# May one belong only once one is counted

What does it mean to belong? Does it mean we are surrounded by an environment that accepts and stimulates us? Does it mean we have the chance to flourish surrounded by people that drive and motivate us? Or is it simply being allowed to exist without being pursued and harassed? These definitions are very different. They are on a spectrum based on the current wellbeing of the beholder. How can an immigrant feel a sense of belonging if they are not welcome?

Let us first state the fact that the word immigrant is mutilated and twisted by modern society. What do I mean by this? When politicians talk about reducing the number of immigrants they are not talking about legal immigrants, they are talking about refugees being thrust out of their country of origin and into a world of great uncertainty and dissonance. Here, in their new world they need to learn the hard rules of developed, hardened, and impassive countries. Countries like Australia that simply do not want them there. They might even send them back to their overshadowing warzone and prior home; country of origin — leading to immeasurable suffering.

Their endless track may not be to waste though. They may be accepted. Acceptance is objectively the greatest outcome. This means they are safe, for now at least. Their next journey is just around the corner, integrating into society. After migrating and being accepted comes the next hurdle for these immigrants, people do not want them there. Depending on the countries standing they may ether despise refugees — to such a degree that they construct monolithic walls, obliterating any sign of hope within the refugee populous. Others may welcome them into an asylum with a roof over their head, electricity and a position in the school system or workforce. The sheer shred of hope is enough to motivate a refugee to seek life and not suffering.

The greatest challenge a migrant may face after war is by far assimilation. How can they become one when the one of the parties is actively steering away from them? Even if they are accepted in (which is an issue within itself) the inhabitants of the prior-mentioned country may not want them there. This leads back to xenophobia — as in the populous does not wish for an ethnically non-identical subculture. In simpler terms, the population would be racist against the refugees through the jarring nature of losing one’s couture. This means this challenge is not only comprised of politics but also prejudice.

To sum up. There are many aspects of a migrant’s path to assimilation. Many of which are specifically designed against the immigrant trying to motivate them to leave them alone, yet they will not yield. They may continue to seek a brighter future, seek a world greater than the hell of which they rise from. This, this is what they need. They need the hope of a home, the hope of a better world, only then will they feel a sense of belonging, belonging through realization that there is a world here, there is a place for them, and they have a home. That home is their belonging, their new world of life, their future as a citizen, and not a refugee.