



UBC Conference

**The Impact of the European Refugees Crisis in the Cities of the Baltic Sea Region**

Rostock, 14-16 March 2016

**RESOLUTION**

(working status: 25 January, 13.00 hrs.)

Many UBC member cities have been experiencing the consequences of the recent movement of refugees escaping from war and crisis affected countries, mainly Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan as well as North and East Africa.

The UBC member cities recall the commitment to the 1951 Refugees Convention and the 1967 Protocol, as well as the Resolution on the Refugees Situation in Europe, adopted at the XIII UBC General Conference in Gdynia on 29 October 2015.

In these unforeseen circumstances, the citizens as well as humanitarian organizations, associations and city administrations of the Baltic Sea Region have been taking care of the refugees, providing them with food, water, health care and shelter, or helping them to continue their route in an exemplary manner.

In this process, the cities have been showing a warm welcome, a high level of compassion and solidarity towards the stricken people, and, most importantly, respect for their human dignity.

All people have the right to a home and a homeland, and the refugees should have the right to return to their safe home countries. UBC urges the international community to make efforts to find a peaceful solution to the crisis in the affected countries and to bring an end to war.

UBC encourages the national governments and the EU to find a comprehensive approach to resolving the crisis, and supports a coherent European internal and external policy in order to combat the causes of flight and to stop the massive exodus of people from the conflict areas.

UBC emphasizes that refugees who stay in their host cities must be enabled to live in dignity and provided with access to employment and essential services such as education, housing and health care. They need to be encouraged to integrate into their new societies and to become fully fledged citizens of these municipalities.

The UBC cities declare their continued willingness to provide extensive humanitarian aid and to shoulder extraordinary burdens in this challenging situation, as long as the EU, the national governments as well as the fugitives themselves, would be ready to deliver their own substantial contribution.

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