

October Issue 2015



# The Paw Print



# Refugee Issue





*More than 800,000 refugees have arrived in Germany in the past year, both from war-torn countries like Syria and Eritrea and from poor and economically disadvantaged nations in Eastern Europe and North Africa.*

ANTONIA SEYFARTH

Although it may not be immediately apparent to someone walking through the city, thousands of these refugees are currently living in refugee camps and homes in Berlin. The refugee crisis is not a distant, anonymous news item, it is happening right on our doorstep and we should feel the responsibility to educate ourselves on the issue.

Therefore the journalists of the Paw Print have decided to address this current event head-on, by dedicating an entire issue to the refugee crisis. As an international school newspaper our writers are journalists from many different countries and backgrounds, giving us the opportunity to write about the refugee crisis from a

multitude of different viewpoints. In this unique Refugee Issue we have investigated the roots and causes of the refugee crisis, reported on different countries' stances on the influx of refugees in Europe, explained the aid network of organizations helping the refugees and written opinion pieces on our varying viewpoints concerning the refugee crisis.

Not only will this issue of the Paw Print offer detailed insights into the current refugee situation around the world, we have also taken this opportunity to take action and collect donations for refugees in Berlin. We have started a school-wide initiative to collect winter coats for refugee children in Berlin in order to help them

stay warm during their first German winter, as well as collecting children's toys, paper, dolls, coloring books and board games to make the children's transition into living in this foreign environment more enjoyable. We are also collecting more practical items such as muesli bars and train-tickets to make Berlin refugees' daily lives easier and provide a snack for children to take to school. If you have not yet contributed to our donation appeal, please do so: donations can be brought to the Heizhaus or the entrances of House 1, 2 and 3.

We hope that this issue will raise BBIS's awareness for the refugee crisis and that we can inspire our readers to take action as well.



**Do you have  
winter jackets you  
no longer need?  
Somebody else  
needs them.**

**Help a refugee.**

**Help collect 70  
winter jackets for  
ages 3-18**

**Drop off your extra winter  
jackets at the entrances  
of House 2 and 3**



# TIMELINE OF EVENTS

BY SEYOUNG  
KIM

## September 2012

Riots in Za'atari camp due to poor conditions of the camp

## September 2013

Germany agrees to resettle 5,000 Syrian refugees – they can stay for 2 years and the first 107 refugees arrived on September 11.



December 2012

January 2013

September 2013

## December 2012

UN seeks \$1 billion to support the Syrian refugees – reached over 525,000 refugee camps by December 2012

## January 2013

Lebanese government agrees to register refugees

## January 2013

UNICEF launches Children of Syria Campaign to raise

## March 2013

Syrian refugees reach 1 million

## July 2013

Bombings in Lebanon's capital indicating the spread of war from Syria

## August 2013

Thousands of refugees pour into Iraq – almost 20,000 cross over a few days

## September 2013

Sweden offers permanent residency to Syrian refugees

## October 2013

Turkey builds wall on Syrian border causing various protests

### October 2013

Refugee resettlement – 16 countries (Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, USA) make confirmed pledges

### April 2014

One million refugees in Lebanon

### September 2014

Obama authorizes US airstrikes against ISIS inside Syria



November 2013

June 2014

September 2014

### November 2013

Bulgaria builds fence on Turkish border

### November 2013

Greek armed forces repel Syrian refugees around the Turkish border

### January 2014

UK announces to take Syrian refugees

### June 2014

ISIS Refugee Crisis begins – 500,000 flee Mosul, Iraq

### June 2014

ISIS claims that the state will erase all state borders – 1.2 million Iraqis flee their homes

### September 2014

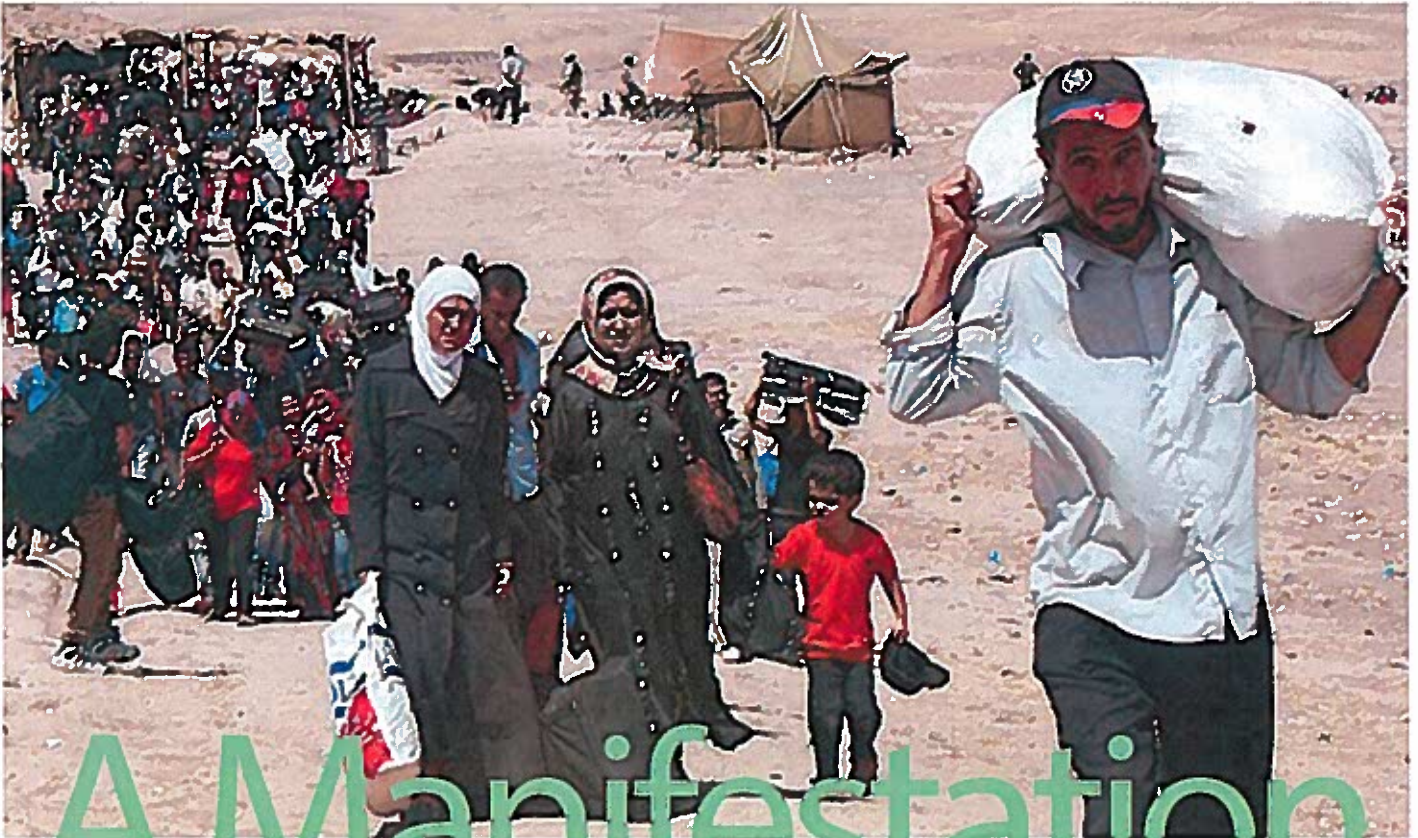
ISIS attacks Kurdish villages along the Syrian-Turkey border – more than 130,000 Syrian flee to Turkey

### December 2014

Germany, Sweden, Italy, and France received two-thirds of the EU's asylum applications

### June 2015

EU member states received 395,000 new EU's asylum seeker applications



# A Manifestation of the MASSES

BY JUSTINUS  
STEINHORST AND  
DARYA GUETTLER

According to the United Nations, Europe is currently facing the largest refugee crisis since post World War II, where the migration of millions of people resulted in world-wide reevaluation of war and strife. Today, 70 years later, the world has completely regressed in this regard: the present refugee count competes with that of World War II, with an estimated 51.2 million currently displaced. It is in times like this, when the situation seems at its most dire, that countries such as Germany step in to aid those in need. It is in times like this, that people begin to sympathize. Yet even then, most see the refugees as a number, a faceless mass, permeating into our lives through various different media. Therefore, it is of paramount importance to shape a complete image of refugees, to understand them, to see them as people. One must not simply sympathize, but empathize – not with the masses – but with the individuals. The following texts tell the stories of Abdul Rahman and Monday, two refugees from Syria and Kenya respectively, who are being accommodated at the nearby Teltow Home. Their stories are ones of fear and hope; stories that demand to be heard by those willing to listen.

# Abdul Rahman

As the Syrian Civil War engulfed large parts of the nation in chaos in early 2012, picking up pace and displacing vast amounts of people, Abdul Rahman too was forced to leave his home country, in search for security and shelter from the conflict. After refusing to fight for the Syrian Regime's armed forces, Abdul Rahman was persecuted, forcing him to leave his hometown and family; due to the imminent compromise in his safety. The first étape of his flight saw him traveling to Turkey by car, where he remained for three months, arranging his subsequent movement deeper into the heart of Europe. After making his way to Bulgaria, Abdul Rahman was forced to make yet another stopover, this time remaining in the EU member nation for an entire year. After more than 15 months on the road, he covered the remaining distance, through mainland Europe, and reached his destination: Germany. After filling his application for Asylum, Abdul Rahman was dispatched to Teltow, Brandenburg. Earlier this year, after months of waiting, he was finally granted permission to stay in Germany. Although only temporary, this permit now authorizes him to legally remain in the country, be able to search for work as well as find his own accommodation in the future.



# Monday

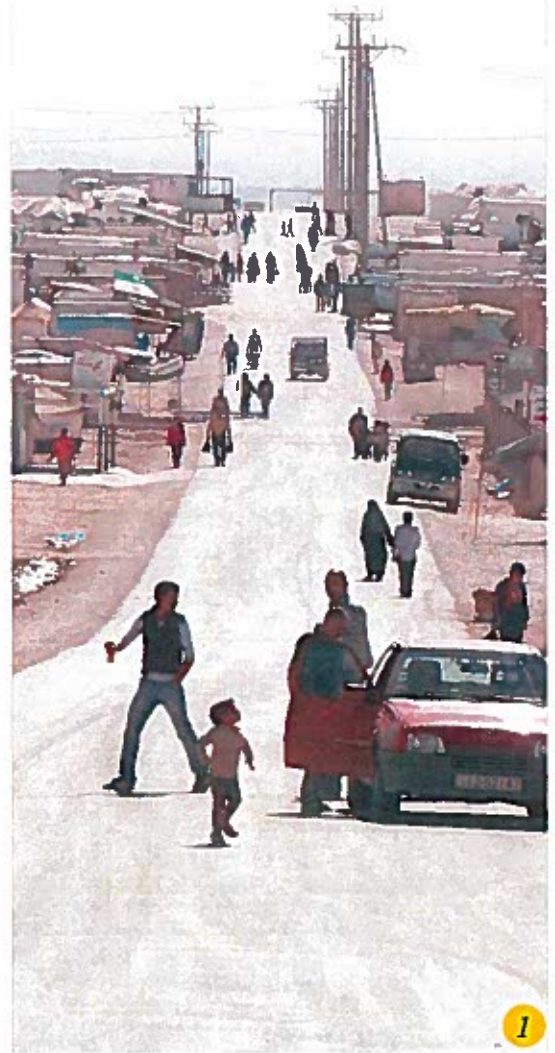


Monday is a refugee from Kenya. He was forced to leave his home country as a result of land disputes that often resulted in the first resort of violence. The land in question was farming land, which is a large source of income in Kenya. It was not uncommon for people to be killed during these arguments. Monday left when a family member was murdered in one of these disputes. It took him a total of three months to get from Kenya to Germany, a trip that would normally take around 11 hours by plane. The first leg of his journey consisted of travelling to Sudan by autobus. From Sudan he then walked to Niger, continuing his journey through Algeria and ultimately coming to a stop in Morocco. After a 6-month stopover in Morocco, Monday embarked on the infamous, perilous journey across the Mediterranean sea. On a tiny inflatable boat packed with fellow refugees, he headed for Spain. Fortunately for him, Monday was taken in by the Spanish Coast guard, ensuring his safe arrival on EU ground. From there, he travelled the last portion of his route by bus through Spain and France, before arriving in Germany in mid-December 2013. Monday has been in Germany for more than 1.5 years, and is currently still awaiting his approval of his asylum applications. In theory, the approval process is meant to last no longer than 6 months, with averages at the beginning of this year even reaching a low 5.4 months. With the recent surge in influx of new refugees, however, authorities are struggling to cope with the vast numbers, thus straining the usual fluidity of the process.

# INSIDE ZAATARI REFUGEE CAMP JORDAN'S 4TH LARG- EST CITY

BY INGA  
FILIPIAK

The refugee crisis has recently taken its toll: thousands of people flee their country at a daily rate in search for hope, leaving their past lives behind in the miles of debris and rubble that currently dominates their home-country's landscape. The crisis is said to be the largest diaspora since the mass movement of people during the climax of WWII. Precisely this fact underlines the magnitude of the crisis and the growing need to take action. While the media's lens follows the events taking place in Europe, other regions such as Jordan, that have experienced an influx of refugees for the past five years, have been forgotten.



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2



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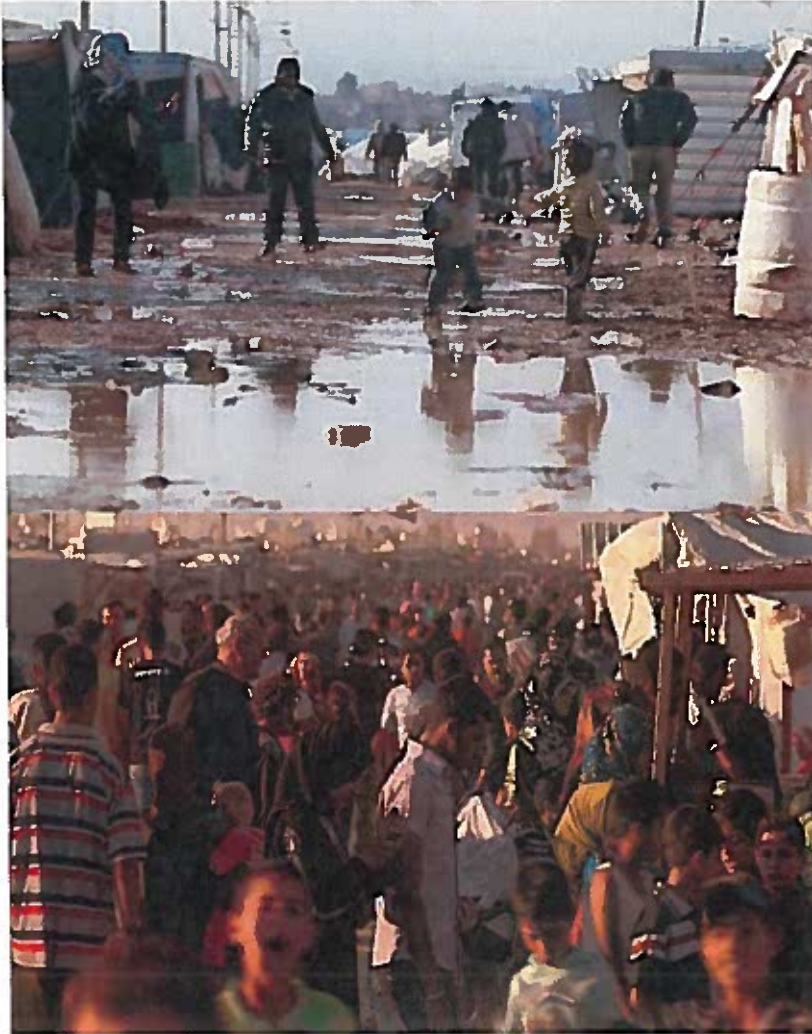


1. One of the many streets in the Zaatari Refugee camp

2. An aerial of the Zaatari Refugee camp

3. Syrian refugee children in the Zaatari refugee camp





*While the media's lens follows the events taking place in Europe, other regions, such as Jordan, that have experienced an influx of refugees for the past five years, have been forgotten.*

In the centre of the desolate Jordanian desert lies a second Champs-Élysées. Unlike the Parisian version, however, this street is filled with makeshift stores constructed from recycled tents that have a gradually-fading UNHCR label printed onto them. Although the stores may not exactly resemble a stable structure, many of them have been standing for three years since the establishment of Zaatari Refugee camp.

Three years ago, wars between government forces and rebel groups in Jordan stimulated an increase in inter-

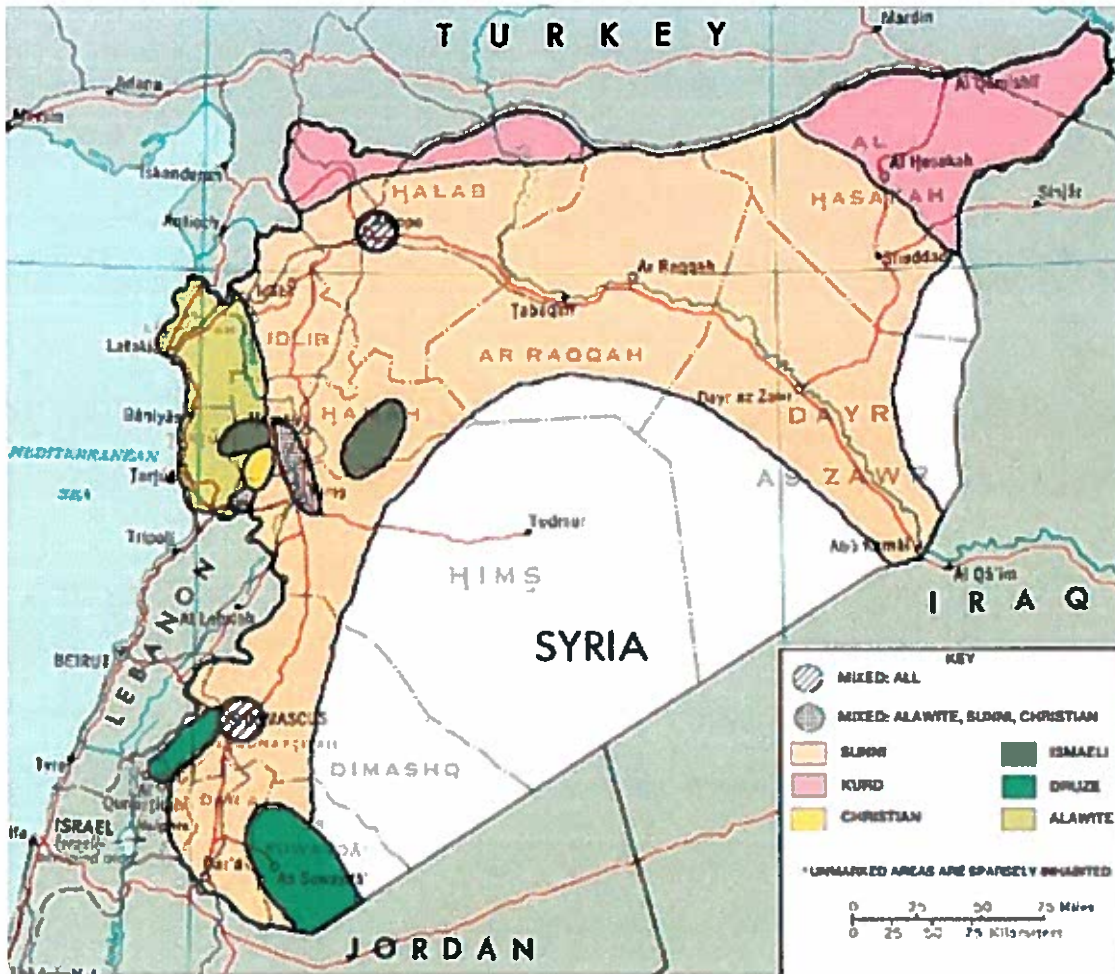
nally displaced people (IDPs). However, as these conflicts unfolded, IDPs were pushed out of their countries into surrounding regions, such as Jordan. Jordan's government recognized the immediate need for help and consequently constructed the Zaatari refugee camp. At the time, the camp was only home to around 100 families and intended for a temporary purpose. Today, this number has grown to 81,000. Seeing as over 80 babies are born per day and that it is now the 4th largest city in the country, many fear that the camp will only continue to grow in the future.

Considering that the 81,000 residents live in an eight-kilometre circumference, the camp has inevitably experienced many issues; the government has had little control over what happens in the camps as officials cannot continuously monitor the 12 districts of the camp. Consequently, only three neighbourhoods have schools which function regularly. More so, many of the teachers demand high prices that parents cannot afford, meaning that only a fraction of children have access to education. Furthermore, with 86% of refugees in Jordan living below the poverty-line, many of children are malnourished and eventually detach from their families, becoming 'orphans' that live on the desert streets; many parents neglect their children and put them as a second or third priority in the household. Alternatively, parents force their young daughters into marriages in order to secure a dowry that allows them to buy basic commodities, such as water and food. Naturally, this places children into a subordinate rank.

Although small businesses promoting entrepreneurship and the refugees' independence are becoming more common in Zaatari camp, Jordanian's government is aware of the difficulties that will be encountered when attempting to maintain the camp in the future. According to UN estimations, it takes an average of 17 years for refugees to return to their home country. While this suggests that the Zaatari camp will potentially become a permanent home for many of its current residents, the majority of the refugees continue to have deep connections to their home countries and wish to return. More so, it is obvious that the refugee crisis has infiltrated many parts of the globe, suggesting that it can only be resolved through international unity.

# CAUSES OF THE INFLUX OF SYRIAN REFUGEES

BY CONSTANTIN ERNST



The country of origin for the refugee crisis is Syria: located in the Middle East, bordering Turkey, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, and the Mediterranean Sea. In response to teenagers being arrested and tortured in the city of Deraa for painting revolutionary slogans in early march 2011, demonstrations erupted, exclaiming the need of a democracy. Security forces opened fire onto the demonstrating mob, killing several people. This triggered more protests nationwide.

The people demanded that President Bashar Al-Assad resign. The Assad family has ruled Syria since 1970. The dictatorship has caused around 100,000 men to form a rebellion group intended to dispose of the Assad family. A civil war broke out between the regime and the rebel fighters. A third party, today known as the ISIS or Islamic State, saw this opportunity to join the fight and are one of today's most powerful terrorist groups.

The Syrian-rebels are enemies of the IS as well, while the regime has not experienced large conflicts with the terrorist group, many refugees that fled from their home country to Western Europe are said to have fled due to the totalitarian Islamic state, but many claim they fled from Al-Assad's regime. The soldiers have eliminated far more people than IS this year: 20 times more civilians in the first quarter of 2015.



# CAUSES OF THE INFLUX OF NON-SYRIAN REFUGEES

BY AYAN TEWARI

Between 2007 and 2011, large numbers of undocumented migrants from the Middle East and Africa crossed between Turkey and Greece.

Instability and the second civil war in Libya have made departures easier from the north-African country, with no central authority controlling Libya's ports and negotiating with European countries, resulting in migrant smuggling networks flourishing. The war could also have forced many African immigrants residing in Libya to leave, which itself was once a destination country for migrants looking for better jobs.

The war in Afghanistan led by the U.S and eventually NATO has been creating a large amount of refugees,

because a lot of areas have been turned into warzones by the Taliban and NATO. Civilians have been forced to seek refuge and have relocated. Following the outbreak of the Somali Civil War, many of Somalia's residents left the country in search of asylum. At the end of 2009, about 678,000 were under the responsibility of the UNHCR, constituting the third largest refugee group after war-afflicted Iraq and Afghanistan, respectively. Due to renewed fighting in the southern half of the country, an estimated 132,000 people left in 2009, and another 300,000 were displaced internally.

The third largest group of refugees in Europe comes from Eritrea, a small African nation bordering Sudan and

Ethiopia. Many people in Eritrea have fled their homes in order to escape grinding economic conditions, human rights abuses, and mandatory military service, which can last indefinitely.

Previously, Eritreans would seek refuge in Sudan, but after the Sudanese Civil War, which led to the division of Sudan into Sudan and South Sudan, Eritreans have been forced to seek refuge elsewhere because of the war-like conditions.

Six of the ten largest countries of origin of refugees were African: Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic, and Eritrea. Many African countries have suffered through several civil wars, genocides, and terrible socio-economic conditions; forcing the people to seek refuge in countries with better conditions for living.



# WHAT is a refugee?

BY RASMUS HAURE  
PETERSEN

**The Oxford dictionary states a refugee is “a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster.” In theory this falls in line with most people’s opinion—except perhaps the inclusion of the word “persecution”. A criminal escaping persecution in their home country may have to be more contextualized to be considered a refugee—so here are the international legal requirements for refugee status:**

- **THEY ARE OUTSIDE THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OR OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY OF THEIR FORMER HABITUAL RESIDENCE;**
- **THEY ARE UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO AVAIL THEMSELVES OF THE PROTECTION OF THAT COUNTRY OWING TO A WELL-FOUNDED FEAR OF BEING PERSECUTED;**
- **AND THE PERSECUTION FEARED IS BASED ON AT LEAST ONE OF FIVE GROUNDS: RACE, RELIGION, NATIONALITY, MEMBERSHIP OF A PARTICULAR SOCIAL GROUP, OR POLITICAL OPINION.**

Now in Germany, what's occurred is actually that the state has decided that people escaping from the Syrian crisis automatically qualify as refugees, as it has officially recognized the situation as "a well-founded fear of being persecuted" for all in the region.

However, this brings us to a number of problems: how do German authorities verify that a person is escaping from Syria, and is not simply migrant from neighbouring countries or North Africa for that matter? The answer ought to be obvious: migrants present their documents certifying either their nationality or previous residence and receive approval for refugee status (allowing them to seek employment in Germany and receive the benefits they are entitled to). Except for the fact that most people arriving here don't have these papers with them – meaning sometimes the rules have to be loosened to carry out the humanitarian duty Germany has assigned itself. As we start to recognize and accept higher numbers of refugees, more will come for aid, and it'll become increasingly difficult to separate those who fulfil minimal requirements and those who don't (not to mention deporting those already in Germany costs thousands of euros).

This brings us to another point regarding the definition of a refugee. Personally, when thinking of refugees, I consider it a temporary status – eventually the crisis will be over and at that point they will be able to return to their home country and start to rebuild their lives and nation. Yet considering the fact that 66.6% of those arriving in Germany are males (which increases to 71% and 80% when only looking at Syrian and Eritrean refugees respectively); it doesn't appear

that the purpose of these refugees is to return home.

As outlined by Spiegel magazine, many males choose to undergo the dangerous journey to Germany alone, and once they've been admitted they can legally bring in their family under the "Familiennachzug" clause of German refugee rights – succeeding in providing free visas for direct family, and in the case of sickness, injury, disabilities, or pregnancy-related issues along the trip, the German state will pay for all medical costs. This means that the current refugee crisis may be a very different crisis from what some traditionally consider it: it entails the

■ ■  
>> Now in Germany, people escaping from the Syrian crisis automatically qualify as refugees<<

■ ■  
permanent relocation and integration of 800,000+ individuals.

The final difficulty in recognizing those arriving in Germany is that in order to reach Germany in the first place one requires several thousand euros. Whether a refugee pays smugglers to take a boat to Italy or crosses through the Balkans, it requires planning and money in order to physically travel over 3,000 kilometres and illegally cross a number of borders. The point here is – as controversial as it may be – that those arriving are perhaps not in as much need as those who can't make it here in the first place, so are we really aiding suffering refugees or simply giving money to people who have the resources to survive and endure the conflict without it.

# NOTABLE REACTIONS TO THE REFUGEE CRISIS

BY PHILIP WURZNER

WITH A SUDDEN INFLUX OF REFUGEES, MANY COUNTRIES HAVE HAD TO TAKE RADICAL MEASURES TO ACCOMMODATE THEM. MANY COUNTRIES ADJUSTED THEIR MIGRATION AND REFUGEE POLICIES.



## Germany

On the 4th of September Chancellor Merkel made an announcement that heavily influenced the refugee crisis. She announced that Germany will suspend the typical European asylum guidelines (the Dublin procedures) and let the refugees that were stranded in Hungary enter Germany. This led to many refugees taking the opportunity to cross the border into Germany. So many, in fact, that the amount of Syrian refugees predicted to arrive in Germany by the end of the year, rose from 450,000 to 800,000. In light of this, Germany recently had to reinstate border controls. The "pocketmoney" system has also been redesigned. The system dictates that instead of receiving money (formerly 143€ a month), refugees will now receive vouchers, which can be traded for necessities such as food, clothing and toiletries.

With heavy strain due to refugees, Germany's government is facing many internal conflicts. For instance the German states demanded increased federal assistance. Moreover, the CDU is critical of Merkel's "Open Door" approach. CDU members have been very outspoken with their discontent, leading Merkel to lose popularity with the German people.

## USA.

The United States of America announced that, in order to alleviate some of the pressure put on European countries, they will be taking in and resettling "at least" 10,000 refugees this month. There's no doubt that this initiative will help, however many have criticised the amount of time it takes to resettle people.

Resettlement can take up to two years, starting at the U.N referral and ending

at the flight to the U.S. So far, the U.S has not specified whether this process will be sped up in light of the urgent refugee crisis. If not, the resettlement plan will have a limited effect on the current crisis Europe is facing. The U.S is also redesigning the budget of resettlement; "[The] funding comes out to about \$1,100 per refugee, said Aaron Rippenkroeger, CEO of the Refugee Services of Texas, adding, "We have to find ways to stretch that."

Interestingly enough, prior to making these announcements, the U.S only admitted a small amount of Syrian refugees since the start of the civil war. From the start of 2015 to September this year, 70,000 people have been accepted for resettlement in the U.S. Contrastingly, an estimated 1,500 Syrian refugees were accepted into the American resettlement process, out of

18,336 applications.

## Sweden

Sweden has perhaps taken the most extreme measures of all countries to accommodate refugees. On September 2nd, this year, the Swedish Migration Board announced that any confirmed, Syrian asylum seeker would be granted a permanent residence in Sweden. This means that they would be able to live under the same circumstances as any other person in Sweden would.

Many have criticised this approach, pointing out that immigrants, who make up 16% of the Sweden's population, receive 56% of all welfare; most likely due to their difficulty adjusting. They argue that by increasing the amount of immigrants, the cost of welfare will skyrocket, leading to serious economic damage.

What the BBC  
will not tell  
you about

# THE REFUGEE CRISIS IN HUNGARY

BY SARA BALO

These days it is almost impossible not to hear about the refugee situation in Hungary, so that all of us have an opinion about it. The widely accepted opinion is that Hungary (as a whole) treats refugees in an inappropriate, cruel, inhumane way. The news portrays Hungary in a very negative light, causing readers to commiserate with the refugees and be disgusted with their treatment.

If I were not Hungarian, I would feel the same. If I did not have the chance to see the complexity of the crisis, I would probably think the same things. But I do, and I would like to share my opinion.

A few numbers about Hungary Europe is full of Hungarians, 600 000 migrants. According to the statistics, about 600 000 Hungarian are currently working abroad and 39% of Hungarians under the age of 25 want to build a future abroad. This issue due to socio-economic issues within Hungary. For instance a nurse gets an average of 300 euros as a salary in Hungary, and 47% of Hungarian families with children are struggling to afford food, according to a Gallup survey. In the same annual survey, this number was 15% in 2007. About 300 000 refugees entered Hungary this year, a country with a population of only eight and a half million.

"If you come to Hungary, you can not take away the jobs of the Hungarians!" "If you come to Hungary, you have to respect our culture!" "If you come to Hungary, you have to respect our laws!"

These sentences are all from posters around Hungary. These posters are written in Hungarian, and they have been around since last spring. The government spent a huge amount of money on them. It could be a simple political step, because the prime minister, Viktor Orbán wanted to strengthen his power by awakening the nationalist feelings among Hungarians. The party with the second highest amount of supporters is a far right wing party, which is rapidly growing, and has supporters with radical views. Orbán needs to get back the voters who have started to support the other party.

**BUT Orbán does not represent the country.**

Only 61% of eligible voters were actually voting in the last election, and 44% of them gave their vote to the winning party. Because of the behaviour of Orbán, whatever happens with migrants or refugees in Hungary is represented as an assault and a violent act. The media are criticizing Hungary's racist and closed minded leader, but at the same time are representing the whole of Hungary as racist and closed minded as well, when it is not.

The Hungarian police is doing its job, they are organizing refugees and migrants, although the two group can not communicate with each other at all. Of course it leads to some problems, and some Hungarian police have been impatient and angry towards migrants and refugees, but these affairs are not more common than in any other countries which are dealing with refugees.

The problem is that situations that are not violent or humiliating are usually presented as if they were, presenting Hungary as a whole in a negative light.

My recommendation is that before you judge a situation, try to get informations from sources with different aspects, look behind the scenes, keep an open mind and try to understand as much as possible.

# REFUGEES: A possible asset to European Economies

BY MAIKE KUSSEROW

YOU'RE PROBABLY FAMILIAR WITH THE WIDESPREAD PERCEPTION OF REFUGEES AS A FORCE, MARCHING INTO EUROPE, ROBBING LOCALS OF THEIR JOBS AND SENDING ECONOMIES SPIRALLING DOWNWARDS. BEFORE YOU TOO, ACCEPT THIS DOGMA, LETS CONSIDER A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE.

**B**ehold, two merely demographic reasons Europe may need emigration: 1) ageing populations, 2) low fertility rates. Some statistics, perhaps: In 2014, about 1 in 5 Western Europeans were at least 65 years old. By 2030, expect this statistic to rise to 1 in 4. So people are living longer, which is very nice. However, paired with low fertility rates that are blanketing countries like Germany, we're looking at populations with many, many old people and perhaps not enough young entrepreneurial spirit. Last November, Pope Francis put it like this: Europe has become a "grandmother, no longer fertile and vibrant."

**So why are people so very afraid of an influx of potential young entrepreneurs?** Yes. Initially, governments and therefore taxpayers will be a major party financing the infrastructure, housing and food spending necessary to support these immigrants. However, this money is still circulating isn't it? Consider the 'multiplier effect', a theory that develops the concept of one man's spending being another man's income. In other words, the government's expenditure on housing/food etc stimulates the economy as this money essentially ends up in the pockets of local firms, who in turn are likely to reinvest this money, triggering a chain of spending.

This refugee crisis is a longterm issue and accordingly, we must evaluate it's effects on a long-term basis. All the thousands of refugees leaving their home countries are not likely to be returning to their war-torn country's any time soon - whether they like it or not, they are seeking to build new lives since there is no 'home' to return to in, say, a few months. For this reason, the likelihood of individuals starting up small businesses, is high. Now, if we continue to detain and deprive refugees of worker rights for years after they enter our borders, while we 'process their asylum', then they can't contribute to our economies, can they? Immigrant-policies around the world force refugees to live off the government for long periods of time than necessary.

Another fear: the influx of refugees puts downward pressure on local wages.

The reason: Due to language barriers, refugees tend to be allocated low-skill jobs, causing the supply of workers to expand rapidly and therefore giving firms the liberty to pay-lower wages on this end of the job spectrum. However, perhaps this is not the case - perhaps low-skill foreign workers and domestic workers complement rather than displace each other. How? Refugee Native skills such as language

Recall the recent photograph of lifeless 3-year-old Aylan Kurdi, washed up on a Turkish beach after attempting to flee Syria. Now recall Steve Jobs, also the child of a Syrian migrant, who was given opportunities and is therefore the reason you hold an iPhone in your hand today. I cannot help but wonder how Aylan Kurdi may have contributed to the world.

*Now, if we continue to obtain and deprive refugees of worker rights for years after they enter our borders, while we're processing their asylum then they can't contribute to our economies.*





**Have some  
spare paper or  
a colouring  
book?**

**Donate it!  
Help a refugee.**

**Donations can be dropped off in the Heizhaus or  
in boxes at the entrance of House 2 and House 3.**

# WELCOME UNITED - GERMANY'S FIRST OFFICIAL REFUGEE TEAM

*"Welcome United" is the first official German soccer team consisting of solely refugees that has been created by the local soccer club SV Babelsberg 03 in Potsdam, Brandenburg.*

BY CARLOTTA  
VON GIERKE

The fourth division club SV Babelsberg 03 situated in Potsdam has officially registered a refugee team exclusively consisting of refugees with players from differing ethnicities and religions. They have one thing in common – they all hope to use soccer as a medium of integration and to enrich their lives here in Germany, far away from the devastating situations experienced in their home countries. Soccer enables the refugees to escape from their dull daily lives in the refugee homes.

SV Babelsberg has facilitated Welcome United's incorporation in a Brandenburg soccer league, pursuing its tradition of being a politically engaged soccer club. The club has advocated against racism in recent years and is continuing to do so by trying to include the refugees in society. The club aims to make the refugees feel at home in Potsdam and, especially, allow them to express their feelings through soccer – their mutual interest. Moreover, the club wants to promote integration by giving the refugees a voice. Specifically, this idea targets decreasing racism and xenophobia in sports clubs throughout Germany by showing that integrating the refugees can be an enriching, rewarding experience not only



for the refugees, but also for the locals. Most importantly, they hope to inspire other and perhaps more influential soccer clubs from the Bundesliga or second division to create similar initiatives in support of the ever-growing number of refugees in Germany.

The initial idea originated from a project of SV Babelsberg's fans – an integration soccer team in 2009 – which has been developed into a real soccer team last summer. The fans of the club helped raise funds for the necessary equipment – the refugees were provided with jerseys, socks, soccer balls and time slots

for one of SV Babelsberg's soccer pitches for training. Moreover, the refugees received a season ticket for SV Babelsberg's fourth league professional team. Some of the refugees even join the fans to away matches of the professional team.

Throughout the first year until this summer, the club organized numerous friendly games in order to bridge the time until the refugees were equipped with valid player's licenses. Organizing the licenses has been a challenge for the club since they only had limited information from the players' old clubs and it would



have been dangerous to contact institutions in their home countries. On August 23rd, Welcome United played their first official game in the "Kreislga" – almost all players had licenses to play by that time. Not only has the club helped the players acquire soccer licenses, but they are also helping the refugees find jobs, try to ease the interactions with the authorities and also simply listen to the refugees when they are in need. Recently, the team received a new coach named Sven George – he has to give the team talks in English for all players to understand. The players had wished for a coach from Germany – the country of the world champions. According to the George, the only

disputes that ever exist in the team are athletic ones and never religious ones – this shows us that integration of refugees regardless of ethnicity and religion is possible.

One player, named Uzoukuw Ejike, but referred to as Johnson by his team members, originates from Nigeria, but was forced to leave his home country four years ago after being politically persecuted. He was a politician, but was not able to remain in Nigeria due to the social unrest. Now he works in a senior citizens' home here, pursuing a traineeship in domestic management. He feels, however, unchallenged, as his education would enable him to perform more academically

demanding work. Johnson is nonetheless thankful that this refugee team has provided him with a more diversified life outside of the refugee home in which he can pursue his passion. Another player, 25-year-old playmaker Abdihafid Ahmed, used to play for Somalia's youth national team. Here he is now one of the best players on the team.

Overall, Welcome United is a truly inspiring and impressive project and will hopefully inspire other sports clubs, organizations and institutions to take on a more active role in their community and promote values such as integration and the inclusion of refugees.

# Refugees through time

BY AMY  
WINDEMUTH

*You may have heard the phrase “this is the largest wave of refugees since World War 2” being thrown around a lot lately in the media and in classes whilst talking about the current Syrian civil war: but what does this really mean? What other large refugee influxes have there been? How much bigger is this one than its predecessors? Find out more by reading through mini-summaries of other major human displacements throughout history!*

## Russia-1881-Pogroms

As a result of the assassination of Tsar Alexander II in 1881, a large influx of anti-Semitism began to permeate the country. This notion was supported by unreliable press that consistently supported the animosity towards the Jewish community and displayed them as the enemy. In turn, this sparked a number of riots around Jewish homes and people, which failed to cease for the next three years. This disdain towards the Jews was unfortunately resurrected about two decades later, and escalated much further, causing the death of thousands. As a result of this persecution, approximately 2 million Jews attempted to seek refuge in countries such as the UK, the US, and remaining parts of Europe.

## Europe-1914-World War 1

World War 1 sparked a considerable refugee movement in history, particularly through the German invasion of Belgium, the Austro-Hungarian Empire invasion of Serbia, and the persecution of Armenians during and post-war times. The German invasion caused the massacre of thousands of civilians and the demolition of countless buildings within the country. As a result, more than one million citizens fled the country, about 250,000 of them seeking asylum in England, where they were welcomed.

Austria-Hungary's declaration of war on and eventual invasion of Serbia caused the uprooting of tens of thousands of Serbians, who were eventually forced to leave behind their country.

However, one of the largest atrocities that occurred during and after WWI concerns the oppression and massacres imposed on Armenians at the time. Prior to what is now known as the first genocide of the 20th century, the Armenian population consisted of around 2 million people, of which 1.5 million were murdered between 1915 and 1923. Moreover, hundreds of thousands were eventually left as homeless and stateless refugees after these occurrences.

## Europe-1945-World War 2

27 years after the end of World War 1, the world witnessed yet another wave of refugees; however, this one rapidly overtook the former as the largest movement of people in history, causing approximately 40 million refugees in Europe alone. This enormous number prompted the formation of the United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR) to help cope with the crisis in Europe. This organization still remains active today to support the needs and demands of countless displaced people worldwide. Even before the end of the war, thousands of Germans started fleeing Eastern Europe or became victim to involuntary migration. Examples of this include more than 2 million Germans who were taken out of Czechoslovakia, or the 400,000 who were forced out Yugoslavia.

## **Palestine-1948-Nakba**

Nakba, which is the Arabic word for "catastrophe", marks the attack of a Zionist military group on an Arab village, causing for the exodus of approximately 80% of Arabs from the land that was to eventually be called Israel. Through the combination of this attack, strong military forces, no stable Palestinian leadership, and the unwillingness to live under Jewish rule on their homeland, these Arabs were subsequently uprooted. This movement of people remains not only one of the most contentious cases in history but also required the formation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency that still provides assistance to around 5 million of these Palestinian refugees.

## **Uganda-1972-Idi Amin's Order**

The primary cause for this upheaval of citizens was General Idi Amin, the former military ruler of Uganda, who, in August of 1972, began a wave of propaganda concerning the Asian inhabitants of the country. He claimed that the country's minorities, mainly Indian and Pakistani communities, were being "bloodsuckers", and announced that they had 90 days to vacate the country. As a result, around 90,000 Asians were removed from the country and were deprived of their assets, bank accounts, and jewelry. Moreover, all of the roughly 6,000 companies belonging to the country's Asian community were appropriated to government bodies and individuals. Of the expelled, around 50,000 relocated to the UK, while a small percentage went to India and Canada. Approximately 12,000 Indians remain in Uganda today.

## **Balkans-1992-Balkans Conflict**

The Bosnian war, which spanned between the years of 1992 and 1995, generated approximately 200,000 casualties and forced 2.7 million citizens to flee. This number comprised approximately half of Bosnia's population. Thousands were taken in amongst western nations, predominantly by the USA and Germany. In addition, hundreds of thousands of Serbs were uprooted as a result of the Yugoslav conflicts, resulting in an approximated 700,000 refugees in Serbia. Although more than 2.5 million refugees within the Balkans have returned home, the UN is still struggling to provide more than 600,000 refugees and internally displaced people with the support they need.

## **Rwanda-1994-Great Lakes Refugee Crisis**

After the Rwandan Genocide of 1994, during which more than 500,000 Tutsis were mass slaughtered by Hutus, a large outflow of more than 2 million people occurred. The majority of these people settled down in camps found in neighboring countries, which were home to tens of thousands. As a result, mortality rates were extremely high and sanitary conditions bordered on inhospitable. Moreover, these camps were heavily militarized, thus causing further conflict within the region.

## **Sudan-2003-War in Darfur**

As a result of the war in Darfur, found in the western region of Sudan, around 200,000 died and more than 2.5 million were displaced from their homes. The war came about as a result of the combined attacks of two rebel groups, namely the Sudan Liberation Movement and the Justice and Equality Movement, on the government of Sudan, accusing it of oppressing Darfur's non-Arab population. Consequently, the Sudanese government carried out various campaigns of ethnic cleansing against these non-Arabs, resulting in atrocities often compared to the Rwandan Genocide. More than 2.6 million internally displaced people remain in Darfur today, and more than 250,000 are living in refugee camps in Chad alone.

## **Iraq-2003-Iraq War**

Ever since its war with Iran in the 1980's, Iraq has experienced large humanitarian issues, including an influx of refugees. This issue was only aggravated through the US invasion in 2003. The UN estimates that around 4.7 million Iraqis have left their homes, of which more than 2 million have left the country completely. The majority has traveled to countries close by, including Jordan and Lebanon. However, many live without the protection of refugee laws, causing for hostile living environments within these host countries.

# THE 9 MILLION REFUGEES ARE NOT THE ONLY CONSEQUENCE

BY NATHANIEL BEARDSLEY

This issue has been an area of concern since the outbreak of the civil war in March 2011, which resulted with a death toll of 220,000 that climbed by 2015. The civil war not only gave birth to deaths, but also an estimate of 9 million Syrians displaced. These war refugees fled to their neighboring countries, Turkey, Jordan and Iraq which is only a small segment of the refugee crisis. In mainland Europe, the society depicts this crisis solely about 9 million Syrians losing their homeland. These refugees do not have any shelter, minimal amounts of food and water, inappropriate clothing and epidemics spreading within the refugee population where starvation and sickness are often referred as the main reasons of death in a war as defined by many historians. However, the big picture of why this crisis is very significant is often unseen.

It isn't just about Syrian refugees suffering from starvation and lack of basic human needs, these refugees are also provoked to commit crimes or illegal ways to earn money within the hosting countries which negatively affects the neighboring countries, even though refugees are not responsible for their government. Therefore in December 2014, the

UN launched an aid package of \$8.4 billion. Despite the social issues of the refugees, there are also other issues outside of the social spectrum. With the armed rebellions evolving, Islamic State (IS), the extremist group which grew within Iraq took control over massive hectares of territory across eastern and northern Syria. The war evolved from just being a civil war to a war inside a war. With rebels, jihadists, ISIS, the Syrian government and on top of that the US intervening with airstrikes in Syria and Iraq. The airstrikes of US-led coalition were supposedly focused on "ultimately destroy" IS, by assaulting on the northern town of Kobane. Traces of this "civil war" slowly evolving into a global issue can be traced.

Furthermore, apart from the humanitarian crimes and the social aspects of the refugee crises, by looking at the big picture, without controlling these extremist groups, this civil war could have been evolved into a larger threat for the globe which is highly unfavorable.

As a final note, it shouldn't be perceived that the 9 million refugees displacing is the only major problem here, it is only a segment of all the set of issues happened of the civil war.



THE LARGE NUMBER of displaced refugees seeking asylum in Europe



A SYRIAN REFUGEE BOY in the Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan



# Is the IB really fostering Internationally minded students

BY KIMBERLY  
TAYLOR

In light of the refugee crisis and the generally apathetic attitude of the students around me, I began to wonder about the cause of this indifference. After much reflection, I came to the conclusion that knowing how to act in a time of crisis is a skill that must be taught and not simply an innate human quality. The International Baccalaureate program aims to “develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world” (IBO). Despite the positive focus of these goals, I would challenge to what extent the IB curriculum is giving students the tools they need to achieve these aims.

It is my perspective that the highly competitive nature of the program takes precedent over its lofty goals. The intense focus on predicted scores, IA results, and final exam scores often causes students, teachers, and administrators to lose sight of what the aims of the program truly are. I see students all around me that are bogged down by studying, completing assignments, applying for college, researching and writing the Extended Essay and logging CAS hours that, understandably, leave little energy to thinking about the role as a member of our global community. Competition causes students and teachers to be caught up in our own BBIS bubble and to measure success based on our achievements in this context

instead of a broader one. The IB fails to make the connections between students and the world around them a focus of the program.

Having a program that is academically rigorous and one that fosters global engagement is not an impossible task. The IB should take steps to intertwine the two, as this is a more realistic representation of the world. Without doing so, the IB is facilitating the ignorance of students by not giving them the tools to connect themselves to world issues. Students who maintain a tunnel vision like focus on their studies without “recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet” (IBO) can still be awarded high marks in the future.

If the program emphasizes engagement in global issues as an integral part of our studies, I believe students will take notice and begin to realize the importance of this too.

*The intense focus on predicted scores, IA results, and final exam scores often causes students, teachers, and administrators to lose sight of what the aims of the program truly are.*

1. FEHRBELLNER PLATZ refugee home, one of the places where the donations from the school will be given to



# VOLUNTEERING AT A REFUGEE CAMP, WHAT DID I DO TO HELP?

BY NINA BERNHARDT

*What was once the Wilmersdorf City Hall is now a refugee home to over 800 people. People and families that have fled war, political oppression and starvation have come to the refugee home at the Fehrbelliner platz in search of a better life.*

People in Berlin have been great; many have donated clothes, shoes and even toys for the little kids. Thanks to this the storage space at the refuge home at the Fehrbelliner Platz is packed, filled with shoes, shirts, jackets and winter coats. The next step to helping the refugees is continuing this act of service and going to volunteer at these homes and helping to organize and pass out these amazing donations, which is exactly what I did.

I have been trying to go once every week to the refugee home at the Fehrbelliner platz and do my part in welcoming and helping the refugees. You can sign up on a website ([www.volunteer-planner.org](http://www.volunteer-planner.org)) and choose from a variety of jobs to sign up for. I personally like volunteering and helping out in the women's clothing distribution, where I've helped the past 3 times. It gives me a chance to directly interact and help, even get to

know, some of the camps 806 inhabitants. Women come in, often with their kids, and I guide them through and give them the clothes they need. Often it is hard to communicate with them as they speak little English or German so I just show them around they pick and choose the clothes necessary and the ones they like. Several of them speak semi-fluent English and are quite open about their experience and about their journey to Germany.





It is fascinating to hear their experiences and really changes how you interpret and process the media coverage of the current crisis. Putting faces and stories to the courageous men and women, humanizes the situation. I really changed my view of the subject, even though I have always been very open to the idea of the refugees coming to Germany. However, after my volunteering I wasn't just proud of living in such an open and welcoming country, but gained a new sense of respect for the refugees. Learning about all the things they have gone through and realizing the troubles they have faced and sadly will continue to face is astounding.

I met one 16-year-old Syrian girl, who spoke excellent English and was helping out the volunteers in the women's wardrobe. She told me that she is bored simply sitting in her room and waiting on things

to change. Instead she puts her excellent English to use, by helping in translating and communicating with other refugees. She is from Damascus and came to Berlin with her dad and cousins whilst her mom and 2 siblings are still back home. Hearing her story and those of many others is really fascinating and makes you think deeper about all those headlines you read in the news. I really recommend everyone to help out and just take 2 hours of their time to support, learn a little more about the refugees and even talk to them if you get the chance. It is really eye opening and I found it to be a humbling experience, due to the opportunity to aid and make a difference, yet simultaneously get the chance to learn more about, meet, and interact with some of the refugees.

## FURTHER IDEAS FOR PLACES TO VOLUNTEER

See [www.volunteer-planner.org](http://www.volunteer-planner.org) for more information



RATHAUS WILMERSDORF (NOTUNTERKUNFT)  
Briener Str. 16, 10707 Berlin



WANNSEE ERSTAUFNAHME-EINRICHTUNG  
Am Großen Wannsee 74, 14109 Berlin



TESKESCHULE NOTUNTERKUNFT  
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## YOUR DONATIONS

ALL OF THE WONDERFUL WINTER JACKETS, GAMES, TOYS, MUESLI BARS, AND COLOURING BOOKS DONATED TO THE SCHOOL WILL BE GIVEN TO THE REFUGEE CAMP AT FEHRBELLNER PLATZ.

*Donations will continue after the October break!*



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of**

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and support Unicef's  
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Purchase the issue from  
**Wednesday the 14th of October**

**7:45-8:15 in House 1**  
or

**14:55-15:10 in front of House 3**