

Humanitarian Aid to Illegal Immigrants

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Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as put forth by the United Nations, states that all human beings are born free and must be accorded their rights and treated with dignity. Illegal immigrants are human beings, just like others. As a result of this, their violation of immigration laws does not imply that they should not be treated differently from others. Many bad situations lead individuals to decide to cross the desert despite knowing that they might die from dehydration or freezing. Therefore, leaving blankets, clothes, and water throughout the desert and mountain regions is the right thing to do to support the struggles of the immigrants.

The giving of humanitarian aid does not consider whether one is an illegal immigrant or not. The primary purpose of humanitarian aid is to alleviate suffering, save lives, and maintain the dignity of all human beings. The provision of humanitarian aid is in line with the requirements of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (United Nations, 2021). Leaving blankets, water, and clothes is not encouraging illegal activity, but rather meeting the immediate needs of the victims. Humanitarian aid has been provided in worse situations such as wars and terror attacks. As a result of this, the provision of humanitarian aid is not about the law, but about maintaining the dignity of human beings.

In many instances, illegal immigrants have opted to take this route due to the unbearable situations that they have faced back home. The majority of the illegal immigrants have considered this option due to extreme poverty (Bolter, 2018). Poverty prevents these individuals

from seeking legal ways of entering countries. Apart from this, the illegal immigrants face impoverished standards back home. The humanitarian aid they receive is better than the situation back home. Asylum is another major reason why individuals might opt for illegal immigration (Bolter, 2018). Many immigrants have taken the illegal route to escape from repression or civil war. Individuals that fail to get legal protection status are forced to consider the illegal method. There have also been instances where individuals have been denied citizenship (Bolter, 2018). They have thus opted to use illegal ways to enter countries' borders. Therefore, humanitarian aid is an effective way of helping illegal immigrants overcome their challenges.

Arguments about the threats that illegal immigrants might pose have been raised. It has been indicated that illegal immigrants can threaten the security of a country. For example, terrorists can move into a country as illegal immigrants (Bolter, 2018). While this argument might be true, the majority of the illegal immigrants have never been terrorists. They have mostly been individuals escaping from poverty, repression, and wars. Apart from this, they also include individuals looking for better opportunities or attempting to meet their families. Another argument is that immigrants should seek the legal way of moving into countries (Bolter, 2018). This is also a true argument. However, in many instances, the country's laws have been the main cause of illegal immigration. For example, former president of the United States, Donald Trump, implemented laws to separate children from their families at the border. Such a law can encourage illegal immigration.

Humanitarian aid to illegal immigrants is essential in ensuring that their universal rights are upheld. Apart from this, humanitarian organizations, such as the one in San Diego are formed to support populations that are in distress or crisis. By supporting illegal immigrants, the humanitarian organization is helping them to overcome the challenges that they are facing. Even

if laws are changed to encourage legal migration, humanitarian aid will still exist. Therefore, the issue is not about the support that illegal immigrants receive, but how they should be helped as humans with dignity.

References

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