R1 End the Death Zone: Against the Inhumane Treatment of Asylum Seekers on the Belarusian Border

Proposer: Protests, Ostra Ziele?
Agenda item: 1. Resolutions

Motion text

Human and migrant rights are under attack in Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Belarus. The illegitimate former president of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko is using migrants and asylum seekers from the Middle East as hybrid war weapons against Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, and Europe as a whole.

The regime in Belarus explicitly attacks the Baltic States due to their support for the democratic opposition. This weaponization of human lives is another disgusting attack against human rights by the illegitimate Belarusian regime, which for years has attacked activists that are against Lukashenko’s dictatorship.
Disturbingly, the response by the Latvian, Polish, and Lithuanian governments is just as inhumane as Lukashenko had planned and expected. The migrants are forced to stay in the border zone for months without shelter. There are many reports of violence against migrants by border guards on both sides. More people have died on the Polish-Belarusian border in less than two years than people trying to cross the border that used to split Germany during the Cold War.

Unfortunately, it is very hard to understand the situation fully, as governments are not letting activists and journalists reach the border zone due to the state of emergency. The Latvian government started an investigation against an NGO called *I Want to Help Refugees* for providing humanitarian help to the migrants stuck on the border. The Polish government first abused the legal possibilities by introducing a state of emergency on the border and then attacked independent organizations, media, and activists by creating strategic lawsuits against their participation and providing help, as well as using public media to spread their political propaganda about this situation. The Lithuanian border guard started an investigation against an NGO for assisting migrants on the border on assumption that this is a case of people smuggling. These all are clear breaches of democratic principles by these governments.

Right-wing and far-right parties have used this crisis to continue their anti-migrant policy and increase the dehumanization of migrants and refugees.
This is explicitly noticeable during the election period. Latvia, Lithuania, and

Poland are now building expensive border walls, which are causing huge environmental risks. The fear and increasing dehumanization have moved the focus away from the victims through this shameless power play to the exaggerated idea of safety risks.

Nothing – even the tallest and strongest wall – can stop a person who desperately seeks asylum or a better future. But the cruelty and breaking of all the rights performed by these governments clearly show us the consequences of cynical political play that ignores the importance of human life.

Activists and local societies are doing their best to help families find their loved ones that went missing on the border. They are their only hope. Replacing the government services and risking their own lives, they fight to restore dignity and an elementary sense of humanity and safety to migrants and refugees.

The Federation of European Young Greens calls for an immediate end to the inhumane treatment of migrants and refugees by the Belarusian regime and governments of Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland. We urge them to find a humane solution to this crisis and to allow access to the border zone. We appeal once again to the European Union to stop ignoring this situation. FYEG stands in solidarity with all those affected by this crisis and will continue to work towards a world where the rights and dignity of all people, regardless of their background or status, are respected and protected.