

# The common European asylum system

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# **Propositions accompanying the dissertation**

## **The Common European Asylum System: Vulnerable Asylum Applicants**

by Dersim Yabasun

1. Vulnerability is an important notion in international human rights law. However, criteria to determine which groups are vulnerable remain relatively unclear.
2. The EU should adopt a more nuanced approach to vulnerability in the asylum process, one which includes sources of vulnerability that are linked to certain groups, but which also takes into account context-specific sources of vulnerability.
3. There is a lack of data on vulnerable asylum applicants in the asylum process both at the EU and the national level. To know the scale of the problem and to evaluate the impact of existing legislative and policy measures, reliable figures are needed on the number of vulnerable asylum applicants in the Member States.
4. The asylum Directives allow Member States wide discretion as to how the identification of vulnerability should take place and whether an applicant is in need of special procedural guarantees. This situation is problematic because it may lead to considerably different outcomes between Member States.
5. The European Commission proposal to overhaul the Dublin III Regulation does not contribute to fair responsibility-sharing and continues to put the external Member States under severe pressure.
6. The Netherlands currently has no mechanism in place that systematically and efficiently identifies vulnerable asylum applicants with special reception needs.
7. There is a clear tendency to prevent asylum applicants from accessing the territory of the EU, something which undermines the fundamental right to seek asylum.
8. A future EU asylum policy could effectively function if Member States transferred their national competences on asylum to a centralised EU asylum agency. The solution to the challenges in the field of asylum is more European integration not less.
9. 'In Europe, the refugee crisis is first and foremost a policy crisis' (Den Heijer, Rijpma and Spijkerboer).
10. Getting your PhD is like putting a baby to sleep; exhausting and you think it will never happen.