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## Citizenship and integration for an open borders eu

One of the fundamental rights of the human being is the one of freedom of movement, which includes deciding where to build a life and being treated equally to the other citizens. Such a right is included in many constitutions of the world, and in the universal declaration of the human rights in the article 13 which regulates it.

Unfortunately, based on the country you come from, there are still prejudices on your freedom of movement, rooted in racism and xenophobia.

There should not be a distinction in judgment between someone who is deciding or is being forced to move to another country for different reasons.

Even language shapes how we think, perceiving “expats” and “refugees” in a different way, something noble as opposed as something unworthy

There are many international documents regulating refugees status and their entitlement, such as

- Articles 67(2), 78 and 80 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU);
- Article 18 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

These are guidelines to develop common policies on asylum and refugee seekers in Europe, in order to grant all the same rights, as well as understanding the best practices in terms of welcoming and stability of foreigners in the country of arrival.





In a democratic country, no one is left behind and everyone should be welcomed and treated equally and it's important to be aware of one's rights, to be able to defend one's self and not being exploited.

According to the universal and international laws, migrants enjoy the fundamental rights afforded to all persons regardless of their legal status in a State.

Some the rights are the one to life, equality and non discrimination, protection against arbitrary arrest and detention, torture or inhumane treatment, right to social security, to physical and mental health and to primary education.

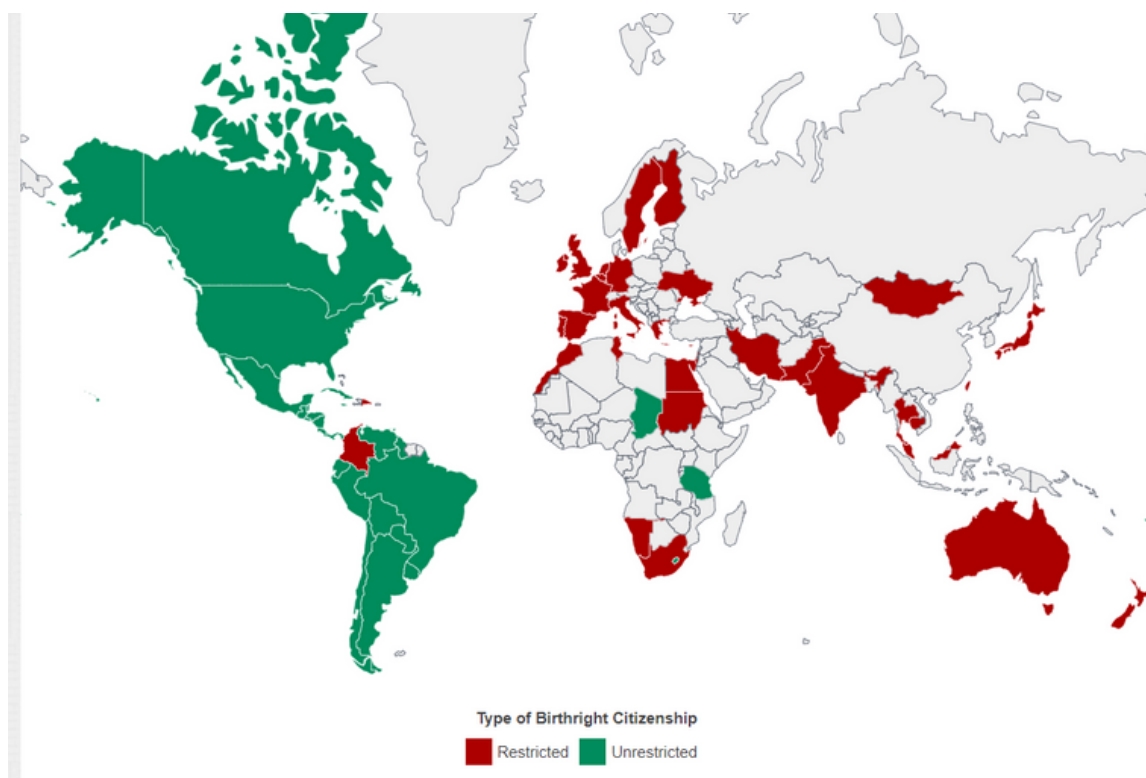
If a refugee or a foreigner decides to legally stay permanently in the country of arrival, the next big step is getting the citizenship. Why is it so important to obtain such legal document? Despite being in possess of other permits, those do not guarantee the full rights of a citizen, and this has an impact on the daily life of the migrant, legally, as they also need to often deal with much more bureaucracy and obstacles, and psychologically speaking as well, being labelled as an inferior citizen to the eyes of the country.

The existing laws on citizenship all over the world revolve around two principles: *ius sanguinis* and *ius soli*.

The first one claims that even if you were born in a country, if your parents are foreigners, you need to wait at least to be of legal age in order to become a citizen. This is valid in some countries such as Italy, Spain, India, South Africa and Australia

Instead, *ius soli*, also referred as birthright citizenship, grants you the right to get the citizenship if you were born in that country, regardless of your family's nationality. This concept is applied in many places such as the USA, Canada, Argentina, Chad and Tanzania.

In some countries, citizenship is granted under different circumstances, therefore the cases and its outcomes may vary. Being a citizen comes with a set of rights that dignify the person and make their life easier. However, it's important mentioning that when we talk about citizenship, this is not only linked to the document itself, but to a sense of belonging to the community and to the use of the rights you are entitled to have. This is connected to the efforts governments need to make in order to ensure integration of refugees/new citizens in its country



For the process of integration, it's very important for refugees to enjoy culture in community with others, as stated in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, a treaty adopted in 1966 to protect individuals. It's equally significant to be able to celebrate one's traditions as well as the ones from the arrival country.

The refugee must adapt to the hosting society without the burden of having to give up their own set of values and principles connected to their culture. In a democratic place, everyone must feel valued and integrated, not isolated and excluded.

What is needed is to foster a sense of belonging which can only arise with good practices, highlighted in the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol. In particular, the Convention enlists social and economic rights designed to assist integration, and in its Article 34 urges governments to facilitate the "assimilation and naturalization" of refugees.

Therefore, we must continue to fight for free movement and then integration of any person, regardless of the country they are coming from.