

Topic: Addressing the Effect of the Human Trafficking and Migration Crisis Between Libya and Europe

General Overview:

The fugitive and migrant crisis in Libya has become one of the most urgent humanitarian emergencies in Africa and the Mediterranean region. Libya has become the main point of fleeing for hundreds and thousands of people who are trying to make the fastest and most dangerous route to Europe with a purpose of searching for safety and greater opportunities. More than 100,000 migrants and refugees have escaped violence, oppression and conflict in Sudan and additional countries in sub-Saharan Africa, and have entered Libya in the last year. Along with 143,000 internally displaced people, Libya is now home to more than 250,000 asylum seekers and refugees, which the majority of them are living in dangerous and life-threatening situations.

This situation is further worsened by factors such as extensive violence with the absence of needed protection, exposing migrants and refugees to exploitation, abuse and human trafficking. As well as political instability. The Mediterranean sea remains as the most deadly migrating route in the world due to 343 recorded deaths in the first three months of 2025 and 31,724 since the International Organization for Migration (IOM) began recording deaths in 2014. According to the IOM the number of deaths may likely to be higher as many more have gone undocumented. The IOM also records those who are saved or caught are usually returned to Libya, however they are held in overcrowded slums with threatening living conditions. However the situation escalated in April 2023 due to the increase in violence in Sudan, Libya is now home to over 240,000 Sudanese refugees.

The rapid increase of migrants does not only affect Libya but also the European Nations as it has become the primary destination for many of these migrants and refugees. While refugees and migrants attempt to cross the deadliest route in the world, European countries, especially Italy face pressure to control the arrivals by providing them humanitarian assistance, or addressing political tensions over migration policies. Due to these sacrifices, Europe has responded by sending rescue operations, greater border enforcement measures, and agreements with Libyan authorities to return migrants which is heavily criticized by human rights groups as when migrants return they face more abuse in detention camps.

Economic Aspect:

The economic aspect of the Libyan migrant crisis is somewhat complex, as it affects both Libya and Europe. In Libya, due to the collapse of the development of the economy and the ongoing political instability, there has been an increase in of illegal activities such as smuggling and human trafficking. Criminal groups exploit migrants by charging them high fees for risky journeys or demanding to be paid if they are caught. These illegal tasks make Libya's economy illegal meaning it actually makes their economy worse, as with this money they are not able to support both the local population and the 250,000 migrants and displaced people. On the other hand, in Europe, face high cost for boarder control, providing aid to migrants, and rescue missions. Regardless of the fact that migrants can help the economy by paying taxes and joining workforces, the large number of migrants and refugees is causing a lot of sudden costs harming the economy. These sudden costs are for housing, healthcare and education, paying these is putting a lot of stress on the government and in the long run it will become unaffordable as the government is not only paying for their country but an increasing number of refugees and migrants.

Humanitarian Aspect:

The humanitarian aspect of the Libyan migrant crisis is very worrisome especially in Libya and on the Mediterranean route, as thousands of migrants and refugees go through very alarming conditions and serious violations to human rights. Most migrants are kept in Libya where they are placed in detention camps, where they are exploited to violence, starved, terrible hygiene, and lack of medical attention. The other migrants risk their life at sea, taking unsafe boat trips across the mediterranean hoping to reach Europe, on the way many migrants and refugees either die or go missing. The most vulnerable groups that are getting exposed to human trafficking, violence and abuse are Women and Children. The IOM is responding to this by trying hard to provide life-saving aid such as shelter, food, protection and healthcare, however due to funding challenges and their lack of access to many areas they are facing troubles in making this happen.

Social Aspect:

The social aspect contributes to both Libya and Europe, both the migrants and the communities are facing many social issues. In Europe, the unexpected arrival of a large number of migrants and refugees has created some tension in some parts of the

community, sparking some public debates on immigration, national identity and security. These outrages have led to increasing prejudice and anti-migrants attitudes, making it scarier for migrants as it is challenging for them to feel safe and wanted. Aside of these challenges, the other part of the community has shown support to the migrants by showing solidarity, offering aid, and create welcome programs to help migrants build their new lives. In Libya, the sudden arrival of large numbers of refugees and migrants have increased pressure on the community, making it extremely hard to get access to housing, healthcare, education and jobs. Many migrants are exploited to violence, hate crimes, hard times being accepted in addition are living in overcrowded slums with very alarming living conditions.