CHARTER

Common Refugee Strategies

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CORES

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We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this charter. This charter is available in 11 different languages (Arabic, Bulgarian, Czech, English, French, Italian, Persian, Russian, Spanish, Turkish).

http://www.coresproject.net

Electronic copy of this charter is also available online on the project website.

CONTENT

Charter of Common Refugee Strategies
CORES

DISCLAIMER

Charter of Common Refugee Strategies
CORES

PREAMBLE

The parties aiming to use this charter hereto,

Considering that the aim of this charter is to serve as a road map for refugees in order to integrate into the destination country/society.

Considering that this charter is Europe-wide taking into consideration of basic universal concepts and values (social change, social development, social cohesion, social justice, human rights, empowerment, equality), which are also included in international documents such as UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and European Social Charter (1965);

Considering that the enjoyment of social rights stated in each title above should be secured without discrimination on grounds of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, political opinion, national extraction or social origin;

Being resolved to make every effort in common to improve the newcomers' standard of living and to promote social well-being and social harmony of refugees by means of appropriate institution and actions.

All parties are supposed to agree on following values:

Part I

1   Social change

2   Social development

3   Social cohesion

4   Social justice

5   Human rights

6   Empowerment

7   Equality

All parties are supposed to respect following priorities:

Part II

1   Citizenship

2   Housing

3   Healthcare

4   Education

5   Employment

6   Social harmony

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INTRODUCTION

This charter is a comprehensive guide for local authorities, adult education providers and other related institutions (such as NGOs) working with refugees including information about common values (social change, social development, social cohesion, social justice, human rights, empowerment, equality) and common subjects (citizenship, housing, education, healthcare, social harmony, employment) across Europe.

There are many researches on migration issues that many countries carry out various harmonization studies within themselves. However, no country seems to be in a position to determine and move from a common point of view. With this charter, it is aimed to prevent the assimilation of refugees. It serves as a protection of both sides (refugees and hosting society) in terms of rights and responsibilities.

This charter is designed in two parts: (A) Values, (B) Priorities. First part includes following titles: social change, social development, social cohesion, social justice, human rights, empowerment, equality. Second part, on the other hand, includes following titles: citizenship, housing, healthcare, education, employment, social harmony.

This charter is aimed for governments, local authorities, I/NGOs, adult education providers, refugees, social workers, experts, stakeholders etc. This charter is available in 11 languages (English, Turkish, Greek, Bulgarian, Czech, Spanish, Italian, Arabic, Persian, Russian and French) in PDF on project website: www.coresproject.net

1.
VALUES

Social Change

Social Development

Social Cohesion

Social Justice

Human Rights

Empowerment

Equality

1.1.

SOCIAL CHANGE

It is impossible to think of a group of people unchanged in the modern world. We are in a process where the only thing that does not change is change. Today, social change is the most prominent of these changes. Social change is a very complex and dynamic phenomenon based on population, technology, natural resources, politics, economy and similar factors and their interaction. Social change is the change that occurs in different times, shapes, directions and dimensions of the main elements that make a society a general sense. However, what makes the real change possible is the differences that occur in elements such as culture, religion, language, economy, and technology that make up the social structure [1].

The parties accept as the aim of their policy to be pursued by all appropriate means in character, the attainment of conditions which the following principles may be effectively realized:

- All parties should be aware that new arrivals (asylum seekers, refugees and migrants) bring not only their bodies but also their social, cultural, religious and political views and values to their new places.

- Combination of values of new arrivals with the values of the host society may result in sudden rejection, distant transition period or a more moderate welcome and composition.

- This negative or positive combination, which is called "social change", takes time.

- Residents and newcomers shall accept, adopt and maintain both values.

- It should be considered that social change may be discriminative, exclusive and prohibitive.

- All parties shall ensure a unifying, infusing and developing process.

- All parties shall consider that social change is an element of progress and development.

- Failure in embracing the prerequisites of social change may result in all parties' blaming each other.

- All parties should be informed about what social change is and how it happens, and measures should be taken accordingly for both residents and newcomers.

1.2.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Social development can be defined as the rise of social and cultural level together with economic development and growth in a society. When we consider in terms of social and human relations, social development can be defined as the process of acquiring behaviors and approaches that are necessary for adaptation to the principles and values of the society and the universal culture, in which the individuals establish social relations with the individuals around them. Social development is about improving the well-being of every individual in society so they can reach their full potential. The success of society is linked to the well-being of each and every citizen.

In order to ensure social development in a country or society, it is important to fulfill some elements (economic growth, quantitative and qualitative development of the middle class and social integration [functional integration & spiritual integration]). When we evaluate in this study, the elements (values) that are expected to exist in a country or in a society that refugees are located are almost the same.

According to this;

- First of all, all parties are expected to be aware of the fact that each development or innovation brings a change in a life.

- Politicians and administrators in countries where refugees are located should recognize that refugees are an essential element of social development.

- In the history of the world, the innovations and differences that came with migration made it possible to progress and develop. Social change is also part of this progress and development process.

- Therefore, all parties must accept that horizontal economic development is essential for social change.

- Economic income is expected to be distributed equally and equitably.

- All parties should accept that social integration is a sine qua non for social development.

- Social integration consists of two different elements: functional and spiritual integration. All parties must be functional and be spiritually united in common emotions.

- Functional integration unites all parties in different business lines for development and progress; spiritual integration emphasizes the unifying and developing aspects of culture.

- It is not possible to achieve social development without the participation of all parties.

1.3.

SOCIAL COHESION

Social cohesion nowadays appears as a concept of politics and sociology that emphasizes the interaction between new comers (migrants, asylum seekers, refugees) and residents. However, social cohesion generally includes eliminating discrimination and exclusion among all members of society, creating a sense of belonging and trust among all members of society. Some elements in the social structure are very important indicators for social cohesion. Accordingly (a) social connectedness; (b) social relationships; and (c) the understanding of common benefit reveals important findings for the degree of "living together" in a country or community. Countries and societies with high social cohesion also seem to have no polarization, low level of conflict, high levels of coexistence and social trust. These indicators emerge by providing some basic values.

The social cohesion addressed in this charter is one of these values. Social cohesion will only be possible through a good understanding of what this value means. According to this;

- Social cohesion cannot be achieved without the participation and willingness of all parties.

- It is very important that all parties come together without prejudice and independently of any individual, group and community interest or privilege.

- It should be accepted that all parties are equally important and necessary.

- Social care should be taken to provide public services on the basis of equality. It is important to ensure equal use of education, health, food, dressing, employment and housing.

- Social connectedness is necessary for social cohesion and includes a feeling of belonging, a trust in institutions and a sense of justice.

- Social relationships are essential for social cohesion and include strong social networks, trusting people, and defining or adopting pluralism.

- The understanding of common benefit is necessary for social cohesion and includes civic participation, compliance with socio-cultural rules and understanding of solidarity.

- The structure that will be created on the basis of social cohesion should be targeted as a democratic, coexistent culture, economically dynamic and high sense of social trust.

1.4.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Social justice is a concept shaped on justice. In today's postmodern society, the concept of justice confronts people in many areas of social life. One of the most important concepts that shape the conceptual framework and existence of justice is equality. First of all, members of a society (newcomers or residents) must be equal in every respect. The concept of social justice comes into play at this point. Social justice is the concept that expresses this equality precisely in the social and community life. In the age of globalization and immigration, when the movements of people are so concentrated and differentiated, the social justice between the residents and the newcomers is an important agenda in the national and international arena. However, starting from some basic values will both strengthen the sense of equality between people and facilitate the harmony of people.

For this, it is important to pay attention to the following points;

- It is very important for governments to act on the constitutional basis and be transparent on the basis of equality in this regard. This attitude will ensure the trust of the public, especially the residents (citizens).

- The differences between individuals such as races, colors, beliefs and cultures of community members should not be destructive and differentiating. The acceptance of these differences is essential.

- All parties are expected to recognize and respect each other's existence.

- All parties are expected to respect each other's rights. Each people have inalienable rights and therefore responsibilities; this also means the reciprocal rights and responsibilities.

- All parties argue that differences are actually the source for change and development; so, it should be accepted that collaboration and equal sharing are essential for development and change.

- The important thing is that there is a fair distribution of prosperity in the society.

- There are four interrelated principles of social justice such as equity, access, participation and rights;

    - Equity means to ensure fair distribution of available resources in society,

    - Access means ensuring all people have access to goods and services regardless of age, gender, ethnicity etc.

    - Participation means to enable people to participate in decisions which affect their lives.

    - Rights means to protect individual liberties to information about circumstances and decisions affecting them and to appeal decisions to people feel are unfair [2].

1.5.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Questions such as what are human rights, what should be and so on are among the questions that have been searched for hundreds of years. Different definitions can be made about human rights. However, the generally accepted definition is defined as "basic rights and freedoms that all people have because of being human". Human rights are a number of special rights that are owned by being human, and aim to protect human dignity directly. Also, according to UN, human rights include the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education, and many more. Everyone is entitled to these rights, without discrimination [3]. It is important to have some basic values in order to equally establish human rights between residents and newcomers. These basic rights are based on shared values like dignity, fairness/justice, equality, respect and independence/freedom.

These values are defined and protected by law [4]:

- Dignity is the respect that one has for his/her own existence, for his/her own personality. It is the inner value that makes people human. In this charter dignity is considered reciprocally.

- Fairness/justice can refer to equity which means a legal principle allowing for the use of discretion and fairness when applying justice. Fairness should consider together with social justice, equality and solidarity in a society.

- When it comes to human rights there are different types of equality such as political, social, legal, natural, and economic. It is essential to provide all these areas of equality for all people (newcomers or residents).

- Respect is words and behaviors that show people that they are cared for and valued. Respect is to value people's thoughts, beliefs, worships, customs, traditions and lifestyles. Respect is to meet these people with understanding and to be careful, attentive and measured.

- Freedom is an indispensable value that is the basis of human rights. The freedom here is the inalienable freedom rights that all people (newcomers or residents) have inherently.

- Human rights belong to all people.

- Human rights cannot be taken away.

- Human rights are dependent on one another.

- Human rights cannot be treated in isolation.

- Human rights should be respected without prejudice [5].

1.6.

EMPOWERMENT

Empowerment is a concept we have encountered in the social sciences in recent years, especially since the 1960s. It has started to be used in fields and professions such as education, psychology and social work. Empowerment basically means that people, families, groups, organizations or societies interfere with their own lives and develop control. Empowerment considers people to be active and participatory individuals with potential power. Empowerment is the process of being stronger and more determined to control one's life and claim their rights.

In this process, it is important to conduct empowerment efforts for both newcomers and residents. It is important to strengthen all parties here. Indeed, the strengthening value does not offer a unilateral perspective. In the light of the other values expressed so far, it is expected to be strengthened in terms of demanding the rights of the person.

For this, it is important to pay attention to some points. Such as;

- Every individual, group, family and society have some strengths. Empowerment recognizes that every person, family, group, or community has resources, assets, wisdom, knowledge, and dignity. It also recognizes that they have the potential to transform their lives, predicting that they have life experiences.

- Things such as trauma, abuse and illness that people face can be harmful; however, they also provide the opportunity to cope with the challenges. Negative experiences can become opportunities for the individual, family or community. Adverse conditions and suffering can lead to new experiences. Empowerment can offer flexibility for people who are often faced with trouble to get rid of problems. Thus, people agree that they have to learn their own strategies to overcome adversity.

- It is a fact that individuals, groups and communities are open to growth and development. The basic approach in organizing and maintaining the relationship between the newcomer and the resident should be based on this value. The important thing is to identify the points where individuals, groups and communities are open to growth and development.

- According to the empowerment philosophy, the best service can be provided by collaborating with people, so the best progress can also be achieved by collaborating with people. Therefore, it is important to treat people with this value.

- Every environment is full of resources. There are individuals, families, groups, associations and institutions that want to help others in every environment. When given the opportunity, they can make all kinds of contributions with knowledge, talent, assets and resources. This synergy and power should be used in the relationship and functioning between newcomers and the residents.

- Solidarity, care and relationship are very important values in social life. It has a unifying feature of people. Increasing and protecting the human well-being is basically about care. Empowerment in the public sphere can be achieved through strengthening the social relations in the family, neighborhood, society, culture and country. All parties are expected to be in this awareness and effort.

1.7.

EQUALITY

Equality, in the shortest and simpler form, means the absence of discrimination between people in terms of social and political rights, being equal. Equality is a judgment of value. All individuals in the social structure are expected to be accepted equally regardless of any feature. Even though the issue of equality has been brought up and became widespread after the French Revolution in the political and administrative sense, it is still a very important issue with its deficiency for thousands of years. Especially when it comes to migration studies and practices in the 21st century, the issue of equality should be at a very central location. Indeed, the fact that it is included as a basic value in this study is due to this position. Equality imposes some basic responsibilities on all stakeholders in the community, especially managers. These responsibilities should be perceived primarily on the values expressed so far.

In this charter, equality has some characteristics;

- Equality does not stand for absolute equality. It accepts the presence of some natural dissimilarities.

- Equality stands for absence of all inequalities and specially privileged classes in the society.

- Equality assumes the grant and guarantee of equal rights and freedoms to all the people.

- Equality infers the system of equal and adequate opportunities for all the people in society.

- Equality supports an equitable and fair distribution of wealth and resources. It aims minimum possible gap between the rich and poor.

- Equality accepts the principle of protective discrimination for helping the weaker sections of society [6].

All should adopt the value of equality are expected to act in line with these values and adopt the values such as social change, social development, social cohesion, social justice, human rights, empowerment mentioned up to here.

2.
PRIORITIES

Citizenship

Housing

Healthcare

Education

Employment

Social Harmony

2.1.

CITIZENSHIP

The historicity of the concept of modern citizenship, which we describe today as the simplest form of belonging to a country or homeland, democratic participation and equitable access of public rights, is not based on very old history. It is observed that the concept of citizenship has become common with the spread of nation states as a basic form of political system, and the modern life, which started with the Industrial Revolution, is realized by the participation of the masses intensifying in the city and whose education level is constantly increasing, together with the employment in the industry and then the service sector, as well as in the political processes. Today, citizenship is understood primarily as an opportunity and obligation to participate in a contemporary democratic society. These rights and responsibilities include privileges such as voting, being in various units in the community, military service, taxing and serving in similar ways, as well as rights and responsibilities such as compliance with the law. All of this means joining the basic elements of the political system that the individual is a member of, which is identical to citizenship. However, in the global reality of the 21st century, which we call the age of globalization or immigration, both the concept of nation state and the concepts of classical citizenship in some way threatened by new geopolitics and, paradoxically, they are returning to have a certain importance. While the understanding of the global state has gained importance

instead of the nation state; also, global citizenship concept gains importance instead of classical citizenship [7]. In this study, the concept of citizenship is handled from this context.

Therefore, in ensuring the adaptation of newly arrived refugees to the residents;

- First of all, the idea of global citizenship is expected to be adopted. What is meant by the concept of global citizenship is that people take an active role in the societies they are members of and live in social harmony with others in order to make the world or society more equal, fair and sustainable.

- Citizenship rights need to be legally provided to cover all foreigners or newcomers. What is meant here is that countries carry out separate citizenship practices for migrants and refugees in their internal policies.

- Moreover, positive discrimination is expected for refugees applying for citizenship. In this context, the language proficiency expected from immigrants or the general level of cultural knowledge for the country may be lower. It is also be recommended to offer the possibility for migrants to take language courses with far fewer restrictions.

- It is recommended that the citizenship right offered to refugees is presented with more inclusive and long-term effects in mind. Simplification of bureaucratic procedures is also be recommended. At this point, it is very important to plan equal rights and practices with the local community.

2.2.

HOUSING

Housing is the top priority agenda item not only for refugees but for all people involved in migration movements. The idea of where, how and under what conditions to stay in a newly arrived place is the most considered issue from the first moment of the individuals participating in migration movements. Having a shelter (like a harbor) in the place of arrival is the most needed thing. Today, housing is one of the most problematic areas especially in countries that accept or host asylum seekers and refugees. There is a huge gap in the migration legislation of many countries regarding refugees' right to housing. Housing for refugees are also very limited in the 21st century, that it is very difficult for countries to offer accommodation even their citizens through social housing and similar practices. However, in order to build a healthy and long-term relationship between the resident and the newcomer, it is very important for all individuals to live in common living spaces with decent living standards. This issue is especially important for realizing the ideal of living together, expressed by different definitions such as integration, adaptation, acceptance, social harmony or social cohesion. Opportunities to be provided to refugees in housing are expected to have some features.

According to this;

- The vast majority of refugees stay in parks, gardens, places of worship, or streets until they find a permanent place. Therefore, authorities are expected to provide places where refugees can reside, at least temporarily, until a permanent place is found.

- It is very important that these places are suitable for human rights and dignity.

- In these places, basic infrastructure and/or superstructure services such as electricity, water, sewage, heating and communication should be provided.

- It is important that there are suitable places for refugees who want to reside as a family and for refugees who want to live individually.

- Particular attention should be paid to ensuring that children are not in the same environment as different adults, other than their families.

- It is recommended that children be included in educational activities in nearby areas where there are opportunities for accommodation.

- In these environments where other adult individuals are housed temporarily, it is important that they participate in various activities and support them psycho-socially.

- Apart from these temporary accommodation opportunities, refugees are expected to be directed to the places where they can be settled permanently by the authorities.

- Providing access to similar infrastructure and superstructure facilities mentioned above is of great importance in these permanent settlements.

- If requested or deemed necessary, refugee individuals are expected to provide temporary and periodic economic support.

- It should be taken into consideration that the way to social harmony or social cohesion is closely related to equal housing opportunities in all studies conducted and planned for housing.

2.3.

HEALTHCARE

The right to access healthcare services is a basic social policy service that countries are obliged to provide to their citizens all over the world. This obligation is guaranteed within the legal regulations of the countries. Therefore, a citizen of a country can access the health services that he or she needs on a constitutional basis. However, the real problem concerns the rights of individuals who are citizens of another country to access health care while they are in another country for various reasons. Various international documents such as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the European Social Charter, emphasize the health rights of people. Moreover, these rights are accepted as valid for all humanity, not only for the citizens of the countries. Countries also sign contracts regarding these thoughts or ideas. However, when it comes to implementation, it is seen that countries emphasize firstly the concept of citizenship. Then they consider the health insurance system. If there is health insurance or protection, the person can benefit from the services. Therefore, this attitude poses a disadvantageous situation both for the citizens and for newly arrived immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees.

Here, especially the standards of health services expected to be offered to refugees will be mentioned.

- First of all, refugees are expected not to experience any discrimination in accessing healthcare facilities legally provided to them.

- Access to health services should be provided in common areas and facilities with other citizens.

- It is recommended to be prepared for various obstacles that may arise during refugees' access to healthcare.

- Healthcare professionals and other professionals are expected to be informed about inclusive healthcare services.

- It is recommended that necessary measures should be taken in areas such as language insufficiency and miscommunication that may occur during the access of refugee individuals to health services. Applications such as online or telephone language support line or language cards can be taken into consideration.

- Refugee individuals should be ensured not only to benefit from emergency health services free of charge, but also to free access to in-patient treatment and/or ambulatory care services.

- Refugees should be supported with public (national and/or local) or non-governmental sources on issues such as medical drugs and supplies.

- It is recommended to include refugees in public health and practices considering that refugee health is also a public health issue.

2.4.

EDUCATION

The right to education is a basic human right guaranteed by the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child and the 1951 Geneva Refugee Convention. Despite this, the access of refugees to education services in the 21st century is a very important problem area. According to the report published by UNHCR, refugees in the world are five times more likely to have education opportunities than the global average. Compared to the 92% global average, only 61% of refugee children have access to primary education. Moreover, this gap gradually increases as the age gets older. Compared to the 84% global average, only 23% of adolescent refugees attend secondary education. In higher education, while the global average is 34%, less than 1% of refugees go to university. Refugee children, young and adults must have access to education programs in order to work in high-skilled professions and make a great contribution to the communities in which they live [8]. This requirement is a very important point as it will serve culture of living together, coexistence and/or social cohesion.

However, for this, education services provided to refugees should also have some global standards and features. In this respect;

- First of all, the principle of equal opportunity in education should be applied in a way to cover all the individuals in a country, and access to education should be provided regardless of citizen or refugee.

- The environments in which refugee education services are provided should not be temporary spaces or isolated areas.

- On the contrary, it is very important to create mixed and integrated educational environments.

- All children and young people should be together, regardless of whether they are settled or newly arrived.

- All professionals who provide training services (such as teachers, administrators, officers, cleaners or servants, etc.) must have inclusive training knowledge and practice.

- It is very important to establish a multicultural culture as well as the creation of multicultural environments for educational purposes. At this point, multicultural education teaching materials and applications should be developed.

- It should be ensured that all children and young people come together outside the educational activities observing each other in different environments, establishing intimacy and creating more intimate relationships.

- Considering that basic education begins in the family, informative activities should be carried out not only for children and young but also for the parents, about the inclusive and multicultural social structure.

- It is recommended to ensure that civil society studies take place as supportive or complementary studies as well as formal education.

- It is expected that all educational activities (regardless of public, private or civil society) are organized and supervised to be equal, multicultural and inclusive.

2.5.

EMPLOYMENT

Employment is one of the most prominent social policy areas of the last two centuries. The issue of employment which started with the migration of people from rural areas to cities in 19th century, has become more complex in modern society. Employment demands of citizens have turned into decent employment or work demands beyond basic demands. Accordingly, the demands for minimum wages have turned into affordable wages for a decent life. Employment is the key to existence within the capitalist system. It is the most important and priority requirement for all people. Naturally, it is the responsibility of governments and administrators to meet this requirement. However, the existence of different social classes within the capitalist system prevents everyone from accessing employment opportunities equally. Acting with profit maximization for the balance of the market, the capitalist system requires cheaper workforce for the continuity of capital accumulation. This situation causes various risks for refugees who already lack basic rights and support. Moreover, when the studies on this issue are examined, it is clearly seen that the refugees with limited access to the labor market have a slow progress in social cohesion and coexistence [9].

Therefore, it is very important and recommended to develop supportive (positive discrimination if necessary) practices for refugees who will take part in employment.

- First of all, refugees should be protected from the dangers of informal (unregistered) employment. This protection is the most important issue under the title of employment. (As a matter of fact, refugees who have to work informally are exposed to labor exploitation. They are employed for long hours with insufficient wages and without health insurance.)

- It should be kept in mind that informal work is both a tax loss and a social risk factor. It is expected that necessary informative studies and supervising mechanisms will be established to prevent informal (unregistered) employment.

- Necessary legal arrangements should be made regarding the employment of refugees, if any, deficiencies should be completed.

- It is recommended to obtain detailed information on the knowledge, skills and professional experience of refugees before they are included in the employment market. Accordingly, a guidance can be made in the field of employment towards the current employment needs.

- It is expected to provide consultancy services for newly arrived refugees. These services can be taken on an individual level or as a group consultancy.

- It is recommended to implement encouraging practices for businesses that offer employment opportunities or convenience for refugees.

- Institutional and sectorial infrastructure should be strengthened in terms of employment.

- Finally, the most important point to keep in mind when carrying out these studies on employment is that the newly arrived refugees will contribute to the employment market and the common wealth of the country. It should be ensured that this contribution is explained to all stakeholders (publics, communities, refugees, managers, politicians, artists, etc.).

2.6.

SOCIAL HARMONY

Adaptation of the human being to the environment and society, which is defined as a social cohesion/harmony, is one of basic needs and features of human being. What connects human beings to the life is the cohesion they provide to the environment and society they live in. This issue has become increasingly important in migration studies in recent years, is dealt with under the headings of social cohesion or social harmony. However, it is known that different methods such as assimilation, melting, adaptation or integration have been tried in order to cohere the newcomers to the settled society. In addition, some studies have been carried out within the framework of multicultural philosophy; nevertheless, no effective results were obtained in any of these studies. Moreover, it was inevitable that the mentioned methods would be ineffective due to the different arrival reasons, objectives and/or expectations of newcomers. As a matter of fact, all of these methods expect unilateral cohesion only from newly arrived individuals and/or groups. In other words, all of the methods used in the past were waiting for cohesion with the dominant and settled social structure and culture. However, within the post-modernist structure of the 21st century, it is envisaged that this social cohesion can be realized and sustained by the efforts of both the newcomers and the residents.

Therefore, in order to ensure sustainable or permanent social cohesion in refugees centered in this charter;

- All stakeholders in the community (resident, refugees, local governments, non-governmental organizations, private sector, etc.) are expected to be part of the process. As a matter of fact, social cohesion must be mutual, not unilateral.

- This process should be explained in a way that everyone can understand.

- Evidence-based methods should be used in social cohesion or good practices should be transferred without taking any risk.

- It is recommended to emphasize the basic values such as human rights, equality, justice, and dignity of the individual emphasizing these values in practices.

- It should be noted that active and participatory democratic structures are at the heart of social cohesion.

- Long-term collaborations and relationships need to be targeted.

- Needs and priorities of community or society should be assessed at local and national levels. Current and future processes should be developed based on this assessment.

- Strengths and weaknesses of communities or society need to be identified and included in the planning process.

- Be aware of the strengths and effects of social networks in social cohesion processes and these networks should be included in the cohesion process.

- It is aimed to create new and common social values and priorities in this cohesion process.

- Participation and solidarity in civil society should be encouraged.

- It is very important to be patient for social cohesion and to leave the process over time. It should not be forgotten that any social innovation does not happen or occur suddenly.

- Finally, it should be stated in this charter that all the values and priorities discussed so far are the indispensable elements of the processes leading to social cohesion in total. It should be underlined that each title in the charter is a way to achieve the social cohesion title and, ultimate goal is social cohesion in this charter.

Charter of Common Refugee Strategies
CORES

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CHARTER

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