to-migrants>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/calais-refugees-food-ban-charities-to-continue-distribution-despite-mayor-a7610321.html>

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