

ANFÖRANDE MIGRATION läsversion

I want to begin by stating a simple fact: migration can be a positive force. It can be a chance to get a good education, to find a better job, to build a better life for yourself and your family. And it is, for many of us.

I welcome the fact that, for the first time, migration is being incorporated into mainstream global development policy. It is about time. Remittances are three times as big as the world's official development assistance. Much more can be done to stimulate circular migration, to improve migrants' working conditions and to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration. Then migrants' development impact can be so much stronger – a means to reach the global goals.

But today I will focus on the opposite, the ongoing refugee crisis. It's not about personal development. It's about survival. The situation in many war zones is so dire that people are willing to expose themselves to great risks so that they, and their loved ones, can leave.

Fighting the root causes of forced migration is of course key. But we can't wait until peace and sustainable development are in place to help refugees.

We need a united and comprehensive response. Not as politicians from the left or right, not as leaders from the south or north, but as human beings.

- Firstly, everything we do must be based on respect for human rights, in particular as regards asylum and the principle of non-refoulement. This is the bedrock of the international refugee and migration system – it cannot be tinkered with.
- Secondly, we must dramatically increase the number of resettlement places, while providing protection and sufficient resources for humanitarian assistance close to conflict areas.
- Thirdly, we need to expand legal avenues for migration so as to protect lives and avoid pushing people into the arms of smugglers who make a profit from misery.

And I assure you: Sweden will play its part. We are the largest per capita donor in the world to UNHCR, and we are increasing our donations. We will continue to stand up for the right to asylum, and we will allocate one per cent of our GNI to development assistance.

The refugee crisis can only be solved through shared responsibility, solidarity and decency. We need a long-term system for accepting refugees in the EU, designed to cope with our current and future challenges. And we need a much stronger global response to face up to the challenge.

That's my point today. Migration can be a positive force, but people should migrate out of choice, not out of fear. As long as people are migrating out of fear, we all need to step up, proving our respect for the dignity of human life. Thank you.

