

UNICEF 2 A-B

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TOPIC B:

“Anti-Immigration  
Sentiments”

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2018





*“We can’t allow racism and xenophobia to gain traction.”*

-Bernie Sanders

Nieves Padilla Rabell  
Undersecretary of UNICEF

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## Topic B:

### *Anti-Immigration Sentiments*

UNICEF'S mandate expanded to help children whose lives were at risk in developing countries, it works in 190 countries and territories to protect the rights of every child. UNICEF has spent 70 years working to improve the lives of children and their families. Defending children's rights throughout their lives requires a global presence, aiming to produce results and understand their effects.

Migration has existed during all the history of human kind and as the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) has stated, "international migration is a global phenomenon that is growing in scope, complexity and impact. Migration is both a cause and effect of broader development processes and an intrinsic feature of our ever-globalizing world".

Today, people are forced to change their places of living due to different reasons, not only economic; natural and manmade disasters make people leave their country as well. It can be a movement towards political freedom or escape from political persecution, religious intolerance and war often force people to look for refuge in other countries, as well.

The reason why the phenomenon of immigration poses such a great challenge for today's societies is that it is treated as a problem and not as an opportunity to foster sustainable development and cultural interaction, they are not seen as people who want to resettle in another country but rather as foreigners prone to illegitimacy.

Their most common argument of the proponents of anti-immigration are:

- Increased competition for employment.
- It is claimed that immigrants harm the economy of the host country.
- Numerous anti-immigrant organizations oppose immigration because it causes overpopulation.
- Supporters of anti-immigration perceive a link between immigration and crime; it is their belief that the more the immigrants, the higher the crime rates in the host country.
- the identity of the nation is considered to be threatened by the heterogeneous people that immigrate to the country

It is evident that all the aforementioned arguments called upon by the supporters of anti-immigration are based on misconceptions and persistent fallacies.

The anti-immigrant sentiment has strengthened racial prejudice, xenophobia and stereotypes. Notably, discriminative treatment and marginalization have become salient experiences in host countries, especially for Jewish, Roma, Muslims and Afro descendants.

Unlawful discrimination in the workplace that does not reach the court – or is not acknowledged in court– and unfair trials against immigrants have, and are still taking place.

The only way we can combat this issue is through the realization that the challenges we face as nations have not been imported by our immigrants, nor would they disappear if we could only succeed in sealing our borders for good even

if that were possible.

Points to address:

- How can xenophobia and other forms of intolerance be stopped from expanding in different countries?
- Is there any program in your country regarding racism or xenophobia?
- How are children affected by this phenomenon?

# SOURCES

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