

Singer calls world leaders "cowards" over refugee crisis

27th June, 2018



British singer Sting has called world leaders "half-men and cowards" for their failure to solve the refugee crisis. Sting hit out at leaders during an Amnesty International concert in Athens,

Greece. Amnesty International is the largest human rights NGO in the world. Sting also praised Greece for the way it has helped refugees over the past few years. He said: "Thank God for Greece because you have shown the way. You have shown how to treat refugees when other people are building walls. When children are being taken from their mothers and put in cages, you are acting with compassion and generosity and commonsense....Our so-called leaders, a sad parade of half-men, cowards, have not got the solutions."

Sting told crowds that Greece helped nearly a million refugees in 2015, even though it was dealing with a major financial crisis. Other countries refused to help the refugees. Many quickly built barbed-wire fences to keep them out. Sting had harsh words for the recent family-separation policy in the USA. More than 2,000 children have been detained and separated from parents who tried to cross the Mexico border into the US illegally. The concert audience cheered and applauded when Sting called this policy "brutal" and "barbaric". Some European countries still seem unwilling to help refugees. Italy recently turned away a German boat of 350 immigrants. Spain eventually agreed to accept the refugees.

Sources: yahoo.com / rte.ie / thejakartapost.com

Writing

World leaders are cowards when it comes to the refugee crisis. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

world leaders / cowards / failure / concert / human rights / refugees / common sense / crowds / financial crisis / fences / separation / border / audience / brutal / immigrants

True / False

- Sting said world leaders were "half-men" for failing refugees. T / F
- Sting spoke at a concert held by a nongovernmental organization. T / F
- Sting thanked Greece for its efforts in helping refugees. T / F
- Sting said world leaders were acting with compassion. T / F
- Greece helped refugees while it had a very strong economy. T / F
- Countries put up barbed-wire fences to keep refugees out. T / F
- The crowd at the concert refused to clap Sting during the concert. T / F
- Italy recently accepted a boat of 350 refugees. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. cowards | a. tackling |
| 2. failure | b. most recent |
| 3. solve | c. care |
| 4. latest | d. held |
| 5. sympathy | e. weaklings |
| 6. dealing with | f. finally |
| 7. built | g. work out |
| 8. detained | h. clapped |
| 9. applauded | i. lack of success |
| 10. eventually | j. erected |

Discussion – Student A

- What word would you use to describe your leader?
- What do you think of other world leaders?
- What makes a strong leader?
- What kind of leader would you be?
- Do you think world leaders are cowards?
- What do you think of the refugee crisis?
- What can we do to help the refugees?
- How compassionate is your country?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. their failure to solve | a. from parents |
| 2. Sting hit | b. refugees |
| 3. over the past | c. fences |
| 4. how to treat | d. out at leaders |
| 5. you are acting with | e. agreed |
| 6. it was dealing with a major | f. words |
| 7. barbed-wire | g. the refugee crisis |
| 8. harsh | h. compassion |
| 9. detained and separated | i. financial crisis |
| 10. Spain eventually | j. few years |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What is your country's policy on refugees?
- Why are there so many refugees in the world?
- What do you know about the border crisis in the USA?
- How wrong is it for a country to separate children from parents?
- What would life be like as a refugee?
- How bad is it for a country turn away refugees?
- What questions would you like to ask your country's leader?

Spelling

- their feuirl to solve the refugee crisis
- during an Amnesty International orcetnc
- Sting also paedirs Greece
- how to ratte refugees
- acting with oocsansipm
- got the tlusnisoo
- a major lanicnaif crisis
- cross the Mexico brodre
- The concert ndaeiuec cheered
- Sting called this plycoi "brutal"
- Italy trlyence turned away a German boat
- Spain lyeuaeltvn agreed to accept

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. i	3. g	4. b	5. c
6. a	7. j	8. d	9. h	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Better Leaders

You think having better leaders is the best way to ease the refugee crisis. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): open borders, compassion or bigger refugee camps.

Role B – Open Borders

You think open borders is the best way to ease the refugee crisis. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): better leaders, compassion or bigger refugee camps.

Role C – Compassion

You think compassion is the best way to ease the refugee crisis. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): open borders, better leaders or bigger refugee camps.

Role D – Bigger Refugee Camps

You think having bigger refugee camps is the best way to ease the refugee crisis. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): open borders, compassion or better leaders.

Speaking – Solutions

Rank these with your partner. Put the best solutions to the refugee crisis at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| • compassion | • better leaders |
| • end war | • bigger refugee camps |
| • closed borders | • invest in poor countries |
| • education | • open borders |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.