

EU wants change after Lampedusa deaths

11th October, 2013



European leaders want to change the system for refugees trying to reach Europe. They are shocked by the Lampedusa tragedy. More than 250 people

from Africa drowned after their boat sank. They were just a few hundred meters from the beach. Almost 20,000 asylum seekers have died in the Mediterranean Sea in the past ten years. After every boat sinks, European politicians call for change. However, after a little time, the talking stops and nothing happens. No one knows if the current disaster near Lampedusa will lead to action from European governments. One suggestion is more money for search and rescue operations that will cover all of the Mediterranean, "from Spain to Cyprus".

The answer to the problem of asylum seekers is very difficult. The perfect solution is for Europe to completely open its borders to anyone. However, no country in the world does this. It would be very unpopular in all European countries. Many countries in Europe already want to make their borders stronger to slow down the number of people coming in. Italian interior minister Angelino Alfano said: "[Italy is] in the middle of the Mediterranean and we have saved thousands and thousands of lives. We now ask for some help from Europe." He added: "The Mediterranean represents the Africa-Europe border, not the Africa-Italy border." He called for Europe to share the responsibility.

Sources: *EU Observer* / *dw.de*

Writing

Europe should accept and help anyone who wants to live there. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

European leaders / refugees / tragedy / drowned / change / action / politicians / rescue / perfect solution / open borders / unpopular / saved lives / need help / responsibility

True / False

- a) Leaders in Europe want to change the way they help refugees. T / F
- b) Nearly 20,000 people died in the past decade trying to reach Europe. T / F
- c) There's usually a pattern of tragedy, talks and then no action. T / F
- d) A suggestion was to cut money for search and rescue boats. T / F
- e) The article says the perfect solution is to completely close borders. T / F
- f) Many Europeans want border controls tightened. T / F
- g) Italy has saved millions of people from dying in the Mediterranean. T / F
- h) An Italian minister is very happy with all the help Europe gives Italy. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. change | a. difficulty |
| 2. reach | b. divide |
| 3. nothing | c. activities |
| 4. lead to | d. reform |
| 5. operations | e. restrict |
| 6. problem | f. get to |
| 7. completely | g. task |
| 8. slow down | h. result in |
| 9. share | i. totally |
| 10. responsibility | j. not a thing |

Discussion – Student A

- a) Did you follow the story of the recent tragedy near Lampedusa?
- b) Why are there refugees in this world?
- c) How much better will the lives of refugees be in Europe?
- d) What changes does Europe need to make?
- e) How can European governments help stop so many deaths at sea?
- f) Why do European leaders talk so much about refugees but do little?
- g) How much help will more search and rescue operations be?
- h) Should Europe spend more money on hunting human traffickers?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. change the system for refugees | a. and nothing happens |
| 2. drowned after | b. and thousands of lives |
| 3. the talking stops | c. the responsibility |
| 4. will lead | d. solution |
| 5. search and rescue | e. trying to reach Europe |
| 6. perfect | f. their boat sank |
| 7. make their borders | g. Africa-Europe border |
| 8. we have saved thousands | h. operations |
| 9. The Mediterranean represents the | i. stronger |
| 10. share | j. to action |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of a world without borders?
- Does your country welcome and help many refugees?
- Should Europe spend more money helping poorer countries?
- Is Europe letting Italy do too much alone?
- What will the refugee situation in Europe be like in 100 years?
- How do you think refugees feel after they reach Europe?
- Should there be a world project to give more help to refugees?
- What questions would you like to ask European leaders?

Spelling

- reusgeef trying to reach Europe
- the Lampedusa grtayde
- 250 people from Africa denwrod after their boat sank
- 20,000 umlays seekers
- the current erstdia
- search and csuere operations
- The perfect iunostlo
- mlpceoelyt open its borders
- It would be very pprluunoa
- reiniotr minister
- The Mediterranean trpenssere the Africa-Europe border
- share the iysislnrteipob

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – No borders

You think having no borders is the best way to end refugee crises. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ideas. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these ideas (and why): no immigration, helping poor countries or stopping human traffickers.

Role B – No immigration

You think no immigration is the best way to end refugee crises. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ideas. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these ideas (and why): no borders, helping poor countries or stopping human traffickers.

Role C – Helping poor countries

You think helping poor countries is the best way to end refugee crises. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ideas. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these ideas (and why): no immigration, no borders or stopping human traffickers.

Role D – Stopping human traffickers

You think stopping human traffickers is the best way to end refugee crises. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ideas. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these ideas (and why): no immigration, helping poor countries or no borders.

Speaking - Help

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best way to help refugees at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| • provide safe boats | • help their home countries |
| • give them jobs | • teach them the new language |
| • send them home | • hunt human traffickers |
| • open all borders | • spread them across Europe |

Answers – True False

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