

# Why Europe must do more for refugees

By Dallal Stevens



That the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, felt compelled to issue 'a scathing and extraordinary intervention' is indicative of how bad the situation has become. He lambasts a tabloid newspaper columnist's use of the word 'cockroach' to describe migrants, adding that a vicious cycle of 'vilification, intolerance and politicization of migrants' had sapped 'compassion for the thousands of people fleeing conflict, human rights violations and economic deprivation who are drowning in the Mediterranean'. He said: 'The nasty underbelly of racism that is characterizing the migration debate in an increasing number of EU countries, has skewed the EU response to the crisis.'

Even the term "saving lives" is contentious. Used by the Australian government to justify stringent policies of deterrence, regional resettlement with poor countries such as Papua New Guinea, offshore processing and turning boats back, it is, instead, inflicting considerable suffering on desperate people and completely ignores the persecution and human rights violations from which many flee. This same language found its way into David Cameron's post-summit comments. He said: '... It was right for the Royal Navy to play a role, they will be saving lives, not offering people asylum in the UK ... and taking them to Italy or other nearby countries.' This undermines the notion of solidarity amongst EU states, just as Italian Prime Minister, Matteo Renzi declared himself satisfied with the outcome of the summit as indicating that the burden of taking in refugees would now be shared.

Read the full article [here](#)

# Dallal Stevens: Why I Write



## **How would you categorise the writing?**

Academic journalism.

## **Why did you write the piece?**

I was getting contacted a lot by the media at this time and so was in the frame of mind to write something which would have a wider appeal but which was important in view of the inaccurate reporting and discourse on refugees and migration.

## **What do you think makes it an effective piece of writing?**

I think it is a succinct piece that manages to cover quite a number of important legal and policy issues but in a way that is widely accessible. I think the use of quotes is a helpful tool and makes it more engaging. I enjoyed using short sentences for effect!