

## Alan Kurdi – Refugees

Alan Kurdi was a three-year-old Syrian refugee whose image made global headlines after he drowned on 2 September 2015 in the Mediterranean Sea. He and his family were trying to reach Europe amid the European refugee crisis.



According to the UNHCR, the number of forcibly displaced people worldwide reached 59.5 million at the end of 2014. Of these, 19.5 million were refugees and 1.8 million were asylum-seekers.

The European refugee crisis started in 2015, with over a million people applying for asylum every year.

- Do we have a moral responsibility to help refugees?
- How many people should each country take, and how should this be decided?

## Morecambe Bay Cockling Disaster Migrant Workers Rights



In 2004, a group of 'illegal' Chinese immigrants were being very poorly paid to pick cockles in the north of England. Cockles are best found at low tide, but the Chinese workers were cut off by an incoming tide at 9.30pm. One worker rang the emergency services, but didn't know where they were or what the danger was. One person was rescued, but at least 21 workers died.

There are laws to protect the rights of workers in the UK, but immigrant workers are often unfamiliar with their rights. If they don't speak English, they can easily be taken advantage of, in this case by criminal triads. If they are here illegally, they can be completely isolated and unprotected. None of the safety checks and inspections happen for illegal workers.

- How can and should we protect migrant workers?

## Faiza Silmi - Citizenship



Faiza is a Moroccan woman who married a French man and had four children with him. The four children are all French citizens. Faiza lives in France and speaks French. However, as a Muslim woman, she believes the Qur'an's instructions to 'lengthen your garments' and 'cover your beauty' mean she should wear the niqab in public.

Faiza was denied French citizenship on the grounds of "insufficient assimilation". The courts said "She has adopted a radical practice of her religion, incompatible with essential values of the French community, particularly the principle of equality of the sexes."

- How should we determine citizenship?
- Should people born in a country automatically have citizenship, or when/how should they get it?

## Hungary's fence - Quotas



In 2015, Hungary built a fence on its border with Serbia and Croatia. The aim was to prevent immigrants entering Hungary illegally. Refugees are meant to register with the first EU country they arrive in, but many were travelling through Hungary to get to Germany, who were accepting more refugees than any other EU country.

In September 2015, migrants surged on the fence and tore down a section. Hungarian police responded with force, using tear gas and water cannons.

In April 2018, Viktor Orbán was elected as Prime Minister of Hungary for the third time, winning confidently by campaigning against immigration.

- Do countries have a right to defend their borders with force, and put up fences or walls?

## US Immigration courts

According to John Oliver (April 2018), the wait time for immigration courts in America can vary hugely, averaging 5 years in Chicago. Also, the deportation rate varies from 24% in New York to 89% in Atlanta.



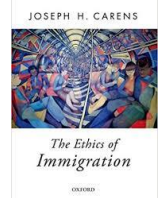
As immigration courts are not part of the judicial branch of government, they can be influenced by politics. There is no requirement for immigrants to have legal representation, leaving children aged 3 and 4 representing themselves in these courts.

'Elena', from Honduras, fled to America after 3 family members were murdered by gangs. She turned herself in to the authorities. After a 2 minute appeal hearing, Elena was refused asylum and returned to Honduras, where she was assaulted at gunpoint.

- How do we ensure immigration courts are fair?

## Open borders - *The Ethics of Immigration, 2013*

Joseph Carens suggests that "what justice really requires is open borders, the free movement of people across the world... it follows from our commitments to freedom, equality of opportunity, and equality."



He considers opposing arguments, including claims about "the distinctive characters of different communities; about the necessary connection between self-determination and control over immigration; about the relationship between sovereignty and immigration; and about the duty to give priority to compatriots."

Carens concludes that "Freedom of movement within the state is rightly seen as a fundamental freedom... and the freedom to move across borders should be seen as a fundamental freedom as well."

- Is it morally wrong to have any limits to immigration? What should the limits be and why?