

Incorrect and unethical reasoning about migration

In the debate article "Environmental reasons speaks for more limited immigration" in SvD March 16, the authors argue that immigration should be limited with respect to the environment, but we consider their reasoning to be inaccurate and unethical. Their debate is based on a very large immigration scenario - 200,000 people a year until Sweden reaches a population of 35 million people in 2100. They mention that there would be a lack of space, the lack of recreation areas and practical problems with housing. There is no one who prefers so much immigration and of course it would lead to major challenges. Most illogical when the authors discuss the consequences for the climate. This whole discussion is illogical and absurd. Any difficulty in achieving the local Swedish target for climate emissions is absolutely no reason either for or against immigration so the article is unfair. What's worse, we find that the article is unethical because the authors show such little interest and humanity with those who suffer from disasters, need protection and have to migrate.

Yes, population growth is a problem in the world, but Sweden can not isolate itself from it. Yes, the environment should be in focus, not only for the sake of the environment, but also for humanity, for our own health and survival. These challenges need to be addressed at different levels - locally and globally - because what's happening in the world affects our country, and vice versa.

There are several issues about immigration, population growth, and environmental impacts that need to be discussed in order for us to get a better picture of the problem and to find common solutions for sustainable development. To achieve this, we also need to broaden our perspectives beyond the borders of the country. Poor people and environmental disasters usually seek a way to escape the dangers of environmental disasters and armed conflicts in the countries they leave. The only reasonable long-term solution to the forced migration is to contribute to improved living conditions in the countries the migrants come from.

We who live in richer countries bear a huge debt to carbon dioxide emissions and its consequences like climate change. We consume too much, we waste too much food, we fly too much and drive too much. We simply use more resources than people do per capita in developing countries, and much more than ecologically sustainable. With our consumption level for all people, there would be a need for several globes. Hopefully technology development and innovation can reduce some of these problems in the long run. But at present, differences in developmental levels between rich and poor countries, especially in conjunction with environmental disasters that cause migration. Many of the goods we consume have been produced in low-wage countries, where the local population is allowed to take the consequences of industrial emissions, waste, chemicals, and exhaust emissions, which we here in Sweden largely release. And some of our waste is exported to other countries - a poisonous variant of colonialism. Excluding immigration to protect Sweden and the Swedish environment will not remove Sweden from the global market or from the consequences of our consumption for which we are responsible.

If you are worried about urbanization, you can attack that phenomenon on several fronts, for example by ensuring that the countryside is alive and has access to work, health care and schools. And you can turn to urban planners who aim to conserve green areas that can help protect biodiversity and public health in cities.

If you are afraid of the environment and want to avoid the consequences of consumption and emissions, there is plenty to lift your eyesight and review our economic systems that lead to major environmental issues such as climate change that will hit us all. We need strong instruments to address these environmental problems.

If you are concerned about population growth and seeing it as one of the major causes of environmental problems, we should apply proven methods that have a positive impact on the problem, namely improved education, access to contraception and family planning, and strengthening the role of women in society - improved living conditions for the poor who need it.

If you are worried about migration, you need to make sure to correct the causes. War, social injustice, climate change, famine, hunting for clean water. Many of these problems are wholly or partly caused by decisions taken in rich countries, or by its residents. We, together with other rich countries, and with the rich classes in developing countries, have a collective responsibility for global sustainability problems.

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