

Insight

Intro(3 minutes)

Pause (2 seconds)

Entrance music

Jordan: Welcome to Insight: Conflicts in Refugee Relocation, and we are here to tell you how and why we need to help.

Jordan: So, I'm sure you have all heard about the recent attacks in Paris from ISIS.

suspenseful background music

Jordan: Yeah, It is truly a tragedy. However, in retaliation, France's military is bombing cities in Syria to hit ISIS headquarters. I am not stating that what France is doing anything wrong in bombing Syria, but innocent millions are losing their lives. In bombing Syria, refugee numbers is bound to increase tremendously and somebody has to help them.

music ends

Chelsea: Yes, Syrians have a right to freedom as much as we do. According to UNHCR, there is about 4.2 million Syrians seeking asylum from the violence that is tearing their homes apart, but the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration the US only took in roughly 70,000 refugees in the year of 2013. That's barely scratching the surface of all the refugees needing help. These number may mean nothing at the first glance, but there's more to the story than numeric symbols.

Behind these numbers are

soft background music

Chelsea: human beings,

Jordan: children,

Lizzie: families,

Chelsea: lovers,

Jordan: fighters,

Lizzie: and survivors.

Chelsea: Something must be done. Instead of stepping back from assisting these families we need step up. Everyone needs to step up.

background music ends

Transition music.

Chelsea: Yo, I'm Chelsea or you can just call me Pork'n Beans.

Lizzie: Hey I'm Elizabeth aka your girl Lazy Lizzie.

Jordan: and I'm Jordan.

Cricket noise

Jordan: Like we said there is more to this cause than data, there is a face to every number and a story to be told.

Lizzie: Very true, I was just randomly searching through the interwebs when I came across this family from Syria talking about their journey to the US. Now I don't usually look at news events but they had these two beautiful little girls so I just couldn't help but click to find out more about their story.

soft background music

Lizzie: To summarize the story, the main character states that although his body is in America, his soul remains in Syria but cannot return because of the violence occurring. It shows that he fled his home to get his family to safe grounds. This is a worldwide problem that requires a worldwide solution and the United States has an historic responsibility to provide as many refugees safety as possible.

music ends

Jordan: Yeah I'll be honest, I did not know much about anything involving refugees until I read the book Outcasts United over the summer for my English class. Once I read the book, much more information on refugees came to me through the news, other sources of social media. It literally flooded me all at once. With that being said, I was constantly wondering if anything could be done.

Piano background music

Chelsea: People are attempting to spread the word for helping refugees around the nation. National Geographic wrote an article explaining what it is like to be a refugee. They explained when you are a refugee, you walk. You have to escape your former home without any idea how your family is. All you are aware of is distance. The distance between you and your home, the distance between you and safety.

music ends

Lizzie: The stories get me thinking about what you said Chelsea, these refugees are seen as numbers in life but there is definitely more to their stories. They are human beings trying to grant their families a better life. America is so blind to that because we are comfortable living in our environment that we don't think about others in worst environments. Everyone and not just America needs to begin stepping up and helping out one another instead of ignoring each other's problems. We are, in conclusion, part of the problem of why so many refugees are constantly struggling to survive.

➤ Transitioning music (4 seconds)

Chelsea: Throughout these stories, there has been a theme. Not just of the crime and collapse of the government, but something deeper.

Thoughtful background music

Think back to the stories. How many people helped these refugees find peace? The rebels in these foreign countries are not the only problem when it comes to finding a solution to peace. In this formula there is a constant many people have forgotten. We are the constant. The efforts of regular citizens in progressing countries make a large impact on these refugees. Which makes me think, what is the perspective of a refugee.

music ends

Jordan: Chelsea, I actually think I have the answer to your question. I recently talked to a friend of mine his name is Malick. He's an international student here at the University of Missouri S&T. I recently talked to him about where he is from and what his opinion is with the situation we have currently with refugees. Let's take a listen.

➤ Interview - Malick and Jordan (6 - 7 minutes)

Jordan: Alright, so, hi I'm Jordan

Malick: Hi, I'm Malick.

Jordan: So, where are you from exactly?

Malick: I'm from Senegal.

Jordan: Senegal? Okay, so, that's in west Africa, right?

Malick: Correct, yeah.

Jordan: Alright, so how has your transition been to America?

Malick: Uhm, not too bad. I've been in the US for about 4 years now.

Jordan: 4 years?

Malick: Yeah, I've been getting used to the language and everything else.

Jordan: That's good. So, I hear you play soccer, is that correct?

Malick: Yes. Correct, all the time.

Jordan: That's really cool. I do too!

Jordan laughs *cricket noises*

Jordan: Do you have family and cousins out of the country?

Malick: Uhm, yeah actually my parents and my brothers. They live in the US as well. They've moved here recently. I also have my cousins that grew up here, because they were born here.

Jordan: Really?

Malick: Yes

Jordan: So, do you have grandmas and grandpas here?

Malick: Uhm, no they're still back home.

Jordan: Back in Senegal?

Malick: Yeah.

Jordan: Really? Do you go out there much?

Malick: Yeah, I try to go as often as I can. That wasn't the case last summer, but the one before I went. So, about 2 years ago I went and that was the last time I went.

Jordan: Really? So, what's it like there exactly?

Malick: Uhm, it's pretty nice. As far as if you would compare it to the US, the capital city would be the closest thing. So, where I'm from is Dakar, it's by the west coast. So, Dakar is right by the Atlantic Ocean. It's just like a typical city in the US with buildings, the highway, and everything else. Uhm, now the further away you get from the capital, the more rural it becomes. Since, agriculture is kind of prominent in the country, the further away you get the the more "villagy" feel in that kind of a sense.

Jordan: Uhm, so why did you end up coming here in the first place?

Malick: School mainly, College. Yeah, it's very common in my high school that kids leave to go study abroad. The most common route is France and or England. The US isn't bad either. It just worked out the best for me. That's how I ended up here.

Jordan: You had family over here, as well. So, the rest come over here too?

Malick: Uhm, yeah actually that's why the US worked better. My mom got a job in the US, the same time I graduated. So, we figured it would be easier if we all came here at the same time. My older brother was in college in France. So, since I was coming here with our mom, he ended up coming with us.

Jordan: That's really awesome!

Malick: Yeah and later on the youngest brother followed and dad too.

Jordan: That's really cool!

Malick: Yeah.

Jordan: With you being an international student, there's been a lot going on with France, ISIS, and all that. So, now France is like bombing cities in Syria and such as that.

Malick makes an affirming noise

Jordan: So, what are your opinions, like what should people do? What should the world do? Maybe even America, what should they be doing with all these refugees. Like obviously, we are taking some in, but like should we take in more? Should other countries take in more, as well? What do you think as an international student should be done?

Malick: So, growing up in Senegal, which is a former French colony, I kind of have a different take on it. In a sense, I grew up watching French television. That's just how we grew up, watching television from France and French media, all my life. So, I have a different take on this. Uhm, the short and obvious answer is yes. People should help in any way they can.

Jordan: Sure

Malick: Now, it's not that simple when it comes up. Like, you said there are countries that are taking people, but you can't just take in every one. That's not how the the economy works.

Jordan: Sure, sure.

Malick: It's not as simple as that you can't just allow everyone in. There is a reason for immigration laws and things like that are set operating.

Jordan makes an affirming noise

Malick: Uhm, but at the same time you can't just sit there and watch people get bombed and not do anything about it.

Jordan: Right.

Malick: I guess it, it's kind of a little bit of both. Helping and taking in as many people as you can. There are countries like Germany and other countries in Europe that are helping in that way. So, that's that! It kind of helps, it reduces the load for other countries too.

Jordan: As a refugee, US taking them in they should return home after everything is all done, but as of late it has been about 20 years now in the middle east has had an on going war going. So, it's not like we can really return them.

Malick: Right.

Jordan: So, is this why you're saying there is a different outlook? Because they really can't return?

Malick: Yeah, for example St. Louis has a large population with a lot of immigration. I have been living there for 3 years now. I have met a lot of people working in different countries. There are people who can never go back home. It's just not an option. They are rescued from politics, if their parent had a certain occupation, whether it's just the way it is, or ethnic rivalries or whatever it maybe. So, some people just don't have that luxury. They just can't go home even if they want to really bad. Uhm, but in this case for example the middle east. This has been going on forever, but I think it's important to see the difference between the conflicts, because they are not all the same. For example, Israel and Palestine that has been going on forever and will probably keep that way.

Jordan: Is that a very religious area?

Malick: It's a lot more than just politics, and they have a really long history together. But, when you get to something like Syria, yeah they have been in trouble for quite a long time.

Jordan agrees

Malick: But, it's different it's more modern issues, such as ISIS. Over time us can be resolved.

Jordan agrees

Malick: So, maybe that can be solved and people can go home. One thing I really like is if you talk to a refugee one thing they will tell you is, they want to go home. Because home is just home and there is nothing they can do about it. There might be circumstances that keeps them from going back and that's what it comes down too. Now, helping is not as easy. For example, people standing in armies over there kind of helping take over and what not. They sometimes help and sometimes doesn't. So, I guess it's kind of a moderation thing don't take in everyone at the same time, take in as much as you can, as your country allows it. I mean U don't have the number on the top of my head, because the economy is more complicated than that. Someone would have to sit down, do the numbers on how many people come in, do they get jobs, what are they going to do, do they just sit there or what? Things like that. At the same time we should be going over there to help, like how are you helping? Are you just helping the government itself, or are you just going to the rebel army that kind of came up because they were tire of the government? You are also encouraging that kind of behavior. It's not as simple as showing up and just taking over. That's not going to help.

Jordan: So, basically to sum up. We should be helping them. Is that correct?

Malick: Yes, yes.

Jordan: But only in moderation?

Malick: Correct.

Jordan: So, maybe like every country should help, so it's easier and it can be spread out. Uhm, say if America took like everyone, then it would be bad for the economy. Is that correct?

Malick: Yeah.

Jordan: Alright, so, Malick thanks a lot. Good stuff.

end of interview

Applause

Lizzie: Thank you so much to Malick for giving us such insightful information on refugees as well as a personal experience and reason to why the refugee situation at hand calls for immediate action.

Outro music

Chelsea: The interview made me think, If riots and rebels rise in an area around you, wouldn't you want someone to help? If we expect this from others we should expect it from ourselves. In America, helping others is respectable and culturally moral. That is why time to help is now. You can help with donations, spreading this message, sending letters, and even voting for laws that will benefit refugees. There isn't an excuse to help anymore. Together we can provide protection and a better tomorrow.

music ends

Lizzie: This has been Insight showing you that things are not always black and white. Thank you for listening.