Forum:	The Group of Twenty
Issue:	Terrorism, xenophobia and ultra-nationalism-fear within Europe
Student Officer:	Irena Tamaresi
Position:	Deputy President

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

My name is Irena Tamaresi, I am 16 years old and I attend the 11th Grade in the German School of Athens. It is my honor and pleasure to serve as the Deputy President of the Group of Twenty in the upcoming 8th session of the Platon School Model United Nations. Overall I have attended 12 MUN conferences and each one of them was special in its own way, just like our upcoming conference will be for allof you as well.

This year's agenda of the Group of Twenty provides our delegates with the chance to discuss and find to measures to solve great issues that have been troubling the global society for years now and still continue to do so today. In this Study Guide we will analyze the topic of terrorism, xenophobia and ultra-nationalism-fear within Europe and you will find all the necessary information to familiarize yourselves with this topic and start crafting resolutions, however this does not mean that this Study Guide should be your only source of information, quite on the contrary you should do more research by yourselves. In case you have any trouble during your research or come up with any questions about the topic, please feel free to contact me at my email address: nattam10@yahoo.com .

I look forward to meeting you all in the 8th PSMUN.

Best Regards,

Irena Tamaresi

INTRODUCING TOPIC

In the recent years multiple terrorist attacks have taken place in Europe, thus creating a wave of xenophobia in the region and causing ultra-nationalism to rise within the countries. Thus terrorism, xenophobia and ultra-nationalism fear, each having been born due to the existence of the other, have turned out to be major problems in Europe as of lately.

There is a long history of terrorism in Europe, seeing as the first 'terrorism campaign' took place in the 6th Century A.D., however we are going to focus on terrorist incidents having taken place in Europe during the 21st century so far. With 12 terrorist attacks having taken place in Europe only in 2017, fear of terrorism has risen greatly amongst civilians and politicians.

Due to said fear of terrorism and the recent refugee crisis, a phenomenon called xenophobia has also risen amongst the people in Europe and it is a system of thought that puts the continent at risk and it is very much real and must be dealt with. Xenophobic groups throughout Europe are vocal about the need to preserve, be it the European civilization and identity or the cultures of the individual Member States of the European Union. However, there are certain aspects of the new strain of xenophobia in Europe which are based on misconceptions amongst the public, and which can be dealt with by clear communication both by politicians and by the media. Organizations such as the European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN) have contributed to the eradication of xenophobia in Europe, however we will analyze their efforts in a different section of this Study Guide.

Furthermore Europe's far-right, xenophobic and extremist parties have more political influence in the European Parliament than ever before and have big numbers of followers individually in their Member States and their opinions and ideologies keep getting more popular day by day. Ultra-nationalistic parties in Europe have specifically risen in countries such as Austria, Romania, Italy, The United Kingdom (UK), Greece, The Netherlands, Denmark, Poland, Finland, France and Germany. For the first time since the Second World War a series of elections has swept nationalistic, far-right parties into office in municipal, national, regional and European parliament elections.

Having said that, it is understandable that due to the multiple terrorist attacks having taken place in numerous countries in Europe in the recent years xenophobia and ultra-nationalism have risen in the region and this can be observed in the societies of the European countries, their media and of course their political prospects. Therefore in order to tackle these major issues that are troubling Europe nowadays the countries of the EU need to come together and make joint efforts to put an end to these problems one by one in order for the rest of them to subside and slowly disappear.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Terrorism

Until now the international community has not managed to come to terms with a universal definition of terrorism, thus the UN is not allowed to create and actualize applicable strategies against terrorist acts. However the "Convention on Combating International Terrorism" defines terrorism as *"any act of violence or threat with the aim of terrorizing people or threatening to harm them or imperiling their lives, honor, freedoms, security or rights or exposing the environment or any facility or public or private property to hazards or occupying or seizing them, or endangering a national resource, or international facilities, or threatening the stability, territorial integrity, political unity or sovereignty of independent States".*

Xenophobia

Xenophobia is defined as an irrational fear of foreigners or strangers or of anything foreign or strange.

Ultra-nationalism

Ultra-nationalism is extreme nationalism that promotes the interests of one state or people above all others.
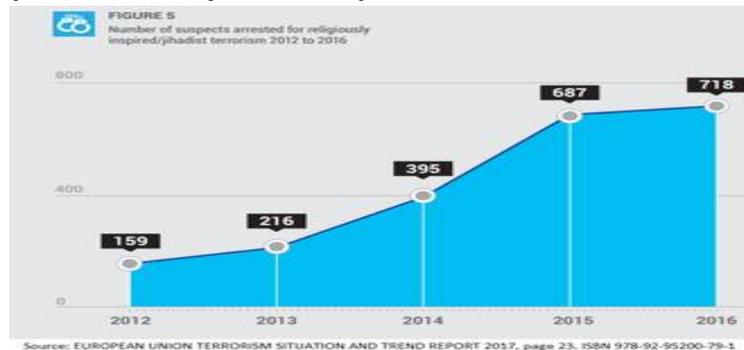
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Terrorism

Terrorism is booming in Europe since 2014, with three major Islamist terrorist attacks prior, the 2004 Madrid train bombings and the July 7 2005 London bombings. In March 2012 the Toulouse and Montauban shootings occurred in France, when islamist extremist Mohammed Merah committed a series of shootings over the course of several days, killing seven people. Islamist affiliated terror attacks in the European Union increased from four in 2014 to seventeen in 2015, while the number of people killed rose from four to one hundred and fifty. Later in 2016, a total of 135 people were killed in ten Islamist attacks in the European Union and 56 attacks took place in 2017 with a rise in fatalities. France saw eight attacks between December 2014 and July 2016, including the January 2015 Île-de-France attacks, the November 2015 Paris attacks, and the July 2016 Nice truck incident. In the United Kingdom, three major attacks were carried out in a span of four months in early 2017. Other usual targets in Europe include Belgium, Germany, Russia, and Spain. The

transcontinental city of Istanbul, Turkey also saw both bombings and shootings, in January 2016, June 2016 and January 2017. Furthermore attacks have occurred in specific countries participating in Operation Inherent Resolve, which is the military intervention against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Examples of individual Member States' efforts against ISIL include France's Opération Chammal and Germany's Operation Counter Daesh. The Russian Federation has also carried out attacks against ISIL. Many terrorist attacks are believed to be motivated partly by retaliation for this military intervention against ISIL. However, even neutral countries such as Sweden and Finland have been attacked. The majority of these attacks have been attacks against civilians in urban areas, this has led to an increase of security across Europe, including ongoing domestic military deployments in countries including Belgium, France, Italy and the United Kingdom.

Thus, after the Manchester Arena bombing in 2017, the British authorities and MI5 revealed they had 500 ongoing investigations into 3.000 jihadist extremists as potential terrorist attackers, with a further 20.000 having been identified as "subjects of interest" in the past, including the Manchester Arena and Westminster Bridge attackers.

So, due to all these recent attacks law enforcement and security services in Europe have certainly improved at identifying, tracking and arresting potential terrorists and preventing attacks, however there is definitely more that needs to be done to tackle this issue.

Figure 1: Europol number of jihadist suspects arrested in EU countries in 2012-2016

Xenophobia

The first thing that needs to be done in order to help curb the rise of xenophobia in Europe is to treat the causes of this phenomenon as what they actually are, one of them being the refugee crisis, and not by what it is not, a migrant crisis. This difference is vital in the perception that citizens have of what is going on. The fault of this current misconception lies both with the media and the politicians who have

insisted in using the word "migrant" rather than "refugee". In the minds of many, these "migrants", when in fact they are refugee, pose a threat to European civilians since they are often perceived as competitors that have come for the resources that, in their eyes, rightfully belong to European people. This of course is a perception that further empowers this wave of xenophobia that has taken over Europe and needs to be eliminated as well.

Furthermore, a large part of the xenophobic sentiment being voiced across Europe is rooted in anti-Muslim sentiment. People fear that Muslims will come to Europe and impose their religion on Europeans. For them, Islam is a violent religion that cares little for their concepts of human rights and freedom and in the eyes of some it is an attack on the mostly Judeo-Christian civilization in Europe. This is yet another misconception that must urgently be addressed and is based on three false perceptions, that Islam is a violent religion, Islam is not a European religion and that Muslims are an invasive group.

Oftentimes xenophobia, racism, discrimination, etc. are based on the fear of the unknown. The ignorance of the masses with regards to Islam, combined with the misinformation diffused by mainstream media, feed this anti-refugee and anti-Muslim sentiment, which then morphs the misconceptions about refugees and Muslims. They are seen by many as invasive groups whose goal is to impose their system of beliefs on the already established societies of Europe. This narrative is indeed fed by the actions of certain Muslim extremists, be they within Europe or across the world, thus Muslims in today's Europe are the victims of extraordinary discrimination and xenophobia -informed by a transatlantic flow of ideas, anti-Muslim racism is heavily present in the campaigns, newsletters and internet debates of the radical right parties-, however such a thing certainly does not apply for all Muslims in Europe.

Figure 2: No to Xenophobia

Ultra-nationalism

The radical right in Europe has already moved from the margins to the front stage of national politics and this is threatening to become the new normality in Europe. In response to various growing economic and social crises, the far right, the radical and populist movements are currently experiencing a remarkable surge in support. Across different European regions, citizens cast their votes for parties with xenophobic and ultra-nationalistic roots, rhetoric and policies. This can be seen in
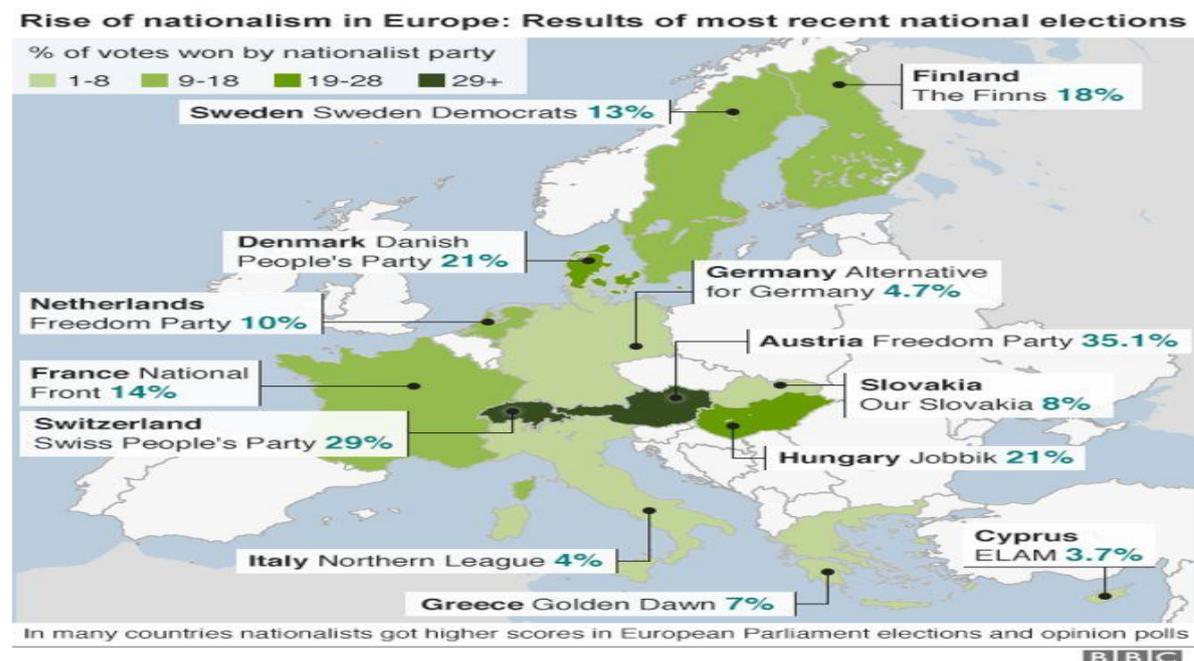
countries like Greece, France, Hungary, the UK and Sweden, where the radical right forms the spearhead of larger renationalization processes directed at forces seen as threatening to the wellbeing of their "national culture and values".

All these radical parties are responding to contemporary conditions and challenges such as increased waves of migration and immigration, a changing ethno-cultural landscape, the economic crisis and international terrorism, through an aspect of politics of polarization and fear that seeds cultural intolerance and racism. Figures such as the migrants and the immigrants, the Muslims, the gypsies or the Jews are portrayed as the so called defining "Other". Thus such ideologies scapegoating minorities and immigrants can seem appealing to individuals who feel disempowered and alienated by European and global integration.

Europe is experiencing increasing stress at the very moment when increasing calm and social cohesion is needed more than ever before in the recent decades. Anti-Jewish, anti-Muslim and anti-Roma racism pose a serious menace and illiberal and fascist ideologies concerned with ideas about purity and national boarders take advantage of polarizing atrocities to blame the actions of a few on many and stigmatizing certain groups of people.

Now, amid growing inequalities and economic trauma, is the time to fight against all forms of xenophobia, intolerance and nationalism instead off supporting such ideologies. The radical right has already moved from the margins to the front stage of national politics. Europe´s future now depends on whether the far-right is allowed to remain and thrive in the mainstream politics.

Figure 3: Rise of nationalism in Europe, results of most recent national elections

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

At this point you will find a timeline of the attacks in 2017 that have been described as "Islamic terrorism" by authorities.

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF EVENT
1 January 2017	A mass shooting took place at a nightclub in the Beşiktaş district in Istanbul, Turkey. The attack occurred at about 01:15am at the Reina nightclub in Ortaköy, where hundreds of people were celebrating the New Year. At least 39 people were killed and at least a number of 70 were injured in the incident. The gunman, who was later identified as Abdulkadir Masharipov, was arrested in the city on 17 January 2017, and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant claimed credit for his actions.
18 March 2017	A man was killed by soldiers patrolling the Orly Airport in France as part of the "Opération Sentinelle" after he attempted to seize a female soldier's gun. He had also shot and injured a female police officer earlier with a pellet gun, and had shouted "I am ready to die for Allah.
22 March 2017	Khalid Masood drove a van into pedestrians on Westminster Bridge in London, injuring 49 people and killing five. Afterwards he crashed his car into the fence of the Palace of Westminster and fatally stabbed an unarmed policeman before being shot dead by other officers.
3 April 2017	A suicide bomber blew himself up on the St. Petersburg Metro, in Russia, on the day President Vladimir Putin was due to visit the city. 16 people were killed, including the bomber, and 87 others were injured. Imam Shamil Battalion, an Al-Qaeda affiliate, claimed responsibility, however according to the FSB, the attacker acted on the orders of a field commander from ISIL.

7 April 2017	A hijacked truck was driven into pedestrians along a shopping street before crashing into a department store, in Stockholm, Sweden. Five people were killed and 14 others wounded. Police stated that the suspect had previously shown sympathy for extremist organizations including ISIL
20 April 2017	Three police officers and a bystander were shot by an attacker in possession of an AK-47 rifle on the Champs-Élysées, a shopping boulevard in Paris, France. The attacker was shot dead during the incident. He had a note defending the Islamic State, and had previously attempted to communicate with Islamic State fighters in Iraq and Syria. There was one more fatality and three more injured.
22 May 2017	A suicide bombing was carried out at Manchester Arena, Manchester UK, during a concert by American singer Ariana Grande, killing 22 civilians and injuring 120.
3 June 2017	A van ran over multiple pedestrians on London Bridge, UK. The men then drove to Borough Market, where they stabbed multiple people before being shot by police. All three attackers were killed, amongst 8 other civilians and 48 were injured.
6 June 2017	A lone man who had pledged allegiance to ISIL in a video, carrying knives in his rucksack attacked an officer guarding Notre Dame de Paris, France with a hammer.
20 June 2017	A terrorist ran into the Brussels Central Station, Belgium, where he detonated a small bomb which didn't cause any injuries. After the bomb failed to do serious damage, the perpetrator ran towards soldiers in a different part of the station. He was then shot and killed by one of those soldiers. The attempted attack was considered to have failed.

9 August 2017	A car rammed into a group of a dozen soldiers taking part in "Opération Sentinelle", injuring six people, in Levallois-Perret, Hauts-de-Seine, France. According to the French prosecutor the suspect "had radical beliefs and showed interest in the Islamic State group."
17 August 2017	A van was driven into pedestrians in Las Ramblas, Barcelona, killing 15 and injuring at least 130. Two suspects fled on foot, stabbing another civilian to death in the process. A woman and five attackers were killed in a related attack in Cambrils when a car tried to run into pedestrians and attackers stabbed multiple people. Two suspects were killed in an initial accidental explosion during the preparation of explosives that were to be used in the attack in Alcanar. 16 people were injured when another bomb accidentally exploded during the excavation of the site. ISIS claimed responsibility for the Las Ramblas attack.
15 September 2017	A botched bomb containing TATP exploded on a district line train at Parsons Green tube station, London UK, with thirty people treated for injuries. The main suspect arrested was an 18-year old Iraqi refugee. The incident was treated by the Metropolitan Police as a terrorist attack and reportedly was linked by investigators to Islamic extremism.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

Terrorism

France

Terrorism, in the case of France is related to the country's history, international affairs and political approach. Therefore, a legislation was set by French lawmakers to fight terrorism within the country. Amongst European countries, France has endured some of the worst and most assaults by jihadists in recent years, underscoring the country's ongoing problem with homegrown militancy—and its current status as a

major target. From 2012 to late 2017 18 Islamic terrorist attacks have taken place in various places in France all of them resulting in serious fatalities, injuries and consequences for the French society.

The roots of the problem however are rather complex. France has a history of violence in its encounters with the Middle East and North Africa and a domestic Muslim community with long experiences of feelings of exclusion and discrimination from the French society. France's prisons have even become a recruiting ground for extremists and the French far-right is growing in influence and in support numbers, stoking tensions through rhetoric that is more often than not anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim.

United Kingdom (UK)

Terrorism in the United Kingdom, according to the Home Office, poses a significant threat to the State, seeing as there have been various causes of terrorism in the UK. Since the 2000s, most terrorist incidents in Britain have been linked to Islamic extremism and all of them had serious consequences for the British society. Recently the Head of the British intelligence service stated that future attacks are inevitable as Britain sees 'dramatic upshift' in Islamist terrorism. Over the years the British government has designated 58 organizations up to now as terrorist and banned them. 44 of these organizations were banned under the "Terrorism Act of 2000". Two of these were also banned under the "Terrorism Act of 2006" for "glorifying terrorism". The other fourteen organizations operate for the most part in Northern Ireland, and were banned under previous legislation, other than the far-right neo-Nazi National Action. Other than that the government has designated as terrorist and banned 77 international organizations, most of which are of radical Islamic ideology.

Germany

In recent years, both far left, far right and Islamist groups have been suspected of terrorism or terrorism plans in Germany. During one week in July 2016, 10 people had been killed and dozens more injured in separate gun, bomb, axe and machete attacks. Three of those were in Bavaria and one in Baden-Wuerttemberg. However the authorities stated that the July attacks were not linked to each other, but there were concerns about escalating insecurity in the country. On 18 July, a teenage Afghan refugee attacked passengers on a train in Wurzburg with an axe and a knife, wounding five people. He was later shot dead by police. A few days later 22 July, a German teenager of Iranian heritage shot dead nine people in the city of Munich before shooting himself. On the 24th of July, a 21-year-old Syrian refugee killed a woman with a machete and wounded five other people as he fled, but then was arrested. Later on the same day, a Syrian man whose refugee application had been refused blew himself up outside a bar in Ansbac, resulting in 15 people being injured. On the 19th December 2016, a man drove a lorry into a busy Christmas market in the heart of Berlin, even though fled the scene he was arrested nearby.

Xenophobia

Germany

A recent study by the University of Leipzig has revealed a growing suspicion and even hatred and a wave of xenophobia towards Muslims and Islam as a whole over the past two years in Germany. More than 40 percent of the German public believes that Muslims should be prevented from migrating to Germany, while around half of those that participated in the survey said they sometimes felt like a stranger in their own country. Generally the reaction to the refugee crisis was understandably noticeable, after Germany received more than 1.2 million migrants over the past years. The respondents also displayed more animosity towards other minority groups, including homosexuals and Romany people, otherwise called Gypsies.

Greece

Millions of people in Greece have been directly affected by the sweeping austerity measures arising from the economic crisis and there are numerous social problems, linked in part to the huge influx in recent years of irregular migrants from outside the European Union. Within this turmoil there is another crisis, party hidden, threatening to spin out of control – xenophobic violence against migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in various regions of the country. Mob violence against people from Afghanistan, North and sub-Saharan Africa is alarmingly commonplace and much of it is going unrecorded. The Human Rights Watch documented dozens of such attacks between November 2011 and mid-2012 and unfortunately they have continued happening. Other than that, a growing intolerance and a wave of xenophobia is already spreading to other vulnerable groups, such as the LGBTQ+ community.

Italy

A recent survey found that 47 percent of Italians believe that refugees are "more to blame for crime" within the country than other groups, even though the limited information that does exist shows that between 2004 and 2013, criminal charges against Italians went up while charges against immigrants went down, at a period of time when the immigrant population more than doubled. There are definitely various reasons for this wave of xenophobia that has taken over Italy, but here are some of them: the legacy of fascism in the country and the continuing adulation of Benito Mussolini, the tangible insecurity of a large part of the Italian population, the widespread economic misery and disappointment for at least the last decade and a political class that is ignorant towards the issues its country is facing.

UNRIC (United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe)

As the UN marks the International Day of Tolerance, 16.11., it underscores the importance of mutual understanding between cultures and peoples, especially in this era of rising xenophobia in Europe. The ECRI observed both a rise in anti-Semitism and continued discrimination against Roma, Travelers, black persons, historical and ethnic minorities and the LGBTQ+ people. As a result of the ongoing refugee crisis and Islamist terror attacks, a growing anti-immigrant sentiment as well as islamophobia have taken hold in Europe. In order to dispel myths about migrants and promote global action in support of non-discrimination and tolerance the UN launched the TOGETHER campaign at the UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants in September 2016. This initiative, led by the Secretary-General himself, will be implemented in partnership with all Member States, the civil society and private sector. It aims to speak to communities hosting refugees and migrants and hopes to start a global movement to fight and change negative attitudes towards refugees and migrants, entering into dialogue with people concerned that refugees and migrants may bring physical and economic insecurity to their lives.

Ultra-nationalism

Germany

Germany's far-right party Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) has gained huge representation in ten out of the 16 German state parliaments since September 2016. Support has slipped in recent months, AfD is currently polling at 8 percent and its leaders, Jörg Meuthen and Frauke Petry, are under pressure after a senior politician of the party made a speech urging Germany to stop atoning for Nazi crimes. Last year, the anti-Islam policies replaced its Eurosceptic focus, and the slogan "Islam is not a part of Germany" emerged from the party's spring conference.

France

The French nationalistic party Front National, led by Marine Le Pen, the daughter of its first leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen, is going through a renaissance after a successful move to "detoxify". Even though the party lost the presidential election on 23 April to Macron's party, it still has a large amount of followers and its polls were rather surprising. It was its anti-immigration and nationalistic rhetoric that brought the FN huge gains in the 2015 local elections , seeing as it came first in six of France's 13 regions, beating the two main parties.

Greece

The neo-fascist Greek political party Golden Dawn uses Nazi-style symbolism and its leaders and supporters have even expressed admiration for Adolf Hitler's regime. Their leader, Nikolaos Michaloliakos rejected the label "neo-Nazi", preferring "Greek nationalist", something that does not improve the situation seeing as this party is an

ultra-nationalistic one. Exploiting the fallout of the migration crisis and austerity, Golden Dawn came third in Greece's last elections in September 2015, winning 7 percent of the vote. Its vote was especially strong among the people that were hardest hit by the crisis. The anti-EU party wants to expel migrants and refugees and members have been previously accused of serious crimes including murder. The party's leaders went on trial in 2015 over the murder of the anti-fascist rapper Pavlos Fyssas. At the time after the elections, Golden Dawn's spokesman Ilias Kasidiaris, declared: "Golden Dawn is a movement of power; it is not a protest movement anymore."

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

As it has been stated previously in this study guide there exists no internationally recognized definition of terrorism, so in order to tackle the issue you should first define it and then start solving it on an international level, however in order to find the proper definition you should keep in mind other countries' policies and not just yours. Remember terrorism is a problem that has existed for centuries in Europe and it cannot simply be solved in a short period of time, so you should focus on different aspects of the issue and try finding solutions to them, in order to manage to find a final solution to it. It is also based on an ideology and an ideology cannot be countered or killed through legal action or by mere condemnation in short notice, therefore we have to develop a counter-ideology to overcome it. In order to eliminate terrorism from its root cause we need to initiate our efforts by beginning from the right starting point. This starting point is the re-engineering and re-creation of peoples' minds by taking them away from the culture of violence and bringing them closer to the culture of peace. Once people become more tolerant and obtain peace for its-and their own sake, what that actually does is open doors. It creates favorable and positive conditions, under which people can strive for their ideals, and eventually attain justice and other constructive ends. That is an aspect of the issue that you can focus on. Other aspects that you should focus on is enhancing domestic and international information sharing efforts, improving the prevention of terrorist travel and addressing the threat posed by State-sponsored terrorism.

Concerning xenophobia, it is based on misinformation and wrong perception, so one aspect you should focus on when you're writing solutions for it is education and how you can educate the public masses on this topic and eradicate the misconceptions about refugees, migrants and other minority groups that are facing xenophobia. You should also focus on strengthening the immigration laws of the Member States, while also keeping in mind their independent policies, finding ways to urge people to intervene and report xenophobic attacks more often and minimizing the use of hate speech against minorities that are victims to xenophobia.

When it comes to nationalism once again you should focus on educating the public and informing them that a nation is the sum of racial kinship, with race denoting all aspects of the culture that thereafter make up its society. Find ways to promote campaigns against ultra-nationalism that showcase its negative aspects and show how in certain situations it can turn into a dictatorship and is discriminative against a lot of minorities and can even be dangerous to the public.

Before you start writing your resolution, remember that you have to do your own research and thoroughly read and understand your country's policy and then base your clauses on it, as it would be a shame for you to write a resolution against your country's policy. Good luck!

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