



Good Refugees and Bad Economic Migrants?

A look at what's
driving mass
migration

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Gerry's previous convictions

- Migrant worker in Yemen, Indonesia, Sweden, Finland and Germany
- New Horizon volunteer since 1999
- Worked on 'jungle' sites in Calais and Dunkirk



Immigration then and now



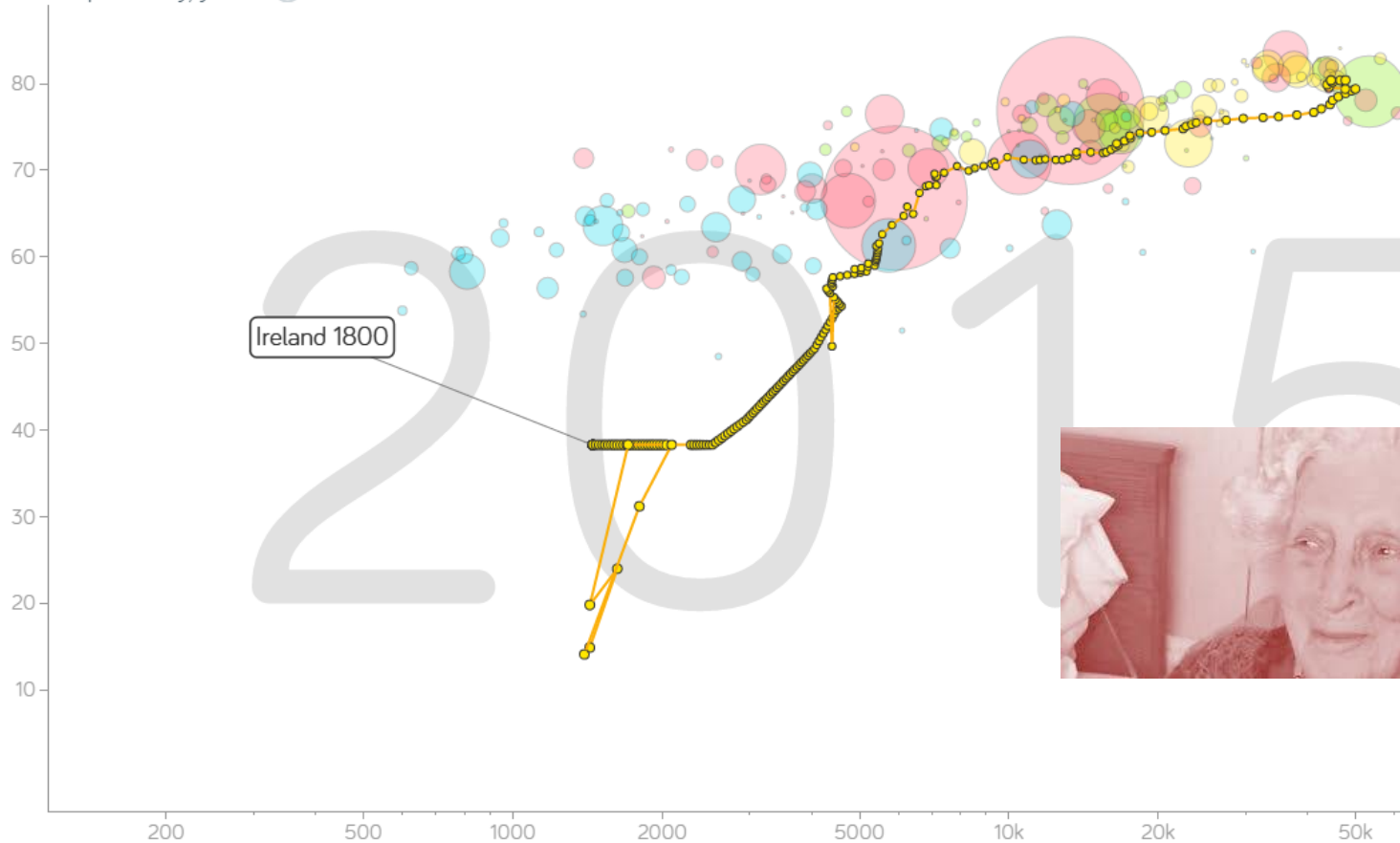
Harper's Weekly New York 1850



Daily Mail 17 November 2015

Ireland – Life Expectancy

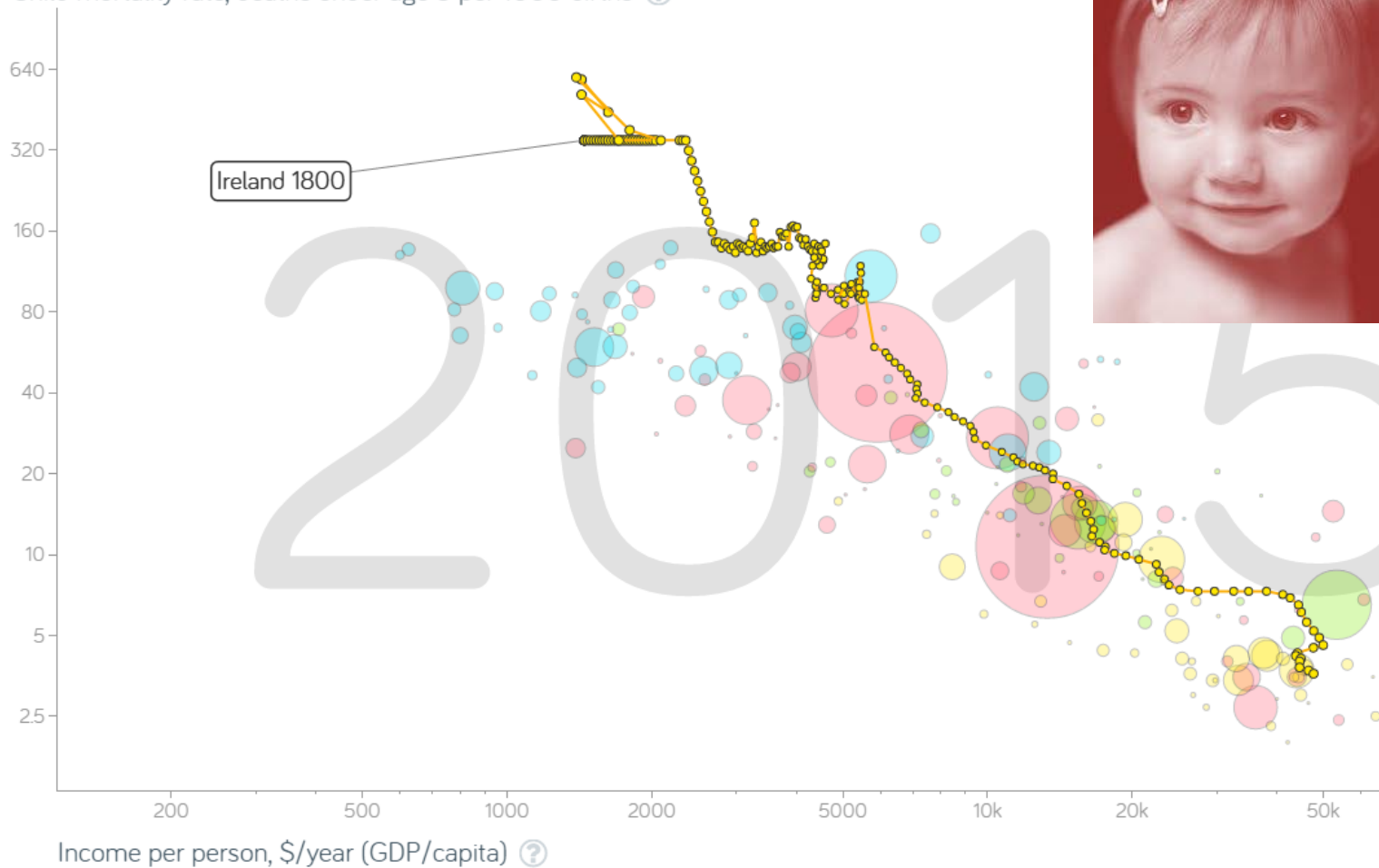
Life expectancy, years ?



Income per person, \$/year (GDP/capita) ?

Ireland – Child Mortality

Child mortality rate, deaths under age 5 per 1000 births ?



Ireland – Babies per Woman

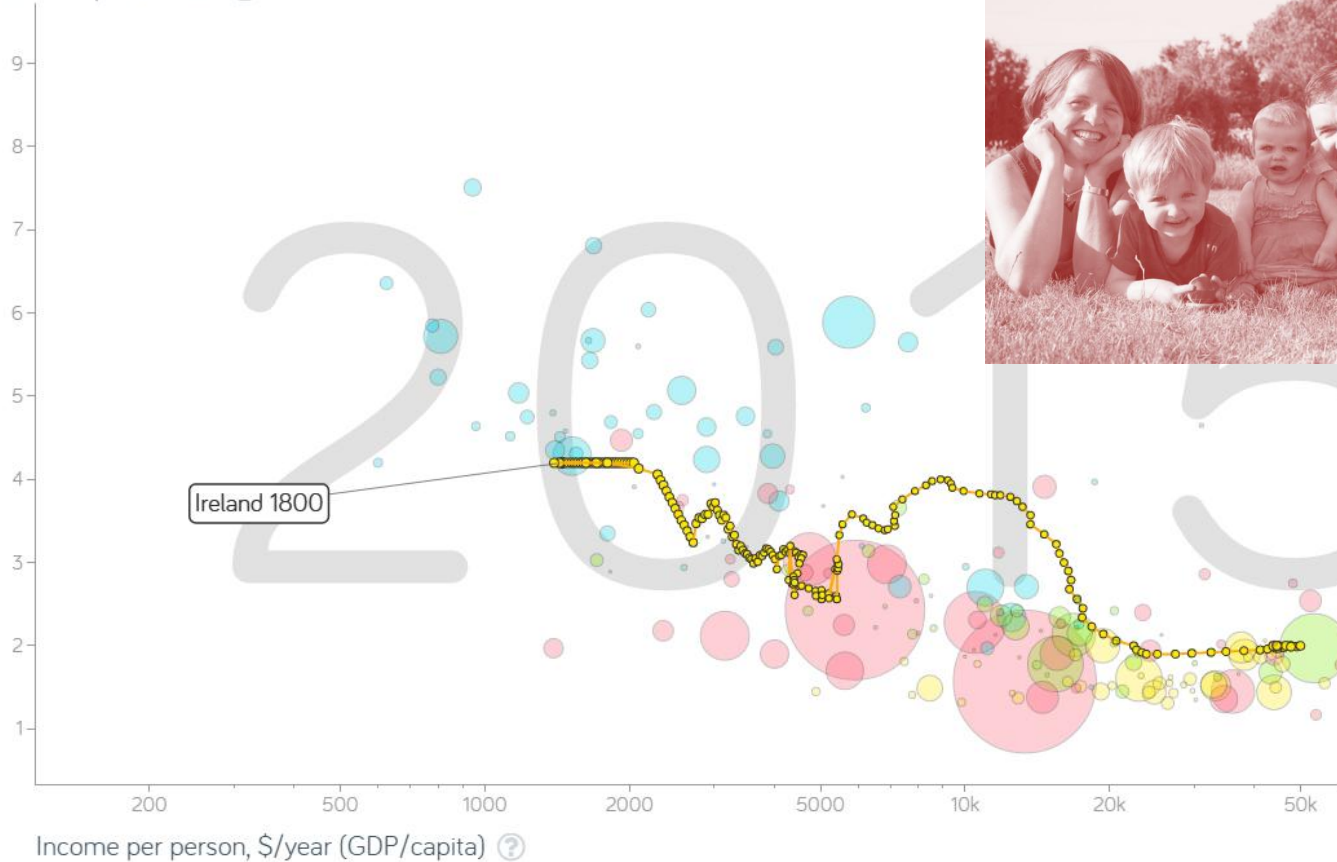
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Babies per woman ?



Botswana – A country without a war

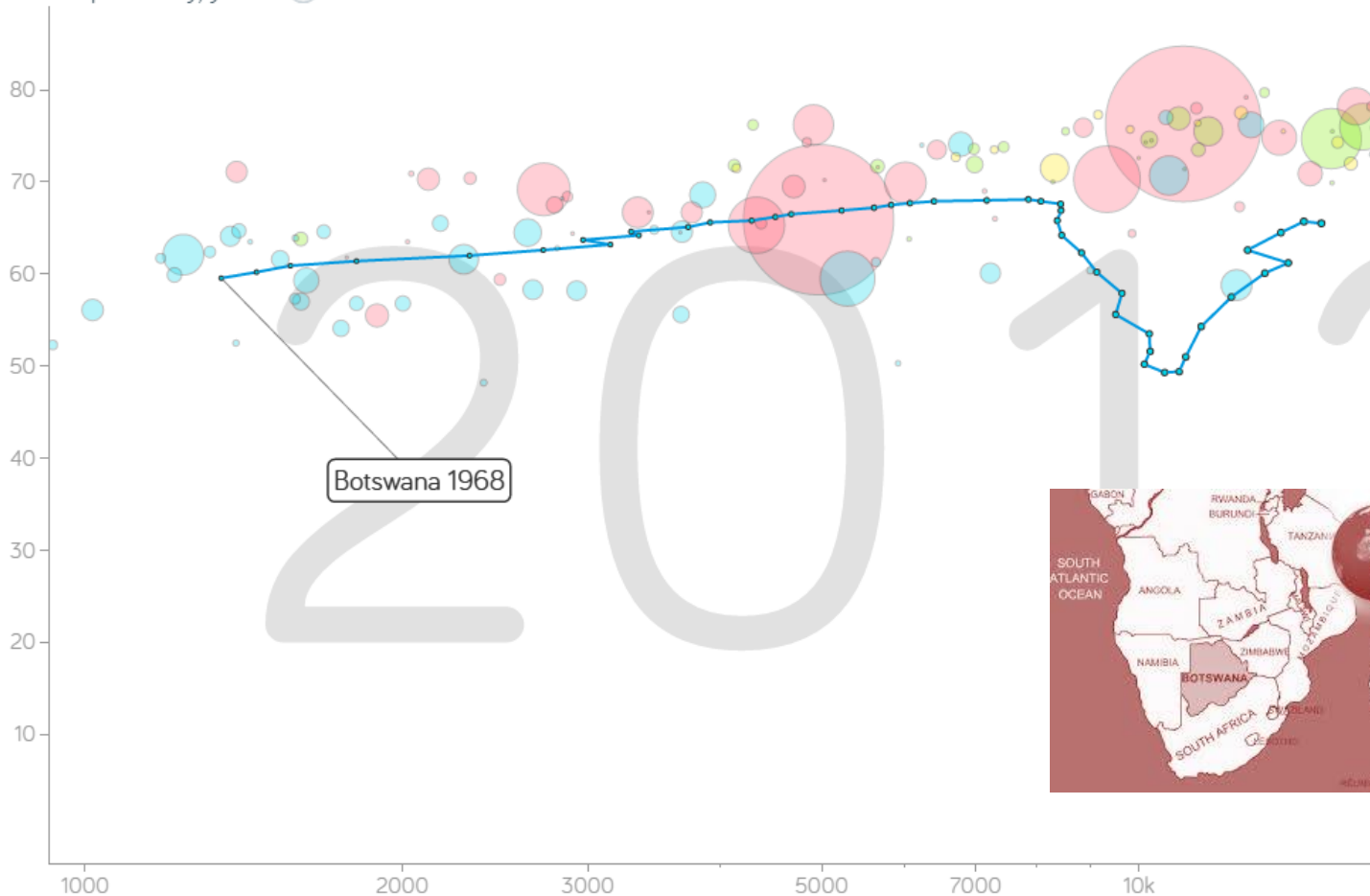
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TEACH

ABOUT

Life expectancy, years ?



Income per person, \$/year (GDP/capita) ?

Ukraine – A never-ending disaster

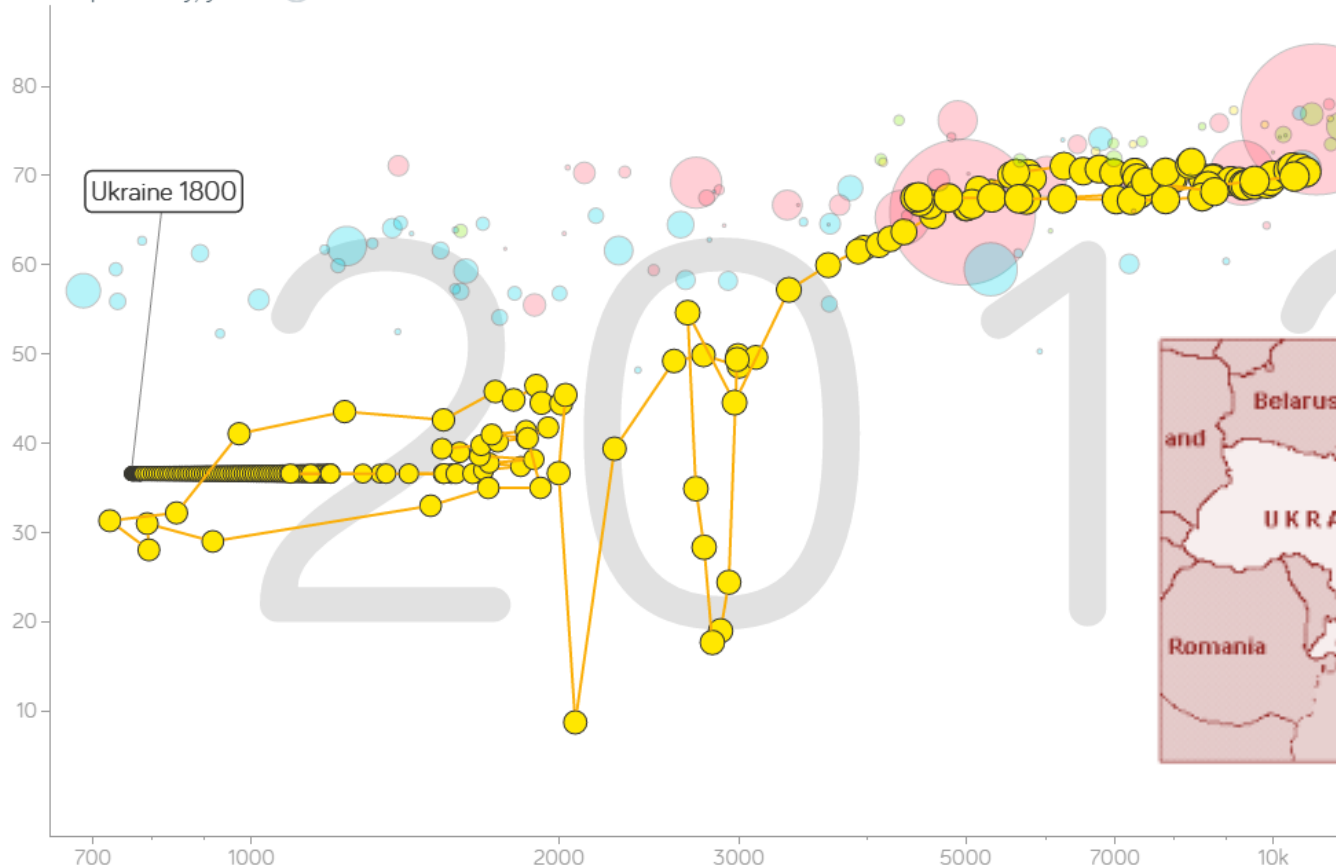
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FACTS

TEACH

ABOUT

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Income per person, \$/year (GDP/capita) ?

Syria – A country at war

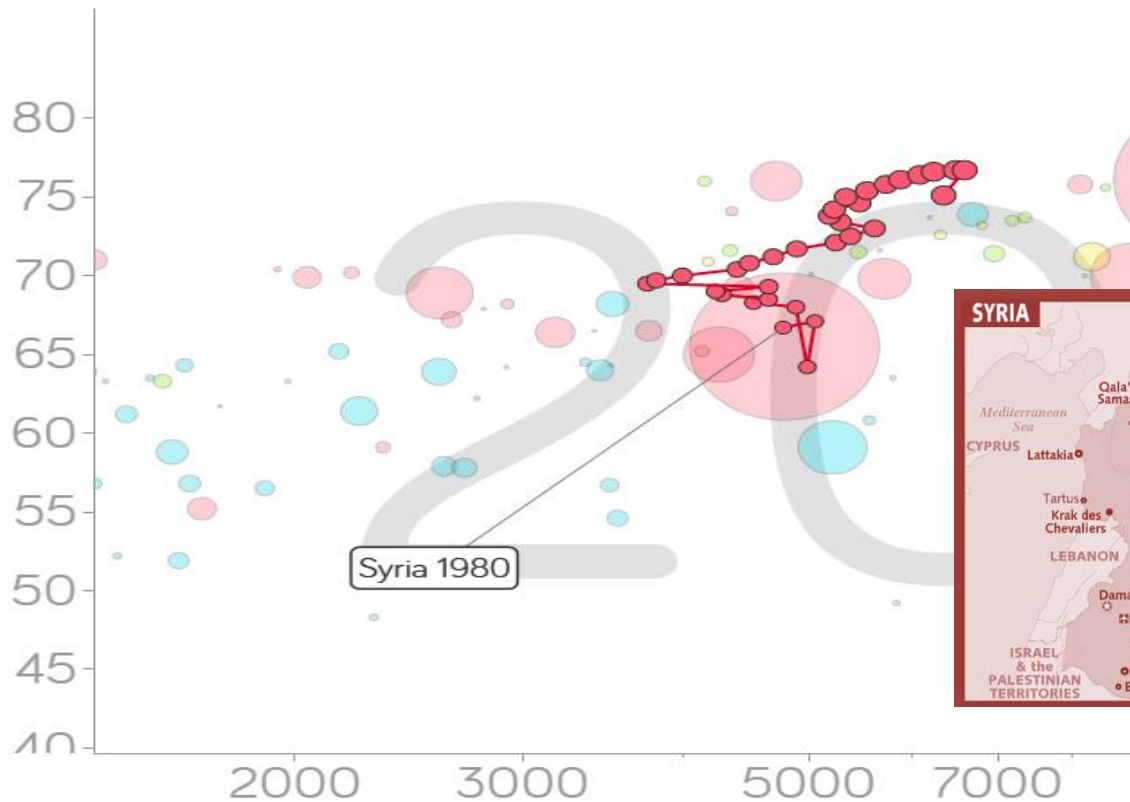
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FACTS

TEACH

ABOUT

Life expectancy, years ?



These economic differences drive migration

Migration by official channels is very difficult

- If you are rich you can buy a passport from a citizenship by investment scheme
- If you are highly skilled in a critical area you can come to the EU on a skilled workers visa
- It's very difficult to get a visa for any other category of person
- Some people use asylum seeking procedure as an alternative route



Modern economies insist on:

- Free movement of capital
- Free movement of goods

It's very difficult to achieve these while maintaining severe restriction on the movement of labour



Restrictions on labour movement are counter productive

- It's good for the receiving country
 - More workers
 - Improved productivity
 - Better age mix in workforce and society
 - Little or no effect on wage levels
- It's good for the sending country
 - Emigrant's remittances. Total global remittances in 2014 were €543 billion, more than twice official international aid
 - Transfer of skills
 - Improves wage levels for everyone
- Restrictions actively militate against people needing protection



“Trillion dollar bills on the sidewalk”

Table 1

Efficiency Gain from Elimination of International Barriers
(percent of world GDP)

All policy barriers to merchandise trade

1.8	Goldin, Knudsen, and van der Mensbrugghe (1993)
4.1	Dessus, Fukasaku, and Safadi (1999) ^a
0.9	Anderson, Francois, Hertel, Hoekman, and Martin (2000)
1.2	World Bank (2001)
2.8	World Bank (2001) ^a
0.7	Anderson and Martin (2005)
0.3	Hertel and Keeney (2006, table 2.9)

All barriers to capital flows

1.7	Gourinchas and Jeanne (2006) ^b
0.1	Caselli and Feyrer (2007)

All barriers to labor mobility

147.3	Hamilton and Whalley (1984, table 4, row 2) ^c
96.5	Moses and Letnes (2004, table 5, row 4) ^c
67	Iregui (2005, table 10.3) ^{c,d}
122	Klein and Ventura (2007, table 3) ^e

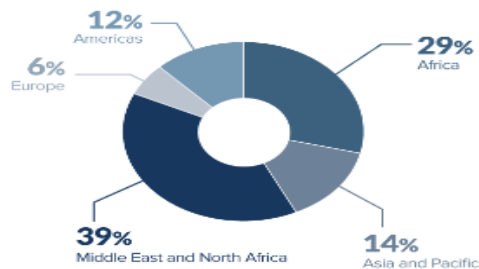
Governments insist on drawing distinctions

65.3 million people have been forced from home. Nearly **21.3 million refugees**, over half of whom are **under the age of 18**.

A refugee is:

- Outside country of origin
- Unable to return due to well founded fear of persecution

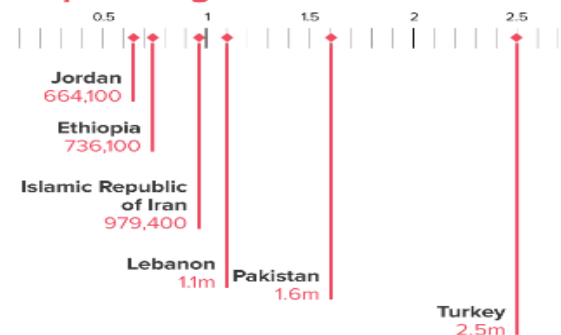
Where the world's displaced people are being hosted



54% of refugees worldwide came from three countries



Top hosting countries



33,972 people
a day forced to flee their homes
because of conflict and persecution

9,700 staff
UNHCR employs 9,700 staff
(figures from December 2015)

126 countries
We work in 126 countries

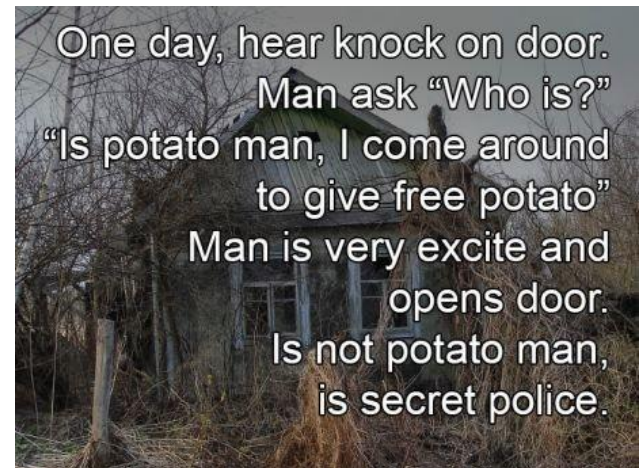
We are funded almost entirely by
voluntary contributions, with 86 per
cent from governments and the
European Union.

“Well Founded Fear”

“of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, ...” (UNHCR definition)

Highly political definition makes it difficult to protect people who are fleeing:

- Environmental calamities such as famine, earthquake or tsunami*
- Gay people who are in danger of their lives in some societies*
- Women fleeing female genital mutilation, forced marriage or forced divorce*



United Nations conventions

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

- *Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind ...*

Convention on Protection of Refugees

Other relevant conventions exist on racism, human rights, status of women and rights of the child.

Most UN member states have signed up to these conventions and incorporated them into national law.

Unfortunately very few states abide by them



Irish interpretation of UN conventions

The UNHCR Convention on the protection of refugees in Ireland is implemented by:

- Refugee Act (1996)
- Illegal Immigrant (Trafficking) Act (2000)
- Immigration Act (2003).
- International Protection Act (2015)

We will discuss how these work in the next session.



References

- United Nations High Commission for Refugees
<http://www.unhcr.org/>
- Gapminder – A fact-based worldview
<https://www.gapminder.org/>
- Economics and Emigration: Trillion-Dollar Bills on the Sidewalk?

Michael A. Clemens [JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVES VOL. 25, NO. 3, SUMMER 2011](#)

<http://pubs.aeaweb.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1257/jep.25.3.83>