

Xenophobia

Musical

Act 2:

Meeting of the council of the wise on the island of Kumnara to decide whether the application for asylum of Prince Albion and Arabella will be accepted or refused

Scenery: Curtain closed; all 10 actors are dressed in white and are taking seat in a semi-circle in front of the curtain. Light is bright and there are two big trees (beams) framing the front stage, music from the back until Md I starts talking.

The actors will choose names for their characters.

Characters	about the characters	Actors
Moderation I		
Moderation II		
Member A	Leader of the charity organization „Loving Hearts“. He/she believes in the grace of charity. He/she feels empathy for those in need and meets strangers without fear or prejudice.	
Member B	Head of Human Rights Watch (HRW). Born on the island Kumnara as child of an immigrant father. She/he knows about the living conditions of people in crisis areas all over the world. He works daily on speeches and commentaries to the powerful of the world and as a guarantor of justice to defend the dignity of the mankind.	
Member C	Chairman of the Ministry of Economic Affairs of Kumnara. She/he grew up in poor conditions and is proud of the fact that through diligence and discipline she/he can afford much more than his/her parents. Representative of the free market economy, convinced anti-monarchist.	
Member D	Minister of Welfare of Kumnara. He/she loves his/her island, the inhabitants and traditions. He/she has been active at the young fire fighters. He/she currently visits citizens all over the island and knows their needs and opinions.	
Member E	Speaker of the Ministry of Security and Foreign Affairs of Kumnara. He/she is aware of many dangers. He/she struggles whether saving a person could endanger the others.	
Member F	Head of Business Organization of Kumnara. She/he knows the economic benefits of cooperation and the need for international trade. She/he calculates the risks for the economic balance, realistic and clear minded. She/he is not convinced, if the granted asylum would support the islands economy in the long-term or not.	
Member G	First priest of Kumnara’s religious community. She/he is committed to freedom and equality of all human beings and she/he clearly speaks for brotherhood. She/he served for various relief organizations worldwide for many years. She/he respects every human being alike but submits to no hierarchy on earth. She/he is a proud and self-confident person and has profound knowledge of human nature.	

Member H	Education minister of Kumnara. He/she has been inspector of school board. He/she has worked as a teacher at primary and secondary school as at University. He/she believes in education and parenting as most important for the democratic capacity of the citizens. He/she also believes in the useful social potential of every person treated with respect and serious carefulness.	
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Moderation I: Good evening ladies and gentlemen, we're so thankful for your numerous attendances to our discussion. I think you are all aware of the huge issue that is the current migration situation all over Europe and how it affects our daily life. Tonight we are gathered here to share the different views that are represented in the society of Kumnara.

Moderation II: In the past hour, you have witnessed the bitter fate of Prince Albion from Flavonia and Arabella from Cerulia, two refugees, currently seeking asylum on the island of Kumnara. The council of the wise has to decide now whether or not we can afford to accept the couple's request.

Introduction (short)

Md I: But we would like you to introduce yourself to the audience first.
(pointing to A)

A: Well, a good evening. My name is ...
I am the leader of the charity organization „Loving Hearts“
followed by a very short speech presenting his/her position/point of view (one minute).
You can use the description as written in the chart on page 1 or develop another.

Md II: Thank you. (goes up to B)
B, would you tell us something about your position within the council?

B: My name is ... and I am Head of Human Rights Watch...
... a very short speech presenting his/her position/point of view (one minute).

Md I: Thank you very much. C (goes up to C)

C: I am the chairman of the Ministry of Economy and my name is...
...a very short speech presenting his/her position/point of view (one minute).

Md II: Thank you. And D (goes up to D)

D: As you said my name is ... and I am the Minister of Welfare
...a very short speech presenting his/her position/point of view (one minute).

Md I: Thank you. (Pointing to E) Dear E...

E: I'm speaker of the Ministry of Security and Foreign Affairs
...a very short speech presenting his/her position/point of view (one minute).

Md II: (looking at F)

F: My name is ... I am head of the Business Organization of Kumnara
...a very short speech presenting his/her position/point of view (one minute).

Md I: Thank you. Now ... (goes up to G)

G: Well, my name is.... I'm a priest on Kumnara.
...a very short speech presenting his/her position/point of view (one minute).

Md II: Thank you. And last but not least, dear ... (goes up to H)

H: A good evening also from me! My name is... and I am the current Minister of Education.
...a very short speech presenting his/her position/point of view (one minute).

Debate:

Md I: Well, dear audience, now you know our guests.

A., you have already expressed your approval for asylum for Prince Albion of Flavonia and Arabella from Cerulia. Could you explain why?

A: We have to keep in mind that every life must be protected. That is our duty and it is the law. If someone knocks on our door, if someone needs our help in this existential way, then we open it, then we have to help.

D: There are people on our island who are afraid of those coming from Flavonia. They believe all of them are terrorists and want to bring the tyranny on our island.

B: After the last Great War, all of the islands of the Kumnarian and Flavonian Sea have signed an agreement to keep peace and to help refugees. This treaty you can find in any cottage on the island.

A: Have you forgotten already?

C: No, we have not forgotten, but first we have to think about **our own** community, **our** people and **our** island. Out of love for our people, I am in favour of denying their asylum.

E: There are people on our island who are afraid of all strangers and of everything they're not used to. They have never seen a wheelchair. We cannot foresee their reaction. I think in the name of security we have to be very careful if we want to guarantee his protection.

D: Just imagine, they celebrate their worship of the spaghetti monster, how can you only worship a monster?

G: Oh, come on. It is a smart persiflage on the world religions, especially on Krationism. They are open minded people, very humorous.

C: If we keep the two here and take care of them, then millions of others will come. How do we decide who can be here and who cannot?

F: Are you not dramatizing the number a little bit?

G: There is no upper limit to the law of brotherhood.

H: Prince Albion is a noble man, a prince, rich in education and wealth. His etiquette is impeccable, quite a few could learn something. He's a role model.

G: He cannot stay in Flavonia. They would lock up both. They will be cast on a desert island and will die in lifelong isolation. They are smart and good people, both. They cannot stay outside in this time of year, having nothing on their own.

C: Well, just because he's a prince? This Flavonian class society thinking, this kind of colonial behaviour we have left behind us long ago. Would you also want him here if he were a simple person of doubtful background? That's the question. To express solidarity with the powerful and the wealthy in this world is completely inappropriate and almost embarrassing.

- Md II:** Please, calm down. According to our constitution all people are equal before the law, regardless of their origin, education, prestige and beliefs. We really need a solution for these specific persons, Arabella and Albion.
- B:** As you can see help is needed now. They are out there on a small boat.
We must send out our rescue teams, fast. A storm is coming. Everything else can be solved later.
If you can reach out to a brother, a sister in need, then you have to do it now.
- E:** As you say, to a brother or a sister.
But who are these strangers?
What do they want here?
Why are they going on this dangerous way?
- A:** Our rules of solidarity and humanity are valid. If you give up on them, now that it is important to defend those values and defend them against your own people, then they have never been worth only one grain of sand.
Then we are not the "good guys" we pretended to be.
- H:** Every one of us has been depending on the help of others several times in his life. This is our human nature.
We need each other. And if this king is such a cold-hearted person, then we have to be open-hearted.
- C:** Can we afford to host them at all?
- F:** Our economy is prospering like never.
- D:** The poor people in our villages up in the mountains will ask, why they're not getting the same opportunities as the prince in exile and his Cerulian girlfriend?
- H:** Why? What do we offer them? A badly paid job? A tent on the beach? What in fact?

common gestures of helplessness and confusion

- D:** Our community is getting older and older. The young people are leaving for the big metropolitan areas.
- F:** Here on the islands, there will soon be only a few elderly people who can barely take care for themselves.
- G:** Imagine Albion and Arabella would stay here. They could actually support our society. We need courageous citizens here, who keep the local economy going.
- C:** (*cynical laughter*) Yeah, a young man who cannot even walk, who needs help constantly, is supposed to boost our economy?
- Md I:** Again, you are arguing with economic reasons and on immigration regulation not on the current asylum question. This talk is not about an economic future of Kumnara right now. It is about life and limb and our fundamental values such as the dignity and freedom of the individual as well as respect.
- G:** Everyone should be free to choose his or her own country and way of life. Everybody strives to take his life into his own hands, to walk independently with those he loves. Albion and Arabella are a wonderful example of two persons who cannot be enslaved. We can be proud that they have chosen Kumnara.

- F:** There are people on our island who believe our freedom will be in danger, if a few more refugees from somewhere will find their exile here. Don't think that these people will not change our society.
- E:** They have strange ideas: living together without being married for example. This can cause trouble here.
- A:** These two have the same right to live together as they want to, as all other people in this country, married or not.
- D:** *(standing up)* No. They do not have the same rights. Have they been with us, when we founded this society? When we struggled for our freedom and wrote down our bill of rights. They will not love this island as we do.
- B:** *(standing up)* Or even more. Perhaps it will be paradise for them, loved and cared for. Perhaps they will appreciate our peaceful community much more than our children. They leave here because it is boring, the internet access is too slow, and the winds are too cold.
- Md II/I:** Time is short. Please decide.
- H:** *(standing up)* "There is no way to peace; peace is the way."
- All:** *(standing up) leaving stage while talking on in all languages with lively gestures*

Md II/I: We hope you have been able to make your decision in this asylum procedure based on your morality and arguments. Discussions such as these often take place only in our heads and do not have the status they deserve in our society. Xenophobia, the fear of the stranger, influences our social life more and more, also through the worldwide networking. We are role models and can promote public discussion. We, as the Erasmus Project, have developed this musical to fill this gap and urge you to provoke and promote public discourse.