

Document 2:

The journalist reveals that aid workers, who **assist refugees and asylum seekers** who want to reach the EU, are more and more the target of violent attacks and intimidation from governments and local authorities. They are constantly monitored, harassed or even assaulted. This is due to EU immigration policies that have focused on **securing the border**. The increase focus on protecting the EU border has led to **increased tensions at the border and to human rights infringement**. As a result, not only has it become increasingly dangerous for NGO workers to help refugees, but it has also become extremely difficult for migrants to seek legal help on **European soil**.

Essay: Is the hostility to migrants justified?

As many crises unfold, **economic migrants** and **asylum seekers** are making desperate moves to reach Europe and Northern America. Yet, borders are more and more difficult to cross and far-right movements, which plead for a tightening of immigration rules, are on the rise. Are migrants really a threat to the rich world?

Hostility is rooted in the fear of losing one's job and one's culture. Migrants are a cheap, flexible workforce which means that many employers do not hesitate to exploit them to cut wages. Thus, a massive influx of migrants means that the price of labour drops. This is especially true for **undocumented migrants** who can be paid **off the books**. This motivated many British citizens to vote to leave the EU in 2016.

Yet migrants are actually a boost to the economy. First, they often provide the **unskilled** labour force that is needed in sectors that suffer from chronic shortages (like agriculture). Secondly, by living in the country, they pay taxes and purchase goods. Besides, theories of "great replacement" have been dismissed by scholars as an exaggeration of statistics.

A country's economy might definitely be destabilised by an unregulated influx of migrants, but instead of dealing with the consequences of migration and making migrants our **scapegoats**, politicians should focus on the roots of migration. (216 words)