A Constructive Suggestion ?

We have a real problem of integrity here...the Integrity of Sweden and it's willingness to stand by it's promises (Open Heart Policy, UN Conventions, EU laws, Swedish Aliens Act) for all those young people who were clearly under 18 years of age when they applied for asylum prior to November 2015.

Falling numbers of new refugees.

Migrationsverket (the Migration Agency) says this for the 2018 forecast

The forecast for the number of asylum seekers is adjusted downwards

The restrictive migration policies in the EU and different Member States continue, and following a new proposal from the EU Commissioner, Sweden, Germany, France, Austria and Denmark have announced that they will prolong their border controls. The Swedish Migration Agency expects the restrictive developments to continue into 2018.

This year around 23 500 people are estimated to have sought protection in Sweden, which is a reduction on the planning assumption of 1,500 people compared with the previous forecast. The forecast for next year has also been adjusted downwards.

Under 18's

There is little doubt that prolonged processing times, dubious and highly questionable methodologies which actually appear to go against the terms of reference (rulebook) of the Migration Agency and even call into doubt the legitimacy of court proceedings (many of which were held in secret - even though there was not a State Security issue)....have profoundly damaged Sweden internationally.

The concept of Sweden as a place of fairness, justice and compassion has been badly damaged.

With every attempt at deportation of these unquestionably under 18's (when they applied for asylum) Sweden suffers a further wound to it's reputation.

With every suicide of a young person who would rather be dead than returned to the hell of Afghanistan, Sweden's long established reputation as a democracy with dignity (as Olof Palme indicated) suffers serious damage in the courtroom of world opinion

Investment

For up to 2 years this society has invested in young people. Young people who have found peace, security, democracy. Young people who, for the most part, we have found to be gracious, studious, kindly...and incredibly appreciative for the opportunity granted to them to create a life worth living.Of course there are exceptions, but are there no exceptions in the Swedish society?

The taxpayer has funded accommodations at a cost of Sek 1900 per day (paid to kommunes and businesses - not to the asylum seekers).

This investment has not placed quite as much burden upon the taxpayer (taxpayers who have an incredible record of donating to charities to help others) because some of the funding from the overseas aid budgets were <u>used at home in Sweden</u>. With a substantial benefit here in Sweden.

A Constructive Suggestion

In 2016 Sek 13 billion was deducted from the Overseas Development Budget (SIDA) to be used towards the cost of housing/supporting asylum seekers in Sweden. This was taxpayer's money being spent abroad.

SIDA has submitted a budget for 2018-2020 in excess of Sek 80 billion.

Let us, for arguments sake, say we have 15,000 young people who were clearly under 18 years of age when they applied for asylum prior to November 2015. Many of these are now in a 'shadow society' where there is no way to know where they are or what they are doing. This is a crazy scenario in terms of security! When they reach the real age of 18 (not necessarily the age inexpertly given by Migrationsverket), then how about this:

Instead of paying accommodation fees of Sek 1900 per day per person....and since Sweden has made a considerable investment already in these young people.....why not simply pay these young people $4 \times 1900 = 7600$ per month. saving $26 \times 1900 = \text{Sek } 49.400$ per month.

This would cost the Swedish Taxpayer (with money they already pay for Overseas Aid projects) less than: SeK 1.4 billion.

Out of their Sek 7.600 per month the young asylum seeker must meet their own apartment/shared apartment/shared house costs, their own food, their own clothing. etc.

They may be allowed to have part time jobs to supplement their income, especially if at school, but will be required to pay tax on all income above Sek 7.600,-

This will also:

- 1. facilitate cost savings in Police time, court time, flight costs, Migrationverket employee costs (as they are already scheduled to be cut down by 50% in the next few months).
- 2. will bring back into full society young people who are currently 'living in the shadows' and therefore improve the security situation of the country.
- 3. Restore dignity to Sweden for solving in a very humane and practical way a very difficult problem.

It is worth remembering that it was a Swedish Prime Minister, supported it seems by his own and other political parties, who first promised the 'open heart'

This open heart is practical, sensible, compassionate and economically sound for the nation. There is more than enough evidence from international sources that the economic effects of the 2014/2015 surge of asylum seekers was of considerable

benefit to the economy of Sweden. <u>Not least because money previously exported was now being spent...at home.</u>

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