



THE PRIME MINISTER

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Copenhagen, 25 JAN 2016

United Nations Secretary-General
Mr Ban Ki-moon
New York

Dear Secretary-General,

Thank you for your letter dated 15 January 2016. I am happy to continue our dialogue on the key question of migration.

As I mentioned in our telephone conversation on 29 December last year, Europe, including Denmark, is currently facing an unprecedented number of refugees and immigrants seeking protection from prosecution and war, as well as poverty.

Let me reiterate that Denmark has always been, and will remain, a generous and open country that insists on contributing whenever there is a global crisis. We have taken and still take more asylum seekers per capita than most other EU Member States. We are also one of only five countries in the world who meet the UN target of spending 0.7 pct. of GNI on development aid and humanitarian assistance. And we have the political will to make the difficult decision and deploy our military for international operations when called upon by our allies and the UN.

We are recognised for our strong track record for promoting human rights at home and abroad. We act in respect for our international obligations. And we take good care of both our citizens and our asylum seekers.

Refugees, who are granted a residence permit in Denmark, have the same access to school, the same access to education and the same access to health care systems as everyone else in Denmark. And they are provided with appropriate housing.

Refugees take part in an integration programme including comprehensive free language and job training. The objective is to enable the refugees to become active

and financially independent members of society. Asylum seekers also receive the necessary support while their application is being considered. This includes basic maintenance, health care services and accommodation.

The severity of the crisis demands of all of us that we find new and adequate answers to the current situation. Finding these answers is neither simple nor easy. I appreciate our cooperation and dialogue with the UNHCR in these efforts.

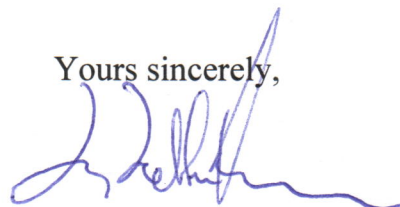
My country, as well as other European nations, is built on firm principles that include the rule of law, equality and the notion of a welfare state which ensures the well-being of all its citizens. These principles cannot be taken for granted. They must be actively preserved. Not just idealism, but also realism, is needed in our endeavour to uphold and promote these principles. We must be mindful that our actions today, however well intended, do not undermine our future efforts in this regard.

We must find answers that do not jeopardize the cohesion of our societies or undermine the basic principles of our welfare states. Only if we maintain the support of our populations, will we be able to continue our international engagement and find solutions that are sustainable in the longer run.

We are facing a challenge that requires international commitment and cooperation. The response to the refugee crises must first and foremost address their root causes. The Danish government will remain a strong voice for collective efforts by the international community to address the underlying causes of the current migration situation. I therefore highly appreciate the initiative for a Summit Meeting in September.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Lars Løkke Rasmussen