

## HELPING REFUGEES IS ALWAYS A GOOD IDEA

The Syrian Civil War has ravaged that country for the past seven years. So relentless has been its destruction, it is difficult to believe that it was once a beautiful country. Before the war, 23 million people lived in Syria, but now almost half of the population has been displaced, with five million living outside the country as refugees and six million others displaced inside the country. Furthermore, close to 500,000 people have lost their lives and many more have been injured or disabled. Most of the country is now in ruins, offering a landscape of utter destruction that looks nothing like the country as it was before the war.

When desperate civilians began to run for their lives, four of Syria's neighbors, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq, generously opened their doors, despite their own economic hardships. Today, some 3.5 million Syrians live in Turkey; this represents the largest Syrian population outside of Syria itself. This has been an enormous undertaking for Turkey and it certainly hasn't been without its challenges, but the results have been commendable. Top-notch refugee camps across the country, praised by leaders like EU President Donald Tusk, are currently housing 250,000 refugees, offering free accommodation, food, education and healthcare services.<sup>1</sup> However, most Syrians chose to live in cities across Turkey and sure enough, there have been some difficulties. While some of the refugees could afford to rent houses, others had to resort to sleeping rough. Despite these problems, positive developments are outweighing the negative and Turkey's commitment to helping the refugees is ensuring the sound integration of Syrians into Turkish society. For example, the government has started granting citizenship and 12,000 Syrians have already become Turkish citizens.<sup>2</sup>

Furthermore, Syrians who live outside the camps are entitled to free medical care in state hospitals after they complete their registration process. Additionally, their 'temporary protection status' keeps them from deportation.<sup>3</sup> According to the Turkish Minister of Education, close to 600,000 Syrian children have been placed in Turkish schools and are now studying with their Turkish peers.<sup>4</sup> President Erdogan recently announced that new houses would be built for Syrians so that they would no longer have to live in tent cities or refugee camps.<sup>5</sup> In order to cover these expenses, Turkey has already spent 30 billion US dollars.<sup>6</sup>

However, not all has been well and, to the great embarrassment of the majority of Turks, there have been times when this generosity has drawn the ire of some. Even though they are in the minority, some Turks have expressed discontent with how much Syrians are given. Certain circles have even tried to spread disinformation with inflammatory accusations intended to rile Turks up against the Syrian population. However, their attempts have come to nothing and the Turkish police successfully thwarted these criminal attempts.<sup>7</sup> Of course, there have been cases where Syrian refugees were involved in crimes, but people were sensible enough not to blame the entire community for the crimes of a few. After all, only the perpetrator is responsible whenever a crime is committed. And every society has bad apples, just like those thousands of people from every nationality in the prisons of the world who have done similar things. In other words, yes there have been problems, but we will work through them.

[https://www.harunyahya.info/makaleler/35-milyon-multeciye-ev-sahibi-yapmanin-guzelligi\\_1207](https://www.harunyahya.info/makaleler/35-milyon-multeciye-ev-sahibi-yapmanin-guzelligi_1207)