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Ladies and gentlemen,

Out there in the harbor of New York City, inside the Statue of Liberty,
there is a poem that says: ³*LYHPH\RXUWLUHG\RXUSRRU\RXU
KXGGOHGPDVVHV\HDUQLQJWREUHDWKHIUHH´These days, I feel like the
Statue of Liberty would fit in many cities around the world ±Amman
or Gaziantep, Munich or Agadez± to welcome the huddled masses of
today. More than 60 million people today have fled their homes ±
more than ever before since the founding of the United Nations!
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The reasons for their flight are diverse - civil war, the threat of
terrorism, political persecution, exclusion or discrimination ± but
these countless stories have one thing in common: The violation of
human rights drives people from their homes.
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To me, that as two implications:
First, we need to understand the close link between human rights,
peace and security.

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But, secondly, to the millions of refugees today, all of us in the
International Community share a common responsibility.
And in order to live up to it, we need to do much more than we are
currently doing:
First, The UN´s humanitarian agencies provide the most urgently
needed assistance but they are dangerously underfunded. Germany
has pledged an additional 100 million Euros- and we call upon others
to follow. That is why, as G 7 chair, I convened a donor meeting
yesterday and I am glad about the support.

Second, we need to address the humanitarian situation in the conflict
areas. During armed conflict, every party to the conflict has to adhere
to international humanitarian law, including the rapid and unimpeded
passage of humanitarian relief for civilians in need.
I suggest that we work together on the basis that is already there.
Concerning Syria, the Security Council passed Resolution 2139 last
year clearly condemning the use of barrel bombs and demanding
humanitarian access to the suffering people. /HW¶VWDNHWKDW
resolution as common ground and carry it forward.

Our third task is to protect the human rights of people along their
path of migration. This includes the fight against trafficking and
smuggling, while making sure that people are not sent back into
KDUP¶VZD\
This is an enormous task especially for the neighboring countries of
Syria ±Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey, who need our support. But ±and

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I say that w ith just as much concern- treating refugees with dignity

and protecting their rights is also the defining challenge for us in

Europe. Even though European search and rescue operations save

thousands of lives on the Mediterranean, we must not forget the

thousands who have lost their lives on that dangerous journey. We

need a common European as ylum s ystem with common

humanitar ian standards in all of Europe, but WKDW¶V VWLOOa long wa y to

go.

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