

HRWF statement concerning the 26 January amendment to the Danish Aliens Act

HRWF (28.01.2016) - Human Rights Without Frontiers condemns the action of the Danish parliament on 26 January which legalized police searches for the confiscation of refugee assets and rejects the reasoning put forth by proponents for such legislation. People seeking refuge from war, death, sexual violence – among other horrors that make life impossible in their home country - are now subject to further vulnerability with searches that violate their right to personal property and bodily integrity.

We stand in support with other defenders of human rights in declaring these acts a violation of the right to private and family life enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights, the principle of the best interest of the child stipulated in the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the spirit and general obligations of the Geneva Convention.

HRWF urges Denmark and other member states practicing or contemplating similar policies to rethink these measures and remember the European values of “respect for human dignity, liberty, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities,” that can and should be upheld even in trying times.

National identities and history *can* be maintained, and are even reinforced, when human rights are respected and member states fulfil their international obligations, which can and should be upheld even in trying times.

More information can be found in the links below:

[Danish MPs approve seizing valuables from refugees](#)
[The Danish Law on Seizing Asylum Seekers' Assets](#)