A Human Security Perspective on Migration in Europe

🚫 Problem
EU Migration mismanagement

Current policies had led to fear of and insecurity for migrants. The EU's approach to migration management uses a **human rights** perspective within a **security logic**.

To tackle irregular migration, the EU has sought simple solutions, such as militarising borders, punishing irregular migrants and asylum-seekers by preventing them from work, and privatising visa processes and outsourcing border controls where rejection decisions are based on profit motives.

This results in **increased common insecurity**, by encouraging irregular migration and reinforcing the narrative of the threat of the **'bad migrant'**, strengthening denials of needed migration.

This approach leads to systemic and structural violations of human security.

🔍 New Perspective
Human Security

Human security is an individual's freedom from fear (physical and direct violence), from want (unemployment, poverty, sickness), and from indignity (exclusion, exploitation, discrimination).

A **human security approach shifts attention away from the state to individuals**. An individual's security, and their autonomy for seeking security, is what is priority.

The human security approach is grounded in the understanding that the **lives and well-being of all people in a shared system are interconnected**. The (in)security of those disadvantaged and/or marginalised is inherently connected to the (in)security of the privileged.

How can the human security of migrants, EU citizens and citizens of neighbouring regions be addressed together and not opposed to each other?

🤝 Solution
Human Security perspective

Recommendations to fix migration mismanagement that consider EU and migration needs:

- **Control illegal migration by having more adequate legal channels**. Create more safe, legal ways that make illegal migration unnecessary, so that the EU can avoid criminalise victims and rely too heavily on border and law enforcement.

- **Expand regularisation and voluntary return mechanisms.** Regularisation would grant amnesty on a case-by-case basis to undocumented migrants already inside the EU who satisfy specified requirements. It would be combined with facilitating voluntary return for irregular migrants that don't establish themselves or are ready to return but find it difficult due to their irregular status.

- **Popularise the concept of 'protection-seeker'**: a person forced to choose to leave their community due to political, social, environmental and economic structures that threaten an individual's (or their family's) right to live, well-being, and dignity.