

## MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN DENMARK

**08/06/2021 – 21/06/2021**

- On 7 June 2021, the Danish government [responded](#) to UNHCR's comments on externalisation, saying: "We believe that the Danish proposal on externalisation lives up to the spirit and the fundamental principles of the international system for protection of refugees, based on the 1951 Refugee Convention".

**26/05/2021 – 7/06/2021**

- On 3 June 2021, the Danish Parliament [approved](#) by a large majority the bill on the externalisation of asylum procedure, allowing for the transfer to third countries of asylum seekers applying for asylum in Denmark. [UNHCR](#) strongly opposes this attempt, while a European Commission spokesperson [said](#) that the law "is not possible under existing EU rules". Danish government's party immigration speaker, Rasmus Stoklund, [hopes](#) that "people will stop seeking asylum in Denmark". EuroMed Rights expressed its grave concerns over the new law [in this interview](#). On 28 May 2021, [UNCHR published a note](#) on the "Externalisation" of International Protection".

**10/05/2021 – 26/05/2021**

- Denmark [declared](#) its intention to open "departure centres" on the island of Langeland.

**27.04.2021 – 10.05.2021**

- On 27 April, Rwandan Minister of State, Manasseh Nshuti, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on political consultations and cooperation on asylum and migration issues with Danish Ministers for development Cooperation and Immigration and Integration. In the preamble of [the MoU regarding cooperation on asylum and migration issues](#), it is stated that the Danish Government envisioned "that the processing of asylum applications should take place outside of the EU in order to break the negative incentive structure of the present asylum system". According to Article 3 of the MoU, cooperation will include, among others, return and repatriation and border management.

- *The Guardian* [revealed](#) the devastation that awaits Syrian refugees at risk of deportation in Denmark, where many would be homeless because of demolition and redevelopment plans for Damascus neighbourhoods where they once lived.
- 33 Members of the European Parliament have [written](#) to Denmark's prime minister saying that Syria is not safe.
- Amnesty International is [urging](#) citizens to take action and write an appeal to the Danish government to protect Syrian refugees.

### **13.04.2021 – 26.04.2021**

- Eight analysts, researchers and experts on Syria who contributed to country of origin reports on Syria "[condemned](#) the Danish government's decision" to withdraw temporary protection for Syrian refugees from Damascus. They claimed, in a [joint statement](#), that "Denmark's policy on Syrian refugees does not reflect the real situation" and that the reports on which Danish authorities based their decisions were "incomplete and misleading".
- Denmark's denial of renewing temporary residence permits of about 189 Syrians is receiving more and more mainstream media coverage. [The Guardian](#) and the [Wall Street Journal](#) told the stories of the victims of this unjust and unlawful policy, while DIGNITY's director, Rasmus Grue Christensen, [commented](#) that many of their Syrian patients suffered from shock and trauma when they lost their right to stay in Denmark.

### **29.03.2021 – 12.04.2021**

- Despite strong criticism from human rights organisations, the Danish government is defending its [decision](#) to deport at least 94 Syrian refugees back to Syria following the declaration that certain areas in Syria are safe.

### **23/02/2021 – 10/03/2021**

- The Danish government [revoked](#) the residence permit of 94 Syrian refugees after it declared as safe the Damascus area, including the Rif Dimashq Governorate. These 94 people will be sent to deportation camps, with the high risk of being returned to Syria. At the same time, the Danish government has proposed a bill to externalise Denmark's asylum policy to third countries in North Africa, by setting up screening camps there. On 24 February 2021, 9 organisations, including DIGNITY, [released](#) a statement strongly criticising this decision.

### **08/02/2021 – 22/02/2021**

- As the Danish authorities have started to consider Damascus safe enough to return Syrian refugees there, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) [disagrees with the decision](#), stating that “it is too early and too dangerous” and that “should continue to provide protection to Syrian refugees”.

## **8/02/2021**

- On 2 February 2021, Denmark’s Parliament [voted](#) to try former immigration minister, Inger Støjberg, over an order issued in 2016 aimed at separating asylum-seekers’ couples “where one partner was under 18”.
- On 22 January 2021, Danish Prime Minister, Mette Frederiksen, [said she wants](#) to “reduce asylum applications to zero”. 2020 saw a sharp decrease in asylum applications in Denmark, with a total of 1,547 applicants, due to both the COVID-19 pandemic and the government’s strict rules and policies.