

On the Move – Latest migration news

MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN DENMARK

10/05/2022-24/05/2022

- Danish newspaper Jyllands Posten [obtained](#) access to a video from a UN session of January 2021 where Danish ambassador to Geneva Morten Jespersen expressed strong concerns *“about the allegations of arbitrary detention and torture and ill-treatment in detention centers and military facilities”* in Rwanda. However, three months later, Denmark started negotiations with Rwanda on an agreement for the externalization of asylum which includes the construction of reception centers for asylum-seekers in the country.

5/04/2022-10/05/2022

- The Danish government is [in talks](#) with Rwanda to stipulate an agreement similar to the one recently signed by the British government, that would allow Denmark to send asylum-seekers to the African country.

08/03/2022 – 22/03/2022

- Critics are [accusing](#) the Danish government of hypocrisy, since it is currently urging Syrian refugees originating from Damascus to return there but is welcoming Ukrainian refugees.

25/01/2022 – 08/02/2022

- Danish CSOs published a [joint appeal](#) to the government to move away from irresponsible and unsympathetic asylum policies, like the proposal to move asylum treatment and refugee protection out of the EU and rather focus on the protection of refugees globally. The appeal states that *“the Danish model for external asylum treatment will in no way change the fact that people on the run are still forced to go on dangerous journeys to find protection – including to Europe. The model may mean that fewer people apply to Denmark, but this will only lead to refugees applying to other countries in Europe. For the same reason, it will also have no effect on the activities of human traffickers.”*

11/01/2022 – 25/01/2022

- On 13 January 2022, during a [meeting](#) of the LIBE Committee, the Danish Minister for Integration presented the [latest political decisions](#) Denmark has taken on migration matters, both concerning the removal of residence permits from Syrian refugees and its externalisation plans. MEPs [grilled](#) the

Minister, highlighting the deep controversies of the Danish decisions and their disregard for questions of safety and protection of refugees.

- Through a freedom of information request, journalists at Jyllands Posten [showed](#) how the Danish government tried to persuade Rwanda in its externalisation efforts via the donation of 250,000 Covid-19 vaccines. Rwanda refused the donation.
- A recent [investigation](#) by Lighthouse Report shows how many of the Syrian refugees whose residence permit had been removed by Denmark, have by now fled to other European countries. Indeed, the Danish government cannot repatriate them as it does not have diplomatic relations with the Assad regime, which means that Syrian refugees are being sent to detention centres indefinitely. According to investigation reports, at least 421 people fled to Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium. Even if most of them will be repatriated to Denmark, appeal courts on these Member States are debating whether sending Syrians back to Denmark could amount to indirect refoulement.
- The New Humanitarian published an [article](#) detailing the complex relationship between the Danish government and the NGO Danish Refugee Council. The DRC regularly contributes to the government's fact-finding missions and COI (Country of Origin Information) reports, and also contributed to the infamous 2019 COI report on the situation in Syria, which was used to strip Syrian refugees of their residence permits.

14/12/2021-11/01/2022

- Former Danish Immigration Minister [Inge Stoejberg](#) was sentenced to two months in jail for separating young couples of asylum-seekers in 2016. Her decision to separate married refugee couples younger than 18 years old, to allegedly prevent child marriage, was found illegal by the Danish Supreme Court.
- Denmark signed an agreement with Kosovo to send [300 foreign citizens](#) convicted in Denmark to prison in Kosovo. After they served their sentence, these foreign detainees will be deported.
- Amnesty International Denmark collected [95,055 signatures](#), directed at Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs and Integration Mattias Tesfaye, to protest against the decision of revoking residence permits to Syrians.
- **30/11/2021 - 14/12/2021**
- Following the shipwreck of 27 people in the English Channel, Denmark provided Frontex with a [plane](#) to monitor the Channel crossings.
- The UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, in a [recent review](#) of Denmark, advised to "Revisit its evaluation of

designating Damascus and Rif Damascus as safe zone to return persons whose temporary protection status has been revoked or whose request for extension of temporary protection status has been denied”.

16/11/2021 - 29/11/2021

- On the 15th of November 2021, the Danish Institute for Human Rights, together with the University of Aarhus, [published](#) the paper “Denmark’s Legislation on Extraterritorial Asylum in Light of International and EU Law”. In the paper, the authors address the main challenges posed by the Danish proposal to extra-territorialise asylum application to third countries. They discuss how this law may undermine the Common European Asylum System while influencing other member states to follow the Danish push towards extraterritorial asylum procedures.

25/10/2021 - 15/11/2021

- Activists and **civil society organizations**, including the Danish Refugee Council, Amnesty International Denmark and ActionAid Denmark, have organized a demonstration on the [13th of November](#) in various cities in the country to advocate for a more humane migration policy. Denmark has been the first country in Europe to strip Syrian refugees of their residence permits and is forcing them to either staying permanently in detention centers or returning to Syria. The demonstration took place three days before the municipal elections in the country.

05/10/2021 - 25/10/2021

- A new [report](#) from Refugees Welcome Denmark analyses the restricted migration and asylum policies in Denmark and the increased criminalisation of solidarity in the country.
- [Syrian families](#) in Denmark have reportedly fled to the Netherlands or Belgium trying to escape their forced return to Syria, following Denmark’s declaration to declare Damascus as “safe”.
- A [petition](#) asking Denmark to stop revoking residency of some Syrian refugees was submitted to parliament.

23/09/2021 - 05/10/2021

- Denmark [offered](#) 15 km of barbed wire to Lithuania for its anti-migrant fence.

19/08/2021 - 06/09/2021

- Denmark will provide [funds to IOM in Pakistan](#) to combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Smuggling of Migrants (SOM).

- Three Afghan refugees were [released](#) from the pre-removal detention centre where they were held awaiting their forced return to Afghanistan.

27/07/2021 - 19/08/2021

- London-based lawyers are [taking](#) the Danish government to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) over Denmark's decision to consider Damascus safe and possibly return there hundreds of Syrian refugees living in Denmark.

21/06/2021 - 05/07/2021

- The Government of **Rwanda** [released](#) a statement declaring that "Receiving asylum seekers from Denmark in Rwanda and processing asylum applications to Denmark is not part of" the MoU signed with Denmark.
- Danish Immigration Ministry [announced](#) that Denmark will host 200 refugees from Rwanda in 2021. At the same time, the Danish government is adopting an increasingly hardline on asylum seekers and refugees, including [Syrians](#), who [feel](#) "discriminated and dehumanized".