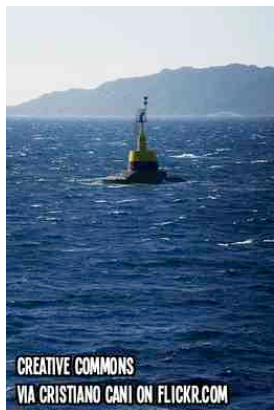


## Europe under fire for refugee policy

22nd April, 2015



The organisation Human Rights Watch (HRW) has called on the European Union (EU) to act immediately on the refugee situation in the Mediterranean Sea. The call follows the latest tragedy that saw at least 700 migrants perish in an attempt to flee from their troubled homelands and reach Europe. This brings

the death toll to over 1,000 in the past week. HRW spokesperson Judith Sunderland said: "The EU is standing by with arms crossed while hundreds die off its shores. These deaths might well have been prevented if the EU had launched a genuine search-and-rescue effort." Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi singled out Libya as the key problem and said efforts should focus on refugee boats leaving Libyan ports.

The 28-member EU is under fire from within over its policy to scale down efforts to save lives at sea. Divisions began last year when the EU cut its search-and-rescue budget by two-thirds. Martin Schulz, president of the European Parliament, said: "Europe can do more and Europe must do more. It is a shame and a confession of failure how many countries run away from responsibility." Maltese PM Joseph Muscat warned: "We will all be judged in the same way that history has judged Europe when it turned a blind eye to the genocide of this century and last century." Spanish PM Mariano Rajoy said: "This is the umpteenth time we hear of yet another human tragedy in the Mediterranean....Words won't do any more."

Sources: [hrw.org](http://hrw.org) / [dw.de](http://dw.de) / [bbc.com](http://bbc.com)

## Writing

Europe should grant asylum to all refugees who cross the Mediterranean. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*act / immediately/ refugee / tragedy / flee / homelands / arms crossed / rescue / under fire / divisions / budget / shame / turn a blind eye / last century / umpteenth*

## True / False

- The article says UNICEF has called on the EU to help refugees. T / F
- A human rights group said the EU had its arms crossed. T / F
- The group said the deaths were preventable. T / F
- Italy's leader suggested the focus be put on boats leaving Libyan ports. T / F
- The EU cut its search-and-rescue budget by over 2/3 last year. T / F
- The European Parliament president said Europe was doing enough. T / F
- The president said no EU country was shirking its responsibility. T / F
- Spain's leader said more talking was needed. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. act                | a. embarrassment    |
| 2. perish             | b. stopped          |
| 3. flee               | c. take measures    |
| 4. prevented          | d. inside           |
| 5. focus on           | e. ignored          |
| 6. within             | f. die              |
| 7. shame              | g. admission        |
| 8. confession         | h. pay attention to |
| 9. turned a blind eye | i. still            |
| 10. yet               | j. escape           |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you think each side of the EU is arguing for and against?
- How big a shame for Europe is it that it cut its budget?
- How will the world and history judge Europe over this issue?
- To what degree is Europe turning a blind eye?
- How can the world help countries from which refugees are fleeing?
- What would you do if you were the EU boss?
- What do you think the situation will be like 10 years from now?
- What questions would you like to ask the EU's boss?

# BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

## Phrase Match

- act
- in an attempt to
- standing by with arms
- singled
- refugee
- The 28-member EU is under fire from
- scale
- cut its search-and-
- run away from
- it turned
- down efforts
- boats
- within
- immediately
- a blind eye
- flee
- responsibility
- crossed
- rescue budget
- out Libya

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about the refugee crisis in the Mediterranean?
- Why are there so many refugees in the world?
- What would it be like to have to flee from your homeland?
- What should the European Union do from now?
- Do you think the EU is doing enough?
- Should more resources be used to stop boats from leaving Libya?
- What levels of immigration should the EU accept?
- Should countries outside Europe also take in the refugees?

## Spelling

- act tliayideemm
- the latest eartdyg
- psrieh in an attempt to flee
- off its erssoh
- might well have been eedvpntr
- launched a nieguen search-and-rescue effort
- its pciyoI to scale down efforts
- cut its search-and-rescue tdeubg
- a ifnnocoess of failure
- We will all be gdedju in the same way
- turned a blind eye to the gcnoiede
- This is the tthpeneum time

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. c	2. f	3. j	4. b	5. h
6. d	7. a	8. g	9. e	10. i

## Role Play

### Role A – The EU

You think the EU is the best-positioned to deal with the refugee crisis. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their countries / organisations aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst-equipped of these (and why): the USA, the Arab League or the United Nations.

### Role B – The USA

You think the USA is the best-positioned to deal with the refugee crisis. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their countries / organisations aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst-equipped of these (and why): the EU, the United Nations or the Arab League.

### Role C – The Arab League

You think the Arab League is the best-positioned to deal with the refugee crisis. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their countries / organisations aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst-equipped of these (and why): the USA, the EU or the United Nations.

### Role D – The United Nations

You think the United Nations is the best-positioned to deal with the refugee crisis. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their countries / organisations aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst-equipped of these (and why): the USA, the Arab League or the EU.

## Speaking – Migrants

Rank these with your partner. Put who can help most at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- the EU
- Italy
- the USA
- Libya
- The Arab League
- Turkey
- the migrants' own nation
- Germany

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.