CRISES IN ESTONIA AND IN EUROPE

October 2018
OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ESTONIA

The wars and global demographic developments of recent years have created a major refugee crisis in Europe.

Estonia is a part of Europe and thus well aware of the complex situation. Our moral duty is to help the people in distress, and the Estonian state is strong enough to accomplish this. Estonia is participating in resolving the crisis voluntarily and in proportion to its weight within the European Union.

Our goal is to help some refugees integrate into Estonia and contribute to our society.

In cooperation with the European Union, Estonia also participates in preparing a long-term migration plan, a part of which should be targeted at resolving crises in the countries of origin.
SINCE NOW

➢ Estonia has received a relatively small number of applications for international protection compared to other EU member states, but the number of applications has increased each year.

➢ Throughout the years, Estonia has received the largest number of applications for international protection from Russia, Georgia, Ukraine, Syria and Afghanistan.

➢ Estonia ranks among the ten countries ranked least accepting of migrants.

➢ Why?
WHY?

➢ Our long history as receiving “migrants” from the other countries (during Soviet time)
➢ Difficulties with integrating local Russian-speakers
➢ Fear (bad examples from other countries)
➢ Refugees are entitled to state pension, family benefits, employment services and employment subsidy, social benefits and other support on the same basis as any permanent resident of Estonia ➢➢➢ high expenses
➢ Estonians have their own serious problems
➢ Estonians leaving their own country
➢ Etc.
WHAT TO LEARN FROM THE PAST MISTAKES?

➢ Politicians failed to provide long-term stability because they were focused on punishment not on the problem solving

➢ Focus should be on inclusion and cooperation on all sides
RIGHT-WING POPULIST PARTIES AND NATION STATES.
THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

➢ How far can we go with the rules? Are there too many of these?

Some EU directives are too strict and do not take local conditions into consideration. This raises questions and raises the support of the right-wing parties.

1. Is EU democratic?
2. Do we have any right to decide?

Right-wing parties sometimes exploit these points and use to undermine democracy.