

Refugees welcome!- But only Christian Refugees!?!

Precisely European countries are watching the debates about refugees in Poland and the way they face the challenge of including refugees.

People who followed the statements of Polish politicians concerning the refugee situation in Poland could have recognized a diversity of propositions. There were more and more voices becoming louder in the Polish population which demanded to take Christian refugees only, due to the fact that the big majority of the Polish population is Christian and Christian values are considered also as Polish and European values. The fear of other religions in such a homogenous society and its islamophobia became stronger and stronger.

Ewa Kopacz, former Prime Minister of Poland, reacted due to this development and the fears of the population in June 2015. In a statement she said that Poland is indeed willing to take refugees- but only Christian refugees. With this decision she joined the course of Slovakia. These announcements caused controversial discussions all over Europe.

First, we should take a look at these strong Christian values. One essential part of this Christian moral teaching is altruism and charity. Why do only Christian people reserve charity? It's a duty of every Christian to care for each other - also if a person shares different beliefs and religious attitudes. All humans are equal. Thinking about equality there is a quotation of George Orwells "Animal farm" which can be easily connected with this topic: "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others." Doesn't it fit to the following attitude?: Of course people need help, after they had to leave their country because of torture and violence - But only under one condition: They have to be Christian. Are those people "more equal"? Can this behavior be called merciful?

As Christians everybody should also take in account that Jesus himself was a refugee who had to flee with his family to Egypt.

The opinion that everybody reserves help in such a situation independently of his or her religion is also shared by Agnieszka Kunicka, head of the NGO "refugee.pl". She points out that even Christians are diverse, if we take a look at all the different Christian churches. Her organization provides help for every refugee in Poland, the religion of the people does not matter at all.

The will of helping everybody can also be found on the part of the Caritas Polska - a Christian organization. Marian Subocz (director of Caritas Polska) and the Caritas as an organization distance themselves from the idea of helping Christians only. Everybody gets help by the Caritas: Muslims, Jews or Christians etc. But Subocz also points out that the biggest group of the refugees who have to suffer from prosecution have a Christian background.

It is also interesting to see that the Polish Commissioner for Human Rights, Adam Bodnar, expresses himself in a critical way about the idea of allowing Christians to come to Poland only.

But it is also really important to stress that not every Christian Polish citizen shares the opinion of providing help only for Christian refugees. In addition to the positive examples mentioned here there are for sure a lot of other people who live the idea of charity- charity for everybody.

The fear of Muslims is strong. Some people are calling it islamophobia. Of course the fears of the population have to be taken seriously. But what do they really know about this religion? Isn't it time to take away their fears by talking about the values of the Islam? Educational programs are needed. And who can better explain to Christians and other worried people what is written in the Koran than Muslims? They should get chances to speak openly about their beliefs and should get the chance to answer the questions of worried citizens. The topic concerns everybody and demands a cooperation of the whole population with all its diversities. Let's give cooperation a chance!

Actually we can just observe curiously the politics of the new Polish government which has just started their legislative period. Which way will they take in politics related to refugees?